

impromptu

ARMTA Calgary Branch

Member Newsletter ■ March 2025

ANNOUNCING “COMPOSER CORNER”

At the suggestion of our esteemed vice chair, Alexandra Andrievsky, this issue marks the beginning of “Composer Corner”, where we will spotlight a different composer in each newsletter. We have first chosen GEORGE FRIDERIC HANDEL as a means of correlating his charitable work with today’s theme, where we celebrate the many members who volunteer their time and resources for the benefit of our branch.

Thank you to Nathene Arthur, who assisted in planning this theme and reached out to the members who have volunteered over the past four years. Nathene herself has been instrumental (yes, pun intended) in myriad projects, activities and aspects of ARMTA.

If you enjoy “Composer Corner” or if you have a composer request, please tell us! And know that EVERY member is welcome to submit content about the composer that will be pre-announced.



Illustration of Handel's 'Messiah' by Norman Price

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Hello all and welcome to another edition of Impromptu.

I would firstly like to thank the hard work of Maryellen Pankratz. She has been the co-creator of this newsletter for over three years, and she now has the well deserved title of co-editor with me. Thank you Maryellen for all you do!

This edition is focused on volunteering and what it brings to our lives. As you know ARMTA is a volunteer run organization - we can't do any of this without your help! It takes a village, as they say. Many members wrote in pieces about their time volunteering with ARMTA and what it has brought to their lives.

We are also shining a spotlight on the composer George F. Handel in this issue. Look for interesting facts about him in this publication.

This issue also contains information about past and future ARMTA Calgary events, like Branching Out and Music Marathon. The most up to date information on these events can always be found on our branch website, <https://armta-calgary.com/>.

As always, we're here for your feedback, ideas, and anything you'd like to contribute. We want to hear about your amazing teaching moments, innovative projects, and any cool stories you'd like to share. Your experiences are what make our community special, and we can't wait to highlight what you're doing. Your thoughts help us make this newsletter better and more relevant for everyone. Please contact me at RMcLellanMusic@gmail.com with submissions.

Thanks for all the incredible work you do. Here's to a fantastic year full of music, growth, and lots of fun! ■

RACHEL McLELLAN



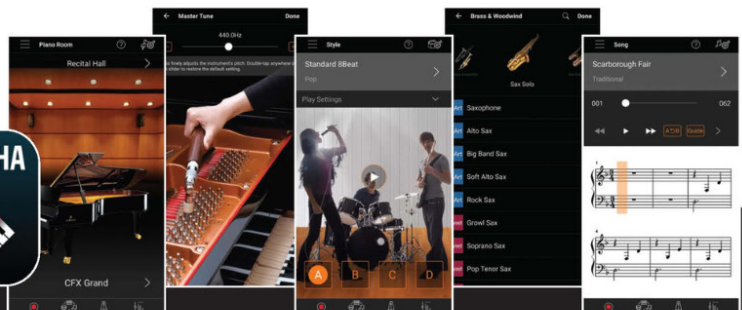
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Note: The Composer Corner articles in this issue were compiled by the editors

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GREETING FROM THE CHAIR

Sandra Joy Friesen

It has been a true honour and pleasure to be part of our vibrant group of music teachers who are passionate about doing their best for the sake of their students. Since stepping into this position, I have been continually encouraged and motivated by those teachers (active and retired), life-long members, and our Administrator Maryellen Pankratz, who give their time, energy and expertise to the success of our activities that we offer the Branch at large. *I heartily thank all of you who generously contribute to our organization!*

As the new year gets under way, ARMTA volunteers are already busy planning special events for the year such as ACRA, OSR, C3, Music Marathon, upcoming competitions – events that truly celebrate many outstanding, hard-working, and music-loving students along with their teachers. There are always reasons to celebrate – accomplishments of our own, our students, our loved ones; milestone birthdays, anniversaries, achievements; traditions in our cultures, families, religions, and so on. It is a healthy approach to life – celebrating! This year across Canada, musical celebrations that I will be part of, and enjoying, are concerts that feature 2 of our early Canadian composers: Jean Coulthard (born

1908) and Violet Archer (born 1913). They developed their own musical voice very different from each other - but they shared similarities of honourable distinction: a) they were highly prolific creating literally hundreds of works in multiple genres, b) they dedicated an equal share of their career time to teaching the younger generations (impressive time-management skills!), and c) their passion ignited excitement and initiated events for bringing Canadian music to the public during the heights of their careers in the mid to late-20th century. They both passed away in 2000, so this year we celebrate them and their pioneering spirit on the 25th anniversary of their deaths. In the case of composers like these two, who contributed tirelessly for the sake of music in our country, I feel it is extra important this year to acknowledge the significance of their work, learn more about them, and play more of their music!

I am wondering...what are you involved in celebrating this year? The Calgary Branch Board would love to hear about the important musical events in your life and studio, and our *Impromptu* newsletter is a great place to feature the fun, worthwhile, and special activities that our membership enjoys throughout the year! ■

Branching Out “Random Acts of Music & Speech”

Sandra Joy Friesen

Our CFMTA Branching Out event took place at the most appropriate outdoor interactive music stage in the Quinterra Legacy Garden. If you have not yet visited this lovely garden, you should put it on your to-visit list. It is situated within the South Glenmore Park, along the Elbow River and Reservoir. The open-air music stage is surrounded by an outdoor music instrument installation, free for all to make beautiful sound and music that drifts through the park.

Our event was intended to be an afternoon of bringing music to the community, to those strolling, biking, playing, picnicking, in the park. We were of course hoping for a beautiful day based on the morning sunshine, but with Calgary weather, hope only gets you so far.

In any case, ARMTA and CFMTA trooper-teacher Nathene Arthur, and her husband Rick, brought the keyboard and sound equipment. We also had generous help from one of our newer members, Sandra Narvaez and her husband Mauricio, for setup and take down. By 1:00, the winds and clouds were making their way to the garden, but we held out hope. We started the recital with several students performing piano and violin selections. Unfortunately, by 1:35 the rain and cold forced us to pack up.

We had a good turnout of students doing their best under these less-than-ideal conditions and I am pleased that we pushed through it. I am also very grateful that teachers, parents and students participate in our ARMTA events that benefit the greater community outside our teaching studios. The staff at Quinterra are wonderful to work with, so I want to thank them as well. This particular event of *music in the garden* is such a perfectly appropriate event, so I plan to do it again in May 2025, stay tuned! ■



Quinterra Legacy Garden, September 29, 2024

“Piano Heist was sooo Much Fun!”

February 16, 2025 at Brentview Baptist Church

More Comments from Some of Our Members

“My guests and myself loved it. It was such a great walk through keyboard history!”

“It was a fantastic showcase for our students to hear the creative possibilities for pianists and music in general. Thank you for bravely going ahead with it all.”

“It was a delight to be part of the evening and great to see so many families in the audience enjoying the evening; excellent turnout.”

“My student absolutely loved it!”

“Piano Heist was a super fun evening.”

“My daughter and I attended Piano Heist and wish to thank Barb Robertson and her volunteers for creating a fabulous opportunity to see this performance. The show was captivating!!”

