

THUNDER BAY BRANCH

Two teachers of the Thunder Bay branch, Dianne Potts and Kathy Schmidt hosted two composing workshops during Canada's Music week for children ages 8-14. Each group met for approximately one hour with 8 students attending each session. Students had fun with rhythm and beat, call and response, exploring compositional techniques and sharing their own ideas on paper, computer and at the piano. Each workshop ended with a Canadian cupcake. Two young composers provided entry and exit music with their own compositions.

Submitted by Kathy Schmidt

HAMILTON-HALTON BRANCH

On Sunday 24th November 2013 the Hamilton-Halton Branch of ORMTA held a Canadian Composers Recital featuring 33 pieces performed by solo vocalists, pianists, a guitarist and a vocal ensemble. Though normally open to students only, for this recital teachers were invited to perform as well.

We had a wide variety of ages and levels of performers with 27 different Canadian composers represented, including some original student and teacher works. Past-president, **Warren Nicholson** played the "Prelude" from Suite Pour Guitare, Op. 40 by Jacques Hétu. Member **Philip Corke** performed his own piano composition, *Goody's Blues*, and affiliate member, **Keisha Bell-Kovacs**, played Barbara Pentland's *Studies in Line , No. 1 and 2*.

Also, member, **Linda Fletcher**, accompanied two student singers performing her own compositions, *Mr. Nobody* and *Do Not Stand at My Grave and Weep*, and she also sang in the vocal ensemble performing her student, Katerina Gimon's, stunning original piece, called *Boundless*.

Other original student works were *The Sun*, composed and sung by Mira Meikle, and a remarkable *Prelude/Allemande* from Baroque Suite in D Minor by student Theo Selemidis.

It was a truly enjoyable and fitting Canada Music Week Celebration.

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

BELLEVILLE BRANCH

The Belleville ORMTA branch hosted its annual Canada Music Week Junior Recital on Sunday, November 24th at Emmanuel United Church in Foxboro. More than thirty young piano students from beginner to grade 4 Conservatory level entertained a large audience

of family and friends with their musical performances. The repertoire included piano solos, duets, and trios in a variety of musical styles from classical to popular and featured many selections by Canadian composers. The afternoon concluded with an informal social gathering and some well-deserved refreshments and goodies provided by the teachers

submitted by Shannon O'Rourke

NORTH BAY BRANCH

The North Bay Branch held its annual Honour Recital to celebrate both Canada Music Week and the students who participated in Conservatory examinations during the previous year. Certificates were presented to those students who received the highest marks in each level of practical and theory exams. Additional cash awards were also given in memory of past teachers from our branch, Lynda Kennedy and Evelyn Bourke as well as an ORMTA Advanced Theory Award. Our local Elk's Lodge participated by presenting a generous award to our grade ten winning student. Students who played Canadian Compositions were highlighted and a special CMW Proclamation from the Mayor's office was read.

Nancy Hughes

OWEN SOUND BRANCH

On November 22nd the Owen Sound Branch hosted a Canada Music Week student recital at the Owen Sound Alliance Church. There were 22 performers ranging in age from 5 to adult, and the program featured works by Canadian composers such as Debra Wanless, Anne Crosby, Clifford Poole, Violet Archer and Oscar Peterson. We also awarded three scholarships to the students who had the highest practical and theoretical exam results in 2013. All of the students did a wonderful job playing and each went home with a small Canadian souvenir. After the recital we continued our celebration by sharing a gigantic cake and having some of Mrs. H's famous punch.

Jennifer Lanth

OXFORD/WOODSTOCK BRANCH

Canada Music Week was celebrated this year with an amazing recital, featuring Canadian Composers. An arrangement of O Canada was featured at the beginning, a composition arranged by Karen Rowell, a native to Woodstock On. This arrangement was written for two pianos and eight hands, played by four teachers. Each student performer was

given a Canadian pin to commemorate their performance. The ORMTA teachers also recognized the students who received the highest mark in their music discipline for the 2012-2013 year. It was a great night of spectacular music.

Submitted by Janna Baigent

NEWMARKET & AREA BRANCH

On Sunday, November 24, 2013, the Newmarket & Area Branch celebrated Canada Music Week with an afternoon of Canadian music.

Two recitals entitled **Canadian Composers And Their Music**, featured the students of eleven teachers. Performances from our Piano, Violin, Flute, Voice, and Harp teachers made the afternoon so enjoyable! It was a special treat this year to hear both harp and flute compositions this year.

Our recitals also debuted the music of two of our own branch teachers. The Plucky Snake, composed by Paulette Popp was performed on violin, while Dianne Hughes' composition Spanish Fantasy was performed on piano. Congratulations to you both!

As teachers and students, we are so fortunate to be able to celebrate this great week right across the country. It is inspiring to know that Canada is not just about hockey and Tim Horton's. We have a wealth of great musicians and composers with whom we celebrate. A special thank you to the **Canadian Music Centre** for their continued support in preserving and promoting the works of Canadian composers!
www.musiccentre.ca

Our festivities concluded with a short reception after each recital. Everyone enjoyed Canadian cupcakes and punch!

Sheila McLean

