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Calgary Branch Board Meeting

Date: September 16, 2024

Place: Zoom

MINUTES of MEETING

CHAired BY: Sandra Joy Friesen

RECORDING SECRETARY: Maryellen Pankratz

NAMES OF ATTENDEES AND ABSENTEES

Members Present: Lorna Sewell, Alexandra Andrievsky, Sandra Joy Friesen, Carolyn Steeves, Beth Olver, Nathene Arthur, Erika Gomez

Regrets: Mandy Loban-Jordan, Angela Frankowski, Barb Robertson

Guests: Rachel McLellan

Late Arrivals: Erika Gomez arrived at 10:01 am

Early Departures: Erika Gomez left at 10:48 am

OPEN ARMTA CALGARY MEETING

ARMTA CALGARY meeting called to order at 9:33 am.

SECTION 1: MEETING MINUTES pages 1-3

2. Approval of Agenda

AMENDMENT: Added "Other Business" 7.1 Foothills Festival, Alexandra

MOTION: Beth moved to accept the agenda as amended. Alexandra seconded the motion. Motion carried.

3. Approval of Minutes from June 17, 2024

MOTION: Carolyn moved to approve the June minutes. Alexandra seconded the motion. Motion carried.

4. Approval of Consent Agenda (reports for information, no discussion required)

AMENDMENT: Kim revised the last paragraph of her report

MOTION: Lorna moved to approve the consent agenda as amended. Carolyn seconded the motion. Motion carried.

5. Business

5.1 Archives job description updated

MOTION: Beth moved to accept the updated Archives job description. Carolyn seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ACTION: Beth will forward the updated Archives Convener Job Description to Maryellen.

5.2a AGM questionnaire results, Mentorship Program, Looi Tan

ACTION: Sandra Joy will ask Looi if she wants to follow up on a mentoring program.

5.2b AGM questionnaire results, In-Person Meetings

Plan October 21st meeting to be in-person, perhaps at someone's home or at Asylum for Art.

ACTION: Sandra Joy will inquire with Scott Arnold about booking a meeting space.

5.3 Calgary Provincial Representative Report, Carolyn Steeves

NOTE: The student recognition fund addressed in the report refers to the \$1500 that Provincial provides for some of our ACRA scholarships

ACTION: Sandra Joy will ask Barb to send out this report to branch members.

6. New Business

6.1 Teacher Education Grant proposed revision, Beth

MOTION: Beth moved to accept the proposed revision. Lorna seconded the approval. Motion carried.

ACTION: Beth will forward the updated Affiliate Grant (renamed Teacher Education Grant) description to Maryellen

6.2 GIC maturing in November, Bookkeeper report, Maryellen

The board agreed to withdraw all GIC interest received, past and present, with the exception of the Peter Turner GIC.

ACTION: Maryellen will purchase a new GIC after November 26th for \$5000 and will deposit the \$750 interest received three years ago, as well as any interest received at maturity.

6.3 Conference Grants Questions, Maryellen

ACTION: Maryellen will advise Kaylee Read that her application is approved.

6.3a Funding towards international conferences

COMMITTEE: Sandra Joy, Beth and Nathene will discuss potential revisions to the conference grant and plan the specifics.

6.4a Donation for Piano Heist, Barbara

Use Calgary Folk Club's \$500 donation to cover expenses. If we decide to give away any free tickets, that will be a part of those expenses.

6.5 Impromptu – acquiring more content, Maryellen & Rachel

Rachel is in favour of making Maryellen a co-editor. Many excellent suggestions were made and have been documented for a committee meeting.

COMMITTEE: Nathene, Rachel and Maryellen will meet to plan the specifics of putting today's suggestions into action.

ACTION: Rachel will ask Barb to send an email detailing how members can sign up to receive Impromptu in the mail at no cost to them.

6.6 Yamaha Scholarship Presentation at ACRA, Jackie Law

The real question is: Is the document specific in what we want it to say?

ACTION: Sandra Joy will work with Jackie Law to re-word the Prestissimo level of the Tier Sheet so that it's intent is clear. Will also ask Barb if she would like to join them.

6.7 Workshop Suggestion – Brain Gym

If someone will organize this, the board would be in favour. A proposal, including costs should be presented to the board.

ACTION: Sandra Joy will continue correspondence with Colleen Athparia.

6.7a (ADDED after discussing 6.7): Student Recitals & Masterclasses, lack of conveners

ACTION: Alexandra and Erika will try to find some people to host student recitals and masterclasses this year.

