



AGENDA and REPORTS
ARMTA PROVINCIAL BOARD MEETING
Friday, February 7th,2025 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM via Zoom

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

2. Welcome and Introductions

3. Consent Agenda

- Agenda for February 7th,2025 board meeting
Amend agenda
include 5. k. Leave of absence request
And 5. L. CFMTA
Omit 5. j. Betty Phelan (information was included in meeting minutes on September 7, 2024 under old business pg 4)
- Minutes of September 7th,2024 board meeting
- Business completed by email
- [Executive Reports](#)
- [Convenor Reports](#)
- [Branch Reports](#)

4. Financial Business

- [ARMTA Recognition Fund -request to discuss non-ARMTA projects](#)
- [Request from Rosemarie Horne](#) to increase Administrators pay by 5%
- [Request from Strings Competition Convenor](#) for workshops and masterclasses for Strings fall 2025 in collaboration with Alberta Strings Association.
- [MCA will not be happening in fall 2025. Proposed joint workshops](#) or conference
- [Request from Anita Kennedy](#) for CFMTA Conference travel and hotel
- [Recognition Fund Budget](#) (<https://armta.ca/prov-exec/>)

- g. [Budget 2025-2026](https://armta.ca/prov-exec/) (Fiscal year is April 1st, 2025 – March 31st, 2026)
- h. [E-transfers to pay bills](#)

5. Business

- a. [Request from NSRMTA regarding online PD](#)
- b. [Next Provincial Voice Competition](#)
- c. [ARMTA clubs in High School](#)
- d. [Developing formal partnerships with senior homes and/or hospitals](#)
- e. Nominations for 2025 Service Award
- f. [Hard copy Member's Directory.](#)
- g. [Joel Windsor's Tempo suggestions.](#)
- h. [Reputation and Lawfulness](#)
- i. [Policy and Procedures](#) remove CFMTA 3rd delegate from our Policies to reflect the changes made recently in CFMTA policy.
- j. ~~[Betty Phelan Scholarship](#) (for information only)~~
- k. [Leave of absence request Michael Parr](#)
- l. [CFMTA discussion](#)
 - i. interdisciplinary competition
 - ii. Student composer competition

6. Next Board Meeting

7. Date of Annual General Meeting

8. Adjournment

3. Consent Agenda

3. b) Minutes of the September 7,2025 board meeting

See Board Meeting Minutes and Reports 2024 09 07 <https://armta.ca/prov-exec/>

3. c) Business completed by email voting

Motion: I move that the ARMTA Recognition Fund provide 2 \$1000 scholarships (for 2 winners) to the R3 Concerto Competition for their 2025 competition.

Moved: Sandra Joy Friesen on Dec. 10, 2024

Seconded: Carolyn Steeves

In Favour: 9 **Opposed:** none **Abstained by omission:** 1

Motion carried: Dec. 14, 2024 via email

25-B02-M1

Hello Board Members and Officers,

The vote in favor of giving the \$2000 to the Calgary Rotary Concerto Competition for 2 \$1000.00 scholarships has been carried. We had 9 in favor and 1 with no response. This is very generous of you to vote in favor of this amount considering this is not an ARMTA Provincial Project. It will be gratefully appreciated by the competition committee, I'm sure.

Sincerely, Annette Bradley

ARMTA President

3. d) EXECUTIVE REPORTS

		Page
i.	President's report	4
ii	Vice-President's report	5
iii.	Past-President's report	5
iv.	CFMTA report	6
v.	Membership report	7
vi.	Financial report	9
vii.	Administrator's report	14

3. e) CONVENOR REPORTS

i.	Archives	Yvonne Boon	16
ii.	Bursary	Lorrie Wittke	16
iii.	Bylaws/Policies and Procedures	Vacant	17
iv.	Canada Music Week	Josina Leder-Sears	21
v.	Collegiate Chapters	Marlaine Osgood	21
vi.	Community Service Award	Marlaine Osgood	21
vi	Conference	Marlaine Osgood	22
vii.	Continuing Education	Deanna Oye	22
viii.	Examining Board	Judith Elliot	25

ix. Festival Association Liaison	Carolyn Steeves	25
x. Members at Large	Ida Edwards	29
xi. Piano Competition	Vacant	29
xii. Publicity	Susan Henley	29
xiii. Recognition Fund	Lorrie Wittke	32
xiv. Scholarship	Ida Edwards	33
xv. Sponsorship	Vacant	33
xvi. Social Media	Karen Gerelus	33
xvii. Strings Competition	Chrysanthema Nikol	34
xviii. Student Composer Competition	Christine Rogers	34
xix. Tempo Content Editor	Rose He	35
xx. Tempo Layout and Design Editor	Joel Windsor	35
xxi. Voice Competition	Mireille Rijavec	36
xxii. Webmaster	Carolyn Garritano	37
xxiii. Wellness	Esther Bing	39
xxiv. Young Artist Tour	Louisa Lu	40

3. f) BRANCH REPORTS

i. Calgary	Carolyn Steeves, Sandra Joy Friesen	40
ii. Edmonton	Vacant	42
iii. Grande Prairie	Beth Peters	43
iv. Lethbridge	Carmen Letourneau	43
v. Medicine Hat	Sheryl Schnare	44
vi. Red Deer	Anita Kennedy Roberge	44

4. a) Regarding motion 25-B02-M1. Email vote by board on Dec. 14, 2024.

Item for inclusion in the agenda: Submitted by Carmen Letourneau

Presently, donations to the ARMTA Recognition Fund provides prizes and scholarships for:

- the biennial [Alberta Round of the CFMTA National Piano Competition](#)
- the biennial [Alberta Round of the CFMTA National Voice Competition](#)
- the biennial [ARMTA String Competition](#)
- the [ARMTA Student Composer Competition](#)
- ARMTA Branch Awards
- Needs Based [Bursaries](#)
- Pedagogy and Continuing Education Scholarships
- [Calgary Arts Summer Camp](#)
- Contemporary Showcase Festivals in [Edmonton](#) and [Calgary](#)
- other awards designated annually by the ARMTA Provincial Board

I would like to discuss the rationale behind supporting non-ARTMA events and competitions. We voted to support the Calgary Rotary Concerto Competition with prize money of 2 x \$1000. This competition is only open to students of Calgary resident teachers. What are the ramifications of funding non-ARMTA events or competitions that are fairly restricted and not accessible for most ARMTA members?* Since this door has been opened, I suggest that the parameters for this need to be discussed and perhaps clarify the process for other groups to request funding for non-ARMTA events. Should ARMTA prioritize funding for local branches for awards and professional development? How should we determine what events we support with scholarship money?

*For instance, the Lethbridge Symphony holds a Young Artist concerto competition biannually that is open to all Alberta undergraduate students. Last year half of the entrants were from Calgary and the winners were from Calgary.

4. b) Hello Board Members

I would like to propose a 5% increase to the remuneration for our Administrator, Tamara Bowie. This is to keep up with inflation but also to recognize the level of experience she has obtained over the last few years. This would be an increase from \$14,400 to \$15,120, an increase of \$60/month for 2025-2026. As the only consistent member of the executive (the rest of us change every two years), it is important that she be recognized financially for all that this role entails.

Respectfully submitted, Rosemarie Horne
Past-President

4. c) Budget requests for Joint Projects with ASA (Alberta Strings Association) Submitted by Chrysanthema Nikol

Workshops and Masterclasses for Bowed Strings Fall 2025, Calgary & Edmonton

A joint project between ARMTA and ASA (www.albertastringassociation.org) The Association hosts and sponsors events that benefit the string community of all Alberta's string Teachers and Students.

The Alberta Strings Association already sponsored the ARMTA Provincial Inaugural Junior Strings Competition 2024, Violin, Cello with \$200 for the 3rd prize winners (\$100 Violin, \$100 Cello)

The Strings Competition Committee wants to establish joint events in Calgary and Edmonton to help string students and promote ARMTA programs. The students will gain experience working with master teachers in performance settings.

Budget for the ARMTA/ASA 2025 Fall Bowed Strings Workshops

EXPENSES - Calgary and Edmonton

- i. Venues \$600 Calgary \$300/Free or \$300 Edmonton (TBA)

- ii. Clinicians \$600 (Calgary \$300/ Edmonton \$300)
- iii. Certificates/Programs \$100 (Calgary & Edmonton)

INCOME - Calgary and Edmonton

- i. ASA money \$500 (with optional increase)
- ii. (Possibly) Student Registrations (est. 16 students @ \$30 each) \$480

TOTAL equals Expenses of \$1,300 minus ASA (\$500) = \$800 for two workshops

Thank you,
Chrysanthema Nikol, Strings Competition convener

4. d) Music Conference Alberta - not running in 2025 [link to the full report](#)
Submitted by Marlane Osgood

In lieu of MCA:

Proposal 1 - Joint ARMTA/AMEF one-day workshop in Red Deer in late Oct./early Nov. to be combined with our AGM

Venue - Gaetz Memorial United Church

Income

Registration fee \$975 (Half of \$1950 - \$65/person at 30 people attending)

Total \$975

Expenses

Clinician honorarium \$800 (2 x \$400)

Clinician Travel Expenses \$372 (2 clinicians - 1 clinician from each of Edmonton and Calgary)

Venue \$550

Supplies \$50

Registration/Travel \$189 (no registration fee for conference convenor)

Total \$1956

Net Income (981)

Proposal 2 - Joint conference with ARMTA/AMEF and ABA in Red Deer in late Oct./early Nov. to be combined with our AGM.

Venue - Red Deer Polytechnic

Income

Registration fees \$2235 (Half of \$4470 - \$149/person at 30 people attending)

Total \$2235

Expenses

Clinician honorarium \$800 (2 x \$400)

Clinician Travel Expenses \$372 (2 clinicians - 1 clinician from each of Edmonton and Calgary)

Venue \$2000 (estimate includes half of session room, marketplace, concert)

Supplies \$50

Registration/Travel \$189 (no registration fee for conference convenor)

Total \$3361

Net Income (\$1126)

4. **e)** Anita Kennedy Roberge: Request for ARMTA to cover some expenses to the CFMTA national conference July 3-5 in Montreal. I won tickets to the conference 2 years ago through the draw at CFMTA Conference 2023 but flights and hotels are very expensive at this time of year. I put in a request for more info regarding the tickets to CFMTA but I have not heard anything back as of yet. Flight and hotel room is approximately \$1327.00.

