



ARMTA PROVINCIAL BOARD MEETING

February 6, 2016
9:30 AM – 4:30 PM with break for lunch at 12:00 PM
Liberty Christian Assembly Church, 1B - 6315 Horn Street, Red Deer, AB

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER 9:30 AM

2. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Present: Beth Olver (President), Karen MacDonald (Past President, Lethbridge), Marlaine (Vice President), Naomi Parker (Edmonton), Melodie Archer (Calgary), Barbara Robertson (Calgary), Annette Bradley (Red Deer)

Digitally present via Skype/phone: Christina Kolos (9:30-11:05), Judith Ammann (11:00-12:05), Elizabeth Raycroft (12:45-1:30)

Regrets: Yoana Kyurkchieva (Edmonton), Joan Milton (Lethbridge), Dustin Anderson (Grande Prairie), Nancy Dick (Medicine Hat)

3. AGENDA APPROVAL

Motion: To approve the agenda as amended with addition of 5. m) Nominations for ARMTA Service Award 2016.

Moved: Karen, Barb **All in favour**

4. MINUTES OF OCTOBER 22, 2015 MEETING

Motion: To approve the minutes of the October 22, 2015 meeting.

Moved: Marlaine, Annette **All in favour**

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES 9:40 PM

a) Strategic thinking: How does ARMTA retain and develop relevance in the music community?
Discuss with reference to:

i. [RCM teacher certification](#) Beth

See additional report summarizing responses from other RMT organizations.

ii. the use and recognition of RMT designation Beth

iii. small branches and MALs Beth

iv. participation in Music Conference Alberta Beth

v. auxiliary memberships or CFMTA Affiliate 3 category Beth/Karen

No further action to be taken on this.

vi. publicity Beth

a. distribution of pencils (5000 purchased)

b. pamphlets & brochures

Brochures & pencils will be distributed at the MCA & APTA conferences.

c. Facebook & social media

d. specific ways to promote ARMTA to the public Barb

Beth & Vicki will put together a list of specific ideas & farm them out to various people to put into place.

vii. new member survey – “why did you join?” Vicki

viii. first year memberships for free – Lethbridge Vicki

Lethbridge and Calgary are both offering first year membership free. Discount codes are already set up for online payments.

ix. follow-up on October 2015 idea for website member pictures and “I belong to ARMTA because

x. surplus funds

DISCUSSION RELATED TO STRATEGIC THINKING:

The board looked at the new Facebook group and Christina said she would be glad of assistance to get things posted and conversations going. She is also going to be starting a Twitter page this week.

How do we use these tools to be sure we are doing things that are relevant to our teachers and their students?

Could we offer mediation services for teachers? If anything, we would not be the mediator but hire a professional mediator. Cost may become a factor.

We could offer videos of workshops/clinicians for only our members – if that was agreeable to the clinicians. We would want to coordinate with Edmonton & Calgary to see if their workshops could be videoed. It would be better to use workshops than masterclasses for copyright and permission issues. Calgary & Edmonton reps will take it to the branches that we’d like to do this, and we’ll coordinate with Sandra Joy with Continuing Education to try to make workshops that are already happening available online to all our members.

The Calgary Music Marathon was successful in getting ARMTA students out in the public.

We have 5000 pencils to give away, so give them away anywhere you can to anyone you can. Suggestions include to festivals, RCM exams, events, awards nights, MCA conference, and APTA conference.

MTNA has a model for sponsoring Collegiate Chapters that could be adopted to introduce college students to ARMTA. The handbook is available on the MTNA website. Students are responsible for developing their own program with an ARMTA member faculty. Ivea (Post-Secondary Promotion) has had difficulty getting workshops into the universities, but it is best done through an ARMTA member. MTNA offers a lot of scholarships, and we are working towards offering more scholarships for both our teachers and our students, but we need to remember that we can’t use the Recognition Fund to cover member fees or limit scholarships to only ARMTA members.

It would be worth spending some money on online advertising to keep ARMTA at the top of the Google & Kijiji search list where RCM has already made sure they are at the top of the list.

Would it be more effective to partner with APTA’s conference than MCA’s? Of our 437 members, 323 are registered in Piano, 40 are registered in Voice, 30 are registered in strings. We could also try to partner with online conferences already available. It would be worth talking to APTA to see if we could partner with them in 2017.

b) Updates to Mission Statement

Beth

Ted Isenor has agreed to look at the Mission Statement. Vicki will send him our current with some of our possible revisions.

c) Updated Code of Ethics

- i. Are branches addressing a practical way of “promoting formal tuition contracts between the teacher and the student.” Is this something the board needs to follow up? Create a package of sample forms (registration, CATC, ...)

It is provincial’s responsibility to put this together, not the branches. Calgary is planning on addressing these issues for their August workshop, so if they put together any forms or paperwork, they will pass what they get together on to provincial.

- ii. Have board reps presented revised code to branches?

Branch reps need to be sure that the revised Code of Ethics is passed on at the branch level.

d) Scholarships

- i. APTA Scholarship converted to Post-Secondary Pedagogy Scholarship

Elizabeth Raycroft

No further progress has been made on creating a pedagogy scholarship since Elizabeth thought that it was being rolled into the needs-based bursaries. A new scholarship/award will be established for post-secondary/advanced level students.

- ii. [Recognition fund needs-based](#) [Marlaine/Elizabeth/Judith](#)

Proposal: To offer three scholarships: \$1000 for post-secondary programs, \$1000 for music programs for high school/junior high students, and \$1000 for needs-based bursaries. They should either study with an ARMTA teacher or been an Alberta resident. There will need to be at least two people on the awards committee with a replacement available if one had a previous relationship with the applicant. Marlaine & Judith will work out details to present to the February board meeting.

Judith will clarify whether it is possible for an ARMTA member to also be a student and receive awards from the Recognition Fund.

Motion: To accept the proposed needs-based bursaries as presented.

Moved: Annette, Karen All in favour.

We need a committee of at least three to accept and review applications. Judith, Karen, and Marlaine have agreed to sit on that committee and Elizabeth Raycroft will be asked if she would like to also serve on the committee. It would be up to the board to determine how much of the Recognition Fund can be used in a given year to be reviewed each year depending on how much money is available in the Recognition Fund.

See also [6. f\) Recognition Fund budget.](#)

- e) Legend of Subjects/Updates to application form Vicki Martin

The application has been tweaked and approved by the Examining Board and is posted & available online.

The legend of subjects has had no progress yet. Vicki will pursue with Diane Ferguson (Examining Chair) getting that clarified.

- f) Membership renewal discount for proof of attending Professional Development experiences Dustin Anderson

Tabled to next meeting.

- g) Plan for voice/instrumental competition Elizabeth Raycroft

[See report submitted just before meeting.](#)

Naomi Williams is interested in helping with this.

Elizabeth suggests doing Piano & Voice in one competition, and then Piano & Strings in the next competition two years later. Voice entries would need to have a higher age limit.

The board is supportive of having a combined competition, so leave it to Elizabeth, Dale Wheeler (Piano Competition convenor), Naomi, and a couple of others who are interested in helping with a string competition to work together to plan a combined competition in spring of 2017.

Motion: To pursue a combined piano, strings, and voice competition to take place in spring 2017.

Moved: Elizabeth, Karen All in favour

- h) [Alberta Education music credits for private music study](#)

[See additional response from David Eggin, Minister of Education](#)

We're not very surprised that Alberta Education won't show marks for anything other than courses taken through Alberta Education and there is unfortunately little we can do about it. Naomi will follow up with the Department of Education on how those credits might be accepted by a post-secondary school such the U of A. Vicki will include an announcement in the next email update including the Dept. of Education response so that members are aware.

- i) [RCM certificate program: effects on RMT associations.](#)

[See additional reports sent from Beth's conversations with other RMT organizations.](#) They are anxious to bring it up at the CFMTA meeting in July. Overall, the desire is to cooperate with the RCM.

Barb & Melodie met with Derek Chiu, RCM's Alberta Regional Representative who said that he would pass on their concerns to the RCM, but wouldn't provide a copy of that report to Barb & Melodie.

- j) [New member survey](#) Vicki

Motion: To send out the new members survey to all new members within the last 5 years and offer a \$25 gift certificate offered as a draw to those who respond within 10 days.

Moved: Barb, Karen All in favour

- k) Morneau Shepell health insurance Beth

CFMTA website has information available on the website. Health insurance is bundled together with life insurance. Prices are only available by quote.

- l) Board Meeting at Conference – pros and cons

Music Conference Alberta is scheduled for October 20-22, 2016.

It was very busy for the executive to have both the board meeting and the AGM together at the conference, but it can be done. For the board, it is better to have it is all in one. If the September board meeting is moved to October, then the February meeting should also be moved back to late February or March.

We will plan to do our board meeting immediately before Music Conference Alberta on Thursday, October 20th starting at noon and continuing into the evening. We'll tentatively plan on having the AGM during Friday supper, depending on the MCA schedule.

- m) Nominations for ARMTA Service Award 2016

Nominations to consider: Teresa Allred, Carol Mellors

Vicki will ask a friend to get bios on Teresa & Carol to be able to know what they have done and the board will vote by email.

6. NEW BUSINESS

- a) Policies & Procedures changes Vicki/Beth
 - i. New Job Descriptions
 - a. Sponsorship Convenor
 - b. Community Service Award Convenor

Motion: To accept the new job descriptions as presented and titles for new convenorships (Social Media, Publicity) in the Policies & Procedures manual.

Moved: Karen, Marlaine All in favour

- b) Review of disclaimer on "Find a Teacher" Beth Olver

Beth will write a short disclaimer. Marlaine will run it by her husband who is a lawyer.

- c) AMEF Student Recognition awards Beth Olver
 - i. getting ARMTA members to submit applications

A notice went out with last email update.

- d) Alberta Pianofest Beth Olver
 - i. Jason Cutmore email Nov 16, Judith Ammann Nov 19

We will give a \$50 donation to get our name in their program and show some support.

- e) Budget Vicki Martin

Motion: To accept the 2016-2017 budget as amended.

Moved: Karen, Naomi All in favour

- f) Recognition Fund Budget Judith Ammann

Provincial awards from the ARMTA Recognition Fund to the branches revised to \$3,000 for 4 smaller branches at \$500 each and \$750 for Calgary & Edmonton. The expectation is that these awards will be presented with recognition to ARMTA Provincial.

ARMTA Needs-Based Bursary revised to \$5,000 maximum annually.

Add \$1000 for Post-secondary scholarships based on marks. Details to be worked out by the committee of Judith, Marlaine, Karen MacDonald, and possibly Elizabeth Raycroft.