“Took my family and wished I had advertised to ALL students. This was a very funny and entertaining evening with a mashup of so many pieces and styles. The guys are great musicians and made every era of music fun. I would highly recommend them and their concert. Thanks Barb!!!”

“Thanks Barb and volunteers. What a great show. Funny and uplifting. We all need that right now.”

“Congratulations to Barb Robertson and her team! Thank you for making this great evening of musical entertainment happen. My family and I enjoyed the experience immensely. I personally knew almost every piece that the two men played, and they were amazing with all of the styles that they presented. We had smiles on our faces, all evening.”

“I bought tickets for my 2 students and their Mom says they were really inspired.”

“We all enjoyed this one of a kind comedy music event very much!”

“As I sat in the audience, I couldn't help but notice not only how they moved their fingers with skill and confidence but also how they didn't just play classical pieces. It was a fresh perspective on the piano, an exposure to the idea/fact that it is such a versatile instrument. It's not just all technique and strict practice; it's really more of a form of creative expression, especially the way that the performers made the show funny and interactive with the audience.”



Piano Heist performers Nico Rhodes and Patrick Courtin with Wynn Phung, student of Carolyn Steeves



THANK YOU
to the Calgary Folk club for
partially sponsoring this event!

And to Barb Robertson for
bringing this show to Calgary!

DRAW PRIZES: Sherry won a \$25 gift certificate for Piano Heist merchandise
Newton won 4 tickets to a show at the Calgary Folk Club

21% of tickets purchased were from ARMTA members • 30% of \$ales were from ARMTA members

Celebrate



Our Volunteers



Sandra Joy helping out at our “Random Acts of Music & Speech” Branching Out event at Quinterra Legacy Garden, September 29, 2024

Sandra Joy Friesen, Piano Teacher in NW Calgary
(Member since 2008)

- G**etting involved with ARMTA Calgary has been rewarding for me in several ways:
1. The interaction with other teachers is meaningful - they start to become friends!
 2. Learning from other teachers through workshops and masterclasses is always helpful - lifelong professional development.
 3. Seeing students be rewarded for their efforts through different competitions is so special.
 4. Imagining and planning creative opportunities for our students is totally inspiring and enjoyable!
 5. Being part of something greater outside my own studio gives me a wonderful perspective - a necessary component to healthy teaching.
 6. Providing information and help to new and seasoned teachers just feels good.

As the current Chair, I encourage teachers to consider how they benefit from being part of our organization, how their students benefit from what we have to offer, and how volunteering has the potential to enhance their lives both professionally and personally. ■

Frances Ewington, Speech Arts Teacher in SW Calgary
(Member since 2019)

Since becoming a member in 2019, my students have enjoyed participating in many ARMTA events including: Student Recitals, Adult Student Recitals, Branching Out, and Music Marathon. They have also enjoyed the competitions: The Dual Excellence Award and Video Competitions, and are looking forward to the new Story Competition.

Since 2020, many of my students have won ACRA medals and scholarships for Speech Arts & Drama from the ARMTA Endowment Society. Others have taken the stage at OSR. Students and parents alike are always pleased when the performers hard work and talent are recognized and rewarded!

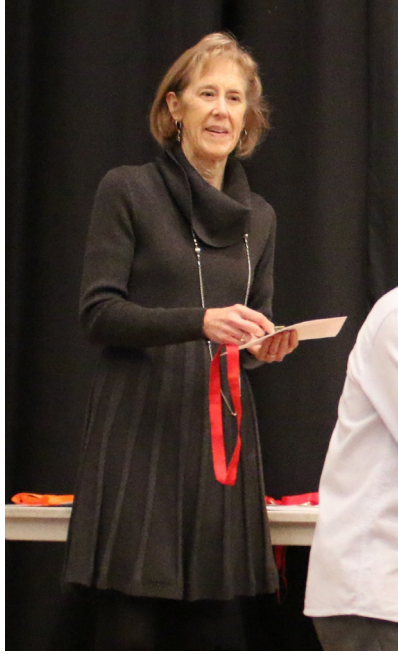
I sat on the ARMTA Calgary board for 5 years, filling various roles. I have encouraged other Speech Arts teachers to join ARMTA - and, happily, our numbers are growing!

I really enjoyed going to Music Conference Alberta and participating in many of the Professional Development Workshops. Last, but not least, my colleague - Dr Donna Holstine Vander Valk - and I even gave an ARMTA teacher workshop this Fall: “Spoken Arts: A Beginner’s Workshop.” ■



Frances congratulating her student Arian Farahbakhsh at ACRA January 28, 2023

Barb Robertson, Piano Teacher in NW Calgary (Member since 1985)



*Barb helping out at ACRA
(ARMTA Calgary Recital & Awards)
January 28, 2023*

About 30 years ago, I walked into a large room at a hotel which was “abuzz” with a huge number of music teachers who all seemed to know each other. They were visiting and having breakfast prior to an ARMTA meeting. New to Calgary, I felt a little on the outside, but I realized that they were all very friendly. I attended more meetings, sitting and watching, and over the years, I was asked to get involved. “No” was a word that was in my vocabulary at the time. I was so busy with little kids at home, a husband who traveled, some students, and I did not feel qualified to take on any role. Life got even busier as my kids became involved in activities, and I took on more students.

But persistence paid off, and I fell into different positions with ARMTA, stumbling along the way as I learned, and still learn. I had not planned to ever be on the ARMTA board, but it has made such a difference in my life, and hopefully the lives of others. Volunteering with ARMTA was not on my bucket list...maybe I was scared, or, maybe I did not think I could be of any help, or maybe I thought I was busier than everyone else.

The truth is that everyone is busy. Each one of us has skills, or can learn skills, to share with others. Each one of us can make a difference. How do we choose to share our time with others? What can we do to help others? What ideas could you bring to the association? How can we each grow in helping others? AND, how can we all show support to those who are currently involved in ARMTA Calgary?

Volunteering does not need to be with ARMTA, but once I became involved, I knew I was gaining skills and I was involved in an organization that is beneficial to students, teachers, and the musical life in Calgary and Alberta. I made friends that were older than the kids in my studio. I have socialized, skied with and even traveled with other ARMTA members. Who knew that music teachers were such a great group of people!! I met them because I became involved with ARMTA. ■

Lorna Sewell, Voice Teacher in NW Calgary (Member since 2014)

I've been a co-convenor for Music Marathon for two years, going on three years. Along with two other individuals I have had the pleasure of organizing and running the event. What was once considered a behemoth job has been made much more manageable working as a team of three. One of our committee members had to discontinue for the 2025 event due to other obligations so we will be operating with two convenors. Due to the fact that we have a good system set up and a regular venue to host us, the hope is that we will manage fine. It's certainly a worthwhile event, one which provides a supportive and fun environment for students of ARMTA-Calgary Branch members. Students of all levels and ages are welcome to perform and/or volunteer! This is also a successful fund-raising event, proceeds from which we are able to turn around and offer as scholarships to ARMTA-Calgary Branch students. This can be another fun aspect to the event as students are strongly encouraged to raise money and potentially win prizes for raising the most money. Music Marathon has been running for much longer than I've been involved. In fact, this is the 10 year anniversary of the event which was spearheaded by one of our ARMTA-Calgary Branch members. The event has been held downtown on Stephen Avenue, indoors at the Core Shopping Centre, at Heritage Park, and now we have a very nice venue at CF Chinook Centre. We're very fortunate to have established this relationship. ■





Carolyn Steeves, Piano Teacher in Strathmore, AB (Member since 1994)

As a Member at Large and a Provincial Representative I have enjoyed volunteering with the Calgary ARMTA Branch! I have especially enjoyed my time on the Endowment Projects Committee and my work supporting Calgary and area Music Festivals. I am actually the Festival Association Liaison on the ARMTA Provincial Board. The work on both committees has been supporting students as they pursue their music studies, a passion of mine.

