



CANADA

Music Week

Canada Music Week Report

BELLEVILLE BRANCH

The Belleville Branch of the ORMTA celebrated Canada Music Week on Sunday November 27, 2011 with a junior music recital. Thirty-five students from grades 4 and under performed before a large appreciative audience of family and friends. Most of the students performed Canadian music by their favourite composers; however those who did not were encouraged to find a Canadian "connection" to their piece. Titles ranged from Twinkle, Twinkle Little "Canadian" Star to the "RCMP" Detective Agency. One student discovered that her selection, My Heart Will Go On, had been performed by Canadian singer Celine Dion for the movie "Titanic." The concert concluded with the teachers serving a wonderful array of "Canadian" treat to all in attendance.

Submitted by Pat Ross

CHATHAM-KENT BRANCH

The Chatham-Kent Branch celebrated Canada Music Week 2011 with a recital featuring students playing Canadian repertoire on Wednesday November 23, 2011. Awards were also presented that night to students of ORMTA members who received the highest mark in their 2011 conservatory examinations.

ORMTA members also entered students in the Chatham-Kent Contemporary Showcase Festival on November 18 and 19. There were 92 piano and vocal students participating for piano adjudicator Frank Horvat of Toronto and vocal adjudicator Catherine McKeever of Windsor. Canadian flag pins, CFMTA Canada Music Week pencils and chocolate maple leaf suckers were presented to all participants.

Submitted by Roberta Dickson

KITCHENER-WATERLOO BRANCH

The Kitchener-Waterloo Branch celebrated Canada Music Week in a big way.

On November 26, almost 40 students signed up for all-day master classes with clinician and ORMTA member Marnie van Weelden, who gave valuable feedback on their Canadian and contemporary repertoire. After a short break, the Canada Music Week Recital took place. Of the 22 student performers, three performed their own compositions.

K-W ORMTA President Joanne Bender performed her composition Drum Dancer Under the Northern Lights and spoke about both the compositional devices and the social background which led to the development of this piece. Students and audience members were inspired by these words from a "real live" working composer!

Red and white balloon bouquets decorated the venue. To end the recital, O Canada was played and each performer was



Students from the Newmarket and Area Branch at the Canada Music Week recital.

given a helium balloon to take home as a memento of the day. A fun and educational time was had by all.

Submitted by Carol Ditner-Wilson

NEWMARKET AND AREA BRANCH

Our annual recital, "A Celebration of Canadian Composers and Their Music" was held on November 12, 2011 at Trinity Anglican Church in Aurora. The program included the music of Stephen Chatman, Christine Donkin, Debra Wanless, Michael Danna and Alexina Louie, to name a few.

It was also great to hear some of our young vocalists perform. "She's Like The Swallow" by Godfrey Ridout, "My Dreams" by Ruth Watson Henderson, and Burton Kurth's "A Cookie for Snip" delighted the audience!

The Newmarket and Area Branch takes pride in celebrating Canada Music Week. A big thank you to the teachers and students who support this wonderful event! In keeping with our Canadian theme, Tim Horton's timbits and punch were enjoyed by all!

Submitted by Sheila McLean



The poster contest winners with teacher/contest organizer Jennifer Baxter.

grades – are presented to the students with the highest marks of students of ORMTA teachers for practical and theoretical exams in the past year.

Our second initiative was the second annual Canada Music Week poster contest. Students in three different age categories were encouraged to choose a Canadian composition (three choices were given) which they listened to on-line. The students created a poster using their choice of media to communicate how the composition inspired them. Several artistic persons with different art and music backgrounds from our community were given the task of judging these posters. Cash awards were assigned to the first, second and third place winners in each age group. Winners were announced at the end of the Honour Recital. This contest was the brain-child of Branch member Jennifer Baxter and will probably become an annual event as interest increased this year from last year.

Last year, we tried holding the Canadian Contemporary Showcase in February as it was getting increasingly difficult to have enough entrants to make it worthwhile during Canada Music Week. As we had a very encouraging turnout in February 2011, we held the next Showcase on February 4, 2012.

Submitted by Sue Nicholson



Pictured here are the performers from the Honour Recital.

NORTH BAY BRANCH

The North Bay Branch did two special things to celebrate Canada Music Week. We held our annual Honour Recital where awards – including memorial scholarships for the higher

OSHAWA AND DISTRICT BRANCH

On November 21, 2011 the Oshawa and District ORMTA

Branch gathered together to celebrate Canada Music Week and the home of Lisa Stewart. To celebrate Canadian music, we invited Canadian composer Debra Wanless to be our special guest for the morning.

President Paula Copithorn read a brief history of Canada Music Week and then a biography of Debra. She was welcomed and introduced to the members. Debra then gave a presentation of some of her wonderful repertoire. There was a great variety of styles and pedagogical material to share with us. Members were then able to browse through the extensive selections, and purchases were made while enjoying a social time over coffee and snacks supplied by the Branch Executive. A wonderful celebration of Canadian music!

Submitted by Paula Copithorn

OWEN SOUND BRANCH

The Owen Sound Branch of the ORMTA celebrated Canada Music Week on November 18, 2011 at the Alliance Church in Owen Sound. Thirteen students performed on this special night, ranging in age from 7 to 18 and spanning all levels of study, from Preparatory to Associate Diploma. They performed compositions by prominent Canadian composers such as Boris Berlin, André Previn, Oscar Peterson and Larysa Kuzmenko. We also heard a traditional French Canadian Reel on the fiddle and an original composition by one of our own students.

We look forward to celebrating even more Canadian Music in 2012.

Submitted by Jennifer Lanthier



Students from the Owen Sound Branch at the Canada Music Week recital.

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

May 5, 2012

Branch: Timmins
Clinician: Paul Coates
Topic: Your Imagination is Your Limitation
– The Importance of Setting Musical Goals

Contact: Audrey Jean Wells
(audreyjwells@eastlink.ca,
705-264-0066)

May 26, 2012

Branch: Barrie
Clinician: William Aide
Topic: Teaching Problems in Grades 8-10

Contact: Marc Widner
(m.widner@sympatico.ca,
705-726-9624)



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