Motion: To accept the Recognition Fund budget as revised above.

Moved: Marlaine, Naomi All in favour

The application form for the post-secondary scholarships will need to be clarified and revised by Judith & Marlaine. The application form for the needs-based bursaries are essentially ready to go. Vicki will get completed applications up on the ARMTA website and passed on to the branch webmasters.

7. REPORTS: sent out in advance; referred to; not read verbatim

- a) President's report Beth Olver
- b) Vice-President's report Marlaine Osgood
- c) Past-President's report Karen MacDonald
- d) CFMTA report Karen/Beth

- e) [Membership report](#) [Vicki Martin](#)

Vicki & Carolyn will add the ARMTA logo to the receipt and put together a membership card to include with emailed receipts. Membership cards will be mailed out for 2016-2017 with insurance certificates since almost a third of our members have already received their receipts by email, but will be emailed with emailed receipts for 2017-2018.

- f) [Financial report](#) [Vicki Martin](#)
- g) [Administrator's report](#) [Vicki Martin](#)

Motion: To accept the Executive Reports as presented.

Moved: Barb, Marlaime All in favour

8. CONVENORS: sent out in advance for reading

- a) Archives [Naomi Parker](#)
- b) [ARMTA Piano Competition](#) [Dale Wheeler](#)
- c) ARMTA Recognition Fund [Judith Ammann](#)
- d) [ARMTA Student Composer Competition](#) [Christine Rogers](#)
- e) [Canada Music Week](#) [Po Yeh](#)
- f) [Conference](#) [Beth Olver](#)

See additional report of [Notes from 2016 Feb 5 Meeting with AMEF](#).

Jane Coop is being pursued as our ARMTA headliner for 2016. We will pursue a joint conference with APTA for 2017.

- g) [Community Service Award](#) [Marlaime Osgood](#)

The top right gold version of the certificate is preferred.

- h) [Continuing Education](#) [Chrysanthema P.](#)
[/Sandra Joy](#)

Beth will reply with approval for future plans.

- i) [Examining Board](#) [Diane Ferguson](#)
- j) [Festival Association Liaison](#) [Dorothea Johanson](#)

Beth will contact to see where the \$200 for the strings award went.

- k) [Members at Large](#) [vacant](#)
- l) Policies and Procedures/Bylaws [vacant](#)

Rowena Hoeve has been suggested for this position.

- m) [Post-Secondary Promotion](#) [Ivea Mark](#)
- n) [Publicity](#) [vacant](#)

Rebecca Vizza is no longer interested Publicity

- o) [Social Media](#) [Christina Kolos](#)

Christina Kolos has agreed to be our Social Media Convenor. In our meeting, she was able to show us both the public ARMTA page and the private ARMTA group which were launched at the beginning of February. She intends to get a Twitter account started in the next week.

- p) [Sponsorship](#) [vacant](#)
- q) [Tempo](#) [Lisa Ng](#)
- r) [Webmaster](#) [Carolyn Garritano](#)
- s) [Young Artist Tour](#) [Debbie Gallant](#)

Motion: To accept the Convenor Reports as presented.

Moved: Melodie, Karen All in favour

9. BRANCH REPORTS: representatives will summarize their submitted reports

- a) [Calgary](#) [Barbara Robertson, Melodie Archer](#)
- b) [Edmonton](#) [Naomi Parker, Yoana Kyurkchieva](#)
- c) Grande Prairie Dustin Anderson
- d) [Lethbridge](#) [Joan Milton](#)
- e) [Medicine Hat](#) [Nancy Dick](#)
- f) [Red Deer](#) [Annette Bradley](#)

Motion: To accept the Branch Reports as presented.

Moved: Karen, Marlaine All in favour

10. CORRESPONDENCE

Beth has copies of brochures and thank-you cards from CASSA, some of which will go into Archives.

11. NEXT MEETING: Thursday, October 20th in Banff starting around noon and continuing into the evening.

12. ADJOURNMENT at 4:45 pm.

5. a) Business Arising from the Minutes

5. a) i. RCM teacher certification - Beth

At our ARMTA board meeting in the fall, concern about RCM's new certificate program was expressed.

- The RCM certificate program seems aimed at ensuring that RCM can recommend qualified teachers for their syllabi and teaching materials. This would be part of “branding” and quality control for RCM: Music for Young Children, Kindermusik, etc. also control who teaches their material.
- RMTs are qualified instructors of RCM programs.
- RMT associations do provide professional development and encourage members to keep learning.
- RMTs have long supported RCM syllabi with strong teaching and use of their publications.
- RCM no longer provides a link to CFMTA and RMT associations.
- RCM used to work with RMT associations when it came out with clinics. It now goes through Long & McQuade and other music stores.
- The certificate program does not appear to have real benefits for established RMTs. The on-line education seems to be aimed at instructors who would not qualify to be RMTs. Established RMTs generally would not need their referral service.

Personally, I see this as a failure of RMTs to be relevant in the eyes of the public.

- We have failed to communicate with the public that we are well-educated instructors, that we follow well-conceived syllabi.
- We have not developed and maintained a reputation with RCM or other conservatories that makes us the “go to” organization for professional development, or for quality instruction.
- We have failed to connect with many qualified instructors who either have not heard of RMTs or do not see value in membership.

The ARMTA board asked that I contact provincial/territorial presidents to get an impression of how other RMTs feel about the RCM certificate program, and to encourage CFMTA to develop a unified response to RCM.

I must add that in July when I moved to postpone the strategic planning and discussion around Slater's book *The End of Membership* to a later time, I had thought we would have a one to two hour meeting on just this subject electronically in the fall. I regret making that motion because now we have done nothing. I have come to believe that this issue with RCM is an example of how we are becoming irrelevant and if we wish to change that we need to figure it out now.

The ARMTA board meets again February 6. I would be pleased to hear what different parts of the country think of the RCM certificate program. I would also really like to be able to say that CFMTA (the RMTs across Canada) is acting, developing a plan to be relevant.

Thank you for your time and your comments.

Beth Olver
ARMTA president
403 254 6008
soundsofmusic@shaw.ca

Responses to 2016 January 7 letter to RMT provincial presidents

Replies from Ontario, Nova Scotia, BC, Manitoba, as well as Pat Frehlich

Consensus around:

- RCM is a business and must act in its own interest.
- RCM Teacher Certification is aimed at improving the quality of teaching. This is also a goal of RMTs
- RMT's are only about 13% of teachers who submit students. We are not significant.
- We will make sure that this is discussed at July 2016 CFMTA meeting.
- RMTs must find ways to be relevant to the music teaching community and increase membership.

Below are the actual email replies and my summaries from 2 phone conversations. – Beth Olver

2016 January 8 notes from phone conversation with Pat Frehlich, CFMTA Professional development chair.

- RCM examiner criteria as posted on rcmusic.ca/college-examiners/joining-college still states that Successful applicants should possess..... Membership in a professional teacher association such as CFMTA or MTNA.
- In US market MTNA has a national certification program. MTNA may also be concerned about RCM undermining that.
- 20,000 -25,000 teachers submit students for exams. About 13% are RMTs and about 60% would be eligible to be RMTs.

Email 2016 Jan 8

Yes, we have had members of ORMATA voice concerns about the new RCM Certification Program. I had a meeting with Jennifer Snow and Janet Lopinski about this at the CFMTA Conference in Vancouver last July. Janet also attended ORMATA's AGM last July in Mississauga to present more info about the program. In both instances, it was communicated by them that the new program is not an attempt to circumvent the role of Provincial RMT's, but instead create a culture of teachers who can add to their CV that they specialize in preparing students specifically for RCM exams (Their words, not mine.) Our ORMATA team has had numerous discussions about this and we're not sure what we could do. As a separate organization, they have the right to start up any initiative they wish and charge what they please. The only thing organizations like ours can do is let them know of the concerns of our members (which we already have done), organize some type of further action (which has not been pursued within our group) or continue to strengthen our own organization so it's still enticing for teachers to join.

I know you talked about this last point in your email and I can't agree enough with you. For ORMATA, we're always working hard to recruit new members and we are seeing new members join. We're presently within our yearlong membership drive. We're seeing improvements but not as much as we would like. That being said, we are all volunteers and doing our best with the finite time allotted to us.

Thanks for bringing this up. I look forward to our meeting in July where we can hopefully hear and discuss ideas and perspectives from other Provincial RMT's on this issue - one of the perks of CFMTA!

Kind regards,
Frank Horvat
Provincial President
416-503-4789
www.ormta.org

2016 January 14 notes from phone conversation with Lorna Wanzel (NSRMTA)

- We cannot do anything to change or influence decisions made by RCM. RMTs are only about 13% of all teachers submitting students for RCM exams

- Discussed how NSRMTA is growing its membership and is respected in the NS communities. Lorna recommends looking at the MTNA model for growing membership by developing “collegiate chapters” in post-secondary schools.

Email 2016 January 25

Thank you for your sharing your concerns with us. BCRMTA discussed this at our meeting in September at great length.

Our feeling was that despite how Registered Music Teachers would like the teaching system and hierarchy to proceed in Canada, the RCM has a business with a business plan that will certainly not be derailed by the complaints of the teachers at the upper levels. The “money grab” discussion aside, we do applaud the RCM in their desire to raise the standard of teaching across the country through education. We know Registered Music Teachers are a very small number of teachers compared to the total number teaching in Canada, however we do a greater number of exams per teacher and I'm sure that gives us leverage to open discussion with them.

BCRMTA feels that we need to find a way to work with the RCM - find a way to make it worthwhile for them to recognize our standing and for us to validate their program. A win-win is what we need to look for.

We believe this warrants discussion at the meeting in July.

Take care -
 Carol Schlosar
 1st delegate BCRMTA

Email 2016 Jan 25

Dear CFMTA delegates,

Here in our chilly Manitoba we too held a lengthy discussion in regards to Beth's letter at our January meeting. We believe that in essence everyone will send in the same sort of response. I'm adding here below a summary of that discussion to be used as you please at your next meeting. We'd appreciate hearing the results of your discussion once the provinces add to this email.

Best of wishes from Winterpeg on this endeavour!

Sincerely,
 Tiffany A. Wilson (RMT, AMM, B.Mus)
 President M.R.M.T.A.

A few thoughts from the MRMTA...