I am Past President of SPAF and on the festival steering committee. Currently, I am Vice President of the Alberta Music Festival Association. ARMTA Calgary supports Performing Arts Festivals in Airdrie, Bow Valley, Calgary, High River and Strathmore.

I have included a picture presenting an ARMTA Calgary scholarship and announcing the names of award winners at the 2023 Strathmore Performing Arts Festival. The ARMTA Calgary donation of \$100 has been used to create a Scholarship in various disciplines since 2022. In 2024 the ARMTA Calgary Scholarship was awarded for the Highest Achievement in Two or More Senior Vocal Disciplines. Once again this year, I will be representing AMFA and ARMTA Calgary at the Strathmore Performing Arts Festival in April. ■

Carolyn speaking at the Strathmore Performing Arts Festival Final Showcase Concert & Awards, April 4, 2023

Kaylee Read, Voice Teacher in SW Calgary (Member since 2016)

On Sunday, February 9, 2025, ARMTA Calgary students joined together in an inspiring afternoon of music and drinks at Cornerstone Café! Since our first adult recital three years ago, we have aimed to provide a casual and welcoming environment where adults studying with ARMTA teachers can share their music with like-minded musicians.

The recital program boasted a variety of music including piano, violin, musical theater, and contemporary voice. One of the highlights of the event was hearing the stories of where these musicians are in their musical journeys. Some have been studying consistently and performing regularly, while for others, this was their first time performing in years.

One of the outstanding performances was that of Diana J Scott (student of Kathy Dornian) who played the first movement of Beethoven's Sonata in C Major HOB 50. Diana shared with us that, despite this being her first time performing in decades, she was excited to share her music in such a supportive environment.

Throughout the afternoon, the importance of this event became more and more evident - adult students are craving performance opportunities and support from their peers. As teachers, we hope our students will be inspired to be life-long music makers. We must continue providing events such as these for students who are still making their music a priority as adults.

If you have adult students who would love to be a part of this event, please make sure you register next year! I also highly encourage teachers to get involved in their local branch; my volunteer work with the ARMTA Calgary branch has been incredibly rewarding. In the past, I have volunteered as a Student Recital Convener, Teacher Workshops Convener, as well as a member of the Calgary Branch board. Through volunteering I have found incredible connections with other teachers and musicians in the city that I am very thankful for. ■

If your adult students are looking for further support or performance opportunities, check out the Adults Learning Music Support Group: <https://www.adultslearningmusic.com/>



Bronwyn Schuman, Piano Teacher in SW Calgary (Member since 2020)

Volunteering as a judge for the ARMTA Poster and Video competitions brings me so much joy! Every submission captures each student's knowledge, skills, creativity, and personality. It never feels like work looking at or watching children's creative projects in these competitions. The only thing that is truly difficult is choosing the winners! One can tell that all students who submitted worked hard and likely learned a great deal from all of their hard work. Submitting a project in these competitions clearly provides students with a fun, unique, and creative goal, one that enables them to connect with their music (as in the poster competition), and polish their musical performance (as in the video competition). I love being involved; it's inspiring!" ■



Kimberley Yim, Piano Teacher in NW Calgary (Member since 2022)

As a music teacher, I've always valued community, collaboration, and giving back. Volunteering as the Convener for ACRA (ARMTA Calgary Recital and Awards) was a rewarding opportunity to do just that. Coordinating the event deepened my appreciation for the behind-the-scenes effort that ensures its success and gave me the chance to connect with fellow teachers while contributing to our vibrant music community. The sense of accomplishment from helping students showcase their talents and be recognized for their hard work made it all worthwhile. I encourage others to volunteer—it's an opportunity to develop new skills, build meaningful connections, and make a lasting impact. ■



*Kim helping out at ACRA
(ARMTA Calgary Recital & Awards)
January 25, 2025*

Rachel Baljeu, Piano Teacher in SW Calgary (Member since 2015)

We held the 2025 Outstanding Student Recital on Saturday, Feb. 8th at St. David's United Church. The recital was a great way to give students of ARMTA teachers an outlet to showcase their hard work and accomplishments. This year we had a full program featuring 24 piano students, 2 vocalists and 2 speech artists. The three jurors, Ivy Chi, Laura Whitehead and Crystal Yang, evaluated the performances and selected eight students to receive a \$50 scholarship.

I find volunteering for this event is valuable to me as a teacher in a couple of ways. First, piano teaching can be a profession where one is isolated from other colleagues, so in coordinating this recital I get to interact with other teachers in Calgary. Second, I also can see how the students from other teachers who were very successful in their RCM/CC exams perform, and use that to show me where I can look to making improvements in my own teaching.

I would like to thank especially the ARMTA teachers who volunteered at this event, who helped make the event run smoothly. I was worried at one point that we would be short on volunteers, but it worked out in the end. Thank you to the jurors mentioned above, and to Kathy Dornian, Frances Ewington, Nadia Khlynovskaya, Barb Robertson, Lorna Sewell, and Kimberley Yim. A special thank you also to Dr. Donna Holstine Vander Valk for emceeing the event. ■



George Frideric Handel, Philanthropist for Orphans

The Foundling Hospital

George Frideric Handel was one of the noted philanthropists of the eighteenth century. He was a benefactor of the Foundling Hospital, Britain's first home for abandoned and illegitimate babies. The Foundling Hospital was a children's home in London, England, founded in 1739. The word "hospital" was used in a more general sense than it is in the 21st century, simply indicating the institution's "hospitality" to those less fortunate.

In May 1749, Handel held a benefit concert in the Hospital chapel to raise funds for the completion of its chapel. The concert included an anthem specially written by Handel called *Blessed are they that considereth the poor*, and ended with the *Hallelujah Chorus*, lifted directly from his oratorio *Messiah*. Ladies were instructed not to wear hooped skirts and men told not to bring their swords to make more room for the large number of people expected to come. Tickets sold out and, because wealthy supporters had to be turned away on the night, a second performance had to be given two weeks later.

The following year, Handel directed a performance of *Messiah* to mark the presentation of the organ to the chapel. The new chapel was the perfect setting for him to promote his work while being seen to support a worthy cause. The performance was a great success and Handel was elected a Governor of the hospital.