ACTION: Beth will email workshop/recital convener job description to Alexandra and will cc Sandra Joy and Kaylee Read.

6.8 Suggestion for Monthly Newsletter for parents

Suggestions were made for one weekly (or monthly or bi-monthly) newsletter email using ARMTA colours and logo, similar to the one that Provincial sends. Maryellen voiced interest in doing this. This would be a change in communication strategy.

TABLED to next meeting when Barb can be present.

7. Other Business

7.1 Foothills Festival, Alexandra

Alexandra reported that Fiona Carnie can no longer commit to this project and without someone else's help, this will probably have to be shut down or postponed.

ARMTA Calgary Branch Board meeting adjourned at 11:19 am.

Endowment Society Meeting called to order at 11:19

9.3 Endowment Project Report, Nathene

Call for more competition ideas: composition, essays

COMMITTEE: Maryellen will join the committee with Nathene, Carolyn and Laura Whitehead

Endowment Society meeting adjourned at 11:25 am.

SECTION 2: AGENDA



Calgary Branch Board Agenda

September 16, 2024, 9:30-11:00 AM

Chair: Sandra Joy Friesen

Past Chair: Beth Olver

Vice Chair: Alexandra Andrievsky

Administrator: Maryellen Pankratz

Members at Large: Beth Olver, Lorna Sewell, Barbara Robertson, Carolyn Steeves, Angela Frankowski, Sandra Joy Friesen, Erika Gomez, Mandy Loban-Jordan, Alexandra Andrievsky

Treasurer: Lorna Sewell

Bookkeeper: Maryellen Pankratz

ARMTA Provincial Board Rep: Carolyn Steeves

Endowment Society: Nathene Arthur, Carolyn Steeves

1. Welcome, Call to Order

2. Approval of Agenda

3. Approval of Minutes from June 2024 (June Minutes included)

4. Approval of Consent Agenda (reports for Information only) ACRA, Kim

5. Follow-up Business from June

5.1 Archives gathering/submission to Sara, Archives job description updated (thank you, Beth)
No report

5.2 AGM questionnaire results (document included)

5.3 Calgary Provincial Representative Report, Carolyn Steeves

6. New Business

6.1 Teacher Education Grant proposed revision, Beth

6.2 GIC maturing in November (Bookkeeper report, Maryellen)

6.3 Conference Grants Questions, Maryellen

6.3a Funding towards international conferences

6.4 Piano Heist (Barbara)

6.4a Donation for Piano Heist, Barbara

6.5 *Impromptu* – acquiring more content, Maryellen

6.6 Yamaha Scholarship Presentation at ACRA, Jackie Law

- 6.7 Workshop Suggestion – *Brain Gym*
6.8 Suggestion for Monthly Newsletter for parents
No report

7. Other Business

8. Announcements

Branching Out at Quinterra Legacy Park: Sunday September 29, 1:00-3:00 pm All music and speech arts students welcome to participate!

Next meeting October 21, 2024; 9:30 am

Provincial AGM, Friday October 25, 12:00 in person or via zoom (group rate)

Adjourn Branch Board meeting

9. Endowment Society Meeting

9.1 Approval of minutes n/a

9.2 Approval of Consent Agenda

9.3 Endowment Project Report (report, Nathene)

Adjourn Endowment Society meeting

SECTION 3: REPORTS

4. ACRA, Kim Yim

- Minimum mark to apply for ACRA has been raised to 87%
- Deadline for applications is October 15th, 2025
- Grade level categories have been shifted ***for piano only***
 - Intermediate will be Levels 7-8 (previously 7-9)
 - Advanced will be Levels 9+ (previously 10+)

To utilize the budget increase of \$420, the 4th highest piano mark will be awarded a scholarship as an honourable mention. These recipients are invited to perform and receive their award at OSR. The award for these winners will be \$25 each.

5.2 Questionnaire and Responses May 2024, From Looi Tan via zoom during the AGM.

I would like to see some sort of mentorship program / student teacher program for new teachers set up. I heard that Speech Arts have the same idea. I have an online program called that is a 10-unit course that students can access. [TeachPiano.Academy](https://www.teachpianoacademy.com/) But one of the units is to observe experienced teachers for minimum of 5 hours. If I can pair them up with the experienced teachers here, that'll be great. Or work something out for the Student teacher program.

5.3 Calgary Provincial Representative Report, Carolyn Steeves

The Provincial ARMTA Board met on Saturday, September 7th, 2024, via Zoom. Here are the meeting highlights.

