

Brantford Branch
ORMTA
Canada Music Recital

On Sunday November 18th, students and families gathered in Brantford to listen to our annual ORMTA Canada Music Week Recital. The recital included piano, voice and instrumental compositions, and began with O Canada, played by returning student Rebecca Orsini. Rebecca was present to receive the George White Memorial Scholarship for outstanding musical achievement, as selected by May Hillier and her committee. Rebecca is currently studying at the University of Toronto. Rebecca also played Morel's Etude #2.

Guests for the recital, Trois Femmes, performed David L McIntyre's Piano Trio #1.

All present enjoyed the wonderful diversity indicative of Canadian compositions.

Submitted by Naomi Morrison

ORMTA North Bay - Canada Music Week Celebration

The North Bay branch hosted our annual Honour Recital on Saturday, November 17, 2012. To open this event, an official proclamation from Mayor Al McDonald was read announcing Canada Music Week as November 18-24th.

At this event, students of ORMTA teachers were celebrated for their success in Conservatory exams in 2012. Anyone who achieved 70 per cent or more was invited to play or sing at this recital. The student with the highest mark (of at least 80 per cent) in each grade was presented with a certificate and a Canada Music Week pencil. For grades six and higher and for the student with the top advanced

theory mark, a small scholarship accompanied the certificate.

Half of the pieces played or sung at this event this year were written by Canadian Composers, and students have been working all this fall to prepare for our Canadian Contemporary Showcase which is held in February.

With Frances Balodis in our membership, we have the privilege of personal involvement with a Canadian composer who also helps us contact others when we want to connect our students with the composers whose music they are playing. We encourage students to write to these Canadian composers. What a thrill for a student to receive a personal letter from a living, breathing, published composer, especially if sample music is enclosed!

In February, 2012, Frances taught a series of three composition workshops for interested students, parents and teachers. Several students went on to enter their composition in the Kiwanis Festival composition class.

So you see, the North Bay branch celebrates Canadian music all year round!

Susan Nicholson
President
ORMTA North Bay

ORMTA Owen Sound

The Owen Sound Branch of the ORMTA celebrated Canada Music Week 2012 by holding a student recital on Friday, November 23rd at the Owen Sound Alliance Church. There sixteen students on the programme ranging in age from 4 to adult. Some of the composers included in the programme were Debra Wanless, David Duke, Jean Coulthard, Boris Berlin, Anne Crosby, Stephen Chatman and Larysa Kuzmenko. We even had one student play his own composition. We concluded this special recital with a Canada Music Week cake, and each student took home special mementos: a calendar of Canadian composers, CMW pencils/stickers and a maple leaf cookie. Congratulation again to everyone for all your hard work!

Submitted by

Jennifer Lanthier

Canada Music Week Junior Recital
Belleville Branch
Pat Ross

On Sunday, November 25th, 2012, the Belleville Branch of the Ontario Registered Music Teachers' Association, hosted a music recital for its junior musicians. Since the concert took place during Canada Music Week, the repertoire was largely Canadian and served as an introduction to our wonderful Canadian composers and their compositions. Forty young students at the grade 4 level and under, presented piano solos, duets, and vocal selections to a packed audience of family and friends. The performances were enthusiastic and comical at times- especially from the five year-olds- and were overwhelmingly well-received by the audience. For many, this recital offered the first chance to perform in front of a crowd. At the

conclusion, everyone enjoyed a well-deserved treat of sweets and beverages supplied by the teachers.

SUMMARY OF CANADA MUSIC WEEK
HAMILTON-HALTON ORMTA EVENT
2012

On Sunday 18th November 2012 the Hamilton-Halton Branch of ORMTA held a special recital at St. Christopher's Church in Burlington, called **FOCUS ON COMPOSERS**, featuring works of 22 diverse Canadian Composers, performed by piano and vocal students. To increase awareness of Canadian Composers and their music and to celebrate composition as a living art here and now, a souvenir program was produced for the event. For each composer being performed, there was a 100-word biography and a picture in the program, along with the listed programmed pieces and the performers' names. The composers were arranged more or less chronologically, from **Calixa Lavallée** (born in 1842), **Jean Coulthard**, **Oskar Morawetz**, **Oscar Peterson**, **Mary Gardiner**, **Pierre Gallant** and **Patrick Cardy**, to name just a few, through to two of our own student composers who performed original works, **Pavel Chenarev** and **Mira Meikle**. Also, the well-known Oakville composer and member teacher of our branch, **Linda Fletcher**, accompanied six student singers performing her own compositions. We celebrated afterwards with maple-leaf cookies, coffee and juice. It was gratifying to hear samples of the wide range of distinguished Canadian creative musical writing that is our heritage as well as an

ongoing tradition.

*Submitted by Janice Beninger, Vice-President and Recital Coordinator,
Hamilton-Halton ORMTA*

PICKERING BRANCH

On November 18, Pickering Branch held a Canada Music Week Concert which included 64 participants. As we wanted to include as many participants, therefore, we did not include only Canadian Music. There was certainly a variety which included singers and pianists. Along with the music program we encouraged the participants to draw a picture of their music and what it meant to them. (Our statement around the art was MUSIC IS ART - Allows a human being to take all these boring but difficult techniques and use them to create emotion. That is the one thing science cannot duplicate humanism, feeling and emotion, I am including some of the drawings. One of the children had the privilege to be chosen to have his Christmas card printed and is now sold this year as a fund raiser for the Sick Children's Hospital. We also presented participation certificates for each child. We also sold CD's for our scholarship fund which we featured Boris Zarankin and Giles Tomkins. Pickering raised \$7,000.00 to achieve this. As we are a small branch of only a few active teachers this was a lot of money to raise and this was over a period of approx. 3 years. We raised \$400.00 at our current concert.

Marion Roberts (President Ajax and Pickering Branch)

Ottawa ORMTA
Canada Music Week
submitted by Tania Granata

"On Sunday November 18th 55 parents and teachers gathered together at the Resurrection Lutheran Church in Orleans to listen to 25 students of ORMTA teachers play music by Canadian composers in celebration of Canada Music Week. Although the concert consisted of mostly piano music there was also a young vocalist who graced the audience with a holiday song called "D'ou viens tu bergere?". The students ranged in age from 6 to 17 and the styles of music consisted of everything from classical to jazz. All the teachers of the performers were in the audience which is such a lovely thing to see. One student even performed his own piece which wowed the audience. The concert concluded with a piano/double bass jazz duet which was the perfect way to end a lovely concert. ORMTA Ottawa President Sandy Menard handed out certificates to the students and Canada Music Week Convener Tania Granata also treated all the students with Ottawa's famous "Obama" cookies from downtown bakery Moulin de Provence in the shape of a maple leaf. The performers and audience then enjoyed a reception following the concert. All in all a perfect way to spend an afternoon!!"