

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



President's Message

by Susan Blyth-Schofield

Happy 2021,

As I write this the snow is falling, making it look like just another January, but we all know that that is not the case. 2020 was a challenging year for all of us as we found ways to move forward with our teaching. With vaccines rolling out, there is now hope that we will be able to return to a type of normal later this year. Just a gentle reminder that we are all independent business owners and as such are responsible for our choices and the consequence of our choices. In this time of rapid changes, staying current with legal requirements and medical advice is vital for all of us.

There is no question that it is a stressful time for all of us. If you or your students are having difficulty there are resources out there and you are not alone. The Ottawa Distress Centre can be reached by phone (613-238-3311), text (343-306-5550) and email (www.dcottawa.on.ca).

Now on to ORMTA events!

Every year since 1990 the Ottawa Region Branch has presented an OCTA (ORMTA Contribution to Teaching Award) to one of our outstanding teachers, and 2021 will be no different. You can read more about this award and how to nominate someone on [page 7](#).

This year we awarded thirteen First Class Honours Scholarships (see [page 5](#)) and the videos for the practical subjects will be available for viewing through our website between January 31st and March 15th 2021. We also awarded the Lorna McGill Hancock Bursary for the first time. The recipient was Lia Hsueh, a student of Amy Boyes. Congratulations to all of our winners.

Our next big Branch event is Competitions. Katarina has been working very hard to make this virtual event a success and I would like to thank her for all of her time and effort. Details are on [page 7](#) and posted on [our website](#).

Stay safe and well and Happy Lunar New Year,

Susan

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Competitions

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First Class Honours Recital

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First Class Honours Scholarships

Sherry Lu 613-254-8772
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Junior Piano Master Class

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Professional Development

Amy Boyes 613-302-8090
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University Master Classes

Katarina Jovic 613-261-7681
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Young Artist Recital

* NOT HOSTED IN 2020 / 2021 *

ADMINISTRATIVE PORTFOLIOS**DVD & Video Library**

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* VACANT *

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Information Sharing Sessions

by Hoda Nassim, Convenor

1+2+3+DONE: A New Approach to Explain Rhythmical Notation



The 1st session in 2021 was presented by Dr. Joan Harrison on Thursday January 21st, 9:30 to 11:30 AM. It was convened by Hoda Nassim and Danielle McIntyre.

Dr. Harrison had much information to share with members and offered us a very spirited engaging session. From her immense experience as a professor, researcher, performer, instrumental and music school teacher and more, her focus was mostly on rhythm instruction, note reading and interval training, all for young students.

She encourages teachers to take a less "traditional" approach to the abovementioned subjects. She suggests to teachers to question themselves with the "ifs", the "whys", "what ifs" when students may have difficulties in learning; instead of the "either or always" in our thoughts, Dr. Harrison encourages to use other methodologies suiting each individual. She appreciates the Suzuki approach and suggests note reading in an untraditional way in the student's learning path. Dr. Harrison also spoke about Neuro Coaching (Rogers Federer's approach), Neuro Plasticity, body mapping, tactual experiences and more. Dr. Harrison also uses flash cards and engages the student to own his/her learning. Finally, each lesson must have something unexpected for the students to keep interest and motivation.

Upcoming Information Session

DATE: Thursday March 25, 2021
TIME: 9:30 to 11:30 AM
SUBJECT: Keyboard Harmony: Stepping Stones to Make Harmony Accessible to All Students
PRESENTER: Paulette Price

Please contact Hoda Nassim at hoda_nassim@hotmail.com to register.

Members' Corner

Congratulations to Sue Heidebrecht, whose student Trinity Piette received the Medal of Excellence from Conservatory Canada for the highest mark in Ontario.

Congratulations to Lorraine Griffith, whose student Selena Zou received three Medals of Excellence from Conservatory Canada for high marks in her piano performance and theory exams.

Condolences to the family, friends, and colleagues of Helen Sinclair, whose brother passed away.

Condolences to the family, friends, and colleagues of past ORMTA president **Kathy Schmidt**, who passed away.

Do you know an ORMTA member who deserves a congratulatory note, condolences or get well wishes?

Send details to: ormtaorb@gmail.com

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First Class Honours Recital

by Danielle McIntyre and Meg Iwaskow, Convenor

2021 ORMTA FCH Scholarship Winners

Level 9 Written Theory Award	Carolyn Zhang <i>student of Lori Lynn Penny</i>
Level 10 Written Theory Award	Lisa Wang <i>student of Lori Lynn Penny</i>
Associate Written Theory Award	Selena Zou <i>student of Lorraine Griffith</i>
RCM Junior Keyboard Harmony Award	Enah Cheng <i>student of Colin Mack</i>
RCM Intermediate Keyboard Harmony Award	Jenny L. Zhang <i>student of Kathleen Prochnau</i>
RCM Senior Keyboard Harmony Award	Nicole Wu <i>student of Paulette Price</i>
Level 8 Instrumental Practical Award	Spencer Song <i>student of Heather Norian</i>
Level 9 Instrumental Practical Award	Khanh Mai <i>student of Chunson Park</i>
Level 10 Instrumental Practical Award	Brianna Dai <i>student of Zhanna Gumenyuk</i>
Level 10 Instrumental Practical Award	Eloise Daoust <i>student of Heather Norian</i>
Level 10 Instrumental Practical Award	Jenny Zhang <i>student of Paulette Price</i>
Associate Performer Award	Natania Fok <i>student of Catherine Donkin</i>
Associate Performer Award	April Zheng <i>student of Chunson Park</i>



Performing live is a nerve-wracking experience, but have you ever had to record your performance to perfection? This year, 52 very talented performers got that experience for our first ever First Class Honours Virtual Recital! Congratulations to all of the participants, teachers and families involved in making this event a success. Pieces ranging from Level 2 to Associate are included in this virtual playlist performed by students that earned a First Class Honours/First Class Honours With Distinction standing in a 2020 practical exam.