Handel subsequently put on an annual performance of *Messiah* there every year after until his death in April 1759, raising almost £7,000 for the hospital. Valued at £17 million in today's money, it was a vital source of income that meant the Hospital could continue to provide a home for vulnerable, abandoned children. Hallelujah!

The Foundling Museum

In 2004, The Foundling Museum opened in Brunswick Square, London. Over two hundred years before that, in 1739, Philanthropist Thomas Coram had established the hospital to care for babies at risk of abandonment. Coram campaigned for 17 years before he received a Royal Charter from King George II to found it. He was appalled by the conditions children faced in London. Though the city was a global powerhouse of industry and wealth, it was also polluted and disease-ridden. Child mortality rates soared.

Each year, some one thousand babies were abandoned by parents experiencing extreme poverty or other maladies.

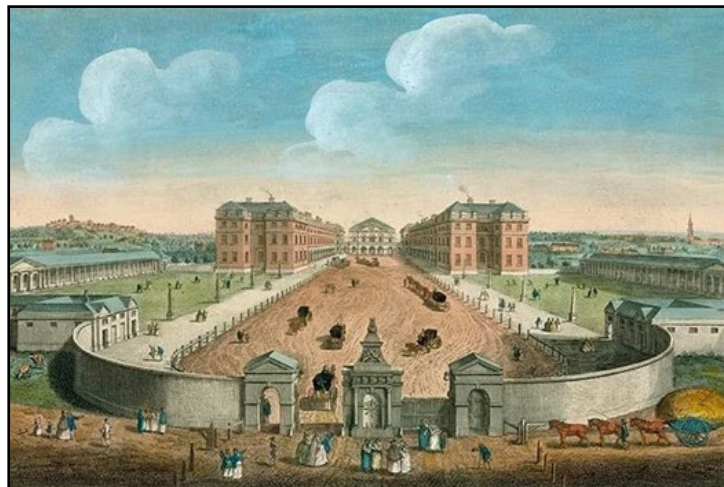
During its two centuries in operation, the Foundling Hospital looked after a remarkable 25,000 children.

Along with George Frideric Handel, the artist William Hogarth played a big part in realising Coram's vision. Together, they transformed the Hospital into the UK's first public art gallery, and one of London's most fashionable venues. William Hogarth's satirical masterpiece, *March of the Guards to Finchley* (1750) was won by the Foundling Hospital in a raffle. Hogarth also encouraged leading artists to donate their work.

2009 marked the 250th anniversary of Handel's death with an exhibition, focusing on his charitable life. Items from the Museum's collection that were on display at this memorialized exhibition included manuscript documents and art works rarely seen by the public, as well as the full score of *Messiah* that Handel left to the Hospital in his will. Some of the most moving objects still at the Foundling Museum are tokens – including coins, buttons, jewelry and poems – left by mothers with their babies on admission, enabling the Foundling Hospital to match a mother with her child should she ever return for it. The overwhelming majority of the children never saw their mothers again and the tokens are in the care of the museum. ■

Sources

<https://foundlingmuseum.org.uk/>
<https://en.wikipedia.org/>
<https://coramstory.org.uk/>
<https://www.officialdata.org/uk/inflation/>



The Foundling Hospital, 1753, now demolished

More Great Composers Who Created a Buzz for Charity

Bach for the Bankrupt

In April 1786, Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach put together a concert in support of the medical poorhouse in Hamburg, Germany. His secondary motive was to revive interest in the music of his father. Carl was the second surviving son of Johann Sebastian Bach with his first wife, who died tragically after just 13 years of marriage. The audience at this concert heard the 'Credo' from J.S. Bach's Mass in B minor.



Tchaikovsky for the Red Cross

In 1876, The Russian Musical Society commissioned Tchaikovsky to write something rousing for a concert in aid of the Red Cross. Serbia and the Ottoman Empire were at loggerheads, with Russia siding with the Serbs. Tchaikovsky's offering, the Marche Slave, starts by evoking the oppression of the Serbs – and climaxes with the Russians marching to save the Serbs and a blazing rendition of God Save the Tzar.

Beethoven for Wounded Soldiers

The premiere of Beethoven's Symphony No. 7 was given at a benefit for wounded Austro-Bavarian soldiers. He also performed for his favourite spa town of Baden after a fire in 1812 almost completely destroyed it.

Liszt for 'Decay'd Musicians'

12-year old Franz Liszt made his English debut at a fundraising dinner hosted by The Royal Society of Musicians in 1824. The annual event aimed to raise funds for the widows and orphans of musicians.

Elgar for the Refugees

English composer Edward Elgar composed Carillon in 1914 in support of wartime charities in Belgium, which had just been overrun by German troops. The piece was a big hit and, the following year, Elgar was approached to write Polonia for a concert to help Polish refugees. It was first performed at London's Queen's Hall at a Polish Victims' Relief Fund Concert in July 1915, with Elgar conducting. ■

Reference

<https://www.classicfm.com/>



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For full essays and more photos from our dedicated winners, visit <https://armta-calgary.com/2024-25-dual-excellence-teenage-superstar-project/>

FIRST PRIZE Serena Jiang Student of Frances Ewington (Speech Arts)

From a young age, I developed an interest in speech arts as a personal challenge to improve myself. Being naturally more reserved, I often received feedback from my teachers to be braver, to speak up more, and to make my voice heard. This encouragement sparked my desire to enroll in speech arts lessons, where I set my sights on becoming a confident and skilled performer capable of delivering speeches with elegance and poise.

I am also a dedicated and accomplished epee fencer. I started fencing at a young age. Through countless hours of trainings, I have steadily developed both mental and physical skills necessary for success in this demanding sport. Fencing has taken me across North America, where I frequently compete, gaining valuable experience while honing my determination, focus, and discipline as an athlete.

Over the years, I have achieved notable successes in regional and national competitions, showcasing my skill and passion for the sport. Most recently, I became the 2024 Canadian National Champion in U15 Women's Epee, winning gold medal at the National Championship – one of my proudest accomplishments to



date. Looking ahead, I aspire to compete at the national level and ultimately represent Canada on the international stage. ■



SECOND PRIZE Curtis Fok

Student of Andrea Case (Cello)

I began playing the cello at the age of 7 where I joined the Hong Kong Children's Symphony at a young age and won multiple awards in my native country. I am currently a member of the Amici Strings program and the Calgary Youth Orchestra. I also sit as principal in my school orchestra. I completed my RCM Level 10 with first class honours, participated in String Fest as a chamber musician in 2023 & 2024. I have recently been awarded 2nd place at the 2024 ARMTA Provincial Strings Competition.

My passion for basketball was ignited when I was in Grade 8. Due to the Covid 19 pandemic and the global lockdown, I spent most of my free time playing basketball aside from practicing my instrument. I joined community teams in Calgary. Going into High school, my mind was set to join the basketball team. After a successful season, I returned the following year as team captain. I dedicated many hours in practices, games and training.