- A request to be sent to the RCM to reinstate their website link to CMFTA and RMT organizations would be mutually beneficial. If RCM were to reinstate the link, that one step, alone, could encourage RMTS to more open-heartedly continue to support RCM initiatives, especially in terms of their examination system. This support has long since been significant and may well be considered as being in direct proportion to the resources of the RCM which enable it to continue to function with the national and international esteem which it enjoys, as well as resources to facilitate new initiatives such as its new certification program.
- RMTS may be anticipated to welcome a more direct and actively inclusive collaboration with RCM in terms of working together on clinics and other aspects of professional development as there is a mutuality of both profound goals and practical skills.

- The breadth of view in which the new RCM certificate program may be seen includes the fact that any initiative which raises the profile of music education, and in particular, the development of specific measurable and measured skill progression in an instrument, along with the associated theoretical studies can only serve the "common good."
- The "common good" includes the interest of all professionals who provides an environment in which the students skill can be nurtured. Most importantly, the good is that of the students whose whole person grows with Canadian values of integrity, endeavour, excellence and service.
- This IS a common goal of RMTS and the RCM. There is no conflict of interest in its essence. However, a perceived conflict may threaten to become manifest in undertaking which may appear to be exclusive. A generous point of view may be that the RCM's initiative is simply praiseworthy in its essential value-based efforts, while certainly being an issue of specific interest to RMT Organizations, one one which invites response.

One suggestion would be to begin an inquiry with the RCM in terms of the two items first raised here, i.e. Website link and RMT contributions through examination participation and all the latter entails in terms of publications, etc. A dialogue may help to address, and hopefully allay, concerns as well as generating new and practicable ideas regarding both the visibility and viability of RMT organizations within the community.

Thanks,
Mary Hawn, Secretary MRMTA

5. d) i. Recognition Fund Needs-Based

ARMTA Provincial BURSARY A Needs Based Bursary from the ARMTA Recognition Fund For consideration at the ARMTA Provincial Board Meeting February 6, 2016

submitted by Judith Ammann and Marlaine Osgood with input from Beth Raycroft

Purpose: The ARMTA Bursary is offered to assist students, at any level, who wish to further or continue their music studies and struggle with the costs involved in this pursuit. The basic requirements are:

- commitment to music study
- financial need

Description of the Bursary:

- Multiple awards are available in any given year in amounts from \$200 to \$500 per year/per recipient.
- Applications are reviewed and bursaries are awarded on a monthly or bi-monthly basis.
- Each award is tenable for a maximum of two years, and subject to satisfactory progress
- Applicants for "Full Time Study" are encouraged to apply. This might include, but is not restricted to, students doing Post-Secondary music studies.

Applicants for the ARMTA Bursary should meet the following criteria:

- Be a permanent resident or citizens of Canada;
- Be a resident of Alberta for at least 6 months or be studying with a teacher in Alberta;
- Be pursuing music studies in any music genres – practical, theory, advanced studies, etc,
- Be experiencing financial need which limits their options in their music studies.
- Have some talent but especially show determination and interest in pursuing their music studies.

How the Bursary is awarded:

- A committee designated by the ARMTA Provincial Board will review applications each month. The decision of the committee is final.
- All cheques from the ARMTA Recognition Fund are made out in the name of the student/recipient. They cannot be made out to an ARMTA member, to the parents, to an institution of learning, or to the instructor of the student.

Applying for the ARMTA Bursary:

- Please fill out the following form on the following page (Page 2) and scan/email/mail it with:

1. Letter of recommendation from your music instructor
2. your own page of comments or explanation

to: Name of Committee Chair _____
Address: _____
City _____
Email _____ Phone _____

**ARMTA Provincial Bursary
Application Form**

Applicant's Name: _____

Full Name of parent/legal guardian if student is under 18 years of age: _____

Mailing address: _____

City: _____ Postal Code _____

Phone Number(s) _____

Email address _____

Student's Music Instructor(s):

Name: _____

Email: _____

Name: _____

Email: _____

Level of Music that the student is currently at or enrolled in: _____

1. Please tell the ARMTA Bursary Committee about yourself to assist them in their decision.
2. Please attach a letter of recommendation from your present music instructor(s).

The questions and comments below will assist you and your instructor in providing relevant information to the Bursary Committee:

How many years have you studied music?

What do you enjoy most about your music studies?

What goals do you have for your music journey?

What other financial support have you received from other institutions/organizations in the past 12 months?

Please describe the financial situation and reason for applying for this bursary.

Please elaborate on any additional information that might help the Bursary Committee.

5. g) Plan for voice/instrumental competition

Provincial Vocal/Instrument Competition Report

I was asked to present a recommendation to the Provincial board of ARMTA regarding the feasibility of having a Provincial Competition for voice and other instruments.

Three years ago, almost four, the CFMTA National Conference was held in Nova Scotia. The local NSRMTA decided to include a vocal competition as well as piano. The competition was national, with each provincial/territorial association asked to provide a competitor (some were simply chosen, some had to compete). Despite some glitches in the organization of the event, a very high standard of singing was heard and the winner, from Saskatchewan, was excellent. Unfortunately, I felt that the repertoire requirements were far too demanding and the awards too small for the amount of effort required.

Because of this CFMTA initiative, a provincial vocal competition was held. The response was unfortunately small and the three semi-finalists were all from Edmonton. The winner went on to represent Alberta and is at present in a Masters program in Victoria.

After having spent some time with Dale Wheeler picking his brain and having attended the piano competition, I believe that ARMTA could better serve its membership by having a "Competition Day" that includes other instruments. I believe it would open the membership to other teachers and encourage thinking as "music" teachers and not just "piano" teachers. By having the competitions on the same day, it would encourage larger audiences and higher profiles in the music community, while utilizing the volunteers more effectively and efficiently. A larger, more inclusive competition could be held, alternating between Edmonton, Red Deer and Calgary. Regardless of whether these would end up with a winner going on to a national competition, it would also provide local chapters with a variety of student performers to engage for local concerts.

I believe that with present funding sources, budget increases would be feasible. To make a competition of this sort appealing to any instrument, however, the Provincial Board must consider the size of the awards they are offering. At present, local festivals offer awards of \$250-750 for vocal scholarship classes in which only three songs are required. Provincial Festival winners earn \$250 or \$500 for the Provincial National class. The National Festival provides winners with a \$5,000 award. The Provincial Board must consider that for a Provincial Competition, with much more repertoire required, the awards will have to be more substantial and worthy of a student's efforts and abilities. The First Prize Awards should be equal across all instruments.

I don't believe that it would do any justice to the competitions themselves to be alternated by instrument; i.e. having piano one year and voice/instruments the other. It would be more efficient financially to have the competitions all at the same time, in the same place and thus being able to use some of the same supports, such as volunteers, printing, marketing, etc. It is my hope that CFMTA will encourage hosting organizations to include a vocal competition again at some point in the future, and maybe even other instruments. This would also make having the piano/voice competitions on alternating years inconvenient.

A proposed budget of a combined competition could look like this:

| | |
|---------------------|-------------|
| Judges | \$1,000 (2) |
| Postage | \$ 150 |
| Expenses for Judges | \$3,000 (2) |
| Prizes | \$3,000 |
| Venue | \$ 600* |
| | ===== |
| Expenses | \$7,750 |

| | |
|----------|-------|
| Income | \$500 |
| Audience | \$100 |
| | ==== |
| Income | \$600 |

This will always be a deficit project.

*At the moment the venue is donated or rented at a very low price. This would change if we included Edmonton and Calgary in the rotation of venues. It also includes the cost of piano tuning. By tying the judges with masterclasses at Red Deer College, the competition was able to keep expenses down. This kind of partnership could be formed with organizations in Edmonton and Calgary as well. It may also be an idea to hold the Competition Day in various cities, as the National Festival does, and create partnerships with a variety of Conservatories/Colleges/Universities.

Marketing and postage would be the same as all information would be sent out together.

I don't believe that the number of volunteers would have to change drastically. At the moment, volunteers at the competition cover refreshments, handing out programs, photographs, recording, lighting, and competitor wrangling.

Respectfully Submitted by Elizabeth Raycroft

5. h) Alberta Education music credits for private music study

David Eggen, Minister of Education

Lorna Rosen, Deputy Minister of Education

2016 January 7

It has come to our attention that Alberta Education no longer includes the actual marks for private music education when a student receives credit for Music 10, 20, 30. The student now is marked as a "pass" for music and granted 5 credits for each level. (page 62 Guide to Education)

We feel this is a disservice to good music students who would use their music marks to advantage when those marks are averaged in with their other grades. Music students who have achieved good results in private music studies have spent time in daily study for many years in order to reach that achievement level. They may not have done as well in other disciplines and would benefit greatly if their music marks could be used on their high school transcripts.

We note that other provinces (see Saskatchewan musiccredits2009.pdf) still recognize the music marks as well as awarding the credits for private music study.

What can we do to bring marks for private music study back to official transcripts in Alberta?

Beth Olver, president

Alberta Registered Music Teachers' Association

From: Education Minister [mailto:Education.Minister@gov.ab.ca]

Sent: February 1, 2016 5:52 PM

To: 'soundsofmusic@shaw.ca' <soundsofmusic@shaw.ca>

Subject: Reply from the Minister of Education (AR92233)

Dear Ms. Olver:

Thank you for your January 7, 2016 email regarding private music study credits and percentage marks.

As you are aware, a principal may grant music credits for private instrument or voice study. As of April 1, 2015, a revised Alberta Transcript of High School Achievement has been in place that includes a new section for other credits awarded for courses not taken in an Alberta accredited school. To support greater accuracy, consistency and comparability in reporting, only marks awarded by Alberta's provincially accredited schools are reported on the Alberta Transcript. I assure you ministry officials gave this decision significant consideration before it was made.

For any courses taken outside of a provincially accredited school, I encourage students to obtain a transcript from the school that awarded the mark to include in their portfolios.

I appreciate you taking the time to share your views.

Sincerely,

David Eggen
Minister

This communication is intended for the use of the recipient to which it is addressed, and may contain confidential, personal, and or privileged information. Please contact us immediately if you are not the intended recipient of this communication, and do not copy, distribute, or take action relying on it. Any communication received in error, or subsequent reply, should be deleted or destroyed.

5. j) New Member's Survey - Vicki

I've put together a survey to send out to new members within the past five years, of which there are 112. If we narrow it to the last three years, that drops to it to 90 members. They will be emailed an invitation to complete the survey through SurveyMonkey online. I'd like to offer a \$25 gift card to ONE survey respondent chosen at random as a small incentive.

As a new member to ARMTA, we want your opinions on how we are doing and how we can best meet your needs and expectations!

There are 14 questions to answer. At the end, you may give us your email address to enter you into a draw for a \$25 gift certificate or choose to remain anonymous.