We also celebrated the success of 13 First Class Honours Scholarship winners in both practical and theory during the month of January. Certificates and cheques were mailed out to these exceptional students. Performances by the practical winners can be viewed in the First Class Honours virtual playlist too. Pictured are the winners, taken at our scholarship zoom meet on January 24th, 2021.

Thank you to our adjudicators Mary Anne Trenker and Amelie Langlois for their time and expertise as well as to Sherry Lu for organizing and contacting the scholarship winners.

The recital link went live on January 31st, 2021 at 2pm and is available to watch until March 15th, 2021. Please head to www.ormtaottawa.ca for details.

Congratulations to all the winners and their teachers!

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 April/May issue of the ORBit must be received by the editor on or before: March 10, 2021.

Send submissions to: ormtaorb@gmail.com

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.

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1/3 page	\$25	\$31
1/2 page	\$30	\$38
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2021 ORMTA Contribution to Teaching Award (OCTA)

by Susan Blyth-Schofield

ORMTA is blessed with an abundance of members who dedicate much time and passion to teaching their students, helping this organization, and volunteering within their communities. Since 1990 the Ottawa Region Branch of ORMTA has presented an award (initially The Special Teacher Award now the Contribution to Teaching Award) to one of our own each year. Nominations come from the membership at large, and I encourage you to email me with yours. You can find the criteria for nomination listed below.

The recipient of the 2021 OCTA will have their biography will be featured on the Ottawa Region Branch website and on the provincial one, in The ORBit, and in Notes Magazine. They will also be presented with a commemorative "iceberg".

For a list of previous recipients, you can visit www.ormtaottawa.ca/recipients-and-criteria.

Criteria:

- The nominee must be an ORMTA member (or another Provincial RMTA within the CFMTA) for at least 10 years, and cannot presently be on the Ottawa Region Branch council.

When nominating an individual please take the following into consideration:

- Their contributions to teaching, the community, to ORMTA, and to other professional organizations.
- Their educational pursuits.
- That their student's consistently participate in ORMTA events and other musical events within the community.

Please submit your nominations to Susan Blyth-Schofield (sblythschofield@yahoo.ca) before 15 February 2021.

ORMTA Competitions

by Katrina Jovic, Convenor

Dates & Deadlines

- **SUNDAY MARCH 21, 2021** - Application form deadline for 2021 Ottawa Region Branch ORMTA Students Competitions
- **SATURDAY MAY 15, 2021** - YouTube video link submission deadline for **instrumentalists** Ottawa Region Branch ORMTA Students Competitions
- **SUNDAY MAY 16, 2021** - YouTube video link submission deadline for **singers** Ottawa Region Branch ORMTA Students Competitions

Adjudicators for 2021



[Lynda Metelsky](#) is on the Faculty of Music, UofT since 1983 and is a senior piano adjudicator for the RCM. She has adjudicated over 25 competitions in Canada and the States and offered master classes both here and in Europe. She is also a member of the Royal Conservatory since 1981 and chaired Piano Faculty for 16 years.



[Darryl Edwards](#) is an internationally recognized tenor, voice teacher, adjudicator and professor at UofT. His extensive experience and innovative approach to young singers are impressive. He has been travelling all over the world to sing, offer master classes and adjudicate competitions and festivals around

the globe (China, Brazil, Italy, Canada, the States). He has a number of virtual events lined up in 2020 and is comfortable with the current competition format.

ORB CALENDAR OF EVENTS AND DEADLINES 2020-2021

February 2021

No events.

March 2021

- 10 Deadline for submissions for the April/May ORBit. Send all material to Sabrina Tang (ormtaorb@gmail.com).
- 21 Application Deadline for ORMTA Competitions (Instrument, Vocal, and Young Artist). Contact Katarina Jovic (katarinamusic@sympatico.ca) for further information.
- 25 Keyboard Harmony: Stepping Stones to Make Harmony Accessible to All Students, presented by Paulette Price. Contact Hoda Nassim (hoda_nassim@hotmail.com) for further information.

April 2021

No events.

May 2021

- 10 Deadline for submissions for the Summer (June/July/August) ORBit. Send all material Sabrina Tang (ormtaorb@gmail.com).
- TBC Application Deadline for Junior Piano Master Class. Contact Kimberley Sundell (sundellpianostudio@gmail.com) for further information.
- 15 Deadline for YouTube video link submission for instrumentalists for ORMTA Competitions. Contact Katarina Jovic (katarinamusic@sympatico.ca) for further information.
- 16 Deadline for YouTube video link submission for vocalists for ORMTA Competitions. Contact Katarina Jovic (katarinamusic@sympatico.ca) for further information.
- TBC AGM and Luncheon. Venue and details TBC. Contact Susan Blyth-Schofield (sblythschofield@yahoo.ca) for further information.
- TBC Junior Piano Master Class. Venue and details TBC. Contact Kimberley Sundell (sundellpianostudio@gmail.com) for further information.

Forms and information regarding ORMTA Ottawa Region Branch events can be accessed at:

www.ormtaottawa.ca/events



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