My favorite aspect about having this dual life is that my day is very fulfilling. I feel excited waking up every morning at 5:30am for basketball practice. Despite the demanding schedule, I look forward to lessons and rehearsals after school. I find joy in balancing the three elements of Academics, Music and Sports. ■



THIRD PRIZE Megan Fisher

Student of Nathene Arthur (Piano and Voice)



As of a young age, I've always loved dancing. I started off with toddler classes and recitals, and now for the past eight years I have been competitively dancing, and am now on the Senior team. I love performing and being on stage, whether it's with a group or by myself. I love expressing and challenging myself with the choreography

and music. The act of competing and performing is fun, and when I accomplish a goal, it's the best feeling!

I am very dedicated as well to my music. I have piano and singing lessons every week. Since starting to learn

piano at 4 years old, I practice regularly and take every opportunity to perform at recitals and festivals. I have taken part in ARMTA events both online as well as in-person. I also sing solo at church and with our group choir. I am dedicated especially to entertaining people whenever opportunities come up. Over the years since I was very young, I have done volunteer performances at elderly centers in Alberta and Saskatchewan to entertain the residents there. I perform piano, singing, and dancing, and then I sometimes visit and talk with them. Seeing these people smile is the best reward of all. I also perform dance at local community events, such as parades, summer kick-offs, charities and local markets.

These disciplines have created in me a love for Musical Theater. My dream and goal is to become an actress, as well as to really get into musical theater more. My abilities in it so far, are totally because of all the training I have done. I have worked very hard to give a lot to 3 arts disciplines and this isn't always easy to balance. I have such great teachers who are role models to me and support me in all my efforts. ■

Service Award Presented at Provincial AGM, Oct 25, 2024 to Calgary Branch Member Barb Robertson!

Barb Robertson arrived in Calgary from Manitoba where she had been a music specialist in Elementary schools as well as a studio piano teacher. She is a mother to two daughters. She slowly built a piano studio over the years until word of mouth filled her to a full time studio which she currently maintains.

Once her girls were in school, she went to ARMTA meetings in Calgary. She was often asked to be involved in ARMTA and held roles as secretary, convener of Calgary's Honours recital, vice president, president, past president, communications, and even organized ice breakers at AGMs.



She filled in at meetings for provincial representatives, then some double stints as provincial rep, and even somehow managed to audit the provincial books.

In 2005, the CFMTA conference was held in Calgary and as branch president as the time, she was involved in organization, speeches, and meeting teachers from all over Canada and USA. This led to further attendances, and at CFMTA 2023 in Edmonton, she sang with a group from the prairies at the "Albertiad".

Barb has been involved with Rotary C3, (Calgary Concerto Competition), Honens International Piano Competition, and the Calgary Folk Club. She has directed, and previously accompanied a youth choir at her Church for over 20 years. She continues to be the communication convener with ARMTA Calgary.

Students of Barb receive First Class Honours with Distinction in piano, theory, history and harmony. But she feels the most pride when she sees them progress, and when she sees them join the music world. Many of her students have joined her youth choir at church, and over the last 15 years, the accompanists have been current and past piano students.

Barb continues to teach full-time. She has students in Italy, France, England and Denmark, spreading the joy of music. She spent an afternoon last summer wandering around Copenhagen with one of her first Calgary students, and had to say goodbye with tears in her eyes; the emotion of sharing music is overwhelming.

For nearly 40 years, Barb has belonged to MRMTA and ARMTA. She remembers especially the years of involvement with ARMTA, which has been a journey of learning, networking, personal growth and making friends. Her greatest love has been teaching and supporting her students and seeing their progress and their love of music. ■

New This Year!

STORY COMPETITION

Students of ARMTA Calgary teachers are invited to create a fictional short story written about a piece of music or speech arts that they are studying or have recently studied.

Full details and application at <https://armta-calgary.com/student-competitions/>.

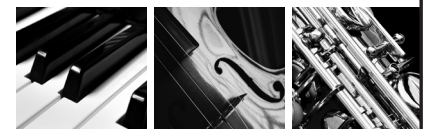
Click [HERE](#) for a printable announcement to email or hand out to your students.

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BMus (4-year)
Music Minor



Want to judge our new Story Competition?
To volunteer, contact Nathene Arthur at
narthur@telus.net

Adult Student Recital

Cornerstone Music Cafe ~ February 9, 2025

Convener, Kaley Read



Rayna Boschman (student of Lorna Sewell) won the \$25 draw prize!

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In Memorandum

Trevor Bertram 1948 - 2024
(Member from 1977 to 2020)

Trevor Bennett, beloved husband of 37 years to Fern, passed away on Monday, August 26, 2024, at the age of 76 years. The only child of Harry and Florence Bennett, Trevor was born and raised in Lethbridge, AB. He contracted paralytic polio shortly before the Salk vaccine became available. Trevor spent eight months in the Alberta Red Cross Crippled Children's Hospital in Calgary. In an effort to help him regain the use of his arms, his parents enrolled him in music lessons. Those early lessons set him on his eventual career path. Trevor went on to walk unsupported again, accumulating a number of firsts at local music festivals. In 1966, he won the Royal Conservatory of Music Silver Medal for the highest marks in Alberta on his Grade 8 organ exam.

A self-professed avid collector of degrees, diplomas, and various professional initials after his name, Trevor pursued lifelong learning in his career as a piano, organ, music history, and music theory teacher. He attended many workshops, conferences, and conventions over the years. His impressive collection of diplomas and certificates lined the walls of his private music studio, serving as an example to his many students of what they too could accomplish and have to show for their efforts. Trevor was deeply touched by the handmade cards his many students gave him for Christmas and at the end of the teaching year. By the time he retired, Trevor had two fat binders filled with these keepsakes.

In 2010, the Anglican Diocese of Calgary presented Trevor with a certificate marking 50 years of service as a church organist. In 2012, the Alberta Registered Music Teachers Association (ARMTA) presented him with a certificate marking 35 years as a music teacher. Aside from teaching and playing organ and piano at various churches, Trevor also traveled throughout Western Canada as an adjudicator and examiner at music festivals and for the Western Board of Music, later Conservatory Canada, when it was still active.

He was a member of the Masonic Order for over 50 years. He became Lodge Master in 1987 and served intermittently as Alberta Grand Lodge Organist.

Trevor suffered a severe illness in late 2018 and spent his final years at Bow View Manor. Special thanks to the Manor staff for their care during that time. A private funeral service was held on Tuesday, September 3, 2024. **If friends so desire, memorial tributes may be made directly to the ARMTA Calgary Branch Scholarship Fund**
www.armta-calgary.com. ■

WHAT CATCHES OUR IMAGINATIONS AS MUCH AS A GOOD STORY?

Review of Sept 8, 2024 Spoken Arts Workshop

Nathene Arthur

Stories can be told in many ways. We were delighted by five Speech Arts and Drama students who showed us a mime (how to build a fire), a poem about monkeys (using word colouring for each new plot twist), Macbeth with a dagger in his hand, a science fiction story about an alarming veterinarian mistake, a lyric poem warning us not to be fooled by a trip to the library (which is actually a door and not just a room), and the tale of a teenage girl with a crush on the local bag-boy at a store. These students were brave! And they definitely entertained us! These school-aged students study Speech Arts and Drama in Calgary.