1. Just to be sure we're actually asking new members this survey, how long have you been a member of ARMTA?
 - Less than a year
 - 1-2 years
 - 3-5 years
 - I used to be a member and have reinstated my membership
 - Umm... I've been around for more than 5 years, so I'm not really new. (In that case, you don't have to finish this survey, but you still can if you want to!)
2. You may be new to ARMTA, but are you new to teaching?
 - Yes. I've started teaching within the last 2 years.
 - Sort of. I've been teaching a little on the side, but am just now getting serious about it.
 - Not really. I've been teaching 2-5 years.
 - No. I've been teaching for over 5 years.
 - It's complicated:
3. Are you teaching primarily:

- In a private home studio
- In my own commercial music school
- In someone else's commercial music school
- In a public school
- In a college or university

4. I joined ARMTA because:

| | | | |
|--|------------|----------|------------|
| I wanted to be able to advertise myself as a Registered Music Teacher. | Not really | Somewhat | Definitely |
| I am looking for more students and wanted to be included in the Find a Teacher directory. | Not really | Somewhat | Definitely |
| I wanted the liability insurance. | Not really | Somewhat | Definitely |
| I wanted resources to make myself and my students better musicians such as masterclasses, workshops, and conferences. | Not really | Somewhat | Definitely |
| I wanted resources to make myself a better business owner. | Not really | Somewhat | Definitely |
| I wanted resources that keep me informed and connected to the greater musical community, such as Tempo and the Canadian Music Teacher. | Not really | Somewhat | Definitely |
| I want my students to be able to participate in competitions such as the Piano Competition and the Student Composer Competition. | Not really | Somewhat | Definitely |
| I want to get to know other music teachers. | Not really | Somewhat | Definitely |
| I was encouraged to by an ARMTA member. | Not really | Somewhat | Definitely |
| It just seemed like something I should do. | Not really | Somewhat | Definitely |
| Other: | | | |

5. Did you join a local branch as well?

- Yes – Calgary
- Yes – Edmonton
- Yes – Red Deer
- Yes – Lethbridge
- Yes – Medicine Hat
- Yes – Grande Prairie
- No, I'm a member at large

6. Since you joined, have you met with other ARMTA members in person?

- Yes

If yes, was that because:

- An ARMTA member made an effort to invite me out to local events
- I made an effort to connect with other ARMTA members/teachers
- I already knew other ARMTA members.
- Other:

- No

If no, was that because:

- I didn't feel like anyone made much of an effort to contact me
- Getting to know other ARMTA members or teachers isn't really high on my priority list
- I live too far away from a branch or other members to meet up very easily.
- Other:

7. As you think about how you would like to pursue professional development, can you rank the order in which you would prefer to do that?
- Reading books, magazines, or blogs
 - Watching videos or masterclasses on DVD or YouTube
 - Private lessons with a teacher
 - Workshops, masterclasses, and conferences
 - Additional coursework for more degrees/diplomas
 - Connecting with other teachers in online forums or groups
 - Connecting with other teachers in person
8. What are the areas that you think you could most use professional development? Check as many as apply.
- Mastering my instrument
 - Learning more about how to teach my instrument
 - Learning more about student psychology and education
 - Learning more about how to integrate technology into my studio
 - Learning more about the business side of running a studio, such as setting studio policies, creating a website, promotion, and bookkeeping
 - Other:
9. Can you remind us what the highest level of education you have already received is?
- Grade/level 9 or 10 certificate
 - Associate diploma
 - A Bachelor of Music degree
 - Any other kind of bachelor's degree
 - A Licentiate diploma
 - A master's degree
 - A doctoral degree
10. How important do you see the following roles that ARMTA plays or could play?
- | | | | |
|---|------------|----------|------------|
| Provide scholarships and awards for students | Not really | Somewhat | Definitely |
| Provide continuing education for teachers | Not really | Somewhat | Definitely |
| Provide practical business solutions for teachers like liability insurance, Children's Arts Tax Credit forms, and sample policies | Not really | Somewhat | Definitely |
| Provide opportunities for performance, masterclasses, and competitions for students | Not really | Somewhat | Definitely |
| Provide publicity and advertising to make parents or the general public aware of the availability of qualified music teachers | Not really | Somewhat | Definitely |
| Provide musical events in the community | Not really | Somewhat | Definitely |
| Provide an annual conference | Not really | Somewhat | Definitely |
| Provide advocacy for music education at the provincial or federal level | Not really | Somewhat | Definitely |
| Provide quality publications with informative articles | Not really | Somewhat | Definitely |
| Provide local events for teachers to get together | Not really | Somewhat | Definitely |
| Provide mentorship to new teachers | Not really | Somewhat | Definitely |
| Work together with other music organizations such as music festivals, summer schools, and conservatories | Not really | Somewhat | Definitely |
| Keep members informed about events and opportunities available | Not really | Somewhat | Definitely |
| Other: | | | |

11. Are there any ways that you think you could help ARMTA fulfill its roles?
- Yes, I've got all kinds of ideas about what I think ARMTA could or should be doing. For example:
 - I'd be willing to help out in some way if I can
 - I'd like to help, but I've got too much on my plate already
 - No, you're doing fine
12. Overall, would you say that ARMTA has met your expectations?
- Exceeds expectations
 - Meets expectations
 - Does not meet expectations
 - Not sure
13. How high do you think your expectations were in the first place?
- Unrealistically high
 - Reasonably high
 - Not particularly high or low
 - Pretty low
14. Is there anything else you would like to let us know or comments you would like to make?
- Please enter me in a draw for a \$25 gift card. My email is _____
I'd prefer a gift card for:
 - iTunes
 - Google Play
 - Chapters/Indigo
 - Amazon
 - Long & McQuade
 - St. John's Music
 - Tim Horton's
 - Starbucks
 - I'd rather remain anonymous.

6. New Business

6. a) Policies & Procedures Changes

Change Publicity: Website/Fundraising/Advertising and replace it with:

- Social media convenor - description under development
- Sponsorship convenor - (see job description below)
- Publicity - description under development

New Job Descriptions:

Sponsorship Convenor

Annual budgets/requests must be submitted to the Provincial Administrator by January 10.

Any changes in individual job descriptions should be noted and submitted to the Provincial Administrator.

The Sponsorship Convenor shall:

1. Identify sponsors to support ARMTA particularly the publication of TEMPO (professional magazine) and professional development (clinicians for example Music Conference Alberta)
2. Develop (revise) a sponsorship tier plan: dollar amounts matched to donor benefits.
3. Develop and maintain sponsor contacts from music stores, schools of music, insurance agents, and music publishers. Focus on those that have a provincial or national presence and avoid competing with the branches.
4. Contact sponsors in May and June (ahead of Tempo publication deadline) with sponsorship request for the year.
5. Work with the administrator to arrange payment of sponsorships.
6. Work with the Tempo editor to receive ad copy for Tempo.
7. Ensure that conditions of the sponsorship plan are met by ARMTA: e. g. logos in programs, links on websites.
8. Provide a report to the fall board meeting and to the Annual General Meeting.

Community Service Award Convenor

Annual budgets/requests must be submitted to the Provincial Administrator by January 10.

Any changes in individual job descriptions should be noted and submitted to the Provincial Administrator.

1. The Community Service Award Convenor is responsible for collecting application forms, preparing the certificates with the assistance of the ARMTA Provincial Administrator, and mailing the certificates. The Convenor is the contact person for this award.

ARMTA Provincial Administrator has seals and stamps for certificates. Administrator will print the certificates.

2. Guidelines:
 - a) The certificates include the number of hours. They are “awarded” to the student.
 - b) Hours per level -
 - i. Bronze: 10 hours
 - ii. Silver: 35 Hours (10 hours from Bronze plus 25)
 - iii. Gold: 60 Hours (35 hours from Silver plus 25 hours)
 - c) In the case of helping at concerts or playing at churches, hospitals, etc., students will include the time at the location but not travel time.
 - d) A letter of congratulations with number of hours is sent only if requested.
 - e) Deadline to receive forms is January 31.
 - f) Certificates are mailed to the teacher by March 1. This ensures students receive the certificates in time to submit them to post-secondary institutions.

6. f) Recognition Fund Budget

ARMTA Recognition Fund Scholarship Budget Committee Report to ARMTA Provincial Board Meeting Feb. 6, 2016

| 2015 Projects | Budget | Funds used |
|--|---------------------------|------------|
| Biennial Piano Competition \$4,000 every 2 years | \$2,000 annual | \$2,000 |
| Provincial Voice Competition | \$1,500 Annual | 0 |
| Provincial String Competition | \$1,500 Annual | 0 |
| CASSA (Calgary Arts Summer School | \$300 Annual | \$300 |
| Student Composer Competition Awards | \$400 Annual | \$305 |
| Provincial Awards to the Branches | \$1,800 to \$2,400 Annual | \$1,500 |

Direction from the October 2015 Provincial board minutes:

...“**scholarships** available to younger/high school students, so we could make it for ages 10 and up. We would want the scholarships to go to students of ARMTA members.”

...Needs-based scholarships would need to be given out frequently such as every three months. Ideally, it would be around \$250-300 each, and 10 awarded each year. If there were more applications than scholarships available, then criteria would need to be established on who would receive it.

Proposal: To offer three scholarships: \$1000 for post-secondary programs*, \$1000 for music programs for high school/junior high students*, and \$1000 for needs-based bursaries**. They should either study with an ARMTA teacher or been an Alberta resident. There will need to be at least two people on the awards committee with a replacement available if one had a previous relationship with the applicant.

Recommendations for 2016

| | | |
|---|------------------|--|
| Biennial Piano Competition | \$2,000 Annual | for 2017 Competition |
| Provincial Voice Competition | \$1,500 Annual | incentive for future |
| Provincial String Competition | \$1,500 Annual | incentive for future |
| CASSA (Calgary Arts Summer School) | \$300 Annual | unchanged |
| Student Composer Competition Awards | \$400 Annual | unchanged |
| Provincial Awards to the Branches | \$4,000* | 6 branches - \$500 each |
| ARMTA Bursary (<u>Needs based</u> – NEW) | \$2,000** | Maximum annually |
| Total | | \$11,700 with Voice and String Awards |
| Total | | \$8,700 without Voice and String Awards |

***\$4,000 – Provincial Awards to the Branches – increased by \$2,500 from 2015 payments**

\$1000 for post-secondary programs*, \$1000 for music programs for high school/junior high students*

These scholarships would be administered more easily by the branches as many branches already have criteria in place to acknowledge high marks or excellence. Branches also have access to information such as age/school grade/conservatory level. **For that reason, I recommend increasing the award money to the branches. Moreover, if a branch felt compelled to give a “scholarship” on the basis of “need”, that should also be their prerogative as this \$500 is theirs to “manage”.** If this idea is not in keeping with the Board’s intentions, a study should be made as to how the Provincial Board would like to administer these scholarships.

