

Great Canadian Music...and cake too! 2010 Canada Music Week Report – ORMTA



ORMTA members all across Ontario spent this year's 50th Anniversary of Canada Music Week celebrating our country's music and composers. Countless recitals, workshops, competitions, and special events were presented throughout the province by a dedicated band of teachers, composers, students and volunteers. Here are some of the highlights:

Barrie Branch celebrated CMW with their Annual Awards Recital. Rogers TV advertised the event hosting a live interview with two branch members, Jeremy & Lalitha Viinalass. 33 piano & vocal students performed solo pieces, including students as young as five presenting their first performance. A great variety of music was presented, from beginners to advanced, including many works by Canadian composers. ORMTA certificates were presented to students receiving outstanding results on RCM exams. The Branch's piano awards are in memory of Jocye Langford, and theory awards in memory of Maude Fleming. CMW pencils were handed out to the students. The event was well attended with a receptive audience.



The **Belleville** Branch hosted a 50th anniversary CMW Recital featuring 50 children performing and singing duets and solos – many written by well-known Canadian composers. This popular annual recital is geared for beginner students up to grade 4. 200 parents, teachers and friends supported the young musicians. The Trinity Lutheran Church Junior Choir opened the concert with "That's Good" by Allen and this was followed by familiar tunes such as "Robots" by Crosby, the extremely popular "March of the Goblins" by Berlin and many other exciting, interesting pieces.

Students enjoying 50th Anniversary CMW Cake in Belleville

Members of **Cambridge** Branch enjoyed their 50th Anniversary CMW Cake and other goodies.



The **Central Toronto** Branch held its annual Fall Scholarship Recitals as part of CMW. Many students performed works by Canadian composers. In recognition of outstanding performances of Canadian works, the branch awarded their Sir Ernest MacMillan Scholarships at both the junior and senior levels. Branch members were also involved in organizing Contemporary Showcase Toronto; a non-competitive festival where students perform works by Canadian composers.

The **Chatham-Kent** Branch presented a well-attended CMW Recital featuring 34 talented student pianists and vocalists at the Chatham Cultural Centre. The program featured works exclusively by Canadian composers. Also, awards were handed out to students for the highest exam marks in 2010. All enjoyed the 50th Anniversary CMW Cake following the recital.

The **Hamilton-Halton** Branch celebrated CMW by presenting a workshop and concert by pianist/composer Frank Horvat at the First Unitarian Church of Hamilton. The workshop was titled *“From Chicken Scratch To Sonatinas”, Getting your students to improvise and compose. Easy suggestions to nurture creativity in the life of your music student.* The concert that followed the workshop was part of “The Green Keys Tour”, a yearlong 50+ city cross Canada piano recital tour and showcase of eco-sustainability featuring Horvat’s original piano music.

Warren Nicholson (Hamilton-Halton Branch President & Southern Zone Representative) and Melodie Hewer (Hamilton-Halton Branch Vice President) displaying their 50th Anniversary CMW Cake



Kingston Branch’s CMW Recital featured 11 students performing piano music by Violet Archer, Beverly Porter, Linda Niamath, Andrew Markow, Christine Donkin, Boris Berlin, Anne Crosby, Martha Hill Duncan and Oscar Peterson. Branch president, Meg Freer introduced each performance with a few words about the composer. Two of the composers, Martha Hill Duncan and Beverly Porter, were present and talked to the audience about their works. Each student received a Canadian flag pin and all enjoyed 50th Anniversary CMW cake.



Students in Kingston enjoying CMW celebrations.

Kitchener-Waterloo Branch celebrated CMW by presenting an afternoon master class for 37 piano students with Eleanor Gummer, who encouraged and instructed students on their Canadian contemporary pieces. That same evening, a recital took place featuring 20 students who performed Canadian works, and three even performed their own compositions. Composer Joanne Bender was in attendance. Her piece "Aurora Borealis" was selected from the 2010 'Call for Compositions' entries for a grade 5-6 piece. Joanne gave the audience and performers valuable insight as to the construction of the piece, and what to listen for during the performance. Along with 50th Anniversary CMW Cake, students broke open and 'swarmed' an opened piñata to end an educational and enlightening day.



The **Newmarket and Area** Branch celebrated CMW with their recital, *Canadian Composers And Their Music; Celebrating 50 Years of Making A Difference*. The music of Christine Donkin, Anne Crosby, Violet Archer, Mary Gardiner, and many others provided a lovely afternoon of entertainment for the audience. Concertgoers were treated to 50th Anniversary CMW cake and a reading of a poem by a branch member honoring CMW concluded the event:

Remember November

*A time to remember
Third week of November
When our country resounds
With magnificent sounds.
In Schools and in Malls,
In Churches and Halls,
Composers and Singers,
Flutes and Bell Ringers,
Orchestras, Bands,
Across our great lands.
Trumpets and Strings,
Music that brings
A joy to our ears
We'll remember for years.
So let's celebrate
And participate
in
CANADA MUSIC WEEK!*

by Mary Jane MacPherson
ORMTA - Newmarket and Area Branch

The **North Bay** Branch celebrated CMW by presenting a recital featuring students that had achieved honours standing or better on their practical and theoretical exams in the past year. In the middle of the program students with the highest mark in their grade were presented with scholarships. A proclamation of Canada Music Week was received from the mayor of North Bay and was put on display at the recital. To celebrate CMW, the branch organized a poster contest. There were 3 groups: JK to Grade 3, Grade 4 to 8 and Grade 9 to 12. Each group had a specific piece to listen to and draw what the music suggested to them. All the entries showed artistic promise. Three judges with music and art experience were chosen. First, second and third places were awarded for each group. Participants and audience then enjoyed a CMW cake.

