



ARMTA PROVINCIAL BOARD MEETING

May 13, 2021 9:00 PM

Zoom

MINUTES

The Alberta Registered Music Teachers' Association unites professional music teachers in their aim to:

- promote the love of music
- promote the knowledge of music by providing superior music instruction
- advocate for the availability of quality music instruction
- provide cultural events and continuing education events
- provide performance opportunities and scholarships for the students

1. CALL TO ORDER 9:01 PM

2. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Present: Nathene Arthur (President), Tamara Bowie (Vice President, left prior to discussion about the Administrator), Kimerica Parr (Past President), Lorrie Wittke (Lethbridge), Marlaine Osgood (Edmonton rep), Rosemarie Horne (Edmonton rep), Annette Bradley (Red Deer), Gwendolyn Bartek (Grande Prairie), Ida Edwards (MAL), Barb Robertson (Calgary rep, joined at 9:35pm),

Regrets: Sheryl Schnare (Medicine Hat)

3. AGENDA

1. Provincial health guidelines and what is happening in each area
2. Other areas the board members wish to discuss that they can send to me in writing by Saturday.
3. I am preparing a letter as President to all ARMTA members and would like their input before the letter is written.
4. Choosing Board meeting and AGM dates for 2021-2022
5. The Bette-Joan Cebuliak Rac Scholarship application. Rosemarie, Marlaine and Judith put it together and it has the approval of Alexander already. It just needs final approval by the board to be official and get posted.
6. New ARMTA Administrator position

4. BUSINESS

1. **Provincial health guidelines and what is happening in each area.** Nathene would like to understand what is happening around the province as she is writing a letter to the membership.
 - a) Ida has found it particularly hard in a rural area and teaching voice and has been working part-time as a cashier to supplement her income. She has been attending online concerts and struggling with how we have not been acknowledging the importance of the arts even as we watch Netflix which is built on those same arts. She does not like teaching online, though she has been working on an online theory course.
 - b) Lorrie has noticed how there are many teachers in Lethbridge with openings. She feels the mix of pride in what we are able to do and how we are working really hard at staying positive and doing what we can with also the frustration.

- c) Rosemarie feels the lack of positivity and getting feedback from students as she has been doing most of her advanced students by sending videos by YouTube. At what cost are we isolating these students from one-on-one instruction?
- d) Gwendolyn has noted how there is a lot of confusion on what the guidelines are and that there is disagreement within the branch on what the guidelines are.
- e) Annette feels that while we have learned how to do online lessons, a lot of people are more tired now. She knows of many teachers that are no longer teaching or have retired.
- f) Tamara has found it harder to teach online this time simply because of the increased noise going on in the family. Her big concern is the 3 metre distance, which is very difficult for most home-based studios.
- g) Vicki talked about how the requirements by the Government of Alberta are now 3 metres for all performance activities, even though it was initially only for group performance activities, and the hope that it will be return to either 2 metres or no distancing at all for September. There have been no indications of what to expect then.
- h) Kimerica has been teaching grade 1 online and voice lessons online, so has discontinued voice lessons as of May 1. Music festival was a downer and it has been heartbreaking all around. She knows five people that have passed away from COVID but has not been able to attend funerals for them.
- i) Marlaine has lost a few students, but understands that we are all a little stuck. It has to get better with vaccinations.
- j) Vicki has a few more students than she did at this point last year and has been alternating online with in-person. "It's always darkest before the dawn" seems applicable – that if we can just get through this next little bit, the end is coming.
- k) Lorrie also wanted to add that mental health is a big deal, and also that financial considerations are important. There have been considerable expenses for some teachers to be able to teach online. There are financial concerns for many students as well.
- l) Ida has been at provincial leadership meetings, and the first thing they spoke about was mental health. Whatever we were doing pre-COVID had to be sustainable to be able to survive COVID.

4. AGM:	Saturday, October 2	4:00 pm – 5:00 pm
Board Meetings:	Sunday, August 29	2:00pm – 6:00 pm
	Saturday, September 11	2:00pm – 6:00pm

5. Bette-Joan Rac Scholarship application

It was the donor who specifically requested that the "special consideration is given to first- and second-generation Canadians (recent immigrants)" be added. We should add a checkbox asking whether students are immigrants – yes, no, or prefer not to answer – to make it clear to those receiving the applications. The committee assumed that it would be included in the description of their experiences, but they may not.

Change #2 to "2. Although open to all residents of Alberta, special consideration is given to first- and second-generation Canadians (recent immigrants)."

It is open to all students of all ages.

Scholarship typo to fix!

Ida has a problem with providing a scholarship with a bias towards immigrants, as it would be equally difficult for indigenous students to study music privately and believes that ARMTA should be inclusive and diverse. At the very least, she wants to make it clear that the preference for immigrants is at the donor's request.

There was discussion about whether the scholarship should be limited only to immigrants or only preference given to immigrants, and it was decided to keep it as is, open to all students but with preference given to immigrants.

Marlaine, Rosemarie, and Judith will adjust the scholarship application. It will be sent to the board for approval by email once it is complete.

6. Administrator position

Vicki got the job without it being posted. Tamara is interested in the position, but would need to step down as Vice-president. The board agrees that the job should be posted to ARMTA members and that the best candidate be chosen.

There are two aspects that we are looking for: a person who already knows the admin skills, and a person who already understands ARMTA. Ideally it would be someone who can do both, but it does not need to be an ARMTA member. The job posting would have applications due by June 1.

Discussion was about whether the job would be paid the same amount. Since it is a contract to do the job, not per hour, it would probably take someone new to the position longer to figure it out which would take more time and therefore they would be earning less per hour.

Vicki will send out the job posting to ARMTA members.

Adjourned at 10:22 pm.



Alberta Registered Music Teachers' Association
www.armta.ca

RAC – APPLICATION FORM
BETTE JOAN RAC PIANO SCHOLARSHIP

\$1000 Award Presented Annually

Deadline June 30

The Bette Joan Rac Piano Scholarship, initiated by Alexander Archibold, celebrates the life and musical contributions of a long-time Piano teacher in Edmonton, Alberta who is remembered for her style, her sparkle, and her desire to share the joy of music.

Description of Scholarship

1. One award of \$1,000 will be awarded annually*
2. Scholarship will be awarded for the study of piano instruction
3. Scholarship is administered by the Alberta Registered Music Teachers' Association (ARMTA)
4. Funds are held by the Canadian Federation of Music Teachers Associations (CFMTA) Trust

Eligibility requirements

1. This scholarship is a "needs-based" scholarship when the applicant's financial need restricts their ability to pursue piano music study.
2. Special consideration is given to first- and second-generation Canadians (recent immigrants)
3. Studying piano.

Required Documentation

1. Description of music interest, hopes, plans, and experiences.
2. Proposed plan of future study
3. Description of financial need
4. Any other financial help you have received.
5. One reference letter: It may be from your piano teacher, an ARMTA teacher, school music teacher, music association or colleague.

Name of Applicant: (please use full name)

Address: _____ Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____ E-Mail address: _____

If under the age of 18, please include:

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail address: _____

The scholarship will be awarded by August 15 and announced at the Provincial meeting in October.

*ARMTA reserves the right to withhold the award should no eligible application be received.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: June 30

Send completed applications or inquiries to:

Administrator

admin@armta.ca

780.554.7682

Your personal information is considered confidential. ARMTA will not publish or use information regarding this application without consent. If you prefer to have your information published, please sign your consent below.

Signature _____

Date _____

If under the age of 18:

Signature of Parent/Guardian _____