

Impromptu

Motivating Musicians: Motivated Parents (Part 3 of 4)

By Karen King

The previous article in this series focused on motivated teachers and throughout that discussion, it became clear that motivated teachers produce motivated students. However, it is not easy for teachers to convince students in only thirty minutes per week that playing an instrument is the most worthwhile thing they have ever done. Instead, continuous streams of motivation must come from a student's direct environment. If everyone around a student is cheering them on, encouraging them towards their best and praising their successes, it will be difficult for a student to feel unmotivated. In other words, this article is about motivated parents.

It has been said that parents are a child's most important teachers. Think about who taught you to bake pancakes, change a tire, and file your first tax return: these basic life skills were likely taught by your parents. Now think about who taught you about the French Revolution, the quadratic equation, and glycemic index: it is likely difficult to remember their names. While you as music teachers are an indispensable part of learning an instrument, you should never underestimate the value of parents in the learning process. The most important parts of learning an instrument and life skills—such as



physical control, perseverance, and performance skills are all solidified at home rather than in the lesson. Truly, the student's parents are the ones who encourage home practice, drive to the music store, and endure the growing pains of learning. Parents are the ones who replace metronome batteries, buy new recital dresses, and quiz students on the facts of Handel the night before their History 1 exam.

All parents want their children to learn, grow, and develop their full potential. Parents want to see their children flourish; they want to see their children

Continued on page 8



STEINWAY PIANO GALLERY CALGARY



Back to Music

Select your dream piano now at
Steinway Piano Gallery Calgary
Steinway Designed Pianos and Roland Digital Pianos
with 25% off Piano Print Music*



STEINWAY & SONS

Boston
PIANO
DESIGNED BY STEINWAY & SONS*

Essex PIANO
DESIGNED BY STEINWAY & SONS*

ROLAND PIANO
—DIGITAL—

www.steinwaycalgary.ca

#76 Heritage Gate SE, Calgary **(403) 460-7888**
Heritage Towne Centre (Next to Ashley Furniture, across from Costco)

*See in-store for details.

Inside

- 4 **President's Message**
- 5 **Proposal for Changes to
*Impromptu***
- 6 **AGM Announcement**
- 7 **Calendar of Events**
- 8 **Motivating Musicians (cont.)**
- 11 **CFMTA News**
- 13 **CASSA—A Magical Artistic
Journey**
- 14 **CASSA Dates**
- 16 **Peter Jancewicz—From
Stillness to Creativity**
- 17 **Workshop by Christine Donkin**
- 18 **Recitals & Festivals**
- 22 **Executive List**

CONTACT:

Editor:

Lisa Ng
impromptu.editor@gmail.com

Advertising inquiries:

Amy Essenburg
amy.essenburg@musicalmiles.ca
403-888-7122

Distributor:

Josée Robitaille
josee@essentialtalk.com

Web Coordinator:

Tanya Foster
tanyargates@hotmail.com

ARMTA

IMPROMPTU

PUBLICATION INFORMATION

Advertising and Submission Deadlines:

FALL ISSUE

Deadline: August 10
Publication: September 10

WINTER ISSUE

Deadline: November 10
Publication: November 30

MID-WINTER ISSUE

Deadline: January 10
Publication: January 30

SPRING ISSUE

Deadline: April 10
Publication: April 30

*(Publication deadlines are subject to change depending on the result of proposed changes. See P.5 of this issue)

Impromptu is the newsletter of the Calgary branch of ARMTA with the purpose of informing our members of events of interest; providing summaries of Calgary branch General and Executive meetings, and encouraging and supporting professional development through member-written articles.

President's Message

The days are getting longer. The coldest days of winter are hopefully behind us. We are at the final stretch to festivals, exams, and recitals. In September, I always wonder what we can accomplish in a year of lessons. But as it breaks down into months, and we are at the halfway mark, it is amazing to see how quickly the beginners have progressed, how we have managed to get the junior high students to practise (or some of them), and to relish in the music of the advanced students. For those students not quite reaching their goals, we remind ourselves to be patient and keep trying—not everyone is going to get to Carnegie Hall—we are an important part of the development of these students.

Membership renewal will begin soon. For those with email, you should have already received detailed instructions. You need to go to the website, check your profile, print the renewal forms, and send TWO cheques to provincial ARMTA. (All others will receive renewal forms in the mail.)

Marilyn Newbury and her committee have done a superb job of organizing the **Honours Recital**. Congratulations to ARMTA teachers and their students who had such exceptional marks last year. The marks were so high, that many students who received over 90 did not receive a medal or scholarship. Natalie Brodsky has been organizing the **Outstanding Student Recital** for these and other exceptional students. Congratulations teachers for your musical guidance with your students!

There are more performance opportunities for your students. Thank you to Ron Proctor for organizing the **North Recitals** in February, and to Maury Michie for the **South Recitals** in January.

Please consider joining Eric Nyland at the CPO. He has arranged lobby space for ARMTA and a chance to bring greetings at the concerts on February 13, 14, and June 5 and 6.