The **North York/York Region** Branch hosted auditions during Canada Music Week, which culminated in a Canadian Composers' Recital. The Hon. Bryon Wilfert, member of Parliament for Richmond Hill was invited to attend, and special Canada Music week trophies (for highest marks of Canadian pieces) were awarded to students at each level of piano, voice and strings. Special Canadian pins and maple leaf goodies were presented.

The **Oshawa & District** Branch gathered to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of CMW. Special guests included Canadian Composers Andrew Harbridge and Sheila Tyrrell from Peterborough who presented selections of their piano and vocal compositions that explored a wide range of styles.



From left to right: Paula Copithorn (Oshawa Branch President) Andrew Harbridge (Composer), Sheila Tyrrell (Composer), Janet LaMarche (Oshawa Branch Vice President & Eastern Zone Representative)

The **Ottawa Region** Branch hosted their annual CMW Recital with 31 talented and eager musicians performing their Canadian repertoire. There was a lovely balance of solo pieces along with 3 duets, and even an original composition by one of the performers. Each performer was presented a certificate, a red rose and white tulip. The audience was treated to a ten-question trivia game based on Canadian music. Quiz winners received a prize consisting of all things Canadian: scores of music by Ottawa composers, local bagels, Canadian coffee, and of course maple syrup. The afternoon was topped off by a reception where all enjoyed a red and white 50th Anniversary CMW cake.



The **Owen Sound** Branch celebrated CMW by presenting a recital at the Owen Sound Alliance Church. The recital featured several students who performed works by Canadian composers such as Anne Crosby, Larysa Kuzmenko, Pierre Gallant, and Violet Archer. Two students also performed original compositions by local musicians. The recital featured instrumentalists, pianists and vocalists who ranged in age from 7 to 88.



The **Oxford County-Woodstock** Branch presented a Canada Music Week Recital featuring their talented local students.

The **Sarnia** Branch celebrated CMW by presenting their "Stars of Tomorrow" concert, held at the Sarnia Library Auditorium with just under 200 people attending. The concert was also featured in the Sarnia Observer newspaper. 27 students from a variety of disciplines presented performances including piano, harp, flute, recorder, and voice. Special guests included vocalist Erica Warder, student at the Glenn Gould School of the Royal Conservatory of Music, and pianist Christine Tithecott, student at the Faculty of Music of the University of Western Ontario. Christine closed the concert with a performance of "Twelve For Ten" written by Canadian Composer Heather Schmidt. Refreshments followed the recital including a large cake celebrating the 50th Anniversary of CMW.



Students and teachers celebrate Canada Music Week in Sarnia at the "Stars of Tomorrow" Concert

Scarborough Branch was honoured to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of CMW on St. Cecilia's Day with a gathering at the home of Shirley Knautz. Members presented a brief summary and performed the music of such great Canadian composers such as Oscar Peterson, Elaine Kruse, Larysa Kuzmenko, Barbara Pentland, and W.H. Anderson.



Congratulations to all the ORMTA branches and the countless CMW conveners and volunteers that presented Canada Music Week celebrations in their communities. Other than producing a superb cultural and educational event, you also promoted the quality of music being composed by our talented Canadian musicians. Thank you to all the students, teachers and parents for recognizing the importance of maintaining our Canadian heritage!

Compiled by Frank Horvat



Premier of Ontario - Premier ministre de l'Ontario

November 15 – 21, 2010

A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER

On behalf of the Government of Ontario, I am delighted to extend warm greetings to everyone attending and participating in Canada Music Week, hosted by the local branches of the Ontario Registered Music Teachers' Association (ORMTA).

Since ORMTA's inception, the members of this fine organization have worked hard to provide leadership in and set high standards for music education in our province. I commend all members of the association for their continued commitment to excellence in music education.

Canada Music Week — which brings together music educators, students, and industry professionals — provides the public with an ideal opportunity to gain exposure to the work of Canadian composers, musicians and performers and gain a wider appreciation of Canadian music. Through a range of activities — including recitals, workshops and contests, this exciting event will also enable music educators to broaden their knowledge of Canadian works.

I applaud the dedicated staff, organizers and volunteers with ORMTA for their commitment to supporting and promoting Canadian music — and for their tremendous contributions to the cultural life of our province.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dalton McGuinty".

Dalton McGuinty
Premier

