

Newsletter of the Ottawa Region Branch
of the Ontario Registered Music
Teachers' Association
www.ormtaottawa.ca

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President's Message

by Susan Blyth-Schofield

Greetings from Social Distancing. Things are changing rapidly in response to the COVID - 19 outbreak and everything is in flux. At the time of writing the Premier has declared a state of emergency that among other things has prohibited all organized public events of more than 50 people until March 31. Ottawa Public Health www.ottawapublichealth.ca is recommending social distancing to help control the spread of COVID - 19, and this has forced all of us to take a look at our teaching choices. For some of us it will mean teaching on-line, others will choose to continue to teach one-to-one with heightened health precautions, and some of us have had our teaching choices made for us by the Universities and other institutions we teach for. Above all, make sure that wherever your information comes from, it is a credible source. In addition to Ottawa Public Health (listed above), two other sources of solid information are the Public Health Agency of Canada www.canada.ca/en/public-health.html and Public Health Ontario www.publichealthontario.ca. Scam artists have already begun to take advantage of the situation with fraudulent emails, including ones purporting to be from Ottawa Public Health.

Provincial Council has sent a couple of general emails with recommended practices. Basically the most recent states that ORMTA advises that teachers teach online lessons. It suggests the following to help those to whom online teaching is new. Both are primarily aimed at teaching piano and do not sufficiently address the time lag issues involved with any accompanied situation. Whatever you choose, stay safe.

www.claviercompanion.com/teaching-in-the-time-of-covid-19/covid

www.teachmusic.online/coronavirus-package-online-teachers

At the present time the Information Sharing Session on March 26th has been postponed and The Music In Greenboro Concert scheduled for March 28th has been cancelled. For now, the events at the end of May are all still scheduled to go ahead as planned.

Live Competitions have been cancelled and will be replaced by on-line ones. Stay tuned for emails about the new application and submission deadlines.

On a brighter note, congratulations to Hoda Nassim, our 2020 OCTA recipient. Her bio is on [page 5](#).

We had a good turn-out for our January meeting (report on [page 3](#)). For once the weather was on our side. Congratulations to Danielle McIntyre and Meg Iwaskow for organizing our First Class Honours Recital, and to all of the performers as well. It was a huge success and the Carleton Dominion-Chalmers Centre was a delightful venue (details on [page 3](#)).

The new Provincial Website is up and running. I urge you to have a look at it and to confirm that your information is up-to-date. While there, have a look at what is planned for the 2020 Convention in Niagara Falls in September.

Any questions or concerns that you would like your Zone Reps to bring up at the Spring Council meeting should be emailed to Amy or me by April 11th.

I hope to see you all soon, In the meantime, stay well,

Susan



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First Class Honours Recitals January 26, 2020

by Meg Iwaskow, Convenor

Sunday January 26th, 2020 marked another wonderful First Class Honours event for the Ottawa Region Branch of the Ontario Registered Music Teachers' Association. There were so many talented applicants from so many amazing ORMTA teachers that we had to have two recitals!

The outstanding performances featured at the 2pm and 4pm recitals were from students who achieved a First Class Honours or higher standing in a conservatory exam in the 2019 year. Scholarships were awarded to students who received the highest mark in senior instrumental, vocal and theory conservatory exams.

I would like to thank Ottawa Pianos for the deliv-

ery, tuning and use of "Felix" their beautiful Yamaha 9' concert grand piano for both the auditions at Ottawa Pianos and recital weekend. It was so great having the owner of Ottawa Pianos, Carmen Papalia, in our 4pm audience. Thank you to Dr. James McGowan and his colleagues at Carleton University for generously hosting our recitals at the gorgeous Carleton Dominion-Chalmers Centre! Dr. McGowan gave very interesting talks at both recitals about the Carleton Music program. Finally, a huge thank you to the amazing ORMTA teachers who helped make this day possible. Danielle McIntyre, Susan Blyth-Schofield, Sherry Lu, Amélie Langlois and Ann Babin.