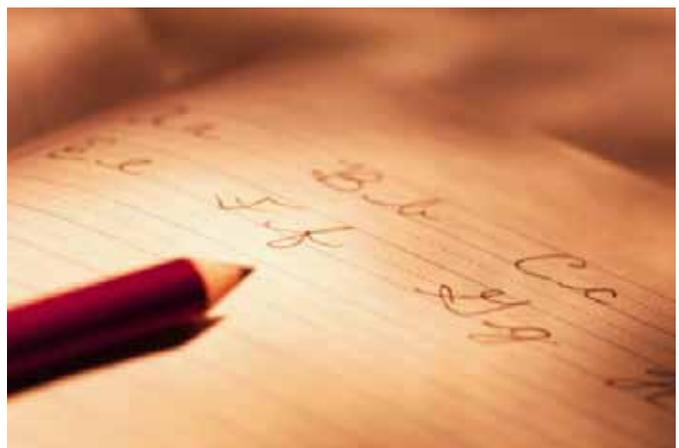
Karen King will be the guest speaker for the **Annual General Meeting** on March 16. Her presentation is on "Sleep and Memory Work".

Karen comes to us from SRMTA. She is working on her Master in Piano Pedagogy. At the AGM, we will also discuss changes to the number of issues that should be published for *Impromptu*. Your voice is important. We will also vote in a new executive.

Looking even farther ahead, Karen King and Josée Robitaille are finalizing details for the **Music Marathon** to be held on May 23, (rain/snow date: June 6). This is an exposure for ARMTA and our students, an ARMTA fundraising event, and a chance for your students to win prizes. Our annual **May Lunch and General Meeting** will be May 11.

Some executive names have been listed above, but there are numerous other teachers who are continuously working to keep our association running smoothly. Please look at the list of Calgary Branch Executive Committee in this issue. I encourage you to support the programs that they organize for the benefits of you and your students. They are all like you, very busy teachers, who are also raising children, grandchildren, looking after ill spouses, parents, working other jobs, studying, practising.... They are a dedicated group offering their time to help ARMTA Calgary. Take a moment to thank these ladies and gentlemen if you see them at an event. Better yet, please join them to become part of the executive committee. They work hard, but it is a great way to get to know fellow teachers. There have been requests for a social event for them—what better reason to join them!

Barb Robertson



Honours Recital

Sunday, January 25, 2015, 3:00 p.m.

River Park Church
3818 14A Street SW

Contact: marnewburyhr99@gmail.com

ARMTA CALGARY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday, March 16, 2015, 9:30 a.m.

First Church of the Nazarene
65 Richard Way SW

**GUEST SPEAKER
KAREN KING**

“Sleep and Memory”

For more information,
contact Barb Robertson: barbrob@telus.net

Calendar of Events January to May 2015

Date	Event, Place & Time	Contact
Jan. 18	ARMTA South Student Recital, 2:30 p.m.	maury.michie@gmail.com
Jan. 25	Honours Recital, 3:00 p.m., River Park Church	marnewburyhr99@gmail.com
Jan. 30	CFMTA Vancouver Conference Early Bird Deadline	
Jan. 30	NATS PD Coffee Chat, Good Earth Café Aspen Landing, 9:30 a.m.	
Jan 31– Feb 1	C3 Competition, National Music Centre 134–11 Ave SE	
Feb. 7	Outstanding Student Recital, Steinway Piano Gallery, 4:30 P.m.	bleocam@telus.net
Feb. 8	PPG Meeting, 130 Arbour Ridge Park NW, 6:00 p.m.	aliciaromero@shaw.ca
Feb. 9	ARMTA Budget and Nomination Meeting	barbrob@telus.net
Feb. 16, 17	CASSA Casino	cassa1@telus.net
Feb. 21	ARMTA North Student Recital, 2:00 p.m.	ronaldproctor@shaw.ca
Feb. 27	NATS PD Coffee Chat, Good Earth Café Aspen Landing, 9:30 a.m.	
Feb. 28	ARMTA Renewals Deadline	
Feb. 28	Kensington Sinfonia Concerto Competition	donavan.seidle@gmail.com
Mar. 1	APTA Festival Deadline	aptaonline.net
Mar. 2–15	Calgary Performing Arts Festival, Jubilee Auditorium	www.cpaFestival.ca
Mar. 7	ARMTA Provincial Piano competition, Red Deer	
Mar. 16	ARMTA Calgary AGM, 9:30 a.m., First Church of the Nazarene	barbrob@telus.net
Mar. 21-25	MTNA Las Vegas Conference	
Mar. 27	NATS PD Coffee Chat, Good Earth Café Aspen Landing, 9:30 a.m.	
Apr. 10	Impromptu Deadline	impromptu.editor@gmail.com
Apr. 13	ARMTA Executive Meeting, 8231-10 Street SW	barbrob@telus.net
Apr. 20-30	Calgary Performing Arts Festival, SAIT	www.cpaFestival.ca
Apr. 24	NATS PD Coffee Chat, Good Earth Café Aspen Landing, 9:30 a.m.	
Apr. 25–May 9	APTA Festival	aptaonline.net
May 9	ARMTA North Student Recital, 2:00 p.m.	ronaldproctor@shaw.ca
May 11	ARMTA Calgary GM and Lunch, 9:30 a.m. First Church of the Nazarene	barbrob@telus.net
May 15	CASSA Early Bird Deadlines	cassa1@telus.net
May 23	Calgary ARMTA Music Marathon, 10 a.m.–6 p.m. (rain date: June 6)	karenashleyking@gmail.com
May 24	ARMTA South Student Recital, 2:30 p.m.	maury.michie@gmail.com
May 29	NATS PD Coffee Chat, Good Earth Café Aspen Landing, 9:30 a.m.	