4. **f)** Recognition Fund Budget (<https://armta.ca/prov-exec/>)

4. **g)** Budget 2025-2026 (Fiscal year is April 1st, 2025 – March 31st, 2026) Download the document <https://armta.ca/prov-exec/>

4. **h)** Tamara Bowie: FROM ATB Bank Rep: Should the board be allowing anyone who has access the online banking for e-transfer, we can set up a rule that when an initiator initiates an e-transfer, we will need one additional user to go in and approval (we call this one additional user approval) I would recommend that Board to allows the administrator to send e-transfers to pay bills with an additional users approval (President).

As there are only 15 cheques left, does the board want me to order more cheques to also have this option?

5. a) We are trying to gauge if there is enough interest from other RMTAs for us to explore this together. We had discussed simply sharing our online presentations with other interested RMTAs, and pooling resources to get access to speakers who would otherwise be beyond our budget. If either of those might benefit your members, please ask your board if this is something they would like to explore. If you feel your members are saturated with PD opportunities that is fine too. -Email from Michael nrmtacommunications@gmail.com

5. b) I propose that ARMTA Provincial decides the details of our next Provincial Voice Competition. Specifically, I would like to ask a board member to make a motion to expand our current “Senior Voice Competition” to a “Three level Provincial Voice Competition” potentially being held in late 2026 or early 2027. See full report in [Voice Competition](#)

5. c) This was brought forward by Rose He. The clubs typically follow the same basic model as Collegiate Chapters with a teacher advisor and student executive. The students plan events which, for an ARMTA club, can include but is not limited to music performance at the community level (fits well with the Community Service Award), fundraising for the parent organization (possibly the Branch or another cause), a place to promote ARMTA events and workshops (make music students aware of ARMTA), encouraging the music teaching field by inviting an ARMTA member to speak on a pedagogy topic. Some High School programs such as IB require volunteer hours.

The High School Club members could have a similar relationship with ARMTA as other STAFF Club members, although changes to that relationship are for the board to decide.

Two considerations:

1. The teacher advisor may not be an ARMTA member.
2. Will High School clubs affect STAFF club attendance or, on the positive note, increase the places where ARMTA can reach student teachers and potential members?

5. d) From Rose He, Vice-president’s report. I’d like to open a discussion point on further promoting using music to volunteer as I know there are community involvement awards but I’m wondering about establishing formal partnerships with seniors’ homes and/or hospitals to make it easier for students to go perform. I think it would be a win-win as I know many of these places are constantly looking for musical performers and the audience greatly appreciates the music, and it is also an excellent opportunity for students to practice performing. My students did run into some difficulty with coordinating this volunteering though on their own, so I would be interested in spearheading these partnerships if there is interest.

5. e) Nominations for 2025 ARMTA Service Award

5. f) Tamara Bowie: The question if a printed directory is needed was brought up at my budget draft meeting with VP Rose He. Does the board think it is ethical and necessary to continue printing and mailing directories with all members information each April? There are currently 77 members who request a hard copy of the directory mailed to them and it costs \$8 each and around \$650/year.

5. g) Joel Windsor: I would like to encourage ARMTA to develop an area of the website where all members can upload photographs with explanations and the name of the photographer. These photographs can come from a private studio, a public event, or even be submitted by students. This will absolutely ensure our Tempo magazine as well as other tools such as the website and social media are populated with engaging, visually appealing and relevant content. It is also highly recommended that, if ARMTA values the publication, every member share it with a non-member. Even if it's just by sharing a link to it on our website, it can be a way of developing additional recognition for the organization and the value we bring to our communities.

h) Susan Henley: Social Media and Tempo Magazine benefit from photographic content. In the modern world, privacy considerations must be taken very seriously by anyone posting photographs in public forums. ARMTA is bound by PIPA (not FOIP). I will be examining ARMTA's adherence to PIPA requirements, regarding photos, bios etc. collected from competitors, and more importantly our adherence to privacy law and our policy regarding the publication of photos of minor children. Convenors and branches and individual members should be able to depend on ARMTA to advise them accurately. It will likely be necessary to obtain a legal opinion in this regard, although I am not requesting budget at this time.

i) Email from Heather Fyfe, CFMTA Secretary: I notice that 3 people are listed on the ARMTA website as CFMTA Delegates. According to our current by-laws, each provincial association has two delegates, and there are no alternates or substitutes permitted. This is because Delegates are also automatically Directors on our Board and must be registered as such with Corporations Canada. Since we moved to a Board of Directors structure in 2023, rather than the prior Executive Committee, in order to be better in compliance with Canadian regulations for Non-profit organizations such as ours, we must be more strict with the rules and policies around Directors. -

j) ~~The Betty Phelan Scholarship was awarded at the AGM in October 2024 to Angelina Lee. This will be the last time ARMTA offers this scholarship. Email received from Carol Mackinnon-Hagan on September 6th, 2024~~

~~Good afternoon,~~

~~Please be advised that I will be withdrawing the Betty Phelan Memorial scholarship effective immediately.~~

~~As I understand a recipient has been chosen and in fact already notified for 2024 I will let this stand.~~

~~If you require anything further, please let me know.~~

~~Thank you for your assistance~~

~~Carol Mackinnon-Hagan~~

5. k) Leave of absence request from Michael Parr: "I'm a public school teacher and I'm considering retiring in June and also considering moving! Can I apply for a leave of absence for the time being?"

5. l) CFMTA

- i. **Multidisciplinary Competition:** each province needs to submit their response by March 1st 2025.

CFMTA National Multidisciplinary Competition 2027 -Deadline March 1st, 2025

The CFMTA National Multi-disciplinary Competition is open to competitors who are Canadian citizens or legal residents of Canada and are:

1. Competitors must be students of a member of CFMTA in good standing, at the time of application and competition.
2. Previous 1st place winners of a CFMTA National Competition are ineligible to enter.
3. Each Provincial/Territorial Association may send a total of two competitors, and no more than one competitor in any discipline.

SEMI-FINAL ROUND

- Competitors in the CFMTA National Semi-final Round should present a stylistically balanced program. Repertoire should be chosen carefully to reflect the experience and maturity of the student.
- The programme must be at the Associate level or above and must include a Canadian work. The overall programme must contain a minimum amount of stage time of 25 minutes with a maximum of 30 minutes of stage time. Stage time is defined as the time between the first note of the performance and when the final selection concludes. Competitors can select movements from a sonata; they do not necessarily need to perform the entire work. Repertoire substitutions are not permitted once the application is received.
- An official timekeeper is required during the competition. If the time limit is reached, the timekeeper will continue timing and the competitor will be allowed to finish their entire program. The competition facilitator will confirm the timing before the final deliberation takes place and will inform the adjudicators of any disqualifications. The official timing of the competitor's program will be recorded on the adjudication sheet. Any competitor whose performance goes over the time limit will receive an adjudication only and will be

disqualified from the national competition. Competitors disqualified in the semi-final round will not be eligible for the semi-final prizes.

- Program requirements o Instrumentalists' programs must include:
 - One Canadian composition One major composition from the Baroque or Classical Period
 - A variety of shorter works to form a well-balanced program
- Vocalists' programs must include: • One Canadian composition
 - One operatic or oratorio aria
 - A variety of shorter works to form a well-balanced program
- All selections must be memorized.
- Three finalists will be selected from the Semi-Final Round of the competition to proceed to the Final round of the competition.
- **AWARDS** chosen from the Semi-Final round and presented after the Final Round: o The Ernst Schneider Canadian Music Award: \$1,000.00 - for the best performance of a Canadian composition Please check back for more information about awards.

FINAL ROUND

Competitors in the CFMTA National Final Round should present a stylistically balanced program. Repertoire should be chosen carefully to reflect the experience and maturity of the student. **A completely new program must be presented.**

- The overall programme must contain a minimum amount of stage time of 30 minutes with a maximum of 45 minutes of stage time. Stage time is defined as the time between the first note of the performance and when the final selection concludes. Competitors can select movements from a sonata. They do not necessarily need to perform the entire work. Repertoire substitutions are not permitted once the application is received.
- An official timekeeper is required during the competition. If the time limit is reached, the timekeeper will continue timing, and the competitor will be allowed to finish their entire program. The competition facilitator will confirm the timing before the final deliberation takes place and will inform the adjudicators of any disqualifications. The official timing of the competitor's program will be recorded on the adjudication sheet. Any competitor whose performance goes over the time limit will receive an adjudication only and will be disqualified from the national competition. Competitors disqualified in the final round will not be eligible for the final awards but may still be considered for semi-final prizes.
- All selections must be memorized.

- ii. **Student Composer Competition:** More teachers are teaching online, which means there are new questions arising as to where a young composer may enter their provincial or territorial competition. This has already been happening for years with university composition students who travel to study in a different province. Some

younger composition students are now falling through the cracks. Some provinces stipulate that composers must reside inside their borders. Therefore, a young person who lives elsewhere studying with a member of the same association does not qualify to enter. This same young composer cannot enter in their own province because their teacher is not a member. This is an issue that cannot be solved by the CFMTA alone but must involve conversations with the various provincial and territorial associations to come up with a consistent policy across the country, to be sure all Canadian students of RMTs may enter a qualifying round to the national contest.

My recommendation is that provinces and territories not limit their own member teachers as to whom they may teach, and allow them to teach students regardless of location.

My second recommendation is that provinces and territories allow the student and teacher to choose whether to enter a contest based on the teacher's membership or the student's home province or territory. Further, this may allow provinces that don't normally have senior entries to submit them and may give more students the chance to win locally to enter the national contest and therefore get feedback from the national adjudicator on their work. Our focus must remain the nationwide development of the younger generation of composers through this contest. I'm looking for interprovincial cooperation.

By Rebekah Maxner. Student Composer Competition Chair

For consideration: the prizes for the ARMTA student composer competition comes from the ARMTA Recognition Fund. These funds must be given to students in Alberta.

3. d) EXECUTIVE REPORTS

i. President's report

I have been pleased with the smooth transition that has occurred with becoming President in October. I really appreciate how Tamara Bowie keeps the administration of the Association going and is knowledgeable and approachable to work with. Since the AGM in October, I have fielded and answered many emails and phone calls.

I had the privilege of attending the inaugural Junior and Intermediate Strings Competitions in Red Deer and heard some wonderful performances on both the violin and the cello. Thank you to our Strings Competition Committee for running a smooth and successful competition.

There are various inquiries and ideas for upcoming piano and vocal competitions, and we will have received feedback from the Conference Attendance Survey circulated before the board

meeting. We are in need of a new Vocal Competition Convenor. Nathene Arthur and I have brainstormed on ideas about the future vocal competitions and are looking to find some potential people to help plan and run a future Vocal Competition. When, where, how often, who, age categories, etc. are all something that is in discussion. (See the Vocal Competition report for our suggestions)

We held a timely email vote about for the Rotary Calgary Concerto Competition requesting support from ARMETA. The Concerto Committee needed an answer before our February Budget meeting. Thank you to all the committee convenors, officers, and Branch Reps for your work and commitment to ARMETA. We wouldn't be the Association we are without your time and effort.