The **Strings Competition** deadline is October 1st. There is a category for Junior and Senior students. <https://armta.ca/provincial-strings-competition/>

The **Piano Competition** deadline is December 15th. <https://armta.ca/provincial-piano-competition/>

Music Conference Alberta is happening October 25/26th in Edmonton. This year, there are reduced rates (20% off) for ARMTA members. Early Bird Registration ends October 4th and discounted hotel rates are available until September 24th. At MCA there will be a **Piano and Violin masterclass** with some amazing presenters. Applications are now being accepted to participate and deadline to apply is October 4th. More information is on the website in the Events tab. <https://armta.ca/upcoming-events/#!event-list>

ARMTA's Annual General Meeting will be in Edmonton on Friday October 25th at 12:00. Lunch is free for all members, but they must pre-register before October 17th. It is a hybrid meeting, and members can also register to watch online. When they register, a zoom link will be emailed to them.

Always available for Branches: Continuing Education Funds: \$400 per Branch. Contact Deanna Oye to apply for funds. Deanna.oye@uleth.ca

Recognition Fund Awards for students: \$850 for smaller Branches and \$1500 for Calgary and Edmonton. Contact Lorrie Wittke if you have questions. Lorrie99@telus.net

Needs Based **Bursaries** are available for students if they are struggling financially. There is also a Newcomer Bursary for students who have financial need and have been in the Canada less than 12 months. Information can be found on our website under the Scholarships tab.

Congratulations to **Barb Robertson** for being recognized with the 2024 ARMTA Service Award for her many years of service! Thank you so much Barb!

A hearty congratulation to **Nathene Arthur** for her many years of service to ARMTA Calgary, ARMTA Provincial and CFMTA, this meeting was Nathene's last ARMTA Provincial meeting! Thank you so much Nathene!

6.1 Teacher Education Grant proposed revision, Beth

We currently offer a grant to affiliate members working toward an associate level. The ACRA committee believes we should offer something to those achieving Licentiate.

Proposed revision teacher grants to include those working on Licentiate exams.

The intent of ~~this~~ **the education** grant is to encourage ~~affiliate~~ members of ARMTA Calgary Branch who are completing an associate diploma **or licentiate** from a conservatory. A maximum of \$500 will be available each year.

Guidelines

- The applicant must be an active member of ARMTA Calgary branch at the time the exam is taken.
- A maximum of \$500 will be given to reimburse one exam fee for level 10, Associate level, or Licentiate (practical or theory) ~~from level 10 or associate level exams~~ with a recognized Conservatory (e. g. Royal Conservatory of Music or Conservatory Canada, Trinity, or other).
- The application **deadline is September 30** of the current year and is for exams taken between September 1 (of the previous year) and August 31 (of the current year), such that the grant given in fall 2024 will be based on exams taken between 2023 September 1 and 2024 August 31.
- The applicant must not be also benefiting from another ARMTA assistance such as the Student Needs Bursary.
- Preference will be given to applicants who have not received this grant in the past 2 years.
- A member may only apply once each year (September 1 –August 31) for one exam only each year.
- Applications may be submitted any time before the deadline. All applications received by the deadline will be placed in a draw. If the first drawn application does not require all the funds, a second application may be drawn to receive the balance.

We want to celebrate your achievement!

Recipients will be asked to provide information to be published in Impromptu and posted on our website and social media. Please include:

- Your name
- The exam taken (e.g. Violin practical level associate, or History level 10)
- a head shot or selfie (optional)
- up to 50 words about yourself (e.g. your music education goals, outside interests, other accomplishments)

Payment Details

The money will be transferred to the recipient(s) once the [Branch Administrator](#) has received the following:

- copy of exam results showing successful completion (pass)
- a copy of the receipt for exam fees paid
- the information for Impromptu by November 30

~~Affiliate Grant established May 2022~~ **Education Grant September 2024**

6.2 GIC maturing in November (Bookkeeper report, Maryellen)

Bank balances as of September 11, 2024:
 \$30,102.51 ARMTA Calgary Branch
 \$11,825.80 Endowment Society

ARMTA Calgary GICs

Name1	Name2	Amount	Purchased	Matures
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GIC1	Cdn Bank Market Smart	\$8,000	Nov 17, 2023	Nov 17, 2025
GIC2	Cdn Bank Market Smart	\$16,000	Nov 17, 2023	Nov 17, 2028
		\$24,000		