Motivating Musicians (continued from P.1)

become noble human beings. In short, all parents want the *best* for their children. And while you also want the best for your students, it is arguable that the parents' influence is more direct, more frequent, and more long-lasting.

For these reasons, it is important to have parents actively involved in lessons and to be “on your side” in order to foster motivation and success in students. Most educational institutions believe that a parent's involvement increases the child's chances of success. Yet, it is surprising how few private music teachers allow parents into their studios during lesson time. Indeed, not only allowing but *requiring* parents to attend lessons with their child will make them become an active part of the learning process. Instead of just dropping their child at your studio and going to pick up groceries, parents can observe the weekly small successes that they helped create. Further, they can ask the teacher questions about practice, technique, or repertoire and receive answers that may be too technical for the teacher to explain to a small child. Aside from feeling valued, there are many practical benefits to having parents involved in



lessons: they take notes and write down weekly goals in the child's dictation book which allows the teacher to entirely focus on the student; parents can observe how the teacher introduces concepts sequentially and then reinforce these concepts at home, and parents can provide focus during the lesson. Teachers know the value of focus in learning, but may not know how to get every child to focus. If parents are involved in the lesson, they handle the attention management, the teacher can instruct effectively, and more learning transpires. When more learning happens, skills increase; the faster skills increase the higher everyone's motivation becomes.

There is a wonderful image about a garden that can be used to describe the three-way learning phenomenon. First, the student is the soil: the clear, unspoiled

earth which is a blank slate.

Anything can grow in this fertile, rich environment if it is supported properly. While there is nothing describable at first, it is exciting to imagine what might “pop up”—the possibilities are infinite. Next, the teacher is the gardener with the seeds. While this is an important aspect of the picture, the seeds cannot do anything on their own. They must be planted in order to grow, and they must be planted at exactly the right time in order to flourish. Finally, the parents are the sun and the rain. As the sun warms the earth and the rain refreshes it, these are indispensable parts of the process. The garden will wither despite having the best soil and the finest seeds if there is insufficient sun and rain. Parents are the supporting, yet often overlooked elements, and without them, nothing can grow.

But as parents work tirelessly to achieve motivation in their students, they sometimes lose patience and motivation themselves. It is surprising to hear at lessons, “we’re still on this piece?” “we’re doing that again?” “my friend’s daughter is already in Grade 3” or “I don’t know why he just can’t get it”. Parents often forget that tasks which they find easy are not always easy. A very famous musician once said that knowledge is not skill—knowledge plus 10,000 times is skill. While an adult has likely written their name thousands of times, this task is still difficult for small children. Similarly, asking an adult to play all of the C’s on a piano with their right hand might seem glaringly obvious; however adults must remember that children have only recently figured out which one *is* their right hand. In his book, *Outliers*, Malcolm Gladwell explores this 10,000 hour rule and examines factors which lead to very high levels of success. He describes similarities between professional hockey players, Steve Jobs, and Mozart to make the point that mastery in any calling only arrives after 10,000 hours of training and study. However, he fails to point out the catalyst of these many hours: Walter Gretzky was the one who drove his son Wayne to the hockey rink at 5:30 a.m. on Saturdays;

Paul Jobs enjoyed showing his son Steve how to take apart radios and televisions in the family garage; and Leopold Mozart is credited for transcribing his son Wolfgang’s first book of minuets. In all of these cases, parents were the first teachers and were still there during the ten thousandth early morning trip to the rink, messy television deconstruction, or shakily improvised minuet. Given their importance in the learning process, it is important that more time is spent on upholding their motivation.

Parents are one of the most important factors in a child’s musical experience, and as teachers, we should support and celebrate their importance.

In an article published in the *American String Teacher* journal, private violin teacher Margaret Keith (2004) shares her perspectives on the loss of student motivation and the role of parents in this process. She begins her discussion by recognizing the difficulties of the violin due to added complexities of posture. While the students do not mind the challenge, Keith cites parents who often become

frustrated or impatient. She has learned the necessity of explaining the learning process to parents prior to their child’s study to provide patience, acceptance, and ultimately motivation to work through struggles. By interviewing both parents before beginning lessons, discussing at length about what to expect from their child’s study, emphasizing daily practice, giving their child undivided attention while practising, and requiring one year minimum commitment to lessons, Keith establishes each student’s path to success before they begin. She admits to parents that while quitting may be appealing at times, all children must be encouraged to study math, eat the right foods, or brush their teeth for a larger purpose. Keith asserts that by taking time to educate parents before students begin private lessons, student dropouts are mitigated. On the contrary, by failing to prepare parents, we prepare the child to fail.

