



## President's Message

by Olivia Riddell

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Welcome to December! But is it really December? As I write this message to you, the rain is pouring down, and quite honestly, I don't think our grass has looked so green in months! This mild weather has been just a gift, in so many different ways. Specifically, I find that my students haven't hit that "wall" of winter. Their energy is still high and their focus is still strong – THIS in itself, well, I am saying "thank you"!

Since you last heard from me in November, things are continuing to move along wonderfully within our Ottawa Region Branch.

The list of participating teachers and students for the NAC Family Adventure's TUNETOWN pre-concert activities has been filling up and we have a good variety between piano, violin, flute and cello, although piano is the primary instrument at the moment. There are a few spaces left and I would really love to see some voice students – classical or musical theatre. I think it is so important for the families of Ottawa to know that ORMTA does not "just" represent piano and "just" classical studies. If you have any questions or are interested in having your students participate, please contact me ([olivia@myc.com](mailto:olivia@myc.com)). I am requesting a deadline of **December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015** to ensure that we have everything (and everyone) in place before the Christmas holidays.

And, as I hope you know, during these performances, our Ottawa Region Branch has the opportunity to have an information table. Although I don't need many volunteers for this (and, of course, I will be there), we do need a few more teachers who are willing to help. If you want to help but are nervous about knowing what to say, again, please feel free to contact me directly to ask any questions.

Our other partnership with Ottawa Pianos is continuing to bring energy and excitement. I just met with Carmen Papalia this week and I have to say, the audition room at Ottawa Pianos is **fabulous!!!** What a quality room with an **amazing** 9-foot concert grand piano. During our conversation, it was continually confirmed that Ottawa Pianos is here for YOU, our members, and out students. This priceless partnership just solidifies, in my mind, that we are a perfect fit – working and striving towards professionalism, high quality and excellence.

As we have said goodbye to November, I hope and trust that you have taken part in the events and activities that our council works ever so hard on. Thank you again to **Paulette Price** for the fabulous and informative **Information Sharing Session**. There is not another one lined up at this time; however, if there is a topic of interest that you wish to suggest, please let me know.

Congratulations and a big thank you to **Tania Granata** for her endless and tireless work with **Canada Music Week**. As always, you set the level, Tania! Thank you for your dedication for bringing Canadian music to our students, teachers and ears.

Just a reminder that there are a few **key** deadlines in December that I am sure you do not want to miss! Please check the Calendar of Events for dates and contact information.

Until next time,  
 Olivia Riddell





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## Information Sharing Session, November 9<sup>th</sup>

by Paulette Price, Convenor

Nine members met for a lively discussion session to share ideas on how to help students to practice more effectively. One teacher described ways that she rewards practice achievements with a point chart that leads to small prizes. Another described her annual studio competition, where students work independently on a particular project (ear training, sight reading, etc) for a period of time until an outside teacher is brought in to judge their accomplishments. The prizes definitely spur on the practicing!

Teachers described how they search for new ways to talk with their students to encourage them to become more observant of what they see and hear. Many stressed that students could impress them sometimes, but finding the best way to inspire each student to practice well and think independently is a challenge. It was wonderful to see the care and thought that teachers put into their approach to suit each student's personality and stage of development. Some very intriguing parallels were shared, for instance, why is practicing piano like being a firefighter? What do volleyball hands have to do with technique?

Also discussed were ways of increasing awareness of the many types of work that students are doing when they practice – to become more aware of the roles that their mind can play, for instance the role of the poet, the mechanic, the project manager, the drill sergeant, the conductor, the inspector for detail. Learning to shift roles can increase focus and can help keep practicing fresh.

It was a pleasure to discuss this topic with such wise and creative colleagues!

## Canada Music Week

by Tania Granata, Convenor



Sunday November 22nd marked the branch's Canada Music Week recital at the Orleans United Church. Forty plus students performed works by Canadian composers and even featured the music by local composers Christine Donkin and Claudia Cashin-Mack. The concert was very well attended and the audience enjoyed piano solos, piano duets, voice performances and also one violinist.

As part of ORMTA Ottawa's partnership with Ottawa Piano's, store manager Carmen Papalia attended the concert as a special guest.

Once the recital was finished, students were presented with certificates of participation as well as beautifully baked and decorated Canada Music Week cupcakes made by ORMTA Ottawa teacher and council member Danielle Jersak. Following the concert, guests were able to enjoy a lovely reception. Special thanks go out to council members Danielle Jersak, Meg Iwaskow and all the other people who helped make the event a huge success.