Another successful year:)



Photos by Meg Iwaskow

Winter General Meeting, January 27, 2020

by Susan Blyth-Schofield, Convenor

The Winter General Meeting was held on 27 January 2020. Ann Babin took us on a trip through the archives to the turn of the 21st Century and Nina Hadžimustafić spoke to us about the Heart of the City Programme. We had 23 people attending including guests and executive and council members.



Photos by Kathleen Howard

2019/2020 EXECUTIVE AND COUNCIL**President**

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sblythschofield@yahoo.ca

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EVENT PORTFOLIOS**Canada Music Week Recital**

Amélie Langlois 613-804-0787
amelielanglois@gmail.com

Competitions

Katarina Jovic 613-261-7681
katarinamusic@sympatico.ca

First Class Honours Recital

Meg Iwaskow 613-983-1266
megiwaskow@gmail.com
Danielle McIntyre 613-404-2565
jersakpiano@gmail.com

First Class Honours Scholarships

Sherry Lu 613-254-8772
sherryludi@yahoo.ca

Junior Piano Master Class

Kimberley Sundell 613-698-7338
sundellpianostudio@gmail.com

Professional Development

Amy Boyes 613-302-8090
amyboyespianostudio@gmail.com

University Master Classes

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katarinamusic@sympatico.ca

Young Artist Recital**NOT HOSTED IN 2019/2020****ADMINISTRATIVE PORTFOLIOS****Assistant Treasurer/Membership List**

Kathleen Howard 613-301-9123
kmaryhoward@live.ca

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Sherry Lu 613-254-8772
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Information Sharing Sessions

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hoda_nassim@hotmail.com

Ontario Contribution to Teaching Award Recipient 2020

Hoda Nassim

by Susan Blyth-Schofield, President



Hoda Nassim was born in Heliopolis, a suburb of Cairo, Egypt. She was educated at a private school run by French nuns until grade 8. Her piano lessons began at age 11 with a private teacher from the Tigerman Conservatory of Music. After a successful audition, Hoda was accepted for piano at the National Conservatory of Music. The Conservatory was part of a large compound of 3 other schools (ballet, cinematography and drama). This “City of Arts”, as it was named, was a new project by the Egyptian Ministry of Education. The Conservatory’s Dean was Russian and the program followed the Russian education system, offering deserving students combined musical and academic studies at the secondary and university levels. Students were mentored and followed by the same instrumental professor until graduation. Hoda was privileged to study for 8 years with Melita Lorkovic, herself a concert pianist and Dean of the Zagreb and Belgrade Conservatories of Music, whose mentors included Alfred Cortot, Lazare Lévy, and Stanislav Stancec. Hoda takes great pride in having these amazing artists as her “ancestors”.

In university Hoda was required to learn a second instrument and she was assigned the pedal harp. At the age of 18 she performed Beethoven’s 2nd piano concerto with the Cairo Symphony Orchestra. Her performance of the Schumann Piano Concerto with the Orchestra at her graduation was cancelled due to the Six Days’ War between Egypt and Israel.

In 1967 Hoda immigrated to Ottawa to join her fiancé. She commuted to Montreal to study piano with Anisia Campos at the Conservatoire de musique du Québec, graduating with distinction. She also continued her academic studies, graduating from the University of Ottawa with a Bachelor of Arts, and Bachelors of Sociology (magna cum laude) and Education (summa cum laude). In addition she attended Orford Music Academy classes presented by J.P. Sevilla and Anton Kuerti.

Hoda has a passion for teaching and has been a member of ORMTA for 51 years. She taught solfège, piano, and theory at the University of Ottawa School of Music for 17 years. She also taught harmony and solfège in the Music Department at Carleton University. She taught for the Ottawa Carleton District School Board (French Immersion home-rooms grades 2 to 7 and Core French to kindergarten to grade 8 for 17 years) and has also taught music and computer to learning-challenged students at the junior level.