It is becoming clear that parents are one of the most important factors in a child’s musical experience, and as teachers, we should support and celebrate their importance. Here are three ways that we can honour parents and encourage their motivation. First, when a student is away, offer the lesson time to the parent. Either

over the phone, via Skype, or in person; take that lesson time to educate and congratulate parents on their diligence, persistence and fortitude. By taking the time to recognize their efforts, they will be more likely to continue providing a supportive learning environment for their child. (Often, it is during these conversations that many parents bring up surprisingly interesting questions about motivational strategies, the history of your instrument, or the difference between cut and common time, questions that often get neglected during a weekly lesson.) Next, host a recital in the parent's honour. Get students to find out what their parent's favourite song is — pop, jazz, classical, or folk—and develop a version appropriate for the student's level. Imagine the feeling from a parent's perspective as their child stands on stage, dedicating this song to their mom or dad, and their favourite melody flows down from the student's tiny fingers. Finally, host a parent appreciation afternoon. Students seem to get all the glory of festivals and recitals, but parents contribute an equal amount of work. Invite a guest speaker such as a psychologist, sports motivational speaker, or other music teacher to educate parents on their importance in the learning process, applaud them for their hard work, and inflate their motivation. Reminding parents how much they are valued will make them value your teaching in return, and will help them maintain their own motivation and pass on that excitement to their child.

Karen King is a third generation piano teacher completing research focused on motivation in piano students. Winner for excellence in pedagogical training in the 2012 CFMTA Memorial Pedagogy Award, she was inspired to continue her studies and is currently working towards an M.A. in piano pedagogy with the University of Ottawa. You can follow her continuous thoughts on piano pedagogy, studio business practices, music teaching in general at www.thecanadianpianoteacher.com.



Music for Young Children®

The High Note in Music Learning

We provide the best quality music education to young children by blending the pleasure and the joy of music making with sound instruction. Music for Young Children® is the only child-centered music-learning system that integrates keyboard, creative movement, rhythm, singing, ear training, sight reading, music theory and composition.

Inquire about teaching opportunities today!

Judy Causgrove 1.866.244.9008
j.causgrove@myc.com

myc.com

MAESTRO'S MUSIC TRICKS

Your companion on the road to music mastery.



Practise more efficiently, save time, and have fun doing it!

Product Release: May/June 2014

25 Practise Drills
 ♪ Reference Guide & Cards ♪ Bonus
 Online Materials

Designed by:
 Rhona-Mae Arca
 B. A., B.Mgt., A.R.C.T., R.M.T.
 2013 Tech Teacher of the Year

<http://musespeak.com/mmt>
<http://facebook.com/mmt>

Did You Know

Every ARMTA member is also a CFMTA member?

- **CFMTA** members are eligible for group rates on home & auto insurance with The Personal, and health insurance with Morneau Shepell.
- **CFMTA** offers opportunities including composer competitions, essay competitions, piano competitions. Your students can win cash prizes from these competitions.
- **CFMTA** supports research in music pedagogy. You, too, may post your research or review.
- **CFMTA** commissions music for Canada Music Week—2015 is piano solos for grade 3-4 and grade 5-6.
- **CFMTA** has opened an online forum—it's so new it needs someone to strike up a conversation.
- **CFMTA** membership allows you to register for MTNA at MTNA member rate.

Find out more at www.CFMTA.org

To learn more about CFMTA's Call for Compositions 2015, visit <http://www.cfmta.org/html/callen.html>

To learn more about the essay competition, visit <http://www.cfmta.org/html/essayen.html>

CFMTA national conference

Pathways to Collaboration—Performance – Wellness.

Dates: July 8-11, 2015

Sheraton Vancouver Airport Hotel (room rate \$149)

\$349 Early bird registration deadline January 31, 2015

Many sessions on health & wellness, and how new technologies change teaching.

Clinicians include: Rhona Mae Arca (Calgary), Sharon Carne (Calgary), Dr. Dale Wheeler (Red Deer), Dr. Norman King & Jane Ripley (Windsor), Alan Fraser, Ann Enns (UBC, retired), Gail Berenson (Ohio), Jodi Compeau (Kingston), Dr. Mark Laughlin (Georgia)

By *Beth Olver*, CFMTA 2nd delegate



Flex eExams

Music without borders

CONSERVATORY CANADA™ has pushed the frontiers of innovation and is employing a unique technology that enables us to reach out to music students all over Canada. Not only can we connect with students across the country, but we are willing to connect with them ANYWHERE, ANYTIME!

At CONSERVATORY CANADA™ we will enable students to take exams whenever they are ready with our new Flex eExams. To find out more, contact our office.



Music for Life

1-800-461-5367 | www.conservatorycanada.ca

mail@conservatorycanada.ca

Canada's best price and
selection for all your
print music needs.