If any of you know of an ARMETA member who writes well and understands policy and procedures of companies and associations, please let Rosemarie know as we need to fill the Policy and Procedures Convenorship as soon as possible. The policies and procedures look in very good shape. Only a few things need changing now and then. There will be no need to revamp or re-write the bylaws in the foreseeable future. One of you may know of someone that would be willing. If you can think of someone, please either approach them, or I would be happy to.

Respectfully, *Annette Bradley*

ii. Vice-President's report

I'd like to open a discussion point on further promoting using music to volunteer as I know there are community involvement awards but I'm wondering about establishing formal partnerships with seniors homes and/or hospitals to make it easier for students to go perform. I think it would be a win-win as I know many of these places are constantly looking for musical performers and the audience greatly appreciates the music, and it is also an excellent opportunity for students to practice performing. My students did run into some difficulty with coordinating this volunteering though on their own, so I would be interested in spearheading these partnerships if there is interest.

Submitted by *Rose He*

iii. Past-President's report

Annette Bradley has taken on the role of President; I have slipped into the Past President role. She is doing wonderfully and has capably taken up the reins of the Presidency. It has been a quiet fall for ARMETA, Past President. Nathene Arthur, as previous Past President left ARMETA

almost fully staffed with regards to convenors. Thank you Nathene for all your hard work over the years.

There are still three roles that require convenors so think of where you'd like to serve.

- Bylaws/Policies & Procedures Convenor
- Sponsorship Convenor
- Voice Competition Convenor

It has been a pleasure being involved with ARMTA over the years. I look forward to continuing my service and chatting with you as I look to fill the convenorships. Thank you to all who are volunteering and giving of your time and talents to improve and strengthen ARMTA.

Respectfully submitted, *Rosemarie Horne*

iv. CFMTA report

- i. **Multidisciplinary Competition:** each province needs to submit their response by March 1st 2025.

CFMTA National Multidisciplinary Competition 2027 -Deadline March 1st, 2025

The CFMTA National Multi-disciplinary Competition is open to competitors who are Canadian citizens or legal residents of Canada and are:

-Competitors must be students of a member of CFMTA in good standing, at the time of application and competition.

-Previous 1st place winners of a CFMTA National Competition are ineligible to enter.

-Each Provincial/Territorial Association may send a total of two competitors, and no more than one competitor in any discipline.

SEMI-FINAL ROUND

- Competitors in the CFMTA National Semi-final Round should present a stylistically balanced program. Repertoire should be chosen carefully to reflect the experience and maturity of the student.
- The programme must be at the Associate level or above and must include a Canadian work. The overall programme must contain a minimum amount of stage time of 25 minutes with a maximum of 30 minutes of stage time. Stage time is defined as the time between the first note of the performance and when the final selection concludes. Competitors can select movements from a sonata; they do not necessarily need to perform the entire work. Repertoire substitutions are not permitted once the application is received.
- An official timekeeper is required during the competition. If the time limit is reached, the timekeeper will continue timing and the competitor will be allowed to finish their entire program. The competition facilitator will confirm the timing before the final deliberation takes place and will inform the adjudicators of any disqualifications. The official timing of

the competitor's program will be recorded on the adjudication sheet. Any competitor whose performance goes over the time limit will receive an adjudication only and will be disqualified from the national competition. Competitors disqualified in the semi-final round will not be eligible for the semi-final prizes.

- Program requirements of Instrumentalists' programs must include:
 - One Canadian composition
 - One major composition from the Baroque or Classical Period
 - A variety of shorter works to form a well-balanced program
 - Vocalists' programs must include:
 - One Canadian composition
 - One operatic or oratorio aria
 - A variety of shorter works to form a well-balanced program
 - All selections must be memorized.
 - Three finalists will be selected from the Semi-Final Round of the competition to proceed to the Final round of the competition.
- **AWARDS** chosen from the Semi-Final round and presented after the Final Round:
o The Ernst Schneider Canadian Music Award: \$1,000.00 - for the best performance of a Canadian composition
Please check back for more information about awards.

FINAL ROUND

Competitors in the CFMTA National Final Round should present a stylistically balanced program. Repertoire should be chosen carefully to reflect the experience and maturity of the student. **A completely new program must be presented.**

- The overall programme must contain a minimum amount of stage time of 30 minutes with a maximum of 45 minutes of stage time. Stage time is defined as the time between the first note of the performance and when the final selection concludes. Competitors can select movements from a sonata. They do not necessarily need to perform the entire work. Repertoire substitutions are not permitted once the application is received.
- An official timekeeper is required during the competition. If the time limit is reached, the timekeeper will continue timing, and the competitor will be allowed to finish their entire program. The competition facilitator will confirm the timing before the final deliberation takes place and will inform the adjudicators of any disqualifications. The official timing of the competitor's program will be recorded on the adjudication sheet. Any competitor whose performance goes over the time limit will receive an adjudication only and will be disqualified from the national competition. Competitors disqualified in the final round will not be eligible for the final awards but may still be considered for semi-final prizes.
- All selections must be memorized.

- iii. **Student Composer Competition:** More teachers are teaching online, which means there are new questions arising as to where a young composer may enter their provincial or territorial competition. This has already been happening for years with university composition students who travel to study in a different province. Some

younger composition students are now falling through the cracks. Some provinces stipulate that composers must reside inside their borders. Therefore, a young person who lives elsewhere studying with a member of the same association does not qualify to enter. This same young composer cannot enter in their own province because their teacher is not a member. This is an issue that cannot be solved by the CFMTA alone but must involve conversations with the various provincial and territorial associations to come up with a consistent policy across the country, to be sure all Canadian students of RMTs may enter a qualifying round to the national contest.

My recommendation is that provinces and territories not limit their own member teachers as to whom they may teach, and allow them to teach students regardless of location.

My second recommendation is that provinces and territories allow the student and teacher to choose whether to enter a contest based on the teacher's membership or the student's home province or territory. Further, this may allow provinces that don't normally have senior entries to submit them and may give more students the chance to win locally to enter the national contest and therefore get feedback from the national adjudicator on their work. Our focus must remain the nationwide development of the younger generation of composers through this contest. I'm looking for interprovincial cooperation.

By Rebekah Maxner. Student Composer Competition Chair

Copied from the CFMTA National Ad Hoc reports as requested by Annette Bradley

v. Membership report

Since August 21st, 2024, we have had the following changes in our membership.

New Members August 21, 2024 – January 17, 2024

<u>NAME</u>	<u>REGISTERED SUBJECT</u>	<u>BRANCH JOINED</u>
Evelyn Schaffer	Voice	Edmonton
Martha Renner	Voice	Lethbridge
Melody Ngo	Affiliate Grade 9	Edmonton
Lynnae Wright	Voice	Lethbridge
Sandra Narvaez	Piano, Violin	Calgary
Desiree Arthur	Voice	Calgary
Allan Nelson	Violin	Edmonton
Julia Dobbin	Saxophone	Edmonton
Lauren Dykstra	Violin	Edmonton
Ming Yan	Piano, Musicology, History, Advanced Theory, Ethnomusicology	Calgary
Dave Burrow	Piano	MAL
Jennifer Kirkaldy	Flute	Edmonton
Caleb Kalsbeek	Piano	Lethbridge
Debbie Fedoruk	Voice	MAL
Travis Kutz	Euphonium	Edmonton

Reinstatements

Selina Wong	Voice	Calgary
Heather Heron-MyKyte	Violin, Viola	Calgary
Kanykei Mukhtarova	Piano, Collaborative Piano	Edmonton
Cathy C. Y. Leung	Piano	Calgary
Joan Allison	Piano	MAL

Transfers

none

Upgrades

none

Leave of Absence

There are currently 6 members on leave.

New Provincial Life Members

There are currently 9 provincial life members.

Membership totals:

	Feb 17, 2017	Feb 8, 2018	Feb 15, 2019	Feb 14, 2020	Feb 13, 2021	Feb. 1, 2022	Feb. 11, 2023	Feb. 2, 2024	Jan. 18, 2025
Full	400	414	416	421	421	417	411	417	418

Affiliate 10	18	18	22	24	25	23	25	23	20
Affiliate 9	5	8	8	15	11	12	14	16	13
Retired	15	14	15	17	21	25	24	20	18
Provincial Life	2	5	5	8	8	7	7	9	9
TOTAL	442	460	468	485	486	484	481	485	478

Branch membership totals:

	Feb 8, 2018	Feb 15, 2019	Feb 14, 2020	Feb 13, 2021	Feb. 1, 2022	Feb. 11, 2023	Feb. 2, 2024	Jan. 18, 2025
Calgary	193	198	194	194	192	192	189	191
Edmonton	148	158	166	160	155	155	148	150
Lethbridge	27	25	24	24	23	23	27	29
Red Deer	18	20	23	24	22	22	21	18
Grande Prairie	4	7	9	11	13	11	12	14
Medicine Hat	8	9	11	11	16	16	19	17
MAL	62	51	59	63	64	63	70	60
TOTAL	460	468	486*	487*	485*	482*	486*	479*

*one member is part of both Edmonton and Red Deer Branches

Submitted by *Tamara Bowie*

vi. Financial report

ARMTA is in sound financial position.

Our three GIC's totaling \$36,675.20 are invested at interest rates of 3.7%, 4.55%, and 4.6% until spring 2026. In July, Barbara Robertson and Christine Rogers reviewed the financial statements and found everything to be in order. The 2023-2024 Financial Statement is available to view online in the Prov Exec area of our website.

The Annual Return for Society and Non-Profit was filed on June 28th, 2024. The balance sheet shows the financial position at a point in time. T4A slips will be issued to all honorariums and scholarships received in 2024 that are above \$500.

The board has approved a deficit budget since 2015. The budgets from 2015-2020 were usually a deficit between \$5000-\$6000. During COVID (years 2021 & 2022) our operating account balance increased by about \$50,000 because of various reasons. For the last 3 years, the board has approved a deficit budget varying from \$12,000-\$23,000 with the intent of bringing the balance back down. Convenors and Board members are very conscious of how funds are spent and ARMTA always comes in under the planned budget. There is plenty to discuss at this board meeting, but I would encourage board members to become familiar with the budget and past budgets and at the fall board meeting, I would like to propose a discussion about the future financial plan of ARMTA. I would recommend that the board chose to either 1) raise membership fees by \$10-\$15 at the AGM, 2) cash of the GIC's and keep fees the same or 3) reduce the budget deficit and programs moving forward. We have the funds for now and our operating

account has never been below \$30,000 so I have no concerns with the board approving another deficit budget for the 2025-2026 year if that is what they choose.