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**Young Artist Recital**

TBA

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**First Class Honours Scholarships***by Sherry Lu, Convenor*

Each year, our branch awards scholarships to the students with the highest marks in theory and practical conservatory exams. These scholarships are awarded at the First Class Honours Recital which will take place February, 7th, 2016. The application deadline is December 15, 2015. There is no application form. To apply, send a photocopy of your student's exam results along with a cover letter to:

Sherry Lu, Scholarship Convenor  
2 Nanook Crescent  
Kanata, ON  
K2L 2A7

The following scholarships are awarded at the First Class Honours Recitals (Feb. 7, 2016):

**Practical:**

Gr. 8/Advanced Rudiments \$100  
Gr. 9 \$150  
Gr.10 \$200  
Associate Performer \$250  
Associate Teacher (practical) Exam fee

**Theory:**

Gr. 9 \$150  
Gr. 10 \$200  
Associate \$250

**Keyboard Harmony:**

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Intermediate \$125  
Senior \$150

For detailed scholarship guidelines, please visit our website: [www.ormtaottawa.ca](http://www.ormtaottawa.ca) or contact Sherry Lu at: [sherryludi@yahoo.ca](mailto:sherryludi@yahoo.ca) or 613-862-7221

**First Class Honours Auditions and Recitals***by Meg Iwaskow, Convenor***Registration Deadline: December 15th, 2015.**

Students of ORMTA members may register to audition if they received a First Class Honours standing (80%) or higher on their practical exams in 2015. This event is open to students who have completed Grade 2 and above.

Registration forms and detailed information can be found online at [www.ormtaottawa.ca](http://www.ormtaottawa.ca) under the EVENTS link or you can contact Meg Iwaskow [megiwaskow@gmail.com](mailto:megiwaskow@gmail.com)

**Auditions: January 24th, 2016** at City View United Church. 1-4pm.

**Recitals: February 7th, 2016** at City View United Church. Recital times TBA

**Fundraising Initiative**

Support ORMTA's Scholarship Fund and enjoy delicious cupcakes! Make a \$20 donation and receive a dozen cupcakes as a thanks! This "sweet" deal is only available from September 2015 to June 2016.

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(613) 404 2565  
[jersakpiano@gmail.com](mailto:jersakpiano@gmail.com)



## About the ORBit

The *ORBit* is the official newsletter of the Ottawa Region Branch of the Ontario Registered Music Teachers' Association. It is published 7 times a year: September, October, November, December/January, February/March, April/May and June/July/August.

All submissions for the **February/March** issue of the *ORBit* must be received by the editor on or before: **January 10, 2016.**

Send submissions by e-mail to:

kmaryhoward@primus.ca

or by mail to:

Kathleen Howard,  
Editor, the *ORBit*  
326 Donoghue Rd.  
Oxford Mills, ON K0G 1S0

Advertisements and announcements should either be plain text or fully formatted text. Plain-text submissions will be formatted by the editor. Fully formatted submissions will be included exactly as sent. The only acceptable formats are: pdf, jpeg, or tiff. Formatted word processing documents may not preserve formatting and/or font information and will not be accepted. Type-written submissions are also acceptable. Submissions must be accompanied by written reprint permission where applicable.

The products, services, and ideas expressed by the authors and advertisers in the *ORBit* are not necessarily those of the Ottawa Region Branch of the Ontario Registered Music Teachers' Association.

## Advertising Rates

	Members	Non-members
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1/6 page	\$12	\$16
1/4 page	\$16	\$22
1/3 page	\$22	\$25
1/2 page	\$25	\$33
Full Page	\$33	\$44
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<b>Heavy Brochures</b>	\$50	\$66
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Contact the Editor – kmaryhoward@primus.ca concerning rates for multiple edition advertising.

The Ottawa Region Branch of the Ontario Registered Music Teachers' Association shall retain the right at all times to accept or decline any advertising opportunity based solely on the judgment of the Editor with the support of the Executive Committee of the Ottawa Region Branch.

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## Adult Students' Piano Workshop & Master Class

by Ioulia Brechun, Convenor

Robert Dvorkin will be our clinician for the 2016 Piano Workshop and Master Class, to be held on Saturday, February 27, 2016 at 9:30 at Ottawa Pianos, 1412 Bank Street.