Long & McQuade
MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS 

www.long-mcquade.com

CALGARY - 225 - 58th Avenue SE, 403.244.5555 **CALGARY EAST** - 3404 - 5th Avenue NE, 403.245.3725

CALGARY NORTH - 10 Royal Vista Drive NW, 587.794.3195 **EDMONTON** - 10204 - 107th Avenue, 780.423.4448

EDMONTON SOUTH - 9219 - 28th Avenue NW, 780.432.0102 **EDMONTON DOWNTOWN** - 10251 - 109th Street, 780.425.1400

EDMONTON WHYTE - 10832 Whyte Avenue, 780.439.0007 **GRANDE PRAIRIE** - 9826 - 100th Avenue, 780.532.8160

LETHBRIDGE - 323 - 8th Street South, 403.380.2130

CASSA—A Magical Artistic Journey *By Erika Gundesen*

I became involved with CASSA only a few years after its inception, when I was just seven years old. I first attended the Exploring the Arts Camp (then the Music, Drama, Movement and Art Camp) with my sisters, quite eager—even at a young age—to be a part of something school-like outside of the school year. A few years later, at age ten, I went to my first Piano Camp; a week-long experience which I enjoyed so immensely that I returned every possible summer after that, until my graduation from high school. Through the six years of my university education—four years at UBC in Vancouver, two at the Guildhall School in London, England—I still returned to Calgary nearly every summer to take part in CASSA, this time as an assistant.

It is hard to describe that initial youthful exuberance I felt at Piano Camp—my parents never had to ask whether I wanted to return, it was basically a given—but there is a definitive magic in connecting for the first time with one’s *raison-d’être*, and I truly believe that is what the camp gave to me in my formative years.

Even on the surface, of course, the CASSA camps have many valuable assets—the fantastic quality of the teaching, the originality of the programs—but what they offer young people beyond all that is an amazing chance to explore their artistic and emotional selves while maintaining an atmosphere of childish fun and discovery. I had never before experienced the sort of environment where everyone was passionate about piano and about music in general, and there was no awkwardness or embarrassment in the expression of that passion. At school I was always the “nerd” who stayed in the band room during free period to practise Beethoven; at CASSA, I was in the in-crowd. *Everyone* was the in-crowd. The outside world may not have thought avidly piano-focused teenagers were “cool,” but CASSA *validated* our enthusiasm.

This is all to say that CASSA not only provides an educational experience, but also a supportive and inspirational network of friends and teachers who share a love for the arts. No matter who you are, they will keenly give input and swap stories about everything from performance anxiety to useful fingerings to the most effective way to bow to the

audience. The number of people I’ve managed to connect with through this network over the years has benefitted me both in terms of my musical career and my own emotional well-being. It never hurts to see a friendly face in the audience when I’m performing back in Calgary, as I did this year, when I was honoured to be the featured solo artist in the annual CASSA recital.

An important aspect of the CASSA experience is the non-competitive nature of the programs—something that can be hard to come by, with so much of the musical world focused on high-profile competitions, festivals and examinations. From day one of each camp, it is clearly established that everyone there has an important part in the final performance (the old saying “there are no small roles” is particularly important), and everyone is to perform to the best of their ability. In short, every person there, regardless of their age or experience, is treated like an *artist*. Whether they are attempting their first piano recital, performing as Woodland Creature #1, singing a big solo, or playing a top-level Beethoven sonata, every CASSA student goes on stage feeling they have accomplished something truly wonderful. This organization represents true dedication to the arts as well as the people in them, and I can’t thank them enough for their support and inspiration over the years. Here’s to another magical year, and may there be many more!

Erika Gundesen completed her Master in Performance in 2014 at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London, UK. She is a graduate of the University of British Columbia. Her initial piano studies began in Calgary. She holds an ARCT in Piano Performance with First Class Honours and five Royal Conservatory of Music Silver Medals for the highest exam marks in the province of Alberta. She has competed as a finalist in the Canadian Music Competition and the Knigge International Piano Competition. Erika has also worked as a collaborative pianist in art song and musical theatre productions. She is currently the music director of the Jazzhands Optional student musical theatre collective in London.

2015 CASSA Program

Musical Theatre Showtime – July 7, 8, 9, 13, 14 & 15, 2015

Exploring the Arts Camp / PlayWriting Camp – July 20 - 24, 2015

Piano Camp – July 27 - 31, 2015

Piano Pedagogy Workshop – July 30, 2015 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Adult Piano Camp – July 27 - 29, 2015

Jazz Keyboard Workshop – July 20 - 23, 2015

CASS Recital – July 26, 2015 7:00 pm

Camp Location:

St. Vladimir's Cultural Centre
404 Meredith Road NE
Calgary, Alberta

Musical Theatre Showtime Location:

Lord Beaverbrook High School
9019 Fairmount Drive SE
Calgary, AB

Contact: James Dobie 403-370-2719

**CAASA still needs volunteers for the casino February 16 and 17 (especially the count room).
Please contact Dorothea Johanson: dgjohanson@nucleus.com**



A JKW student performing his own composition



Nathene Arthur performing in the Jazz Keyboard Workshop Concert, July 2014



CASS Jazz Keyboard Workshop instructors, Jennifer Oikawa and Derek Stoll



WE ARE MUSIC

Yamaha has been a strong supporter of Alberta Registered Music Teachers' Association and would like to thank all teachers for their dedication to the arts and music education. Yamaha continues to support music festivals, music education and art foundations and is proud to have Yamaha pianos featured in international piano competitions, played by top artists and found in top institutions and concert halls around the world.