****\$2,000 – ARMTA Bursary** - Please see description/requirements under [Scholarships – Needs-Based](#)

7. REPORTS

7. a) President's report – Beth Olver

In October and November I contacted each of the “small” branches about continuing education and travelling workshops. I wanted to know whether and how they made use of provincial resources: over the past 2 – 3 years there has been no activity as a result of the provincial convener. I have communicated the board’s concerns to Continuing Education Convener Chrysanthema Pashunkova in an email on 2015 November 12. Sandra Joy Friesen expressed interest in Continuing Education and is now working with Chrysanthema and I am hoping that she will become the new convener in fall 2016. (email on 2015 November 23)

Other recommendations from the branches include:

- Grand Prairie in particular noted the importance of continuing ed opportunities
- Medicine Hat would be interested in being invited/ informed by Lethbridge & Calgary of professional development activities

- Having, guidelines, application process, deadlines may help
- Some branches would appreciate financial assistance for one event a year. They would like to know what clinicians, topics, are available but can do the publicity and local arrangements on their own.
- In smaller centers, the news media cover these events: great publicity for ARMTA and the clinician
- Suggestion that a clinician “tour” a workshop around the province

In November I spoke to representatives from Ft McMurray and Lloydminster re branch status. The members from those areas are now officially Members at Large and are welcome to form a branch again in the future.

In January I began approaching newer members about becoming provincial conveners. I am looking for Publicity –promoting ARMTA to the public, Facebook (media)- facilitator for a “chat” space, Conference convener, Sponsorship convener, Policy and Procedures/Bylaws convener, Members at Large convener, voice & string competition convener(s).

In my conversations with AMEF for MCA 2016, and knowing how few of our members actually take advantage of MCA for professional development, I am beginning to think it is time to review how we deliver professional development to our members. Refer to Conference Convener report.

I have been in contact with several provinces in regard to the new RCM certificates. I will have a summary for the meeting.

I sent a letter on January 7, 2016 re music credits and music marks to David Eggen, Minister of Education and Lorna Rosen, Deputy Minister of Education. If I have a replay it will be presented at the board meeting.

By the Feb Board meeting, I hope to have some updates for Policy and Procedures.

Thank you to all the board members for your continued support.

Beth Olver

7. b) Vice-President’s report – Marlaine Osgood

Following the October meeting, I assisted Beth, Karen and Vicki in composing a letter to the smaller branches regarding their branch status, as well as with the letter discussing the future of Continuing Education.

I was involved in the decision to renew our website hosting for two years instead of three.

As February is the budget meeting, I helped with the budget.

It was a short break between the October meeting and February meeting.

7. c) Past-President's report – Karen MacDonald

Greetings for the New Year, and the start of my last year on the Board. I would like to say how much I have enjoyed getting to know all of you and working with you to try and keep our aging and somewhat creaky ship on course. As times continue to change at what seems to be a frightening pace, it will take some skilled steering to keep in the stream – I wish you all the best!!

All the best for 2016!

Respectfully submitted,

Karen MacDonald, Past President

7. d) CFMTA report – Karen/Beth

In November CFMTA board members were presented with this motion in regard to CFMTA and MTNA in Baltimore 2017.

Motion: “That all 26 members of the CFMTA/FCAPM Executive Committee be sent to the MTNA Commemorative Conference 2017 in Baltimore, Maryland, covering the costs as outlined in the CFMTA/FCAPM Policies and Procedures Manual, with the agreement and support of all Provincial/Territorial Executives.

- For : 10
- Against : 10
- Abstain : 2
- No Response : 2
- After Deadline : 1

This motion does not pass

As of January 23, there has been no further word about who will represent CFMTA and MTNA in 2017, or under what conditions. No decisions have been made (or options presented) about when and where either the CFMTA board meeting or the piano competition will be in 2017.

In December, the CFMTA board finally received the financial reports from the finance committee which were not ready for the July 2015 meetings. The CFMTA/FCAPM financial statements through May 31st 2015 were accepted by electronic vote on December 18, as were the audited financial statements. Please talk to Beth if you would like a copy.

Beth Olver

7. e) Membership report – Vicki Martin

Since the last board meeting in October 2015:

New members: 2 (Full members unless otherwise noted)

- Marek Orszulik
- Alexandra Patzer

Reinstatements: 1

- Carmen Lazzarotto

Transfers: 1

- Linda Hookenson transferred out to BCRMTA.

Deaths:

- Angeline Hogarth (a retired member) passed away in November 2015.

Membership totals:

| | January 26, 2016 |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Full | 402 |
| Affiliate Grade 10 | 14 |
| Affiliate Grade 9 | 5 |
| Retired | 12 |
| Honorary Branch Members | 2 |

| | |
|-------------------------|------------|
| Provincial Life Members | 2 |
| TOTAL | 437 |

Branch membership totals:

| | January 26, 2016 |
|------------------|-----------------------------|
| Calgary | 184 |
| Edmonton | 137 |
| Lethbridge | 22 |
| Red Deer | 20 |
| Grande Prairie | 6 |
| Medicine Hat | 6 |
| Members at Large | 62 |
| TOTAL | 437 |

7. f) Financial report – Vicki Martin

ARMTA continues to remain in a sound position financially. While a few budget lines have gone slightly over budget, overall there has been less spending than planned and more money brought in by sponsorship than expected. There are still expenses to pay out before the end of the fiscal year on March 31, but I expect that we will once again end up with a net profit despite budgeting for a net loss.

There is just over \$18,000 set aside in GIC's, currently earning 1.5% per year. Among our "liabilities" is the membership and event fees that we are collecting for the branches which will be paid out monthly.

PROFIT & LOSS AS OF JANUARY 18, 2015

| | 2014-2015 | | 2015-2016 | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|---------------------------|
| | Apr '14 - Mar 15 | Budget | Apr '15 - Mar 16 | Budget | \$ Over Budget |
| Income | | | | | |
| Conference Income | 920.00 | 600.00 | 20.00 | 600.00 | - 580.00 |
| Donations | - | - | 500.00 | - | 500.00 |
| Donations of Gifts in Kind | | | 555.00 | - | |
| Total Donations | | | 1,055.00 | - | 1,055.00 |
| Interest Income | 149.35 | - | 68.27 | 235.00 | - 166.73 |
| Membership Income | 54,941.00 | 54,990.00 | 57,192.90 | 54,760.00 | 2,432.90 |
| Projects Income | | | | | |
| CFMTA Student Composer Comp. | 100.00 | 95.00 | 280.00 | 95.00 | 185.00 |
| Piano Competition Entries | 150.00 | - | - | - | - |
| Travelling Workshops Income | - | - | 95.00 | - | 95.00 |
| Voice Competition Entries | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total Projects Income | 250.00 | 95.00 | 375.00 | 95.00 | 280.00 |
| Service Fee Income | - | - | 85.00 | 1,050.00 | - 965.00 |
| Sponsorship Income | - | - | 2,449.00 | - | 2,449.00 |
| Tempo Advertising Income | 630.00 | 180.00 | 70.00 | 350.00 | - 280.00 |
| Total Income | 56,890.35 | 55,865.00 | 61,315.17 | 57,090.00 | 4,225.17 |
| Expense | | | | | |
| Administration | | | | | |
| Administrator Contract | 7,200.00 | 7,200.00 | 6,500.00 | 7,800.00 | - 1,300.00 |
| Administrator Expenses at AGM | - | - | 113.40 | - | 113.40 |
| Bank Fees | 9.88 | 100.00 | 153.16 | 1,250.00 | - 1,096.84 |

| | 2014-2015 | | 2015-2016 | | |
|--|---------------------|-----------------|---------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| | Apr '14 - Mar 15 | Budget | Apr '15 - Mar 16 | Budget | \$ Over Budget |
| Computer Expenses | 336.49 | 516.00 | 79.99 | 285.00 | - 205.01 |
| Mileage | 252.90 | 100.00 | 166.60 | 225.00 | - 58.40 |
| Office Supplies | 270.71 | 400.00 | 325.52 | 300.00 | 25.52 |
| Post Office Box | 313.95 | 314.00 | 326.55 | 314.00 | 12.55 |
| Postage | 6.62 | - | 12.66 | 75.00 | - 62.34 |
| Rent | 600.00 | 600.00 | 500.00 | 600.00 | - 100.00 |
| Telephone and Fax | 547.32 | 550.00 | 806.98 | 550.00 | 256.98 |
| Total Administration | 9,537.87 | 9,780.00 | 8,984.86 | 11,399.00 | - 2,414.14 |
| Advertising & Publicity | 225.00 | 200.00 | 2,519.76 | 325.00 | 2,194.76 |
| Board Expenses | | | | | |
| AGM Expenses | | | | | |
| Hotels | 1,364.90 | 1,125.00 | 687.92 | 1,950.00 | - 1,262.08 |
| Meals | 150.25 | 400.00 | 35.72 | 480.00 | - 444.28 |
| Travel | 1,405.47 | 2,050.00 | 447.30 | 1,589.50 | - 1,142.20 |
| Total AGM Expenses | 2,920.62 | 3,575.00 | 1,170.94 | 4,019.50 | - 2,848.56 |
| Archivist Travel & Expenses | - | - | - | - | - |
| Board Meetings Travel & Meals | | | | | |
| Catering | 673.34 | 700.00 | 458.30 | 800.00 | - 341.70 |
| Hotels | 125.40 | 500.00 | - | 125.00 | - 125.00 |
| Meals | 12.19 | 160.00 | - | 40.00 | - 40.00 |
| Travel | 1,300.16 | 2,610.00 | - | 470.40 | - 470.40 |
| Total Board Meetings Travel & Meals | 2,111.09 | 3,970.00 | 458.30 | 1,435.40 | - 977.10 |
| Meeting Room Rental | 255.00 | 210.00 | 183.75 | 300.00 | - 116.25 |
| Board Expenses - Other | - | - | 260.00 | - | - |
| Total Board Expenses | 5,286.71 | 7,755.00 | 2,072.99 | 5,754.90 | - 3,681.91 |
| Member services | | | | | |
| CFMTA Delegate Expenses | - | 100.00 | 443.00 | 490.00 | - 47.00 |
| CFMTA Dues | 10,842.00 | 10,825.00 | 10,894.00 | 10,920.00 | - 26.00 |
| Conference/AGM | | | | | |
| Catering | | | | | |
| Meal payments | - 750.00 | - | - 570.00 | - | - |
| Catering - Other | 759.00 | 300.00 | 606.94 | 100.00 | 506.94 |
| Total Catering | 9.00 | 300.00 | 36.94 | 100.00 | - 63.06 |
| Conference Registrations | - | - | 295.00 | 295.00 | - |
| Printing, Postage, and Supplies | 77.70 | 345.00 | 18.69 | 100.00 | - 81.31 |
| Sessions & Seminars | | | | | |
| Clinician Travel Expenses | - | - | 684.44 | 2,100.00 | - 1,415.56 |
| Session Honorariums | - | - | 1,100.00 | 1,000.00 | 100.00 |
| Sessions & Seminars - Other | 1,627.15 | 3,000.00 | 477.75 | - | - |
| Total Sessions & Seminars | 1,627.15 | 3,000.00 | 2,262.19 | 3,100.00 | - 837.81 |
| Total Conference/AGM | 1,713.85 | 3,645.00 | 2,612.82 | 3,595.00 | - 982.18 |
| Directory | | | | | |
| Directory Postage | 490.40 | 350.00 | 448.56 | 490.00 | - 41.44 |
| Directory Printing | 466.10 | 380.00 | 322.72 | 380.00 | - 57.28 |
| Total Directory | 956.50 | 730.00 | 771.28 | 870.00 | - 98.72 |
| Honoraria & Gifts | 384.86 | 400.00 | 158.93 | 731.00 | - 572.07 |
| Insurance | 12,360.00 | 11,370.00 | 11,310.00 | 12,600.00 | - 1,290.00 |
| Members Postage | 230.57 | 200.00 | 262.47 | 140.00 | 122.47 |
| Membership Renewals | | | | | |
| Membership Renewals Postage | 390.91 | 465.00 | 113.83 | 400.00 | - 286.17 |
| Membership Renewals Printing | - | - | 85.99 | - | 85.99 |
| Total Membership Renewals | 390.91 | 465.00 | 199.82 | 400.00 | - 200.18 |
| Tempo | | | | | |
| Editor Honorarium | 600.00 | 600.00 | 500.00 | 500.00 | - |
| Postage | 718.20 | 765.00 | 377.37 | 400.00 | - 22.63 |
| Printing | 533.40 | 850.00 | 553.35 | 400.00 | 153.35 |
| Total Tempo | 1,851.60 | 2,215.00 | 1,430.72 | 1,300.00 | 130.72 |