I have less than 20 Cheques left. The cost to order more cheques is \$232 for 250 cheques or \$305 for 500 cheques plus shipping.

I would like to ask the board to consider approving e-transfers as a way of paying bills. Here is the process that the bank recommends and what Alberta Music Education Foundation uses. AMEF is a similar non-profit organization who does e-transfers for bill payments.

FROM AMEF: For e-transfers and any electronic payments such as bill payments, there's 2 ways you can go about it:

1. At AMEF, I have a spreadsheet that lists each item to pay, the date, the amount, gst, total payment, bank account used, and date of payment. At the bottom, I have a signature place with the person's name and the date. With that spreadsheet, I send copies of the invoices for proof, and I put everything together into 1 PDF and send it out via AdobeSign for signing/approval electronically. Because AGLC requires that all invoices must be signed, my signers have to sign each page. It's a pain the first time for the signers, but I think after the first time Adobe can remember your signature and they just click to sign each page. I find AdobeSign works quite well, but you can use other platforms. I just put in the email addresses and names, and set a reminder to go out every day. I choose the order that the document is signed, I can sign in and see the progress of the signing, and when it is all finished, everyone receives a final pdf with the signatures and a document certifying the signing.

2. We are with ATB, but many (but I think not all) banks have a process where you set up roles and users in online banking. The only reason I don't use this method is because of the paperwork required by AGLC. However, other organizations do make it work - I will have to investigate that some day. Basically, you set up rules for payments, such as requiring no approval, 1 approver, 2 approvers, deny after a certain dollar amount, etc. Then when you go to make a payment, it will trigger an email to the signers to sign into the account (everyone has their own sign-in and you can limit what they are allowed to do) and approve the transaction. The only thing I'm not certain of is whether you receive a notification email that the transaction was approved and sent but this can be found in the transaction history online. However, I suspect that this process is not available for stuff like making bill payments. I believe the e-transfers are free, but if you choose to set up a vendor for EFT (direct payment to their bank account) there is a fee.

Going electronic has been much easier for us. As we are a provincial organization, it meant chasing after people to get cheques signed either as needed or pre-signing (which really is a no-

no). In today's age, we rarely meet in-person, which means it's hard to get those signatures. Plus the cost of cheques is astronomical, so this has saved us a lot of money and time.

Hope this helps! Let me know if you have other questions.

Regards,

Crystal Krips

Executive Director

AMEF (Alberta Music Education Foundation)

FROM ATB Bank: Should the board be allowing anyone who has access the online banking for e-transfer, we can set up a rule that when an initiator initiates an e-transfer, we will need one additional user to go in and approval (we call this one additional user approval)

Submitted by *Tamara Bowie*

Balance Sheet

As of January 17, 2025

	<u>17 Jan 2025</u>	<u>17 Jan 2024</u>	<u>\$ Change</u>
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Chequing/Savings			
ATB Chequing	30,460.93	34,949.73	-4,488.80
GIC	10,918.39	10,441.98	476.41
GIC 4	12,252.00	11,713.19	538.81
GIC 5	13,504.81	13,021.69	483.12
Stripe	23.22	638.33	-615.11
Total Chequing/Savings	<u>67,159.35</u>	<u>70,764.92</u>	<u>-3,605.57</u>
Accounts Receivable			
Accounts Receivable	240.00	-10.00	250.00
Total Accounts Receivable	<u>240.00</u>	<u>-10.00</u>	<u>250.00</u>
Other Current Assets			
Prepaid Expenses	0.00	980.41	-980.41
Total Other Current Assets	<u>0.00</u>	<u>980.41</u>	<u>-980.41</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>67,399.35</u>	<u>71,735.33</u>	<u>-4,335.98</u>
Fixed Assets			
Computer Equipment			
Computer Equipment Cost	1,913.09	1,913.09	0.00
Computer Equipment Depreciation	-1,401.25	-901.25	-500.00
Total Computer Equipment	<u>511.84</u>	<u>1,011.84</u>	<u>-500.00</u>
Total Fixed Assets	<u>511.84</u>	<u>1,011.84</u>	<u>-500.00</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>67,911.19</u></u>	<u><u>72,747.17</u></u>	<u><u>-4,835.98</u></u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY			
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Other Current Liabilities			
Branch Fees Collected			
Calgary Branch	815.53	900.00	-84.47
Edmonton Branch	2,870.00	1,425.00	1,445.00
Lethbridge Branch	17.50	70.00	-52.50
Red Deer Branch	0.00	70.00	-70.00
Total Branch Fees Collected	<u>3,703.03</u>	<u>2,465.00</u>	<u>1,238.03</u>
CMT Magazine Print Subscription	0.00	35.00	-35.00
Deferred Income	1,220.00	1,360.00	-140.00
Total Other Current Liabilities	<u>4,923.03</u>	<u>3,860.00</u>	<u>1,063.03</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>4,923.03</u>	<u>3,860.00</u>	<u>1,063.03</u>
Total Liabilities	4,923.03	3,860.00	1,063.03
Equity			
Opening Bal Equity	31,913.31	31,913.31	0.00
Unrestricted Net Assets	26,009.45	38,446.24	-12,436.79
Net Income	5,065.40	-1,472.38	6,537.78
Total Equity	<u>62,988.16</u>	<u>68,887.17</u>	<u>-5,899.01</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u><u>67,911.19</u></u>	<u><u>72,747.17</u></u>	<u><u>-4,835.98</u></u>

Income and Expenses Budget vs. Actual

As of January 18, 2025

	<u>1 Apr '24 - 18 Jan 25</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$ Over Budget</u>
Income			
Advertising Income	0.00	50.00	-50.00
Conference Income	3,593.42	3,493.42	100.00
Donations			
Total Donations	0.00	0.00	0.00
Interest Income	976.67	1,475.00	-498.33
Membership Income	80,987.01	81,700.00	-712.99
Projects Income			
CFMTA Student Composer Comp.	160.00	850.00	-690.00
Piano Competition	300.00	0.00	300.00
String Competition	570.00	650.00	-80.00
Vocal Competition	0.00	0.00	0.00
Website Hosting Income	75.00	200.00	-125.00
Projects Income - Other	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Projects Income	1,105.00	1,700.00	-595.00
Sponsorship Income	1,900.00	2,000.00	-100.00
Total Income	88,562.10	90,418.42	-1,856.32
Expense			
Administration			
Administrator Contract	12,000.00	14,400.00	-2,400.00
Bank & Service Fees	113.34	1,700.00	-1,586.66
Cell Phone	316.05	450.00	-133.95
Computer Expenses	250.00	250.00	0.00
Mileage	280.60	300.00	-19.40
Office Supplies	539.53	700.00	-160.47
Rent	500.00	600.00	-100.00
Administration - Other	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Administration	13,999.52	18,400.00	-4,400.48
Advertising & Publicity			
Social Media (inc. \$1500 honorarium 24-B09-M27)	1,940.92	1,000.00	940.92
Advertising & Publicity - Other	429.89	2,700.00	-2,270.11
Total Advertising & Publicity	2,370.81	3,700.00	-1,329.19
Board Expenses			
AGM Expenses			
Hotels	912.63	1,700.00	-787.37
Meals	543.18	1,000.00	-456.82
Travel	2,155.46	3,850.00	-1,694.54

	<u>1 Apr '24 - 18 Jan 25</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$ Over Budget</u>
AGM Expenses - Other	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total AGM Expenses	3,611.27	6,550.00	-2,938.73
Board Meetings Travel & Meals			
Meals	300.00	720.00	-420.00
Board Meetings Travel & Meals - Other	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Board Meetings Travel & Meals	300.00	720.00	-420.00
Conferencing (Zoom Pro Subscription)	234.50	220.00	14.50
Directors Insurance	1,210.00	1,152.00	58.00
Meeting Room Rental	0.00	0.00	0.00
Board Expenses - Other	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Board Expenses	5,355.77	8,642.00	-3,286.23
Member services			
CFMTA Conference	0.00	0.00	0.00
CFMTA Delegate Expenses	0.00	200.00	-200.00
CFMTA Dues	19,383.00	20,000.00	-617.00
Conference/AGM			
Catering			
Catering - Other	1,065.02	1,140.00	-74.98
Total Catering	1,065.02	1,140.00	-74.98
Conference Registrations	252.90	360.00	-107.10
Printing, Postage, and Supplies	65.24	100.00	-34.76
Sessions & Seminars			
Clinician Travel Expenses	0.00	1,400.00	-1,400.00
Session Honorariums	0.00	1,500.00	-1,500.00
Sessions & Seminars - Other	0.00	200.00	-200.00
Total Sessions & Seminars	0.00	3,100.00	-3,100.00
Conference/AGM - Other	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Conference/AGM	1,383.16	4,700.00	-3,316.84
Directory			
Directory Postage	254.60	300.00	-45.40
Directory Printing	256.33	285.00	-28.67
Directory - Other	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Directory	510.93	585.00	-74.07
Honoraria & Gifts	668.48	700.00	-31.52
Insurance			
Members Insurance Postage	0.00	500.00	-500.00
Insurance - Other	24,300.00	25,000.00	-700.00
Total Insurance	24,300.00	25,500.00	-1,200.00
Membership Renewals			
Membership Renewals Postage	39.50	350.00	-310.50
Membership Renewals Printing	0.00	0.00	0.00
Membership Renewals - Other	0.00	0.00	0.00

	<u>1 Apr '24 - 18 Jan 25</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$ Over Budget</u>
Total Membership Renewals	39.50	350.00	-310.50
Tempo			
Editor Honorarium	900.00	900.00	0.00
Postage	266.12	400.00	-133.88
Printing	427.50	550.00	-122.50
Tempo - Other	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Tempo	1,593.62	1,850.00	-256.38
Website and Database			
Database Developer Fees	0.00	0.00	0.00
Webmaster Contract	1,500.00	1,500.00	0.00
Website Hosting	2,582.40	1,600.00	982.40
Website and Database - Other	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Website and Database	4,082.40	3,100.00	982.40
Member services - Other	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Member services	51,961.09	56,985.00	-5,023.91
Partnerships			
CASSA Musical Arts	500.00	500.00	0.00
Partnerships - Other	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Partnerships	500.00	500.00	0.00
President's Expenses			
Catering	0.00	0.00	0.00
CFMTA President Visit	0.00	0.00	0.00
Conference Registrations	0.00	0.00	0.00
General	0.00	50.00	-50.00
President's Expenses at CFMTA	0.00	0.00	0.00
Visits to Branches	0.00	2,015.00	-2,015.00
President's Expenses - Other	0.00	100.00	-100.00
Total President's Expenses	0.00	2,165.00	-2,165.00
Projects			
ARMTA Recognition Fund Donation	200.00	200.00	0.00
Collegiate Chapters	0.00	75.00	-75.00
Community Service Certificates	0.00	25.00	-25.00
Continuing Ed./Travelling Work.	1,125.00	3,800.00	-2,675.00
Piano Competition	537.50	3,990.00	-3,452.50
Recognition Fund Postage	0.00	100.00	-100.00
Strings Competition	2,624.53	2,050.00	574.53
Student Composer Competition	2,022.48	1,850.00	172.48
Voice Competition	0.00	2,500.00	-2,500.00
Projects - Other	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Projects	6,509.51	14,590.00	-8,080.49
Scholarships			
Alberta Music Festival Assoc.	400.00	400.00	0.00

	<u>1 Apr '24 - 18 Jan 25</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$ Over Budget</u>
Canada West Performing Arts	400.00	400.00	0.00
Continuing Education Scholarships	1,500.00	2,500.00	-1,000.00
Scholarships - Other	500.00	500.00	0.00
Total Scholarships	2,800.00	3,800.00	-1,000.00
Uncategorized Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Expense	83,496.70	108,782.00	-25,285.30
Net Income	<u>5,065.40</u>	<u>-18,363.58</u>	<u>23,428.98</u>

There are a few projects that will still be submitting expenses like piano competition, continuing education, and a few more months of the administrator's contract. Even though this will not be the final net income for the year, it is expected that ARMTA will spend less than the anticipated deficit.