Hoda is the Director of Arpa Nova, an ensemble of her harp students. They perform frequently at retirement and seniors’ homes, and as guest artists with local choirs. She has been a member of The Musical Arts Club of Ottawa since 1969 and held many offices there, including President.

In her spare time Hoda volunteers at schools and seniors’ homes. Her hobbies include nature walks, reading, dancing, swimming and socializing. Hoda feels blessed by her 2 children (Mark and Tania) and 3 grandchildren (David, Maia and Malek).

About the ORBit

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

All submissions for the June/July/August issue of the ORBit must be received by the editor on or before: May 10, 2020.

Send submissions to: kmaryhoward@live.ca
 or by mail to: Kathleen Howard, Editor
 326 Donoghue Rd.
 Oxford Mills, ON K0G 1S0

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

Advertising Rates:

Ads	Members	Non-members
1/6 page	\$15	\$19
1/4 page	\$20	\$25
1/3 page	\$25	\$31
1/2 page	\$30	\$38
Full Page	\$50	\$63
Inserts	\$30	\$38
Flyers (per page)	\$40	\$50
Heavy Brochures	\$60	\$75
Larger than 8.5 x 11	\$100	\$125

Repeat Ads: first ad full price, subsequent publishing of the same ad, 10% off. Contact the Editor kmaryhoward@live.ca concerning rates for multiple edition advertising.

The Ottawa Region Branch of the Ontario Registered Music Teachers' Association shall retain the right at all times to accept or decline any advertising based solely on the judgment of the Editor with the support of the Executive Committee of the Ottawa Region Branch. The products, services, and ideas expressed by the authors and advertisers in the ORBit are not necessarily those of the Ottawa Region Branch of the Ontario Registered Music Teachers' Association.

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Information Session May 21, 2020

by Hoda Nassim, Convenor

The Information Sessions are held at Hoda Nassim's, 1905-500 Laurier Ave. West, Ottawa, K1R 5E1. Sessions are from 9:30 to 11:00 and 1/2 hour for coffee and discussions. Please contact Hoda at hoda_nassim@hotmail.com or by phone at 613-236-3865 to reserve a place. Maximum number of seats is 15, on a first come first served basis.

May 21 Dr. Carolyn Ramzy, Carleton U. Professor, will present a workshop on "Ethnomusicology, the Music of the Worlds and of the Middle East".

Annual General Meeting May 22, 2020

by Susan Blyth-Schofield, Convenor

Spring Annual General Meeting and Luncheon**Cedarhill Golf and Country Club****Friday 22 May 2020****Meeting at 9:30, lunch to follow**

We are trying something a little bit different this year in the hopes that more members will stay for lunch. As always, coffee and tea will be ready from 9:15 am. The meeting will begin at 9:30 am, and will feature a presentation to this year's OCTA recipient – Hoda Nassim. After the meeting you are invited to browse the Used Music Table for treasures. All proceeds from sales go to the Scholarship Fund. Lunch this year will be à la carte from the club's menu. You will be able to choose your own lunch from the available items and, as in any regular restaurant, you will be billed for whatever you choose. The only thing I need from you is an idea of numbers. Please email me at sblythschofield@yahoo.ca before May 10th, to let me know if you plan to attend the meeting and if you plan to stay for lunch.

Upcoming Concerts

Quartet Fest 2020 May 25 to June 7, Wilfrid Laurier University, featuring the Penderecki String Quartet, guest faculty include Prof. Leopoldo Erice.

Timelines June 12, 6:30 p.m. at the Steinway Gallery. A suite of original compositions for two pianos, written by Beverley McKiver and Debra Grass. Beverley is a member of Lac Seul First Nation (Anishinaabe) in Northwestern Ontario. Debra is a descendent of the first United Empire Loyalists to arrive in Upper Canada following the American Revolution. Conversations about their diverse backgrounds and shared experiences led to this collaboration about sharing history and home in Canada. Timelines explores themes of roots, displacement, conflict, relationships, heritage and reconciliation.