Robert began piano lessons at the age of nine, and two years later was accepted in the studio of Ernesto Lejano of the University of Alberta, with whom he studied for the next six years. In 1974, Robert entered the Bachelor of Music program at Indiana University in the studio of György Sebők. Robert obtained a Master of Music degree in Piano Performance, studying with Enrica Cavallo-Gulli. He lived in New York City for many years, and performed and taught in both the United States and Canada. In 1999, he was inspired by the work of Dorothy Taubman and began an intensive study of her approach. His expertise in the Taubman Approach has benefited many students of all levels. He moved to Ottawa in 2014 where he maintains an active teaching studio. He continues to perform in many cities in the United States and Canada. For more information, please visit [www.robertdvorkin.com](http://www.robertdvorkin.com).

The Piano Workshop will include the Taubman Approach, which is a codified set of technical principles that, when correctly applied, can result in a near-tension-free playing experience, and can lead the way to a virtuoso technique. Students who experience tension, awkwardness, and/or pain while playing report that the Approach vastly improves their ability to produce sound, play without pain, sight-read better, learn more quickly, and myriad other benefits.

The Workshop will be followed by a Master Class for six performers. Applicants will be chosen on a "first-come, first-served" basis. Please submit your completed applications as soon as possible. Due to limited space in the Master Class, we are also offering a Practice Performance Evaluation for additional students who wish to play in the Recital on March 19, 2016 at City View United Church. The Practice Performance is a chance to play for peers and to receive comments and suggestions from Mr. Dvorkin.

Please go to our website [www.ormtaottawa.ca](http://www.ormtaottawa.ca) for registration form and further information, or contact Ioulia Brechun at [medbeach@yahoo.ca](mailto:medbeach@yahoo.ca)

### Help Us Keep in Touch

Do you have a **new address, phone number or email address**? You can update this information on your personal profile on the provincial website [www.ormta.org](http://www.ormta.org)

**Please remember to inform the branch as well**, by contacting President Olivia Riddell [Olivia@myc.com](mailto:Olivia@myc.com) or 613-680-2996 or Kimberly Sundell at [sundellpianostudio@gmail.com](mailto:sundellpianostudio@gmail.com) or 613-698-7338

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Information 613-592-1991  
[www.kanatachoralsociety.ca](http://www.kanatachoralsociety.ca)

Tickets available at the door

### Christmas Price Index

According to Wikipedia, the estimated cost of the gifts for the Twelve Days of Christmas was \$27,673.21 (US) in 2014, or \$116,273 (US) if each gift is repeated the required number of times, amounting to 364 items.

### Members' Corner

Welcome to new members:

- **Anna Baksheeva** - Theory, Violin
- **Mariette Leclerc-Lavigne** - Piano, Theory
- **Audrey Mo** - Piano
- **Benjamin Sajo** - Analysis, Composition, Counterpoint, Harmony, Rudiments, Theory
- **Dr. Teresa Wan-Ting Suen (Suen-Campbell)** - Harp, Pedagogy

Do you know an ORMTA member who deserves a congratulatory note, condolences or get well wishes? Have your students received a gold or silver medal, or achieved First Class Honours with Distinction on their exams (Gr. 10 and up) or other notable accomplishments? Forward details to:

Kathleen Howard [maryhoward@primus.ca](mailto:maryhoward@primus.ca)

## Upcoming Concerts

**December 5, 8p.m. - Uncorked, Live Music and Fine Wines\*** - cellist Paul Marleyn, pianist Mauro Bertoli, and sommelier Antonio Mauriello at La Charrette, 460 W Hunt Club Rd. Tickets \$35 \*(in advance only until November 10th) Contact: Mauro Bertoli mauro.bertoli@bell.net

**December 5, 7:30 p.m.** at Woodroffe United Church, and **December 13, 2:00 p.m.** at St. John the Evangelist Anglican Church- **Christmas Gloria** - Musica Serbia and Joined Choirs of Woodroffe United, and St. John with Strings of St. John's, featuring *What Sweeter Music* by Mark Hayes Conductors: Gordon Johnston, Katarina Jovic. Info/Tickets: www.stringsofstjohns.ca

**December 6th, 6:30 p.m.** at Merrickville United Church, **Creatures and the Night**, Concert by the Merrickville Children's Choir, Merrickville Women's Choir and Rideau Voices. Susan Lines Maconnachie, conductor. Contact Kathleen Howard, kmaryhoward@primus.ca

**December 13th 3:00 p.m.** at Merrickville United Church, **Come Sing Noel**, Community Christmas Concert., featuring choirs from Merrickville, including the Merrickville Children's and Women's Choirs and Rideau Voices. Contact Kathleen Howard, kmaryhoward@primus.ca