Submitted by *Tamara Bowie*

vii. Administrator's report

MONTH	2021	2022	2023	2024
January		79.33	44.50	43.25
February		77.42	65.00	63.17
March		62.17	48.00	37.75
April		74.00	37.83	39.25
May		43.42	22.25	31.25
June		33.00	33.58	35.00
July	51.55	43.17	27.75	33.33
August	75.05	39.92	38.50	48.25
September	58.50	47.67	52.58	44.25
October	45.05	51.17	44.00	66.50
November	32.45	20.08	24.42	28.00
December	31.10	29.50	29.67	28.50
Average/month	48.95	50.07	39.01	41.54
Total	293.70	600.85	468.08	498.50

Archives and Financial Statements:

There isn't enough room in the filing cabinets for new material. There are a few files that could be cleaned out to make room for new files. I would like to dispose of invoices and expense receipts from 2012-2014. All other documents such as Financial Statements will be kept both as a hard copy in the filing cabinets and on OneDrive. It is recommended to keep financial source documents for six years and these are over 10 years.

- Invoice and expense receipts from 2012-2014
- Copies of insurance certificates dating 1997-2011
- CASSA (Calgary Arts Summer School Association) programs and brochures from 2006-2011

MembershipWorks is the online program we use for membership and payments. We pay a monthly fee for 1200 accounts. ARMTA currently has 1143 accounts and if we go over 1200 accounts it would cost us an extra \$50 USD per month. To avoid this, I will go through the accounts that are no longer used and remove them. Because members can reinstate, I will start with members who have passed away or have not been members for a long time. A record will be kept of the deleted accounts, but this will save us some money by keeping the current subscription that we have. This will allow for new members to sign up without our cost increasing for the time being.

As the board directed at the September 2024 meeting, 24-B09-M26, I assisted the Past President (Nathene Arthur) and Publicity Convenor (Susan Henley) in hiring a Social Media Convenor. Karen Gerelus started her contract on October 15, 2024. A six month review will be done by April 15th as the board recommended.

Since our last meeting, I have continued to process membership applications, take care of the finances, helped organize the AGM, prepare for renewals, send monthly newsletters, prepare documents for the board meeting, and contact members to update their Vulnerable Sector Checks. This year there were 132 members needing to update their VSC which was significantly more than the 57 last year.

It has come to my attention recently that our insurance policy was for music teachers specifically. I have been in contact with our insurance company, March Canada, and they have confirmed that the policy will extend to cover Speech Arts Teachers. Danielle Blaich is our representative with Marsh and has been very helpful in resolving this issue. We are the only provincial organization within CFMTA that offers membership for Speech Arts Teachers at this time. Danielle said that in this case, when a certificate is required, please email your request specifically to Danielle at Danielle.blaich@marsh.com and she will instruct the certificate team on how to proceed. This was sent in an email to inform our 3 speech arts teachers.

For Discussion: The question if a printed directory is needed was brought up at my budget draft meeting with VP Rose He. Does the board think it is ethical and necessary to continue printing and mailing directories with all members information each April? There are currently 77 members who request a hard copy of the directory mailed to them and it costs around \$650/year.

Also, is it feasible to change the policy of mailing hard copy membership renewal letters? Every year, I have been instructed to send hard copy renewal notices in January to those members who request it (about 25 members) which would continue, and I also send renewal notices 3 times by email prior to Feb. 28th (Earlybird deadline). The board has instructed the Administrator in the past to send a renewal notice by mail to all members who have not renewed by February 20th so that it arrives before February 28th. However, many members do receive their email notices, and a large number of members renew on February 27 and 28. I'm wondering if this year we could wait to send out hardcopy renewal notices until the middle of March. This would reduce the number of notices mailed and reduce the cost but still reach members who perhaps have not seen the previous emails, newsletters, and posts on social media.

Submitted by *Tamara Bowie*

3. e) CONVENOR REPORTS

i. Archives

- collected archival material from members at AGM.
 - printed copy of motion to donate archival material to Provincial Archives of Alberta, signed donation receipt (fully signed copy will be updated in google drive when received).
 - Drop off appointment: Friday January 10th, 2025
 - added 2014-2023 meeting minutes from Grande Prairie branch (forwarded by Beth Peters) in google drive. 40 files total. Organized into sub folders, first by ARMTA calendar year (April – March), then by branch.
- Note: previous to 2014, archival material was in hard copy, likely donated to the Provincial Archives of Alberta. That is why current folders only date back to 2014.
- created convenor checklist for google drive for future archives convenor

Submitted by *Yvonne Boone*

ii. Bursary

Since May of 2024, the Bursary committee has given out 12 bursaries for a total of \$8,000.00. The committee has been able to give out larger bursaries which is more beneficial in meeting the costs of a music education. At the discretion of the Bursary Committee, students have received bursaries between \$500 and \$1000.

To provide some background to this, recently some changes were made in the bursary application. At the last Board meeting, the following was approved:

- 1) *Eligible applications for Needs-Based Bursaries may be awarded up to \$1,000, this at the discretion of the Bursary Committee.*
- 2) *Applicants can re-apply for a Needs-Based Bursary after 6 months. The Committee will re-visit the eligibility period and adjust if needed.*

At the time of writing this report, there are applications continuing to come in, and we expect this balance to change again shortly.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lorrie Wittke

iii. Bylaws/Policies and Procedures

Request to remove the CFMTA “third delegate” from our P & P manual as it is no longer a designation. Please read the email from CFMTA Secretary, Heather Fyfe:

“I notice that 3 people are listed on the ARMTA website as CFMTA Delegates. According to our current By-laws, each provincial association has two delegates, and there are no alternates or substitutes permitted. This is because Delegates are also automatically Directors on our Board and must be registered as such with Corporations Canada. Since we moved to a Board of Directors structure in 2023, rather than the prior Executive Committee, in order to be better in compliance with Canadian regulations for Non-profit organizations such as ours, we must be more strict with the rules and policies around Directors.

So, I'm assuming that I will take your "first" and "second" delegates as our Directors, Annette and Rosemarie. Your "third", Rose, can certainly be informally preparing as the next Delegate-in-waiting so to speak, but holds no official Delegate status until either Annette or Rosemarie steps down from their position as Delegate.

We would appreciate it if this "third delegate" designation could be removed from the website listing, so that members from other provincial associations don't happen to see it and presume that ARMTA has additional representation that their association does not have, for instance. “

Submitted by Tamara Bowie, ARMTA Administrator

iv. Canada Music Week

In Alberta, many of our chapters celebrated Canada Music Week in 2024 from November 17-23. Edmonton and Calgary hosted Contemporary Showcase Festivals, a non-competitive festival that seeks to promote and celebrate Canadian composers. Students of all ages and levels are welcome to perform pieces by Canadian composers and even have the opportunity to workshop their own compositions with a Canadian composer. Edmonton's Contemporary Showcase Festival featured composers David L. McIntyre and Red Leaf Pianoworks Canadian composers and clinicians Jane Hayes, Heather McGuire, Miriam Ferguson, Joel Gray, Miriam Khalil, Charles Stolte, and Valentina Benvenuti. Calgary's Contemporary Showcase Festival was adjudicated by Laurel Teichroeb, Crystal Hanson, Joan Barrett, and Peter Jancewicz.

Our teachers are very creative in developing new and exciting ways to celebrate Canadian music. For example, in 2023, Calgary piano teacher Sandra Joy Friesen presented a special recital of Canadian female composers. Sandra writes:

"As a pianist dedicated to promoting the music of Canadian composers, I offered to give a presentation and recital on Canadian female composers featuring solo piano repertoire for the festival in 2023. This was held on the first day of the festival, Thursday morning Nov. 23. I chose three influential composers from the 20th century, Violet Archer and her Six Preludes, Jean Coulthard and her Aegean Sketches, and Mary Gardiner and her a long time ago in the future. Following the recital, there was interesting discussion with teachers on the different styles as well as the extended piano techniques required for Mary Gardiner's piece. The door prize for the event was the book "Jean Coulthard: A Life in Music" by

William Bruneau and David Duke. My pedagogical CD/DVD recording "Off the Shelf" which features all Canadian composers and several pieces with extended piano techniques (Violet Archer, John Weinzweig, Udo Kasemets, John Fodi, Mary Gardiner, Scott Smallwood, Gilles Tremblay) was offered for free to the teachers present."

We have such a rich and unique musical culture in Canada. It's never too early to start planning ways to celebrate our great Canadian composers for Canada Music Week 2025!

Submitted by *Josina Leder-Sears*

v. Collegiate Chapters

University of Alberta - Viktoria Reiswich-Dapp

In October ARMTA Edmonton Branch and ARMTA past President Rosemarie Horne spoke with the U of A Chapter members. The topic: who ARMTA is and what ARMTA does. The ARMTA Collegiate Chapter Student Executive Team was introduced followed by a roundtable discussion and brief overview defining pedagogy. As of October, the chapter had 25 members.

The Chapter has received approx. \$415 in grant for operations of the club to help with advertising and other items.

The next executive meeting is scheduled for the end of January.

Things to work on:

1. A pedagogy session: One has not yet been scheduled as the president (Rayna) was dealing with a busy schedule. Viktoria is actively mentoring the students on setting up a delegation system that spreads responsibilities, prepares the chapter for succession planning (one of the givens of the academic environment is the constant turn over), and gives some momentum.