Endowment Society GICs

Name1	Name2	Amount	Purchased	Matures
GIC2	Cdn Bank Market Smart	\$5,750	Nov 26, 2021	Nov 26, 2024
GIC1	Peter Turner Scholarship	\$3,570	Nov 20, 2020	Nov 20, 2025
GIC3	Morning Musicale Scholarship	\$5,000	Nov 28, 2022	Nov 28, 2025
GIC4	Cdn Bank Market Smart	\$11,000	Dec 1, 2023	Dec 1, 2026
		\$25,320		

GIC2 Cdn Bank Market Smart This GIC was purchased for \$5000 in Nov 2018 and matured in Nov 2021. The interest earned was \$750. When a new 3-year GIC was purchased in Nov 2021, the interest it had earned was re-invested. So the new GIC purchase amount was \$5750. When this GIC matures two months from now, would the board like to withdraw all of the interest earned and re-invest the initial \$5000? I’m proposing this based on the following portion of meeting minutes:

On April 18, 2022 the following motion was approved:

8.3 Endowment Society Investments - Nathene moved that 100% of the interest earned from the GICs be cashed out and used for scholarships, with the exception of the Peter Turner GIC. Lorna seconded the motion. Four in favour. One opposed. Motion carried.

- The Peter Turner GIC is excluded from this principle. Explanation: the current (anonymous) donor for the Peter Turner Scholarship (presented at ACRA) intended that the donation from Peter Turner’s estate be allowed to grow until she is no longer able to fund that scholarship.

6.3 Conference Grants Questions, Maryellen

Summary of Conference Grant Guidelines and applicants

The Conference Grant was developed in the spring of 2022 and contains grants for two specific conferences:

- 1) MCA (Music Conference Alberta)
- 2) CFMTA (Canadian Federation of Music Teachers’ Associations).

a) MCA (Music Conference Alberta) Conference Grant

GENERAL GUIDELINES:

The application deadline is *September 10*

Up to \$1000 is available in even-numbered years.

up to five Calgary Branch members attending MCA may receive \$200 each.

If there are more than 5 applicants, applications will be placed in a draw

The names of those receiving the grants will be announced by *September 20*.

APPLICATION HISTORY:

2022: two applicants

2024: one applicant

b) CFMTA (Canadian Federation of Music Teachers' Associations)

GENERAL GUIDELINES

The application deadline is *March 24*

Up to \$1050 is available in odd-numbered years.

Up to three CFMTA conference attendees may receive \$350 each

If there are more than three applicants, applications will be placed in a draw.

The names of those receiving the grants will be announced by *April 1*.

APPLICATION HISTORY:

2023: three applicants

This conference was held in Edmonton, so when it is held in other provinces, will we continue to receive up to three or more applications?

My Questions to the board:

QUESTION 1: The deadline for this grant was September 10 and since only one member applied, you would care to extend the deadline?

QUESTION 2: This year, there was only one applicant for the Oct 24-25 MCA Conference:

Kaylee Read applied on Aug 28/24

Please advise my communication with Kaylee:

a) Should I tell her that she's approved?

b) Or should I tell her that the deadline will be extended, along with the date for announcing the approved applicants?

QUESTION #3:

With a lack of applications, would the board be open to revising these two conference grants into one conference grant that isn't limited to MCA and CFMTA? In other words, members could apply for a grant to attend any music conference in the world?

6.3a Funding towards international conferences (From Karen Gerulus)

A quick inquiry regarding the teacher conference grants. The website specifies MCA and CFMTA conferences, but is there any opportunity to apply for funding to attend MTNA? This conference is in Minneapolis March 2025 and works closely with CFMTA (although not a joint year). Please let me know if there is any opportunity for funding towards international conferences.

6.4 Piano Heist (Barbara)

- **PIANO HEIST** is scheduled for Sunday, Feb. 16, 2025, 7:00 pm
- Venue: Brentview Baptist Church
- Fees are set at \$30 per adult and \$20 per student (Grade 1-12)
- Okotoks prices are \$40 in advance and \$50 at the door

- Airdrie prices are \$42 for all ages.
- Maryellen and Rachel included info in the September Impromptu.
- Carolyn Garritano has set up a link for us to use to purchase tickets online

I will send a request for committee members to help organize.

My biggest request though, is for teachers to get students to this concert.

Calgary Folk Club will donate \$500. How would we like to use these funds.