Yamaha Pianos,
first choice of:



The Royal Conservatory™
The finest instrument is the mind.

  FB: Yamaha Piano Canada
Twitter: @YamahaCanMusic

Y A M A H A P L A T I N U M P I A N O D E A L E R



105 58 Ave. SE Calgary
(403) 265-6300

Peter Jancewicz — From Stillness to Creativity

By Lisa Ng

Those of us who have listened to Peter Jancewicz's solo album, *Music for Piano*, launched in November, 2013, would agree that it is loaded with lyrical and emotionally captivating melodies imprinted with impressionistic style. Lesser known is that only about 15 years ago, the composer who created this beautiful music had never thought of becoming a composer.

In the 1990s, Jancewicz suffered from repetitive injury and was forced to stop playing his beloved instrument—piano. “I literally practised for 90 seconds a day, sometimes the pain would come back, and I got to decide whether to stay as pianist,” Jancewicz recalls, “but I don't know if I would have started composing if I have not had hurt my hand.” No pain, no gain. Jancewicz's injury made him step back and reflect on every aspect of music: rhythm, phrasing and sound, which helped kick off the composition process.

“The way I view the creative process is that you live, you have experiences, you see painting, you talk to people, but to be creative, you need certain amount of distance from those experiences and a certain amount of quietness in order to create.”

If injury was a critical factor that triggered the creative process, poetry as well as personal life experience and deeply felt emotions played an important role in sparking off creativity inside the musician. Indeed, some of the pieces in Jancewicz's CD witnessed the deepest sentiments in Jancewicz's personal life—*To Quiet Lands*, was dedicated to his mother who suffered from Alzheimer's disease; *In Memoriam* was written after his parents' death; and *Beyond darkness, there lies light*, was a commemoration of his brother's death.



Dr. Peter Jancewicz

It is vital how feelings in poetry and powerful sentiments in life are translated into music. To Jancewicz, silence and quietness are two principle mediums of his creativity, “The way I view the creative process is that you live, you have experiences, you see painting, you talk to people, but to be creative, you need certain amount of distance from those experiences and a certain amount of quietness in order to create.”

This is also Jancewicz's ingredient for performance. As teacher at Mount Royal University Conservatory in Calgary, he constantly reminds his students to calm down and pay attention in order to learn from music: “Creative artists need that quietness. I think students need to understand that too. When you practise like that, that's a form of meditation. You get into this quiet place where you are aware of the music, movement and emotions, but nothing else intrudes.”

Having no “formal” compositional training in his life, Jancewicz says his work was basically self-taught. He compares the process of composing to a

journey in a mountain forest: “You are finding your way through this forest, you are making decisions between things that work or things that work better, that’s the exciting part. Sometimes, you are going up a dangerous cliff, finding your way. It is detached calm and a meditative space. You are really challenged right to your limit. The favorite moment is the process of breaking through.”

A versatile composer, Jancewicz also wrote film and commercial music. He has composed sound tracks for *The Godchild*, produced and directed by Philip Spink, as well as music for a video marking the 25th Anniversary of Calgary’s Epcor Centre for the Performing Arts. Produced using Cubase and MIDI files, these works were Jancewicz’s experimentation with technologies, “It was not easy, but I was happy with it,” the composer says.

However, when looking at the role of arts as a form of communication in our society, Jancewicz thinks that technologies can never replace real music: “Arts are creating and working with a real instrument, an instrument that works in real physical time, like the piano, violin or voice, as opposed to an electronic instrument. Nowadays, when communication technologies claim to connect people trivially, it is far more important for the kids to play music together, to play and compose rather than to communicate through a laptop.”

When asked what advice he can offer for aspiring young composers, Jancewicz says: “Go write your music, go do it! I felt my way through this process. You can’t tell another person how to do it. My advice is, don’t sit there. You have to find your own ways to things that are meaningful to you.

For more information about the Peter Jancewicz’s recording, *Music for Piano*, please visit <http://peterjancewicz.com/>

Lisa Ng holds a PhD in French Literature, a LRSM and A. Music in Piano Performance. She has been authoring for McGraw-Hill and is involved in editorial work for Excavatio, an international bilingual journal. She is the editor of both Impromptu and Tempo.

Workshop by Christine Donkin

BY Madeline Hubbard

In Celebration of Canada Music Week, ARMTA Calgary Branch was very pleased to sponsor a workshop in association with Calgary Contemporary Showcase. Christine Donkin gave a presentation entitled, Opening the Door to Creativity: Composition Activities for Music Students. Christine Donkin is a well-known Canadian Composer whose work spans many levels of student performance on many instruments. It was open to all members of the teaching community, and was geared toward those who wanted to encourage student composition in their studios. The workshop was informative and well-enjoyed by those in attendance.



What is Junk?