2. Recruitment: The students are busy with school/classes and the little time that is left needs to be invested in practicing. There is often no time/room for more learning. Viktoria emphasized that the chapter members need to present whatever they do as something that will directly affect their own growth as a musician (not only improve teaching) as both go hand in hand.

University of Calgary

I have been in contact with Jani Parsons at U of C about starting a Collegiate Chapter. Thank you to Sandra Joy Friesen for referring Jani.

High School Club – other members involved – Rose He

Rose He contacted me about the possibility of expanding the collegiate chapter model into High Schools.

For Discussion:

ARMTA Clubs in High School

This was brought forward by Rose He. The clubs typically follow the same basic model as Collegiate Chapters with a teacher advisor and student executive. The students plan events which, for an ARMTA club, can include but is not limited to music performance at the community level (fits well with the Community Service Award), fundraising for the parent organization (possibly the Branch or another cause), a place to promote ARMTA events and workshops (make music students aware of ARMTA), encouraging the music teaching field by inviting an ARMTA member to speak on a pedagogy topic. Some High School programs such as IB require volunteer hours.

The High School Club members could have a similar relationship with ARMTA as other STAFF Club members, although changes to that relationship are for the board to decide.

Two considerations:

3. The teacher advisor may not be an ARMTA member.
4. Will High School clubs affect STAFF club attendance or, on the positive note, increase the places where ARMTA can reach student teachers and potential members?

Submitted by *Marlaine Osgood*

vi. Community Service Award

The deadline to submit was January 31,2025.

Gold certificate:

Edward Xue, student of Frances Ewington
Ian Yan Lok Wong, student of Kathy Dornian

Marlaine Osgood

vii. Conference

Music Conference Alberta – other members involved – Nathene Arthur and Chrysanthema Nikol

Music Conference Alberta will not be running in 2025. Each Association is encouraged to run their own conference or workshops.

1. I have spoken with AMEF (ARMTA and AMEF co-produce the studio session at MCA as both associations have members who are studio teachers) and they are happy to hold a one-day workshop with us.

Rational for a one-day workshop:

- Less expensive for members as communicated to us in the member survey.
 - Less expense and less manpower required in planning compared with a weekend conference.
2. Date – October 25, similar to MCA weekend
 3. Suggested Location - Red Deer

Rational:

Centrally located. Although some members may need to book one night's accommodation, the majority should be able to drive down for the day.

Con:

Looking back at AGM and conference attendee numbers, more members attended when MCA was held in larger branches, compared to when it was held in Red Deer, a smaller branch.

Possible venues:

-Gaetz Memorial United Church (location of Strings Competition)

-Red Deer Polytechnic (Alberta Band Association – ABA – is holding a conference at this location on Oct. 25. ARMTA/AMEF could use the space at the same time.

-Burman University in Lacombe

4. Concert

If we wish, as part of the workshop, we can hold a concert to showcase some of ARMTA's award winners in combination with AMEF winners and possibly a performance by a clinician. To allow for delegates to leave early, schedule the concert as a session.

5. Strings Masterclass

Schedule the workshop on the same weekend as the Strings Masterclass to create a CE weekend. AMEF and the Alberta Stings Society (ASA) are willing to be involved in the Strings Masterclass.

Submitted by *Marlaine Osgood*

viii. Continuing Education

Activities funded from 2024-2025 Continuing Education Budget

Red Deer Branch

Pop, Rock and Blues Café

March 25, 2024

Amount of Funding: \$400 for guest artists

Student Teacher Recital

June 9, 2024, St. Luke's Anglican Church

Amount of Funding: \$100 for venue rental

Lethbridge Branch

Yoga Workshop

Clinicians: Rose van der Hooft and Martha Renner

October 5, 2024, Lethbridge Public Library

Amount of Funding: \$400

Calgary Branch

Brain Gym

November 26, 2024, St. David's Church

Amount of Funding: \$400 (\$300 for clinician fee; \$100 for venue rental)

15 Calgary Branch teachers met to learn about *Brain Gym*, from the head of *Brain Gym Canada*, Dana Luebke. Dana provided an overview of how he came to know about Brain Gym exercises through his early experiences in dance. He discovered amazing results from these simple exercises that serve to heighten physical awareness, energy, and concentration. The success he noticed immediately with implementing these simple strategies were his inspiration to become involved as a trainer for *Brain Gym*.

Dana guided teachers through the exercises that involved breathing techniques, isometrics, physical motions and stretching. P.A.C.E presents the foundational points of getting started: Energy (Water), Clear (Brain Buttons), Active (Cross Crawls), Positive and Present (Hook-Ups). After going through the fundamental “exercises” Dana continued with suggestions for useful strategies and tips for us as music teachers, both for ourselves as teachers and musicians, as well as for our students. He provided a few pages of reminder points, which is always helpful. This was a successful workshop in that many commented afterwards on how they could see the value of implementing all that he was showing us, and several suggested that we do a follow-up workshop later in the year.

ARMTA branches are encouraged to submit applications for funding for the 2024-2025 year. Each branch can apply for up to \$400 in funding per year, with the possibility of additional funds if there are any left toward the end of the fiscal year. The application form can be found on the ARMTA website in the member’s area, under the resource tab. <https://armta.ca/continuing-ed-funding/#!event-register/2024/9/1/continuing-education-funding-application>
Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Report respectfully submitted by *Deanna Oye, Continuing Education Convenor*

ix. Examining Board

EXAMINING BOARD REPORT – Sept. 2024 – Jan. 2025

Person Preparing Report: Judith Elliott – board Chair

Board Members: Roger Admiral, Brad Parker, Twila Baker, Ruston Vuori, Bronwyn Schuman

APPLICANTS ACCEPTED

Full Membership:

Voice	4
Piano	5
Composition	1
Cello	2
Saxophone	1
Violin	3
Musicology	1
History	1
Adv. Theory	1

Ethnomusicology 1
Flute 1
Euphonium 1

Affiliate Members: 2

We welcomed Bronwyn Schuman to our board this past fall and valued her input.

No issues for discussion at this reporting over the past 6 months. Most applications have been straightforward.

Respectfully submitted, *Judith Elliott*

x. Festival Association Liaison

Request the Alberta Music Festival Association Scholarship funding be increased to \$500 for the 2025 AMFA Provincial Festival. All Alberta Music Festival Association Scholarships have been all increased by \$50 for 2025. Class 703 – Piano Solo 15 Years and Under and Class 312 – Cello/Double Bass 15 Years and Under, the two classes ARMTA sponsors now have scholarships of \$250 each.

Request the Canada West Performing Arts Festival Scholarship funding of at least \$500 be reinstated for 2025 (Saskatchewan) and increased again to \$1000 in 2026 when Alberta once again hosts the Canada West Performing Arts Festival. ARMTA supported CWPAF in 2023 (Alberta) but not in 2024 (British Columbia)

Rationale:

13 and Under Classes: 1st Place \$800
17 and Under Classes: 1st Place \$1,000
22 and Under Classes: 1st Place \$2,000
Choral Classes: 1st Place \$500

Respectfully submitted by *Carolyn Steeves*

xi. Members at Large

Nothing to report

Ida Edwards

xii. Piano Competition

The Piano Competition is going as planned and scheduled. We had 6 candidates apply. The final round of competition will take place on January 26th, 2025 at 2pm at Knoppers Hall at the King's University in Edmonton. 9125-50 St. NW.

The first-place winner will represent ARMTA at the CFMTA National Competition July 3-5, 2025.

Submitted by *Jan Janovsky*

xiii. Publicity

Brand refresh at Branches:

- for the 2024/25 budget year, \$300 per branch was budgeted for replacement of obsolete branded promotional material. Three branches have not yet requested material (Edmonton, Lethbridge, Grande Prairie). ○ I suggest ARMTA not renew budget funding for this specifically - Publicity budget can fold requests into the sundry budget starting with the 2025/26 budget period. Banners will be produced using a template design commissioned through Publicity budget during original brand refresh, and ordered centrally through VistaPrint, which has proven to be competitive in quality, and most economical in the past.

ARMTA Name Recognition resumed for 2025/26 (Social Media Convenor):

The 2024/25 publicity plan assumed the appointment of a Social Media Convenor, and was focused on increasing participation in ARMTA events, and increasing provincial membership numbers, by publicizing our events, benefits of membership, and generally creating greater awareness of ARMTA's brand.

Results:

- prior to the appointment of the Social Media Convenor, we spent \$275 on three paid Instagram ads for the strings competition, targeted to a suitable audience demographic. Total reach was 25,300 people, of whom 260 engaged by clicking the link to our website. The campaign was minimal, given it was managed by ARMTA Administrator, Webmaster and Publicity Convenor outside their role responsibilities, and was also launched a bit too close to competition date for comfort. Even so, the strings competition received a record number of applicants.

The Social Media Convenor role was successfully filled in October 2024:

- the piano competition received 6 applicants, which is also a record number. The social media coverage was not a paid campaign but did garner over 7000 views.

These results are promising. It is important to note that all social media posts contribute to our reputation and our name recognition, and all serve to advertise ARMTA to current and potential students and members.

The current budget request is intended to give us the flexibility to highlight ARMTA priorities throughout the coming budget year, such as an AMEF collaboration, etc.

For discussion:

reputation and lawfulness

Social Media and Tempo Magazine benefit from photographic content. In the modern world, privacy considerations must be taken very seriously by anyone posting photographs in public forums. ARMTA is bound by PIPA (not FOIP). I will be examining ARMTA's adherence to PIPA requirements, regarding photos, bios etc. collected from competitors, and more importantly our adherence to privacy law and our policy regarding the publication of photos of minor children.

Convenors and branches and individual members should be able to depend on ARMTA to advise them accurately. It will likely be necessary to obtain a legal opinion in this regard, although I am not requesting budget at this time.

Submitted by *Susan Henley*

xiv. Recognition Fund

The balance of the ARMTA Recognition Fund as of January 8, 2025 is \$45,967.47.

This year there were 3 donations:

- 1) Rusconi Fund (Edmonton Community Foundation) \$20,312.00. It was received in May of 2024.
- 2) ARMTA Provincial honored two members with a donation of \$200.00:
 - Rosemarie Horne (President 2022-2024)
 - Barbara Robertson (2024 ARMTA Service Award).
- 3) ARMTA Lethbridge Branch honored a previous member with a donation of \$75.00:
 - In memory of Ruth Ringland, a former member of the Lethbridge Branch.