- To cover expenses
- To offer free student tickets in some form, for example, if a teacher orders 5 tickets, they get 1 free student ticket – this might also encourage teachers to organize getting students to the concert.
- To offer a ticket to an in need student – although how do you determine that?
- They will offer free tickets to live stream a concert for a yet to be decided number of attendees
- We will have access to their hotel rates for 3 rooms for 1 night.

They would like the advertising acknowledgement that goes with the donation. Unfortunately they have been working on last years sponsorship levels as this was started last winter.

6.4a Donation for Piano Heist, Barbara

Calgary Folk Club will donate \$500 to armta in support of piano heist. It is being promoted as community engagement. They have checked last year's list of benefits from the sponsorship sheet...cause I have been working on this for many months.They will also donate 2 to 10 live stream tickets for a draw at the concert. It is coming from their advertising budget. They need a receipt for \$500.

How do I proceed? Do we use this money to give a free student ticket to any teacher or person or buys 5 tickets? Or do we use this to pay for expenses?.....

Jackie: Do you want me to consider the folk club as an advertising sponsor in the Allegro level and give them the corresponding ad spaces in Impromptu and ACRA program? But are they going to send in an ad?

Barbara: I think that is best. They will want some acknowledgment at piano heist also.

6.5 Impromptu – acquiring more content, Maryellen

What can we do to receive more content for Impromptu?

Putting Impromptu together is a lot of work and I love it! But receiving enough content for the last couple issues was a bit of a challenge. To receive more, I did a lot of extra work beyond the scope of design and layout. I would therefore ask to be added as a co-editor or an assistant editor.

Would some other people be willing to join Rachel McLellan and myself for a brain-storming session on how we might obtain more content?

6.6 Yamaha Scholarship Presentation at ACRA, Jackie Law

From Jackie Law:

According to the spreadsheet, Yamaha, being a premium advertiser, is supposed to personally present the scholarship at ACRA. How does this work? Am I supposed to email Corey to invite him or someone from his office to come to ACRA?

*Request for the Board to discuss the possibility, or practicality, of "personally present the scholarship in your name" and "recognition in all programs" promised for the Prestissimo level of Sponsorship which Yamaha is in for this 2024 issue of Impromptu"

Maryellen: The tier referred to is Prestissimo and reads "Personally present scholarship in your name." I take this to mean that we, ARMTA Calgary should present a scholarship at ACRA called the "Yamaha Scholarship". I wasn't around for the inception of this, so I don't know if that is the correction intention. Regardless, I'm pretty sure that we haven't been doing this, nor have we been ensuring Yamaha's recognition in all recital programs. It seems to me that these two commitments are nearly impossible for us to live up to unless you are personally communicating the information not only to the ACRA convener every year, but also every recital convener along the way. When recitals are planned, you're not looped in, so it doesn't seem practical. I would be in favour of lowering the ad amount and removing those commitments.

What do other people think?

Barbara: I would reword it so that it means that they can personally present the scholarships equalling the total amount given. They would not be named the Yamaha Scholarship(s).

6.7 Workshop Suggestion (From Colleen Athparia)

Brain Gym for Musicians, the person I was proposing to present the workshop is Dana Luebke, a former dancer of the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, with a lifetime of experience giving workshops in schools, Senior Homes, etc across N.Am and in Europe. He is the "head" of Brain Gym Canada and introduced me and some other musicians to brain gym. I've been using it in my studio ever since and finding it works remarkably well! So either Dana could give the whole workshop or we can present it together. But he is an expert in the field and I am only learning.

9.3 Endowment Projects Report, Nathene

Are there any ideas from our Calgary Board members for **new** Projects this year?

The Calgary Branch ARMTA "Endowment Projects Committee" is made up of Carolyn Steeves, Laura Whitehead and Nathene Arthur.

In the past several months we have successfully completed the Poster Competition and the Creative Video Competition. We submitted a written article for the Impromptu Magazine entitled "Posters, Videos and Teenage Superstars, Oh My!". We hope to continue the Poster and Video Competitions this coming spring 2025, but are open to new competition ideas from other teachers for sure. Ideas?

Our proposed 2024-2025 budget of \$2,700 was approved this spring.

Our main priority at this point is to advertise and promote the inaugural “Dual Excellence Teenage Superstar Awards” (DE TSA), which has an upcoming deadline to apply of one month from now (October 15, 2024). If necessary, we can extend that deadline a few weeks of course.

As we are so sure many of our Calgary teachers have such DE TSA students, we are hoping with more publicity we can have at least a dozen entries.

It is good to promote these “everyone can enter” events for our Calgary ARMTA teachers’ students. Looking forward to the year ahead.