I frequently send out emails to ARMTA members, myself included, to keep our members informed. Imagine my surprise, when I found one of my notices, in my “junk box”. I was hurt and offended that some authority in cyberspace labeled it as junk. Then I came to the dreadful realization that some of you may have my notices rotting in your junk box. Please check out your junk mail!

If you do not wish to receive my notices, you are welcome to unsubscribe, but if not, I hope that they are of benefit to you. If you have any comments, please send them to me at barbrob@telus.net.

Barbara Robertson

Recitals and Festivals

Music Marathon

Bringing music in magnitude! The Alberta Registered Music Teacher's Association Calgary Branch presents **Music Marathon**—Eight hours of continuous music at Stephen Avenue mall on Saturday, May 23, 2015 from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Upwards of 150 students will rotate without missing a beat playing various styles of music and instruments.

Teachers can apply for any length of time slot to fill with their students. For example, a studio will provide music for 40 minutes and the teacher will organize students to fill this time. Once all entries have been collected, teachers will be assigned a time slot to represent their studio. Teachers will be responsible for bringing music and playing themselves should a student cancel at the last minute.

Please send requests to play with time required to karenashleyking@gmail.com by **April 1, 2015**.

Like a sports marathon, students will be required to collect “pledges” for their time participating in the Music Marathon. There is no “minimum donation” required to participate, but \$10 per student is suggested. Donations over \$25 will receive a charitable donation receipt if the name, address, and telephone number are provided. This fundraising effort will go towards future student scholarships, recitals, workshops, and master classes. All students who participate will be entered into a draw for a \$50 scholarship prize, and the student who raises the most money will receive two free tickets to the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra.

The Downtown Calgary Association has graciously allowed us free use of a brand new, open-air piano being installed on Stephen Avenue mall (exact location TBA) and will be promoting this event through their networks and on their social media pages. As part of the mandate to grow our organization's membership and expose ARMTA to the general public, this event is free and open to anyone who loves music. Please join us, bring a lawn chair, and enjoy an afternoon of beautiful music in downtown Calgary.



ALBERTA REGISTERED MUSIC TEACHER'S ASSOCIATION CALGARY BRANCH PRESENTS

MUSIC MARATHON

BRINGING MUSIC IN MAGNITUDE! PLEASE SUPPORT ME IN MY CONTRIBUTION TO 8 HOURS OF CONTINUOUS MUSIC AT STEPHEN AVENUE MALL ON **SATURDAY, MAY 23, 2015**. UPWARDS OF 150 STUDENTS WILL ROTATE WITHOUT MISSING A BEAT PLAYING VARIOUS STYLES OF MUSIC AND INSTRUMENTS. COME AND JOIN A DAY OF BEAUTIFUL MUSIC, CELEBRATING AND FUNDRAISING FOR ARMTA CALGARY.

	<u>NAME</u>	<u>PLEDGE</u>	<u>PHONE</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>CHARITABLE RECEIPT?</u>	
1.	_____	_____	_____	_____	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>

NOTES: CHARITABLE DONATION RECEIPTS WILL BE ISSUED FOR AMOUNTS OVER \$25. CHEQUES CAN BE MADE OUT TO ARMTA CALGARY. NO MINIMUM DONATION AMOUNT IS REQUIRED TO BE INCLUDED IN THIS EVENT! THE STUDENT WITH THE HIGHEST DONATION AMOUNT WILL BE AWARDED TICKETS TO THE CALGARY PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA. ALL PARTICIPATING STUDENTS WILL BE ENTERED INTO A DRAW FOR A \$50 SCHOLARSHIP PRIZE.



CANADIAN FEDERATION OF MUSIC TEACHERS' ASSOCIATIONS
 FÉDÉRATION CANADIENNE DES PROFESSEURS DE MUSIQUE
 Providing leadership in music education across Canada
 Fournissant une direction forte en éducation musicale à travers le Canada



Recitals and Festivals

STUDENT'S RECITAL OPPORTUNITIES

Student recitals

All students of Registered Music Teachers, any level, any instrument, are invited to a fun and professional community performance opportunity. Application forms can be found in the Member's Area under the documents tab of ARMTA site.

Applications will be accepted on a first-come-first-served basis and successful students will be contacted at least one week prior to recital.

A \$10 donation is requested from each family participating in an ARMTA recital.



South Recitals

Location: Steinway Piano Gallery, 76 Heritage Gate SE (across from Costco).

Dates: Sunday, January 18, 2015 at 2:30 p.m. and May 24, 2015 at 2:30 p.m.

Contact: South Student Recital Application Form should be sent to Maury Michie premieremusic1@gmail.com

North Recitals

Location: St David's United Church, 3303 Capitol Hill Crescent NW.

Dates: Saturdays, Feb 21, 2015 and May 9, 2015 at 2:00 p.m.

Contact: North Student Recital Application Form should be sent to Ron Proctor ronaldproctor@shaw.ca

Joint Recital

Organized by 2 or more teachers for their own students

Branch provides up to \$75 towards costs, see application form for details.

Apply to Katrina Thompson Fost ktompson11@hotmail.com

Application forms and additional information & deadlines for all recitals are available in the members area of our website www.ARM-TA-Calgary.com

Recitals and Festivals



Building Audience for the 2015 Festival

Every year the Festival brings thousands of singers, musicians and spoken word artists together in a celebration of amateur performing arts in our community.