Attending the class presented by Frances Ewington and Donna Holstine Vander Valk was a treat. Over the 2-1/2 hours, we had an introduction to Frances and Donna, their histories, their quite different training and what they are doing now.

We learned that Speech Arts in Canada was started in 1887 and that the RCM had a syllabus and taught "Elocution, Oratory and Dramatic Action" - cultured speech, great literature, rhetoric, Shakespeare, and story telling as a major part of its exams. We also learned that in 1911 all students at Mount Royal College (now University) in Calgary were encouraged to take these courses. MRC actually had the largest Speech Arts program in all of Canada at one point, and it was even larger than the piano program. Who knew?

We learned there are that three exam avenues for Speech Arts students in Canada now. RCM is probably the one most of us know best, and it includes List A (poetry), List B (prose), List C (a scene from a play), and at later grades

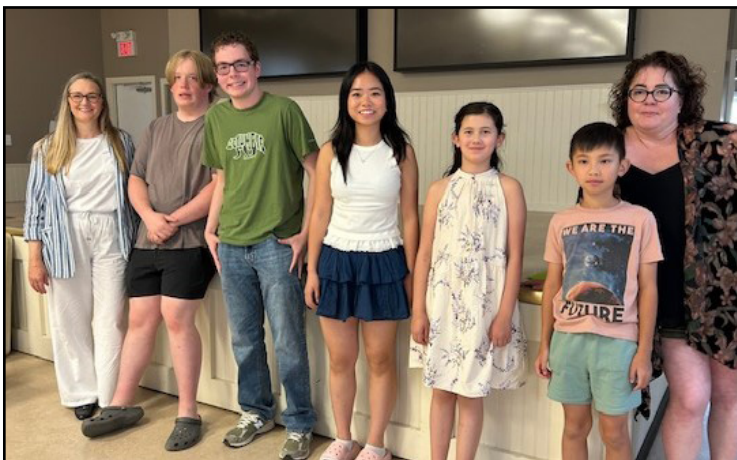
List D (a Shakespeare excerpt). There are also Studies (like Etudes in Piano or Vocalises in Singing) for technical training, where the student can choose to perform either a Mime, present a speech, or do creative storytelling. Students learn public speaking skills and how to improvise on a theme with only a minute of preparation. Students learn confident sight reading, cold reads, and even teleprompter skills (which can all be handy in future job and interview situations). There are also co-requisite written exams starting at the Grade 7 level.

The benefits of Speech Arts and Drama include the ability to speak well and with confidence, to engage others in a topic with expression and passion, to express ideas clearly with a beginning-middle-end, and to create storytelling for all ages. Similar to singing, Speech Arts deals with the entire body, breath support, posture and projection. Similar to instruments, there are also elements of timing, colour, and dynamics.

Speech Arts and Drama is very inclusive in that pretty well anyone who can read and speak can learn (and prepare for exams). There are no extra costs for an instrument or a collaborative musician. Growing up without family resources for music study or even a TV is no barrier. My three brothers and I loved our library visits where we could explore great stories and spend hours creating our own plays and acting out legends. And we had so much fun. I did not realize at the time what a great gift those years were.

These kinds of creative endeavours stand alone as worthy of study, but they also can enhance music students in their expression and performances. All singers know we must be able to express our words, and know what they mean, and how we feel about that. And so also with the music we play on our instruments - why that note there? Why that speed change? What are we trying to say? And for compositions - where is the beginning, middle, end?

The help of a good teacher, like Frances and Donna, will allow students to excel in these kinds of studies. Hopefully we can include an ARMTA Masterclass in the future which includes further demonstrations and training for some of these skills? Thank you to ARMTA Calgary for providing this Fall Workshop! ■



Getting a “Handel” on Things

George Frideric Handel was born on the 23rd of February 1685, the same year as Bach, in Halle, Germany. Handel's father, a lawyer, was not supportive of his son's musical ambitions. In fact, when he was a boy, he had to secretly climb to the attic to play a clavichord that had been stashed away by his mother.

In 1704, after a heated argument with fellow composer Johann Mattheson, the two fought. During this fight, Mattheson almost killed Handel with his sword. Luckily, the blade struck a button on Handel's chest rather than his actual chest, sparing his life.

In 1711, London audiences were treated to the first opera ever composed specifically for their stage. Handel's *Rinaldo* had its premiere at the Queen's Theatre in Haymarket.

Handel was a hit in London, as evidenced by the very generous salary of £200 he received from Queen Anne when he moved there in 1712. Even though he was German-born and educated, the Brits like to claim Handel for their own. He changed his name from Georg Friedrich Händel when he became British.

Handel's successes in London continued, and he was eventually made the musical director of The Royal Academy of Music. His first work in the English language might not be his most well-known, but during his lifetime it was Handel's most popular work by some distance. It even received the honour of a little re-write by none other than Mozart in 1788.

Handel was so famous as an opera composer that he got to pick his own leading ladies. But this perk sparked a major feud between two rival sopranos, Faustina Bordoni and Francesca Cuzzoni. During a performance of Bononcini's *Astianatte*, they ended up fighting on stage and had to be dragged off to stop them from ripping each other's costumes!

Not only was Handel incredibly talented, he was also known for being hot-headed, and demanding. In fact, he once reportedly said that more people would pay to see Scottish tenor Alexander Gordon jump onto his harpsichord than to hear him sing. There are also stories of Handel threatening to throw soprano Francesca Cuzzoni out of the window after she refused to sing the aria *Falsa Imagine* from his *Ottone* during rehearsal.

Do you know why we stand during the Hallelujah chorus of Handel's *Messiah*? During the first London performance of Handel's *Messiah*, King George II stood up as soon as the Hallelujah chorus kicked in. After that, it became traditional for audiences to stand for this famous chorus.

Handel had good commercial instinct and knew his audience. Asked for advice by the composer Gluck, he said “You have taken too much trouble over your opera. Here in England that is a mere waste of time. What the English like is something they can beat time to, something that hits them straight on the drum of the ear.”

Handel suffered myriad health problems in his life. By his early 40s, he was dealing with severe gout, digestive problems, rheumatic pain, and muscle weakness. These issues were possibly linked to lead poisoning. Lead was commonly used in wine storage and transportation, and sometimes even added to wine as a preservative and flavor booster. On top of that, the powders used to keep the popular wigs of the time white and securely fastened to the scalp also contained lead. He suffered from a stroke in 1737 and was involved in a coach crash in 1750.

He had cataracts and eventually went blind after a botched eye operation 1751. His final oratorio, *Jephtha*, was a heartbreaking experience for the composer. He was going rapidly blind as he wrote it, eventually leading him to write on the score: “Reached here on 13 February 1751, unable to go on owing to weakening of the sight of my left eye.”

After a life of tumult and incredible music, Handel succumbed to his afflictions in 1759. His funeral was attended by 3,000 people and was a huge state affair. Handel's house at 25 Brook Street in London is a permanent monument to his life and music. It has been lovingly restored to look exactly how he would've kept when he lived there from 1723 until his death in 1759. Jimi Hendrix moved into the neighboring 23 Brook Street in 1968. Today, both buildings are home to the Handel and Hendrix House museum.