| | 2014-2015 | | 2015-2016 | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | Apr '14 - Mar 15 | Budget | Apr '15 - Mar 16 | Budget | \$ Over Budget |
| Website and Database | | | | | |
| Database Developer Fees | - | 2,000.00 | 1,753.00 | 2,000.00 | - 247.00 |
| Webmaster Contract | 750.00 | 750.00 | 750.00 | 750.00 | - |
| Website Hosting | 126.48 | 200.00 | 1,676.27 | 1,440.00 | 236.27 |
| Total Website and Database | 876.48 | 2,950.00 | 4,179.27 | 4,190.00 | - 10.73 |
| Total Member services | 29,606.77 | 32,900.00 | 32,262.31 | 35,236.00 | - 2,973.69 |
| President's Expenses | | | | | |
| CFMTA President Visit | 397.73 | 250.00 | - | - | - |
| Conference Registrations | - | - | - | 300.00 | - 300.00 |
| General | - | 100.00 | - | 100.00 | - 100.00 |
| President's Expenses at CFMTA | - | - | - | - | - |
| Visits to Branches | - | 400.00 | - | 400.00 | - 400.00 |
| Total President's Expenses | 397.73 | 750.00 | - | 800.00 | - 800.00 |
| Projects | | | | | |
| ARMTA Recognition Fund Donation | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | - |
| ARMTA/CFMTA Piano Competition | 120.91 | 1,500.00 | - | 1,500.00 | - 1,500.00 |
| ARMTA/CFMTA Voice Competition | - | 750.00 | - | 750.00 | - 750.00 |
| CFMTA Student Composer Comp. | 510.15 | 550.00 | 579.29 | 550.00 | 29.29 |
| Community Service Certificates | - | - | - | 100.00 | - 100.00 |
| Recognition Fund Postage | 78.72 | - | - | 100.00 | - 100.00 |
| Travelling Workshops | 416.40 | 1,500.00 | - | 1,500.00 | - 1,500.00 |
| Total Projects | 1,226.18 | 4,400.00 | 679.29 | 4,600.00 | - 3,920.71 |
| Scholarships | 1,300.00 | 1,300.00 | 865.00 | 1,300.00 | - 435.00 |
| Uncategorized Expenses | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total Expense | 47,580.26 | 57,085.00 | 47,384.21 | 59,414.90 | -12,030.69 |
| Net Income | 9,310.09 | - 1,220.00 | 13,930.96 | - 2,324.90 | 16,255.86 |

BALANCE SHEET AS OF JANUARY 26, 2016

ASSETS

Current Assets

Chequing/Savings

| | |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| ATB Chequing | 38,041.29 |
| ATB Savings | 0.08 |
| GIC | 8,480.24 |
| GIC 2 | 10,043.15 |
| Stripe | 7,523.00 |
| Total Chequing/Savings | 64,087.76 |

Accounts Receivable

| | |
|----------------------------------|---------------|
| Accounts Receivable | 230.00 |
| Total Accounts Receivable | 230.00 |

Other Current Assets

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| Undeposited Funds | 610.00 |
| Total Other Current Assets | 610.00 |

Total Current Assets

64,927.76

Fixed Assets

Computer Equipment

| | |
|---------------------------------|---------------|
| Computer Equipment Cost | 662.44 |
| Computer Equipment Depreciation | -200.00 |
| Total Computer Equipment | 462.44 |

Total Fixed Assets

462.44

TOTAL ASSETS

65,390.20

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

| | |
|--|-------------------------|
| Liabilities | |
| Current Liabilities | |
| Other Current Liabilities | |
| Branch Fees Collected | |
| Calgary Branch | 1,495.00 |
| Edmonton Branch | 1,043.00 |
| Lethbridge Branch | 35.00 |
| Total Branch Fees Collected | <u>2,573.00</u> |
| Deferred Income | <u>5,690.00</u> |
| Total Other Current Liabilities | <u>8,263.00</u> |
| Total Current Liabilities | <u>8,263.00</u> |
| Total Liabilities | 8,263.00 |
| Equity | |
| Opening Bal Equity | 31,913.31 |
| Unrestricted Net Assets | 11,282.93 |
| Net Income | <u>13,930.96</u> |
| Total Equity | <u>57,127.20</u> |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY | <u>65,390.20</u> |

7. g) Administrator's report – Vicki Martin

Report of monthly hours worked:

| | 2014 | 2015 |
|----------------|--------------|--------------|
| January | 67.22 | 59.5 |
| February | 47.58 | 63.17 |
| March | 55.42 | 56.5 |
| April | 40.92 | 57.0 |
| May | 52.42 | 37.42 |
| June | 31.75 | 37.17 |
| July | 23.75 | 36.17 |
| August | 20.33 | 36.92 |
| September | 72.02 | 59.17 |
| October | 66.75 | 68.73 |
| November | 35.08 | 36.33 |
| December | 19.25 | 16.67 |
| AVERAGE | 44.37 | 47.06 |

Most of my time is spent in the usual admin tasks of responding to emails, processing new applications, minutes and reports, bookkeeping, mail, deposits, continuing to tweak the website (where we have made Become a Member more visible and included the Benefits of Membership with the brochure) and MemberFindMe. With MFM, I have set up a mail merge from exported data to create directories at both the provincial and branch level, which will be posted in the Member's Area and updated as needed. Receipts have been customized as much as possible and will be sent by email. They will include payments for both provincial & branch payments on one receipt. One of the options now available is to create a "membership card" in HTML on those receipts, so we may want to reconsider the decision to send out membership cards in hard copy with insurance certificates. Renewal notices went out in the middle of January and renewals have started coming in both by online payment and by cheque, though the majority have been online so far.

Email updates are sent out about once a month. One of the things I would like to do is set up an online shopping cart so that those who wish to advertise items for sale/for profit can pay online rather than waiting for a cheque to arrive. Those without email receive their updates every 2-3 months with other things going out by mail whenever possible.

8. CONVENOR REPORTS

8. a) Archives – Naomi Parker

Nothing to report.

8. b) ARMTA Piano Competition – Dale Wheeler

Nothing to report.

8. c) ARMTA Recognition Fund – Judith Ammann

The current balance of the ARMTA Recognition Fund is \$35,092.47. **Of this total, \$34,092.47 belongs to ARMTA Provincial.**

\$1,000 was donated/designated as award money for a new scholarship in Edmonton Branch - the Carmen (Airth) Blomert Pedagogy Award. The late Mrs. Blomert's daughter is the donor/sponsor of this award of \$200 per year.

Since February 2015 and the last Provincial Budget meeting:

Total donations **\$19,475.00** (\$17,600 of this was from the Rusconi Foundation for 2015)

Thank you to the branches in Calgary, Fort McMurray and Lethbridge for their donations. Presently, I am holding one personal donation of \$100 to send to CFMTA.

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|---|
| Total of cheques awarded | \$6,205.00 | |
| The cheques were awarded: | | |
| Ft. McMurray Award from 2014 | \$ 150 | |
| Provincial Piano Competition | 3,500 | |
| Dorothy Buckley Prize | 250 | Dorothy Buckley donates biennially |
| Student Composer Competition | 305 | |
| CASSA scholarships | 300 | |
| 15 Branch Scholarships (5 branches) | 1,500 | Calgary, Edmonton, Ft. McMurray, Lethbridge, Red Deer |
| Carmen (Airth) Blomert Pedagogy | <u>200</u> | taken from Elizabeth Blomert donation |
| | \$6,205 | |

Many of the branches this year sent their requests for the \$300 Provincial Award money by email well in advance of when they were needed for presentation. That means considerably less postage is used as I do not have to provide self-addressed, stamped envelopes for return forms. With the board's permission, I will re-do the application form that is on the website for the Branch Awards. There are faster and more economical ways to process these requests.

Thank you to Marlaine Osgood and Elizabeth Raycroft for working with me on the "Needs Based Scholarships". A separate report reflects our thoughts and recommendations for Board consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Ammann - Convenor

8. d) ARMTA Student Composer Competition – Christine Rogers

Nothing to report.

8. e) Canada Music Week – Po Yeh

Nothing to report.