The following funds were awarded as requested:

Bursaries	\$8,000
Newcomer Bursary	
ARMTA Provincial Branch awards	\$5,485
Contemporary Showcases	\$700
CASSA	
Student Composer Awards	\$600
String Competition	\$3,450
Pedagogy Awards	\$2,000

The auditor of CFMTA Trust Fund recommends that all recipients of amounts greater than \$500 be sent T4a forms and report these amounts on income tax. I send this information as soon as the individual is notified of the bursary or scholarship. I am also in regular contact with Lois Kerr, the Treasurer of CFMTA and appreciate her assistance in ordering the bursaries and scholarships. Lois and I also go over the spreadsheet balance periodically.

Respectfully, *Lorrie Wittke*

xv. Scholarship

Ida Edwards

xvi. Social Media

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to be writing as the new social media convenor. Since accepting the position in October, 2024 there has been a lot of action to report. The early weeks were mostly consumed with setting up the ARMTA Provincial Instagram and Facebook accounts (both can be accessed @armtaprovincial) and establishing the backend of Meta. Despite being very familiar with

technology and social media, this process was daunting. There is now a nicely organized Business Suite and Ads Manager where our content is consolidated & accessible.

Since everything is now running smoothly, I have been issuing ~ 3 posts per week. Many of these are original content, created in Canva and then shared simultaneously to both FB & IG. I have shared results of the recent strings competition, the student composer competition, and service award. There was a significant advertising campaign for the Provincial Piano competition which received a record number of applicants. The Instagram reel saw over 7000 views. Two posts regarding liability insurance member benefit together saw over 5000 views. Our followers and engagement are increasing, but there is a lot of work yet to be done. Costs to date have been \$152 in advertising.

Going forward, I envision additional social media advertising (beyond the typical reach of 'free' posts). The proposed budget is \$1300 and is reflected in the Publicity Convenor's budget request.

Efforts will focus on increasing participation in ARMTA events, and increasing provincial membership numbers, by publicizing our events, benefits of membership, and generally creating greater awareness of ARMTA's brand.

What would really be helpful is to have social media content provided by members. The posts with *real* people doing *real* things are always the most impactful. The text-based posts with hearty information are not always inspiring and do not receive much engagement. I plan to contact each executive member this year to provide short (less than 20 seconds) video content for our accounts.

I am working hard to change the image of the association into something vibrant and worthwhile -- because I know first-hand that strong, alternative opinions exist widely! Some of my younger contemporaries have described ARMTA as 'irrelevant' or an 'oldies club' and I feel strongly otherwise. Having a strong social media presence demonstrating the benefits of being a member, the breadth of activities, and the strong social connections will do our association well going forward.

If there are items you would like to see featured on our social media accounts, please send them directly to me via DM, or to karen@gerelusmusic.com. I want the world to know how hard you all work and feature your efforts. Thank you for all that you do!

Submitted by *Karen Gerelus*

xvii. Sponsorship

This year we have received \$1900 in sponsorship funds. Our donors are

Steinway Piano	\$500
Yamaha	\$500
Long and McQuade	\$500
Burman University	\$250
Augustana Campus	\$150

All donors will receive benefits depending on their level of donation. They all received appropriately placed ads for their donations in the Tempo Magazine. They will be listed on our website with a link to the sponsor's website and will be advertised at Music Conference Alberta and ARMTA Sponsored events and in programs.

We value our sponsors so please consider using them for any of your business needs.

Respectfully submitted by *Rosemarie Horne*

xviii. String Competition

It is with great pleasure that I am reporting about the 2024 Strings Competition - to be correct: String Competitions.

First, I would like to thank Nathene Arthur and Marlaine Osgood (String Competition Committee) for their enormous passion, dedication, enthusiasm, and hard work while planning the events.

We had to prepare an ARMTA Inaugural Provincial Competition, Cello, and a new Violin (as planned & advertised earlier in 2022). While talking about the age groups and possible cooperation with the Alberta String Association (ASA) focused on younger generations, Nathene, Marlaine, and I decided to plan and realize the first-ever in Canada Junior String competition - Violin, Cello for ages 15 and under.

MONEY

First came the Q about the budget. The idea to split the budgeted amount for Seniors into two was reasonable and doable. So, we started planning. We also decided to add a new class - Viola and Bass. We were granted a \$200 sponsorship from ASA for the 3rd junior prize winners.

REPERTOIRE

The repertoire aimed to give the teachers and students freedom to choose from a particular Music Style allowing them to show Ability and Mastery. The repertoire reflected the Inaugural Violin Competition differently.

The work on realizing the four competitions (Juniors Violin, Cello, and Seniors Violin Cello) was very time-consuming. I don't want to recall the amount of correspondence the three of us had to deal with, the coordination, and choosing judges Thanks to Carolyn Garritano and Tamara Bowie, we were able to manage.

The Competitions were pure success. They showed a growing interest in string studies and performance in Alberta.

Thank you to the semi- finals judge Martina Smazal and finals judge Rolf Bertsch.

In total we received:

7 junior cello entries

4 junior violin entries

3 senior cello entries

1 senior violin entry

We awarded:

Junior Violin - first, second and third prizes
Junior Cello – first, second, and third prizes
Senior Cello – first and second prizes
Senior Violin – first prize

I suggest the string Competitions: Violin, Cello to be promoted to National level.

Thank you, *Chrysanthema Nikol*

xix. Student Composer Competition

Budget Request: \$1200 (same as last year)

Rationale/Notes:

- Estimated expenses include adjudication fees, convenor expenses, and CFMTA entry fees
- Income comes from student entry fees
- Provincial category prizes come from the ARMTA Recognition Fund and have not been included as expenses. The amount for category prizes in 2024 was \$600.
- Expenses for 2024 without category prizes were \$2022.48
- Income for 2024 was \$1185 from provincial entry fees

Expenses and Income are dependent on the number of entries which vary from year to year.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Rogers, ARMTA Student Composer Convenor

xx. Tempo Content

Rose He

Tempo Content Convenor

xxi. Tempo Layout and Design

My report this year is quite simple, as by-and-large the completion of the report was straightforward and simple, thanks almost entirely to the great efforts by Tamara Bowie and Rose He. Rose did an absolutely fantastic job at getting the content for the magazine collected in a timely fashion. Tamara likewise delivered that content to me quickly, efficiently, and in a very organized way.

The only challenge we experienced was with regards to branding. Last year I designed a Tempo Logo inspired by the ARMTA brand, however in doing so I inadvertently detracted from the brand concepts and standards for ARMTA. I was appropriately corrected, and this edition of Tempo adheres to our brand guidelines much more appropriately.

Ongoing Issues – Content Generation and Photographs

We continue to experience a shortage of content for our Tempo magazine. Rose did a fantastic job of collecting material; however, it would be wise for the organization to seek out more feature article content. This content should be diverse where possible, including topics focussing on different age groups, multiple musical disciplines, and even teacher needs (including health

and even business management). I submit the following concepts, however, have no idea who to approach to meet these ideas;

- Unique musical learning programming for the youngest musicians, at-risk youth, or similar. Consider the Keyboards for Kids program from AMEF as a possible topic.
- Contemporary Showcase reviews, such as in Edmonton or Calgary.
- Teacher Feature – every teacher is deserving of recognition, and this person could just as easily be drawn from a hat. Every teacher has an inspiring story.
- The Alexander Technique, Mind Body Music, or other program for physical music teacher health.
- Business tools, suggestions from a Tax specialist, discussion on insurance or best-business practices.
- WHY JOIN ARMTA – an anecdotal article reinforcing the value that ARMTA brings to a community.
- CFMTA report.
- Report on Research – quick overview, or even a literature review of some of the active and recently published research in the past year.

I would like to encourage ARMTA to develop an area of the website where **all members can upload photographs** with explanations and the name of the photographer. These photographs can come from a private studio, a public event, or even be submitted by students. This will absolutely ensure our Tempo magazine as well as other tools such as the website and social media are populated with engaging, visually appealing and relevant content.

It is also highly recommended that, if ARMTA values the publication, every member share it with a non-member. Even if it's just by sharing a link to it on our website, it can be a way of developing additional recognition for the organization and the value we bring to our communities.

Continuing as Editor

I would be happy to continue as Editor of Tempo magazine. However, I must also recognize that this past year I struggled with completing things in a timely fashion. I enjoy very much working on it, but if the organization has another individual who would likewise enjoy working on it, I would happily pass on my materials to them. If I am to continue as Editor of Tempo magazine, I will absolutely commit to doing the best job I can for ARMTA.

Contrapuntally yours,
Joel Windsor

xxii. Voice Competition

Pursuant to the resignation of our ARMTA Provincial Voice Competition Convenor in mid-November, ARMTA President Annette Bradley and I (Nathene Arthur) have discussed the following options as our thoughts going ahead for our next provincial voice competition.

As ARMTA does have a budget in place for this Voice Competition, we considered the following two options:

- 1.** We considered going ahead and planning for an ARMTA Provincial Voice Competition in June 2025. This would then have been held in the same teaching year as the Strings and Piano Competitions and would happen again in 2026-2027 in preparation for the CFMTA 2027 Competition in PEI (which may also include a voice competition component for the National Conference). However, upon reflection and consultation with other voice teachers, we decided this timeline would be difficult.
- 2.** We wait until the 2025-2026 teaching year.

Parameters

1 Keep this a “Classical Music Only” competition.

- a. We feel that there are already many opportunities for voice students to compete in contemporary music and musical theatre (such as other competitions and school productions).
- b. ARMTA can fill the gap for those who are studying classical music to compete within that genre. At the Senior level, CFMTA does accept one “musical theatre” selection in the National Competitions, so that could be possible for that level and the others two levels.

2 Open this up to two new ARMTA (inaugural) age groups of singers, which the majority of our ARMTA teachers actually teach.

- a. We propose a “Junior Category” ages 14 years and under, and an “Intermediate Category” ages 15-18 years.
- b. ARMTA has already held “Senior Voice Competitions” which have only attracted 2-4 entrants each time.
- c. As we saw in the recent ARMTA Strings Competition, the junior level students are eager to compete at a provincial level and this provides excellent training, experience, and may even encourage them to prepare for the future ARMTA Senior level competitions.
- d. This would better support all our ARMTA singing teachers in their membership in ARMTA Provincial by providing this new opportunity for their students.

3 First Round Competition. This would be by video submission, as usual.

4 Final Round Competition Options.

- a. Combine all three categories in one day. Like the Strings Competition, it would be cost effective to combine all levels of competitors on one day in a central location such as Red Deer. We could do four Junior competitors in the morning, then four Intermediate competitors in the early afternoon, with the Senior competitors late afternoon. We found the 10am start time a bit difficult for those travelling to Red Deer, so perhaps a 10:30 or 11am start would be better?
- b. Split the Voice Competition into two parts. As an option, we could have the inaugural Junior and Intermediate competitions one year (such as June 2025, 2027), and the Senior competition on the alternating year (i.e. December 2026, as they would be preparing to potentially go to the CFMTA Nationals with an entry deadline of February 2027)? This would be more costly and require more volunteer hours. Therefore, we recommend (a) above.