Praise doesn't come much higher than from Ludwig Van Beethoven, who said of Handel's works: “Go to him to learn how to achieve great effects, by such simple means.” ■

Sources

<https://classicfm.com/>
<https://philharmonia.org>
<https://eboracumbaroque.co.uk/>

Congratulations!

ACRA January 25, 2025 ARMTA Calgary Recital & Awards

Convener: Kimberley Yim

EXAM SCORES

Discipline	No. of Students	Highest Score
Piano	28	97
Voice	4	97
Strings	4	93
Speech Arts	5	92
Woodwinds	4	92

SCHOLARSHIPS

- \$1950 awarded from ARMTA Calgary Branch
- \$1460 awarded from Provincial Recognition Fund
- \$ 300 donated to Special Named Scholarships



Teachers of This Year's ACRA Winners

Alexandra Andrievsky
Paul Bagley
Rachel Baljeu
Natalie Brodsky
Kathryn Corvino
Gloria Chu

Kathy Dornian
Frances Ewington
Nadia Khlynovskaya
Linda Kundert
Ivea Mark

Lorne Pankratz
Adelheid Perrin
Josée Robitaille
Allen Reiser
Barbara Robertson
Peter Rudzik

Rose Schmaltz
Carolyn Steeves
Naomi Williams
Serena Yeung
Kimberley Yim

Each student was proudly recognized by our chair, Sandra Joy Friesen and awarded a medal. ACRA is organized by a committee of devoted branch members. Thank you to everyone involved and a special note of gratitude to the convener, Kimberley Yim. To see all the winner's names and placements, click [HERE](#) to view the recital program. ■

Congratulations!

OSR February 8, 2025 (Outstanding Student Recital)

Convener: Rachel Baljeu

The Outstanding Student Recital is for those students whose level of achievement deserves recognition, but did not qualify for the highly competitive ARMTA Calgary Recital & Awards. 31 hard-working students were chosen for the OSR. 10 of these students received 90% or greater on their practical exam and were presented with medals.

A jury panel selected the eight best performances at the end of this recital and each of those students were awarded a \$50 scholarship (pictured right). In no particular in order: Clare Cheng, Yixuan Cui, Anjali Datta, Samuel Lau, Michael Lee, Eric Li, Sophia Li and JiuXu Zhu. Click [HERE](#) to read the recital program. ■



Teaching Music Lessons at Home in Calgary: A Guide for Educators

Alexandra Andrievsky

Music educators new to Calgary, or those who have worked here for a while but would like to have more clarity on bylaws and regulations around teaching music, might find it useful to have some information on this subject summarized in a short article. Whether you're teaching piano, guitar, or any other instrument, understanding local regulations and creating a setup that works for everyone is key for the success of the studio.

The City recommends that every business is registered with them. According to the City of Calgary's bylaws regarding home-based businesses, there are two types of Home Occupation business categories. Class 1 Home Occupation is a license that is granted automatically if you apply for it. This category allows for up to 3 business-related visits per week. Class 2 Home Occupation approval is not guaranteed and costs \$450. This license allows for up to 15 business-related visits per week.

A Calgary Journal article from 2013 highlighted the case of an Art teacher, working from home under a Class 2 permit. In her case, a complaint was filed regarding increased traffic and, when questioned, City Bylaw officers advised that, if parents drop off and pick up their children for lessons (rather than staying for the duration), that would actually count as 2 "visits" rather than one. Her permit was ultimately not renewed.

Historically however, it seems the city is only likely to investigate non-compliance in cases of complaints from neighbours. For example, if a new owner moves into a home on a quiet cul-de-sac, and as a result, without explanation, there is a major increase in daily traffic on that cul-de-sac, it may lead to some neighbours being unhappy with that situation and to complaints being made to the city. Or, if there is a significant amount of noise emanating from the home in question - that could cause a complaint as well.

It may therefore be helpful to make friends with the neighbours; to encourage neighbours to share concerns so they might be mitigated; to ask parents to park somewhere out of the way of neighbours' driveways; and to control sound traveling out of the home by keeping windows closed during lessons.

The situation for residents of condominiums can be quite tricky, as condos will often have their own bylaws. Regarding allowing working from home, condo bylaws are often based on the Class 1 Home Occupation City bylaws, but here enforcement is more frequent as people in condos live in closer proximity, and visits are more noticeable - and the violation would be of the condo bylaws, not just city bylaws.

Clearly, teaching lessons on-line is completely different, as there are no visitors and no discernible noise! And these Home Occupation restrictions do not apply to music lessons taught in commercially designated spaces. ■



MUSIC MARATHON 2025

Music Marathon is approaching once again! On May 24th, the **10th Anniversary Edition of Music Marathon** will be held at CF Chinook Centre from 10am-5pm, thanks to the good folks from Cadillac Fairview. They hosted our event last year and made the experience delightful for all involved.

As with previous years, there will be wonderful prizes donated from our sponsors and given to deserving student performers: top three donation amounts collected, early-bird draw, and others. We encourage students of all ages and stages of study to participate. The only requirement is that performers are students of ARMTA-Calgary Branch teachers. Donations collected by students and teachers participating are strongly encouraged as this is both a fund-raiser, as well as a fun performance opportunity.

TEACHERS!

Start letting your students know about this fun opportunity NOW!

We need teachers and/or student family members to volunteer their time to make this a success. There are many jobs to be covered but many hands make for light work. Thank-you, in advance, for offering your time to make this our best event yet! For more information on Music Marathon, please refer to past issues of *Impromptu*, or visit <https://armta-calgary.com/music-marathon/>.

One of the conveners, Nadia Khlynovskaya and Lorna Sewell can be emailed at musicmarathon.calgary@armta.ca. ■



2025 Program Dates

<https://www.cassamusicalarts.com/>



Co-Founder, Creative Director Linda Kundert with student Georgeanne van Helden

In-Person Programs

- Cassa Creative Music - July 7 to 11
- Cassa at Play – July 7 to 11
- Cassa Guitar - July 7 to 11
- Cassa Concert - July 13, 7:00 pm with Dr. Dale Wheeler and friends
- Cassa Pedagogy - July 14
- Cassa Piano - July 14 to 18
- Recitals July 17, 7:00 pm & July 18, 2:00 pm
- Cassa Adult Piano - July 15 to 17
- Musicale - July 17, 2:00 pm
- Cassa Musical - July 22, 23, 24, 28, 29 & 30

Online Programs

- Cassa Piano & Adult Piano - July 21 to 24
- Cassa Pedagogy - July 21 & 22 (mornings only)

In-person programs (except Cassa Musical)	Cassa Musical
Brentview Baptist Church 3512 Charleswood Drive NW Calgary AB	Glenmore Christian Academy 16520 24 Street SW Calgary AB

Review of November 26, 2024 Brain Gym Workshop

Colleen Athparia

On a snowy winter morning, 15 Calgary Branch teachers met to learn about Brain Gym from the head of Brain Gym Canada, Dana Luebke. Dana, who has taught people of all ages from young children up to seniors in many countries of the world, provided an overview of how he discovered Brain Gym through his early experiences in dance. He discovered amazing results from these simple exercises that serve to heighten physical awareness, energy, and concentration. The success he noticed immediately with implementing these simple strategies were his inspiration to become involved as a teacher for Brain Gym.