Music teachers play a vital role in the life of the Festival, introducing students to the joys of live performance, nurturing their talents and challenging them to reach their full potential.

Audience is key for this event, so we hope to see as many friends, family, teachers and fans as possible at Festival, March 2-15 and April 20-30 at the Southern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium and SAIT Polytechnic. It just wouldn't be the same without you!

Following the Festival, join us in honoring the top amateur performers at our annual concert series:

Musical Theatre Showcase: Friday, May 1 Orpheus Theatre

Stars of the Festival: Saturday, May 2 (Location TBA)

Speech Performance Showcase: Friday, May 8 Orpheus Theatre

For more information, call 403-283-6009
or visit cpafestival.ca

See you at the Festival!

Outstanding Students Recital 2015

This year's Outstanding Students Recital is scheduled for Saturday, February 7 at 4.30pm at Steinway Piano Gallery.

Contact: Natalie Brodsky, OSR coordinator

Email: bleocam@telus.net

Calgary Branch Executive Committee 2014 - 2015

Executive Officers:			
President	Barb Robertson	403.241.1002	barbrob@telus.net
Past President	Beth Olver	403.254.6008	soundsofmusic@shaw.ca
1st Vice-President	Nathene Arthur	403.851.9912	rnarthur@telus.net
2nd Vice-President	Karen King	587.284.1217	karenashleyking@gmail.com
Secretary	LaDona Ahenda	403.815.0725	aahenda@shaw.ca
Treasurer	Sharon Carne	403.239.3784	scarne@telus.net
Internal Communication: (Treasurer)			
Branch Administrator	Tanya Foster/Lindsay Inkster	403.473.8249	tanyargates@hotmail.com
Web maintenance	Tanya Foster/Lindsay Inkster	403.281.8410	lindsay@pianocatmusic.ca
E-mail & Telephone	Barb Robertson	403.241.1002	barbrob@telus.net
Newsletter Editor	Lisa Ng	403.256.8714	impromptu.editor@gmail.com
Newsletter Distribution	Josee Robitaille	403.617.4784	josee@essentialtalk.com
Newsletter Advertising	Amy Essenburg	403.888.7122	amy.essenburg@musicalmiles.ca
External Communication: (2nd VP)			
Publicity	Eric Nyland	403.922.8088	eric.nyland@gmail.com
New Member Convener	Melodie Archer	403.251.3805	mel.lynn.archer@gmail.com
Archives	Karen Gloge	403.254.4842	rgloge@shaw.ca
Education, Students, Social: (1st VP)			
Workshops/Events	Madeline Hubbard	587.223.6583	hubbard.madeline@gmail.com
Coffee and Food	Rita Thurn	403.202.0429	rita_thurn@telus.net
Joint Recital	Katrina Thompson Fost	403.454.8859	kthompson11@hotmail.com
Honours Recital	Marilyn Newbury	403.619.3093	marnewbury88@gmail.com
Outstanding Student Recital	Natalie Brodsky	403.720.4785	bleocam@telus.net
Student Recitals	Ron Proctor	403.922.9917	ronaldproctor@shaw.ca
Student Recitals	Maury Michie	403.999.7454	premieremusic1@gmail.com
Delegates & Representatives (President)			
PPG (Piano Pedagogy Group)	Alicia Romero	403.208.1739	info@calgarypianopedagogy-group.ca
	Gillian Siddall, President		info@calgarypianopedagogy-group.ca
Liaison Convener	Dorothea Johanson	403.255.7906	dgjohanson@nucleus.com
ARMTA Board 1	Melodie Archer	403.251.3805	mel.lynn.archer@gmail.com
ARMTA Board 2	Barb Robertson	403.241.1002	barbrob@telus.net
CFMTA delegate	Beth Olver	403.254.6008	soundsofmusic@shaw.ca



STEINWAY PIANO GALLERY CALGARY



Back to Music

Select your dream piano now at
Steinway Piano Gallery Calgary
Steinway Designed Pianos and Roland Digital Pianos
with 25% off Piano Print Music*



STEINWAY & SONS

Boston
PIANO
DESIGNED BY STEINWAY & SONS*

Essex
PIANO
DESIGNED BY STEINWAY & SONS*

ROLAND PIANO
DIGITAL

www.steinwaycalgary.ca

#76 Heritage Gate SE, Calgary **(403) 460-7888**
Heritage Towne Centre (Next to Ashley Furniture, across from Costco)

*See in-store for details.

Music Makers

Locally Owned Since 1979

Books ✦ Accessories ✦ Rentals

Two Locations in NW Calgary

Crowfoot Crossing 403 284 3301

Country Hills Village 403 374 1011

**Proudly Serving Calgary's Music Education Community
Thank You ARMTA Members for your support**

Support Our Advertisers

Conservatory Canada 11

Music for Young Children 10

Long & McQuade 12

Steinway Piano Gallery 23

Musespeak 10

Yamaha Canada Music 15

Music Makers 24