## The Twelve Days of Christmas

The best known English version was first printed in English in 1780 in a little book intended for children, *Mirth without Mischief*, as a Twelfth Night "memories-and-forfeits" game, in which a leader recited a verse, each of the players repeated the verse, the leader added another verse, and so on until one of the players made a mistake, with the player who erred having to pay a penalty, such as offering up a kiss or a sweet. In Scotland, early in the 19th century, the recitation began: "The king sent his lady on the first Yule day, I A popingo-aye [parrot]; I Wha learns my carol and carries it away?" The succeeding gifts were two partridges, three plovers, a goose that was grey, three starlings, three goldspinks, a bull that was brown, three ducks a-merry laying, three swans a-merry swimming, an Arabian baboon, three hinds a-merry hunting, three maids a-merry dancing, three stalks o' merry corn. -Wikipedia



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For more information contact: [choir@carleton.ca](mailto:choir@carleton.ca)

## Calendar of Events

### December

- 15 Deadline for First Class Honours Applications~** Contact Meg Iwaskow megiwaskow@gmail.com
- 15 Application Deadline for First Class Honours Scholarships ~** Contact Sherry Lu sherryludi@yahoo.ca

### January 2016

- 7 Deadline for applications for David Jalbert Master Class, University of Ottawa ~** Contact Katarina Jovic katarinamusic@sympatico.ca
- 9 Deadline for Variety Show applications ~** Contact Danielle Jersak, danielle\_jersak@hotmail.com
- 10 Deadline for applications for Christiane Riel Master Class, University of Ottawa ~** Contact Katarina Jovic katarinamusic@sympatico.ca
- 10 Submission Deadline for February/March ORBit ~** Contact Kathleen Howard kmaryhoward@primus.ca
- 11 General Meeting and Potluck Breakfast ~** 9:30 a.m., Ottawa Mennonite Church, 1830 Kilborn Avenue. Contact Jennie Smith jenniesmithrmt@gmail.com
- 23 Variety Show Auditions ~** 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. City View United Church. 6 Epworth Ave. Contact Danielle Jersak danielle\_jersak@hotmail.com
- 24 First Class Honours Auditions ~** 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. City View United Church. 6 Epworth Ave. Contact Meg Iwaskow megiwaskow@gmail.com

### February

- 6 Variety Show Recital ~** 2:00 p.m. at City View United Church. 6 Epworth Ave. Contact Danielle Jersak danielle\_jersak@hotmail.com .
- 7 David Jalbert Piano Master Class, University of Ottawa ~**1:00 to 4:00 p.m.. Freiman Hall, Perez Building. Contact Katarina Jovic katarinamusic@sympatico.ca
- 7 First Class Honours Recitals ~** 2:00 to 9:00 p.m. (exact times TBA). City View United Church, 6 Epworth Ave. Contact Meg Iwaskow megiwaskow@gmail.com
- 13 Deadline for Applications for the Adult Student Workshop, Master class and Recital ~** Contact Ioulia Brechun medbeach@yahoo.ca
- 27 Adult Student Workshop & Master Class ~** Ottawa Pianos, 1412 Bank St.. Contact Ioulia Brechun medbeach@yahoo.ca

### March

- 6 Christiane Riel Voice Master Class, University of Ottawa ~** 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Freiman Hall, Perez Building. Contact Katarina Jovic katarinamusic@sympatico.ca
- 10 Submission Deadline for April/May ORBit ~** Contact Kathleen Howard kmaryhoward@primus.ca
- 19 Adult Student Recital.~** City View United Church, 6 Epworth Ave. Contact Ioulia Brechun medbeach@yahoo.ca

### April

- 15 Deadline for Applications for Competitions.~** Contact Kimberley Sundell sundellpianostudio@gmail.com

### May

- 10 Submission Deadline for June/July/August ORBit. ~** Contact Kathleen Howard kmaryhoward@primus.ca
- 27 Annual General Meeting and Luncheon ~** Cedarhill Golf & Country Club, 56 Cedarhill Drive. Contact Jennie Smith jenniesmithrmt@gmail.com
- 28-29 Competitions ~** Carleton University, Loeb Building, Patrick Cardy Studio. Contact Kimberley Sundell sundellpianostudio@gmail.com
- 29 Competitions Gala ~** 7:30 p.m. Carleton University, Loeb Building, Patrick Cardy Studio. Contact Kimberley Sundell sundellpianostudio@gmail.com