

## Canada Music Week 2015 – Reports from Branches

The **Barrie** branch had a tremendous attendance this year at our Canada Music Week Awards Recitals! Each recital began with the singing of our national anthem, then performances from over 50 students, both piano and vocal, were enjoyed. Students were given treat bags of maple leaf candies made from local maple syrup producers with a thank you note attached.

Certificates and honorariums were awarded to students who had achieved the highest Royal Conservatory of Music marks in theoretical and practical exams in the past year. Honourable mention certificates and Piano, Theory, and Vocal awards were also given out. Many thanks to our CMW committee of Sarah Lawton and Megan Newcombe who donated much time in organizing this year's event!

The **Belleville** branch held a Junior Recital and Tea on November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2015 at Emmanuel United Church in Foxboro. The recital showcased the musical talents, piano and vocal, of 41 young students and it marked the end of Canada Music Week in the Quinte area for 2015. Many played Canadian repertoire by well-known composers such as Nancy Telfer, Clifford Crawley, Debra Wanless and Anne Crosby. The concert was well-attended by approximately 70 enthusiastic family members and friends. The performances were followed by pictures, with many of the students waving Canadian flags and wearing Canadian scarves. The day culminated with a reception to celebrate the students' performances.

**Central Toronto** branch held a composition master class with ORMTA's president, composer Frank Horvat. Students, parents, and teachers appreciated Frank's insightful and encouraging comments.

**Etobicoke-Mississauga Branch** members supported Contemporary Showcase and celebrated Canada Music Week by participating in this non-competitive festival of Canadian contemporary art music as members of the committee and by volunteering their time during the adjudications. Our students performed contemporary Canadian art music in a masterclass format. During the final recital at the end on Dec. 6, some of the students were recognized for superb performances by receiving awards, while others performed.

**Hamilton/Halton** celebrated Canada Music Week with two wonderful recitals! Over fifty students of voice, piano and guitar, from all levels performed works by Canadian composers, including those of three of our own members. We were also treated to a couple of "own compositions" from young composers. Each recital was opened with a jazzy version of O Canada.

**Kingston's** Canada Music Festival featured 46 performers: voice, strings, and piano. Local composers were highlights (Martha Hill Duncan, Beverly Porter, John Burge, James Medd). 23 students were selected for the finale concert and we gave away hockey tickets for our local OHL team. Students and parents appreciated adjudicator Dr. John Burge's outgoing and positive adjudications! Thanks to Queen's University and the Queen's Community Music program for the collaboration and to Kristin Rae for all that she has done to organize this event over the last five years.

Congratulations to **Kitchener-Waterloo** branch on receiving a William Andrews award for their Canada Music Week activities!

**Kitchener - Waterloo's** Canada music week master classes and recital on Sat. Nov 21<sup>st</sup> involving 60 students and 10 teachers were a wonderful celebration and a fitting tribute to the many fine composers, performers, teachers, and students who represent Canada. Small non-competitive master classes were conducted by Amber Morphy, followed by a recital featuring works by Canadian composers. Highlights included Canadian flag decorations; histories of the flag and anthems; Karen Rowell's 2-piano 8-hands arrangement of O Canada performed by four students; composers Boyd McDonald and Joanne Bender speaking about and playing their own works; student compositions; a sale/display table of Red Leaf Piano Works; and greetings and pins sent by MP Harold Albrecht, who noted the tremendous value of music. Thanks to conveners Joanne Bender, Ilva Gierman, and Jane Trafford for organizing the day.

**North Bay** branch's Canada Music Week event was our "Honour Recital" which was held Saturday, November 21.

On Sunday, November 1st and Sunday, November 15th, the **North York / York Region** branch sponsored two special recitals in local Seniors' Residences. These included piano, voice, strings, and speech arts students, with both young and adult students participating. Their second Canada Music Week event was their special awards for students performing Canadian composers' works for their Fall Auditions programs. The students with the highest mark in each category and each level received trophies to celebrate Canadian music.

Sunday November 22nd marked the **Ottawa Region** branch's Canada Music Week recital at the Orleans United Church. Forty plus students performed works by Canadian composers and even featured music by local composers Christine Donkin and Claudia Cashin-Mack. The concert was very well attended and the audience enjoyed piano solos, piano duets, and vocal and violin performances. As part of ORMTA Ottawa's partnership with Ottawa Pianos, store manager Carmen Papalia attended the concert as a special guest. Once the recital was finished, students were presented with certificates of participation as well as beautifully baked and decorated Canada Music Week cupcakes made by Danielle Jersak. Following the concert guests were able to enjoy a lovely reception. Special thanks goes out to council members Danielle Jersak, Meg Iwaskow, and all the other people who helped make the event a huge success.

The **Owen Sound** branch celebrated with a student recital featuring works from across Canada and by our very own members including Debra Wanless, Jen Smith Lanthier, and Beth Hamilton. Over 25 students participated in the evening, all of whom enjoyed the delicious cake and punch reception.

*Thanks to all these branches for helping to educate students and parents about the tremendous depth and value of music in our country! If your branch did not have any Canada Music Week events this fall, please consider how you can participate next year, even in a small way.*

*--Alice Dearden, ORMTA Canada Music Week convener*