8. f) Conference – Beth Olver

Committee members have been Beth Olver, Judith Amman, Chrysanthema Pashunkova, Po Yeh, Karen MacDonald.

2015 Conference expenses

Income: Sponsorship plan raised \$2499 Tempo printing expenses and clinician fees.

Expenses: Clinician travel and accommodation \$684 .44

Clinician honorariums: \$1100

Other expenses (hotel audio visual equipment) \$477.75

Notes:

- The 2015 clinicians were local (Calgary & Edmonton) so travel and accommodation were low.
- We should be able to limit audio visual expenses by using our own or the clinicians rather than renting from the hotel.
- The sponsorship fund meets the need to support clinician costs and Tempo expenses.

Music Conference Alberta (MCA) 2016 will be in Banff at the Banff Center October 20-22. The keynote speaker is Tim Lautzenheiser (<http://www.musicforall.org/who-we-are/bios/dr-tim-lautzenheiser>) who comes from the band community.

Po Yeh and Beth Olver had a phone meeting with Alberta Music Education Foundation (AMEF: Cara Brown, Maura Sharkey, Crystal Kipp) on 2015 December 3.

Discussed that ARMTA members are not benefitting from MCA because they do not come. AMEF is not benefitting from ARMTA numbers. (Maura says true for NATS, too). Those who go appreciate the range of possible clinicians and the overlap. Need to develop a strategy to bring people to a first conference.

ARMTA wants to bring in a drawing card but needs AMEF to take a bigger part of the cost.

Consider changing the model for ARMTA involvement with AMEF/MCA: Currently ARMTA independently brings in clinicians and pays for them. Consider ARMTA having people on the AMEF MCA planning team, and ARMTA making a financial commitment to AMEF for MCA – become a “sponsor”.

The concerns in these first 3 points were also expressed to Maura in an email on 2015 November 22 which was after the Keynote for 2016 had been selected.

AMEF talking to Jon Tessier tenor, choral, voice, male changing voice

AMEF talking to string player, possible award and ask to be clinician

Trade Fair wants to know what to bring for studio teachers: Po suggested base on the artist & clinician topics, discography, ... Or choose a theme each year.

Banff MCA may be 3 days, one more than past conferences

ARMTA (Beth, Po) research clinician artist availability and cost for Jan 21 meeting

At this point I feel some commitment to continue planning to work with AMEF & MCA for 2016. Po has been looking into a Honens artist Luca Burrato who will be Calgary in October. And Greg Chase (Cracking the Boy code) is available.

TIME to review:

When we arranged to join with AMEF & MCA in 2013, we were hopeful that the broad offerings of the conference would appeal to our members and that at least once in 3 – 5 years the keynote speaker would be a big draw for studio teachers. AMEF had indicated that they need our numbers and not to be concerned about dollars. In practice we have supplied the only piano clinicians at MCA and AMEF has had more voice, string and general studio practices, but no big draws. ARMTA members do not attend MCA. MCA's focus is on school music (band, choral, Kodaly). ARMTA members and studio music teachers do not have a strong voice among the 3 collaborators (AMEF, ABA, ACF). I feel that it is time to review whether participation in MCA is a benefit of ARMTA membership that is valued; and if not how do we better meet our promise of professional development and encouraging continuous learning.

Beth Olver

Notes from 2016 Feb 5 meeting ARMTA and AMEF

Beth Olver, Po Yeh, Cara Brown, Maura Sharkey, Crystal Krips, Tim Anderson

The conference producers meet Feb 17 to confirm schedule.

- Gala concert will be Saturday evening, plans for Thurs & Fri are unknown
- Room rates at the Banff center are from \$135 in Lloyd Hall to \$169 and \$239 in The Professional development center.
- The venue agreement is driving desire/need to increase hotel stays to Sunday

Clinicians being considered:

- | | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| • Jane Coop | piano | 4 sessions over 2 days |
| • Greg Chase | Boy code maybe 2017 | 4 sessions or 2 six hour days |
| • Luca Buratto | piano master class | 1-2 sessions |
| • Milton Schlosser , G Tardiff, P Hansen | piano & string | 3 sessions |
| • John Tessier | voice, master class | 4 sessions |
| • Karen King | proposal to come (research paper) | |
| • Tim Anderson | poster papers | 3 sessions |
| • Maura Sharkey | studio secrets | 1 session |
| • Panel discussion Jane Coop, John Tessier, Milton Schlosser et al | | 1 session |

Bold underscore confirmed. **Bold** priority to continue discussion

Finding master class participants: offer U of A, U of R, McEwen, Mt Royal students \$60 conference fee and opportunity to perform.

Tim A will be sending "Call for Papers" to AMEF, ARMTA members. He wants to develop communication between researchers and practical teaching.

Maura S is looking for panelists from Canmore, Calgary, Banff. May ask for Banff musicians in residence to participate in a panel.

ARMTA will sponsor Jane Coop and maybe Luca Buratto (Honens Lalureate). Beth committed ARMTA to the full cost of Jane Coop (4 sessions x \$400= \$1600, plus travel \$400, plus accommodation 2 nights x \$200 = \$400, plus per diem (\$40?) for 2-3 days = \$2600 maybe? We did not discuss whether she would do a recital, or participate in an evening concert. There may be a panel discussion. There was not discussion about who would pay for these additions.

Action

- Po will seek topics from Jane Coop (or her manager). Po will contact Tim re CFMTA writing competition and poster papers.
- AMEF will continue to work with Milton Schlosser et al, and Karen King. John Tessier, poster papers and studio secrets are confirmed.

Next meeting is Feb 19, Friday 9:30.

8. g) Community Service Award – Marlaine Osgood

As of today, 3 people have contacted me about the award:

One person has sent in her form for a gold certificate.

Two sisters will be sending in their forms. They asked if they could scan and email the information.

Attached are 3 possible certificates styles and the convenor duties for the Board to review.



8. h) Continuing Education – Chrysanthema Pashunkova/Sandra Joy

As the incoming convener for ARMTA's Continuing Education program, I would like to extend my thanks to Chrysanthema Pashunkova for bringing me up to date on the vision, activities, and great ideas for future events. I also want to thank Beth Olver and Vicki Martin for helping fill me in on details and deadlines.

In December, Chrysanthema sent a letter to the Branches inviting them to consider workshop ideas and clinicians with the understanding that the provincial ARMTA would assist in the associated costs. So far, there has not been any response. I will be updating this Invitation Letter in later February and reach out again to the Branches. This updated letter will include:

- 1) more detailed explanation on how the C.Ed. program can be utilized
- 2) suggested deadlines/timeline to ensure the success of activities
- 3) suggested amount of \$200 to support a Branch activity of their choice

Just prior to the December letter that went out, the Lethbridge Branch requested assistance for an event. They have been granted \$200 from the C.Ed. funds for their April 2016 event.

For the upcoming 2016-17 year, I am proposing a Touring Presentation by one clinician whose area of research is in music pedagogy. ARMTA teachers are very well-educated when it comes to musical style and interpretation along with the finer points of technique associated with their instrument. Therefore, this coming year of C.Ed. will focus primarily on the psychology of teaching music students one-to-one in the studio: strategies for successful practice, addressing motivation through the different age levels, knowing how to encourage and maintain health and productivity in students' practice, and so on. It will be of pedagogical benefit to all teachers and will hopefully attract teachers from all disciplines.

The budget of \$1500 will be allotted for the clinician fee, transportation (mileage), possible accommodation for one night, per diem.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Joy Friesen

8. i) Examining Board – Diane Ferguson

The examining board has continued to approve applications as they come in. See the [Membership Report](#) for details.

A few minor changes were made to the print and online application which are posted on the website. There was no progress made on defining what requirements are needed for specific registered subjects. We have had a few applications and inquiries recently from people with B.Ed. degrees in Music who would like to be Full members, and at the moment, each application with transcripts is looked at individually to determine equivalencies.

Submitted by Vicki Martin

8. j) Festival Association Liaison – Dorothea Johanson

When I contacted the three Alberta Music Festival Winners, each of them was thrilled to be asked for a picture and bio. Their pictures and bios were forwarded to Lisa Ng, our TEMPO Editor. See page 19 of the September 2015 TEMPO for their details. Lisa did a fine job of putting this together.

The winners each received \$200.00 from the Provincial ARMTA.

The 2015 Provincial Festival winners are:

- Class 702 Piano Solo – 16 years and under Gordon Zhang (Calgary)
- Class 924 Vocal Solo Girls – 16 years and under Sydney Frelick (Medicine Hat)
- Class 933 Musical Theatre Ballad – 16 years and under Darian Yurkoski (Camrose)

Each winner was sent a copy of the September TEMPO. They were delighted to be acknowledged by having the pictures and bios in print.

Respectively submitted,

Dorothea Johanson, ARMTA Festival Liaison

8. k) Members at Large – vacant

Christine O'Donnell has agreed to be our Members at Large Convenor!

8. l) Policies and Procedures/Bylaws – vacant

8. m) Post-Secondary Promotion – Ivea Mark

Waiting for Christina to get her Lethbridge presentation going.

8. n) Publicity – vacant

Rebecca Vizza may be interested in Social Media & Publicity.

8. o) Social Media – vacant

Christina Kolos has agreed to be our Social Media convenor!

8. p) Sponsorship – vacant

Nothing to report.

8. q) Tempo – Lisa Ng

Nothing to report.

8. r) Webmaster – Carolyn Garritano

ARMTA Provincial Website Report – JANUARY 2016

1. ARMTA Provincial Website Maintenance:

I have been making changes & updates to the information on the website as instructed by the administrator & the past president.

Continue sending me photos. If you have a photo of something ARMTA related please email it to web@armta.ca

2. Member Website Links:

We charge \$10 to put member website links on a page of the provincial website called “Featured Members”. We currently have 9 member’s websites listed on this page from St. Albert (1), Edmonton (2) & Calgary (6).

This feature will be discontinued on April 1, 2016, since our new members area has many features to showcase our members. The page: <https://armta.ca/featured-members/> will be deleted.

3. ARMTA Website Theme

We continue to use WordPress for our content management system. Our current theme is “responsive” meaning it works well with computer, tablets & phones & will automatically adjust depending which device you are using.

If any branch needs help moving to a more responsive theme contact web@armta.ca.

4. Local Branches Hosted under ARMTA provincial (shared hosting):

ARMTA Provincial can host unlimited websites on their account for no additional hosting fees. This means that branches can eliminate website hosting fee from their budgets & use the money for something else. The website's branch is only responsible for their domain name registration fee (usually \$10-\$15 per year). Send an email to web@armta.ca if your branch would like to do this.