I first learned about Brain Gym a few years ago after taking a course with Dana called "Move to Learn." I was quite excited about using some of these simple warmup exercises with my students and seeing immediate results in better focus and concentration. Since then he has helped some of my students with their posture, finding their dynamic centre of balance and as a result improving their tone quality and freedom of expression. After sharing a few of these ideas at the CASSA Pedagogy Workshop last summer, some of the teachers there suggested the idea of organizing this Workshop.



Dana guided us through engaging exercises that involved breathing techniques, isometrics, physical motions and stretching in 3 dimensions. P.A.C.E presents the foundational points of getting started: Energy (Water), Clear (Brain Buttons), Active (Cross Crawls), Positive and Present (Hook-Ups). After going through these fundamental warmups, he continued with suggestions for useful strategies and tips for us as music teachers, both for ourselves as teachers and musicians, as well as for our students. I found the eye exercises, the Owl, particularly helpful in relaxing the eye muscles and being able to move at a consistent pace to follow the notes on the page. Many of our students' eyes get locked by too much screen time, so it's been interesting since the workshop for me to follow my students' eyes as they trace an imaginary figure 8 in the air.

One of the take-aways for me was Dana's reminder that if we do these things for ourselves and find them helpful, then we will naturally share them with our students who will benefit. I felt free by not taking notes, to absorb whatever I could from the session. And so what I learned experientially is what I am passing on to my students.

We also had fun at this interactive Workshop with an active circle game played with 2-4 balls being thrown in different directions. At first it seemed like chaos with a lot of laughter, but after we did the PACE warmups and played the game again, we all noticed better alertness and got into a rhythm which was much smoother.

We are often so focused on the music that we forget, as teachers, that our bodies and brains are so much an integral part of the musical learning experience. It was a very successful workshop in that many commented afterwards how they could see the value of implementing all that we'd learned, and several suggested that we do a follow-up workshop next year! ■

If you are interested in learning more, please visit:

<http://languageofmovement.ca>

<https://braingymcanada.ca>



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Because of the success of Messiah, the oratorio became the favourite medium for fundraisers. One oratorio especially written for charity was by the English violinist John Abraham Fisher who composed Providence to raise funds for the Middlesex Hospital. It was premiered at the Sheldonian Theatre in Oxford on 3 July 1777. There were also annual oratorio performances at the Methodist-run Lock Hospital – London’s first VD clinic.

MEET SOME OF CALGARY’S NEWEST MEMBERS!

*Cathie Joined: May 2024
Subject: Speech Arts and Drama
Location: NW Calgary*

Recent graduate of the Royal Conservatory of Toronto, I received my ARCT in 2023. I am a lover of language and the joy of experiencing the wonder of empowerment when fully embodying the text I am dwelling within; in performance, and in the every day. I am a retired public-school teacher with years of experience working with students of all age groups, from preschoolers through to adults. I have a Masters degree in education of children with exceptional needs. I also have a deep understanding of Inquiry-based education, gained through graduate studies in Education, and through practical experience. ■



Cathie Kernaghan



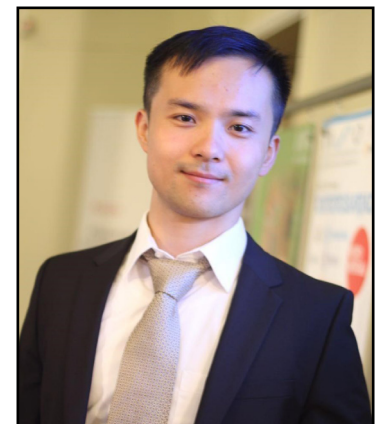
Selina Wong

*Selina Joined: May 2024
Subject: Voice (Specializing in Musical Theatre, Classical and Pop)
Location: NW Calgary*

Selina began her musical training in classical piano and voice at a young age and regularly received top honors in voice exams and competitive festivals. She holds a B.Ed in Education and an ARCT in voice from the Royal Conservatory of Music. In 2002, Selina was the winner of the Calgary Stampede Talent Search and First Runner-up at the National Exhibition Talent Search. After teaching 5 years with the CBE, she pursued her passion in professional musical theatre. Select show credits include Avenue Q, Touch Me (2014 Calgary Critic’s Award for Best Actress in a Musical), Buddy- The Buddy Holly Story, Jeremy de Bergerac and Miss Saigon. For her role as Christmas Eve in Avenue Q, she was nominated for the 2015 Calgary Critic’s Award for Best Supporting Actress in a Musical and the Betty Mitchell Award for Outstanding Performance by an Actress in a Comedy / Musical. Her career includes over 14 years of teaching private voice lessons, being an adjudicator and an instructor at Rocky Mountain College. ■

*Ming Joined: October 2024
Subject: Piano
Location: NW Calgary*

Ming holds a Master’s in Piano Performance and a PhD in Ethnomusicology. He studied piano under Sten Lassmann, a London Toccata artist and student of Brigitte Engerer, and Peep Lassmann, a protégé of the great Russian pianist Emil Gilels. With over 16 years of teaching experience, Ming specializes in RCM and ABRSM exam preparation, teaching in English and Mandarin. His research on cultural intersections in music is widely published. Having performed and taught in Spain, Estonia, Thailand, and China, he is now based in Calgary, fostering students’ growth through personalized instruction. ■



Ming Yan

CONFERENCE GRANTS For more information, including application, visit: <https://armta-calgary.com/teacher-grants/>



The next conference is
March 15-19, 2025
in Minneapolis, MN



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Grant Deadline
March 24, 2025
for the July 3-5, 2025
Conference in Montreal

Grant Deadline November 15 for the
Mar 21-25, 2026 Conference in Chicago, IL

The Deadline for the Next \$500 Teacher Education Grant is September 30

Teacher Education Grant Recipient

Fall 2024

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Completing the LRCM in Piano Performance was a full circle moment of graduating as a student after being teacher. I tackled masterpieces I once only marvelled at like magic, just as we guide our young students to.

Music education is truly a monumental endeavor. Through music, we can cultivate a powerful framework for life - physically, cognitively, and emotionally.

Since completing the exam, I've embraced new activities in the spirit of learning. Some new things I've been trying are breakdancing, playing electric guitar, and taking up boxing. ■

"One who dares to teach must never cease to learn." ~John Cotton Dana



Kimberley Yim

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Thank You

*Our daughter, Quinn
will turn 2 on May 7th!*

*Member Rachel McLellan and family
Kevin, Quinn, Rachel*



...to everyone who contributed
to this issue!

Submissions can be sent to
[RMcLellanMusic@gmail](mailto:RMcLellanMusic@gmail.com)
or impromptu@armta.ca
and must be in "Word"
or email format (no pdf files).

P.S. Corresponding
photographs will be greatly
appreciated!

Rachel McLellan
Impromptu Editor