Please note: Due to current circumstances dates and times of these events may be revised. Please contact the organizers for up-to-date information



We have some exciting news to share about the future of The Leading Note. In May of this year, our store will become part of Long & McQuade, Canada's nationwide music success story!

Our physical store will be integrated into their Hunt Club location, just west of Bank Street, in Ottawa. This move will bring Long & McQuade's numerous resources and national reach to the next chapter of The Leading Note's print music adventure. We are delighted to announce that **Sheilah Craven**, our remarkable store manager for the past 20 years **will be joining the new team – as will our wonderful employees, Vicente and Kevin**. They will be able to offer the same level of excellent service and expertise that you have come to expect from us.

The past 20 years have been an incredible journey and never dull! As Tina and I step away from owning The Leading Note, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your invaluable support and friendship. It has been an honour and privilege to not only be such an important resource for so many musicians of all ages throughout Canada, but to be at the heart of our local music scene.

Again, *many* thanks for your past and continued support and we certainly hope you will be part of this exciting future.

Gary & Tina

The new Provincial Website is up and running. www.ormta.org/find-a-teacher

Please take the time to verify your profile and contact information.

Step 1: Log in to your account, and select "Profile".

Step 2: In the "Personal Info" box, select "Teacher Directory".

Step 3: Update your information in the fields provided.

Step 4: Be sure to check off "Show in Directory" if you want to be listed, and click "Save".

Members' Corner

Get Well Wishes

To **Virginia Dunsby**, recovering from surgery.

Do you know an ORMTA member who deserves a congratulatory note, condolences or get well wishes? Send details to: kmaryhoward@live.ca

Calendar of Events 2019-2020

Please note: Due to current circumstances dates and times of these events may be revised. Please contact the organizers for up-to-date information.

May

- 1** Application Deadline for Junior Piano Master Class.
Contact: Kimberley Sundell sundellpianostudio@gmail.com
- 2-3** ORMTA Competitions, Contact: Katarina Jovic katarinamusic@sympatico.ca
Stay tuned for information re. online submissions.
- 21** Information Sharing Session, 9:30-11:30 a.m., 1905-500 Laurier Ave. W. Presenter: Dr. Carolyn Ramzy.
Topic: "Ethnomusicology, the Music of the Worlds and of the Middle East".
Contact: Hoda Nassim hoda_nassim@hotmail.com
- 24** Junior Piano Master Class. 2:00-4:00 p.m., Ottawa Pianos, 1412 Bank St.
Contact: Kimberley Sundell sundellpianostudio@gmail.com
- 22** AGM and Luncheon. Meeting 9:30, a.m., lunch to follow. Cedarhill Golf and Country Club, 56 Cedarhill Drive, Nepean. Contact: Susan Blyth-Schofield sblythschofield@yahoo.ca

Forms and information regarding ORMTA Ottawa Region Branch events can be accessed at: www.ormtaottawa.ca/events

Take these everyday steps to reduce exposure to the virus and protect your health:

- wash your hands often with soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- sneeze and cough into your sleeve
- avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth
- avoid contact with people who are sick and stay home if you are sick
- Practice social distancing
- clean your home with regular household cleaners
- clean regularly touched items such as instruments, cell phones, tablets, keyboards, toilets, sink tap handles, doorknobs on a daily basis

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Looking forward to connecting,
 Sabrina Tang (Website)
 LaDawn OueLlette (Facebook News Feed Manager)

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We at the Ottawa Piano Festival have been working hard to keep this year's festival going through video submissions. Please keep in mind this is a temporary solution, and that we plan to go back to our regular in-person format in 2021.

The deadlines for video submissions will remain the same as the festival's schedule (with the exception of concerto and duet/miscellaneous classes that are postponed until further notice). Instructions regarding submissions will follow promptly, at which time students would be invited to submit their videos any time, up until the date of their originally scheduled performance.