Local branches taking advantage of this:

Edmonton Branch www.armtaedmonton.ab.ca Lethbridge Branch www.lrmta.com

Calgary Branch www.armta-calgary.com Red Deer Branch www.armtareddeer.org

5. Website SUB-domains: READ THIS if your SMALL BRANCH would like a website!

ARMTA Provincial can host sub-domains for NO additional charge, not even a name registration fee. An example of a sub-domain is lloydminster.armta.ca

As part of my general website duties, I would be willing to set up very basic websites for smaller branches for no set-up cost. Contact web@armta.ca to get started.

Submitted by: Carolyn Garritano

ARMTA Provincial Database Report – OCTOBER 2015

I have continued to help members with login problems & other database issues.

Since April 2015 we have been using a membership management system for storing our provincial member's information called Member Find Me (MFM). www.memberfind.me

This is a subscription based service that is currently \$79 USD / month. The benefit of using a subscription based, non-custom, system is that MFM will continually be upgraded to meets the need of many users. We pay a small amount every month rather than a huge amount every few years so our system will not get outdated & not need rebuilding from scratch every few years.

The old database is still intact if we need to access any information that was not transferred over to the new system.

Some main features of MFM:

- online payment of membership fees
- mail integration with MailChimp to send formatted emails with new members being automatically subscribed to the mailing list
- our find-a-teacher page includes a map with specific locations of teachers clearly marked
- members can create directory profiles witch include photos, links & any descriptive text they would like to include (like a 1 page website for every teacher of ARMTA).
- online payment for our ARMTA events
- member's only pages on our website

Any branch can have a Branch Admin set up to gain access to their Branch member's information & set up events for registration & online payment. So far Calgary & Edmonton branches are making use of this.

If your branch would like admin access contact web@armta.ca.

Submitted by: Carolyn Garritano

8. s) Young Artist Tour – Debbie Gallant

Nothing to report.

9. BRANCH REPORTS

9. a) Calgary – Barbara Robertson, Melodie Archer

The Calgary Branch continues to grow with over 180 members. We have a dynamic, energetic executive with lots of new ideas and initiatives.

Some of our events included (or will include):

- Honours Recital, January 24, 2016 where top students in voice, strings, piano and guitar, many with marks in the 90s, received medals/scholarships and a chance to perform. The entire event will be recorded and broadcast on SHAW TV several times over the next 3 months. Thanks to Michelle Everett-Faunt for taking over from Marilyn Newberry.
- Our upcoming AGM in March will host a speaker on income tax returns as they apply to music teachers.
- Outstanding Student Recital will be held on Feb. 7, 2016 for our exceptional students (not included in the Honours Recital) many of which still have over 90%.
- We continued to hold student recitals in both North and South Calgary for students of any discipline to share a performance.
- Music Marathon was a huge success last year and is planned for May 23 this year. This event is where ARMTA member students collect pledges and play outside, downtown, on Stephen Ave., for 8 continuous hours of music. Hope the weather is as good as it was last year!
- There was a joint recital held with 3 teachers, LaDona Ahenda, Lorna Sewel and Juanita Stauffer. Katrina Thompson Fost organizes this program.
- ARMTA was proud to host a Composers Showcase highlighting composers such as Kevin Chen, Stephen Rogers, Michalis Andronidou Roberta Stephen and others. Beth Olver organized and it was a great success!
- We continue to debate honorariums for executives and how to accommodate a growing association with volunteers who are getting burned out by the ever-increasing complexity and work.

EXECUTIVE:

President: Barb Robertson
Past President: Beth Olver
2nd Vice-President: Karen King
1st Vice-President: Michelle Everett Faunt
Secretary: Nathene Arthur
Treasurer: Sharon Carne
Branch Administrator: Tanya Foster
Web master: Lindsay Inkster
E-mail & Telephone: Barb Robertson
Impromptu Editor: Lisa Ng
Impromptu Distribution: LaDona Ahenda
Promotions: Eric Nyland
New Member Convener: Melodie Archer
Archives: Nathene Arthur
Workshops/Events: Beth Olver
Catering: Rita Thurn
Joint Recital: Katrina Thompson Fost
Honours Recital: Michelle Everett Faunt
Outstanding Student Recital: Ron Proctor
Student Recitals: Donna Murray
Student Recitals: Carol S. Moore
PPG (Piano Pedagogy Group): Alicia Romero

Liaison Convener: Dorothea Johanson
String Liaison Chrysanthema: Pashunkova
C3 Liaison: Natalia Molochnikov
ARMTA Board 1: Barb Robertson
ARMTA Board 2: Melodie Archer
CFMTA delegate: Beth Olver

Submitted January 2016 by Melodie Archer and Barb Robertson

9. b) Edmonton – Naomi Parker, Yoana Kyurkchieva

Our branch Continuing Education committee arranged for a very successful Canada Music Week event during November. There were ten presenters who played and sang everything from piano and cello solos to piano trios and folksongs while introducing the work of Canadian composers.

In December, the branch awards recital was held. One hundred forty-four awards were given out for excellence in piano, voice and theory.

On January 10, the Northern Alberta Concerto Competition was held for entrants in piano and organ. Two winners, Louisa Lu and Andrea Young, were chosen to play with the Edmonton Youth Orchestra in May.

We are looking forward to the Clementi project with the Edmonton Youth Orchestra and a membership appreciation event in February, as well as Continuing Education presentations, membership renewal and all of the things which keep the Edmonton Branch humming and playing along!

Respectfully Submitted,

Naomi Parker, Edmonton Branch Representative

9. c) Grande Prairie – Dustin Anderson

9. d) Lethbridge – Joan Milton

Lethbridge Branch Executive 2015/16:

President – Christine Rogers
Vice-President - vacant
Secretary – Kate LaRocque
Treasurer: - Karen MacDonald
Corresponding Secretary – Mary Lee Voort

The Lethbridge Registered Music Teachers had their annual Canada Music Week Recital and Student Awards Presentation on Saturday, November 21st at 2:30 p.m. in the Lethbridge Public Library Main Branch Theatre Gallery at 810 5th Ave. S. Twenty-three students performed piano selections featuring Canadian composers including, Linda Niamath, Stephen Chatman, Nancy Telfer, Pierre Gallant and Boris Berlin. At the conclusion of the recital, over \$1300 in awards was presented to 34 students with the highest marks in practical and theory exams for the previous year in addition to the ARMTA Recognition Fund Student Achievement Awards sponsored by ARMTA.

Two display cases at the Lethbridge Public Library were filled with biographies and music about Canadian composers as well as information about Canada Music Week for the month of November.

On Friday, December 11th, 2 recitals took place, the first at 5:30 for adults and the second at 7:00, a Christmas drop-in program, at Betty Jo Radley's studio. Upcoming recitals include March 5, 2016 for the Festival preparation recital and May 28, 2016 for our final adult get together.

Every month during the teaching term LRMTA holds a Coffee and Conversation get together at the home of Linda Davies. Thank you Linda for accommodating us while we discuss many topics. It is a chance to get to know one another and to share topics of interest.

One of our members Kate LaRocque will give a presentation following our February meeting in the Community room at CASA. The topic will be – 'Apps and web sites'. Any interested teachers are welcome to attend and learn how to use new technology.

"Keys to Piano Workshop" has been booked for February 26 and 27th at CASA. Derek Chiu, Provincial RC Rep, and a colleague Dr. Ross Osman will be the clinicians. Dr. Osman is presently Professor of Piano and theory at Bishop's University in Sherbrooke, Quebec. He holds degrees from U. of Windsor and the Eastman School of Music. He has performed nationally and internationally in the U.S., Spain, Serbia, Germany and Russia. There will be a Friday evening presentation led by the clinicians for teachers and senior students beginning at 6:30 p.m. followed by a reception at 8:00 p.m. Saturday activities include master classes, opportunities for private lessons (for full day registrants), and optional sessions--music theory games and world drumming. A performance by the clinicians will be included as part of the Saturday activities and lunch will be provided for registered participants. Lethbridge is very fortunate to have these two musicians share their talents at the CASA Piano workshop.

An awards fundraising recital featuring Jesse Plessis will be held June 10th at CASA. Jesse is presently pursuing his doctorate at the U. of Montreal, but has offered to come to Lethbridge for this special recital.

As part of our invitation to new members, we will offer free LOCAL membership for the first year.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Milton for LRMTA

9. e) Medicine Hat – Nancy Dick

I think our group in Medicine Hat is still planning to meet informally for coffee or just connecting, but it won't be on a regular basis. Ruth Pahl is retiring and so there will be even fewer of us. We did hold our Awards and Canada Music Week Recital in November, and while we all think it is a positive event, those of us who organize and run it have done so for many years. Since there is no one to replace us we have decided to no longer continue with it.

I just got an email from Lethbridge and they have included us in their mailing information. I think that will work very well for us. They seem to be a much more active branch and joining some of their workshops could be very positive for us. Other than that, I don't have much to report.

9. f) Red Deer – Annette Bradley

Since my last report in October, pretty much the same material has been planned with a few minor changes. We held a "Memorable Performances" Recital on the Sunday afternoon following the Contemporary Showcase Festival. We will have three evenings throughout the year where our students have the opportunity to perform at the hospital to the shut-ins. We had a good turn-out of branch members at our Christmas luncheon. This was just a social time without an agenda or business to attend to.

It was decided that our major scholarship/award program fundraising project this year, would be a student recital featuring some of our branches advanced students including a few cameo performances by some of our ARMTA teachers too. This will be held Saturday, March 19th at 7:00 pm.

Our student teacher group continues to thrive and offers workshops every single month!

It was brought up at the November branch meeting, that maybe ARMTA Provincial should consider offering a reduced provincial membership rate to affiliate ARMTA members. Perhaps, Annette can bring this up at the February board meeting.

The following is the summary of some of the reasons that teachers join ARMTA. This survey was gathered at our latest Red Deer Branch meeting:

Not in order of preference:

- liability insurance
- the people!
- way to get to know people in the Red Deer music community
- social aspects, fellowship with people of like-mindedness
- workshops, continuing education
- for getting teaching ideas
- the mix of perspective with other instrument teachers (not solely piano)
- nice for a home-based business to be part of a larger professional group
- alleviates the sense of "isolation" - each to "his" own
- felt very welcomed by "Alberta" ARMTA when moving from other province
- be in the "know" of current RCM information
- Website, networking, gaining students
- a group with similar work ethics and background
- knowing that all members have been passed through the examining board in order to join, so there is a sense that members have obtained a high level of music education

Respectfully Submitted,

Annette Bradley

10. CORRESPONDENCE