5 Timelines.

- a. As ARMTA has decided to wait for the 2025-2026 teaching year, there is no immediate timeline, other than to announce on the website and social media that the Provincial Voice Competition is being re-worked and will not happen this year.
- b. Whenever ARMTA decides to go ahead with a **full three-level Provincial Voice Competition** ARMTA will need to do the following:
 - i. Find a new Voice Competition Convenor/Team
 - ii. Post this Competition information on both the ARMTA webpage and social media several months in advance, so teachers/students are aware of this upcoming event.
 - iii. Set a 1st Round video deadline entry deadline date so ARMTA teachers have time to prepare. Usually this deadline is six weeks in advance of the in-person competition, with two weeks for judging the videos and one month to notify and confirm the finalists.
 - iv. Develop the new Junior/Intermediate repertoire list and performance times. Keep this as simple as possible of course. When including the Senior category we simply copy and paste the current CFMTA National Voice Competition guidelines.
 - v. Once committed and approved by ARMTA Provincial, then the convenor/team would choose a location, and contact 1st and Final Round Judges, etc.
- c. If ARMTA goes ahead with **only the Inaugural Junior/Intermediate Voice Competition** for 2025-2026, all ideas are similar to above (but omit the Senior category, which would still need to be held separately, prior to February 2027 to select our ARMTA Voice candidate for the CFMTA Nationals in PEI).

****So - I propose that ARMTA Provincial makes a decision as to the details of our next Provincial Voice Competition.****

Specifically, I would like to ask a board member to make a motion to expand our current “Senior Voice Competition” to a “Three level Provincial Voice Competition” potentially being held in late 2026 or early 2027.

Respectfully submitted,

Nathene Arthur

Provincial ARMTA Strings Competition Committee member

CFMTA National Task Force “Multi-Disciplinary Competition” Committee member

xxiii. Webmaster

1. ARMTA Provincial Website & Maintenance:

We use WordPress for our content management system. The last redesign was in Spring 2022. Our current theme is called “Sinatra”. Edmonton, Calgary, Red Deer, Grande Prairie & Medicine Hat branch websites are using the same theme. Images & layouts are different to give each branch their own identity while still maintaining a unified look across the province using our new logo & brand colours.

Lethbridge Branch has not switched to the new website theme yet but is starting to use the new logos.

I continue to offer website technical assistance to all branches when requested.

I have been making changes and updates to the events & information posted on our website as instructed by the administrator & event coordinators.

2. Public Member Profiles:

Add your photo & update your profile information for our Find A Teacher directory.

Send your logo or photo to web@armta.ca to be added beside your name on our Find A Teacher directory page. We currently have 23 member photos or logos in our directory.

Members are encouraged to add information (text and/or photos) into their member profiles in the Find a Teacher directory so they will be found in more searches on our website & on Google search. Click the "Profile" tab when logged into "Manage Account" section of the member's area. (You can edit the Profile Gallery & Profile Description)

3. Local Branches Hosted under ARMTA Provincial (shared hosting):

ARMTA Provincial can host unlimited websites on their account for no additional hosting fees. The website's branch is only responsible for their domain name registration fee (usually \$15-\$25 per year).

Local branches hosted under ARMTA's account:

Edmonton Branch www.armtaedmonton.ab.ca

Lethbridge Branch www.lrmta.com

Calgary Branch www.armta-calgary.com

Red Deer Branch www.armtaredddeer.org

Local branches hosted under ARMTA's account with a sub-domain:

No name registration fee required for a sub-domain (yournamehere.armta.ca)

Grande Prairie grandeprairie.armta.ca

Medicine Hat Branches

medicinehat.armta.ca

4. Member Custom Websites Hosted under ARMTA Provincial (shared hosting):

Members have access to our shared hosting for a \$50 per year fee so they can have a custom website. The first year is \$25. (Details in Feb 12/27, 2022 minutes). This brings in some income to help cover the cost of our provincial hosting expense. Members would be responsible for their domain name registration fee (usually \$15-\$25 per year).

We are currently hosting 8 members' websites (1 new since Oct report). 4 paid \$50 with April 2024 renewal. We are expected to have 8 pay with April 2025 renewal.

I help the members get their websites up & running and am available for assistance in future editing as requested.

Full details are located in the member's area of our website: armta.ca/member-websites

5. Google Workspace (formerly G Suite) for nonprofits:

We have a Google Workspace since Feb 2020. Contact me if you want access to use Workspace features.

Currently Edmonton Branch is using it for a shared Google drive for their Executive members. Executive members can easily organize, access & edit agendas/minutes & other documents.

6. Website traffic stats:

View our website traffic stats anytime by visiting the link below (also found in the member's only area of our website). At first, it will show you data for the last 30 days. Select the date range you would like to view. **Sessions:** the number of times someone visited our site.

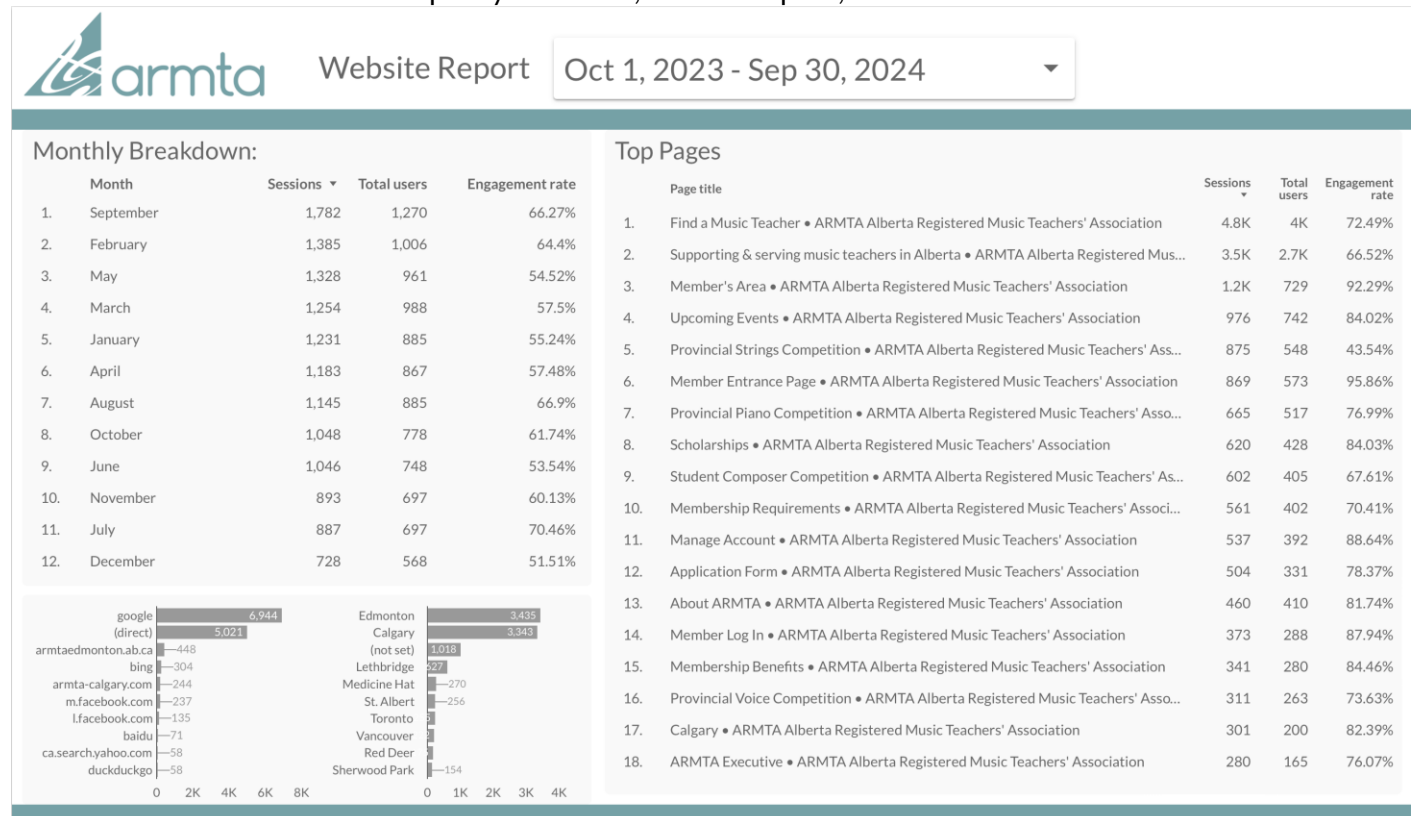
Total users: the number of users visiting our site 1 or more times.

Engaged sessions: sessions that last at least 10 seconds or include 2 or more pageviews.

Scroll down the top pages section to see the top 500 pages viewed.

<https://datastudio.google.com/reporting/f28b09fa-6dd0-4b63-b9a1-872907942adb/page/S33B>

Here are the traffic stats for the past year: Oct 1, 2023 – Sep 30, 2024



Submitted by:
Carolyn Garritano

ARMTA Provincial Database Report – FEBRUARY 2025

Since April 2015 we have been using a membership management system for storing our provincial member's information called Membership Works (MWs):

<https://membershipworks.com>

This is a subscription-based service that is \$1140 USD / year (\$95 per month) starting January 2024.

I have been making changes & updates to the membership registration form, events & other areas of our Membership Works system as instructed by the administrator & event coordinators.

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

I have assisted the administrator with customization & issues that arise with our Membership Works account.

Reminder: only members with a current VS check will be included in our public Find-a-Teacher directory page.

Provincial Executive Label:

Reminder: Members who are part of the provincial executive have had a label added to their account so they can access the "Exec only" tab in the member's area of our website. If you are on the provincial executive, you will automatically have access when you login to the member's area with your usual email & password.

Admin Access:

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. Calgary, Edmonton & Red Deer branches are making use of this.

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

Event List:

Any branch can post their events in Membership Works so members can register online (offline & online payment options available). Membership Works keeps track of registrations & payments received. You can put the registration form right on your own branch website.

Currently Provincial, Edmonton & Calgary make use of this feature regularly. Lethbridge & Red Deer have used this feature in the past.

Contact web@armta.ca if you would like to start using this feature.

Submitted by: *Carolyn Garritano*

xxiv. Wellness

Nothing to report

Esther Bing

xxv. Young Artist Tour

Louisa Lu

3. f) BRANCH REPORTS

i. Calgary

ARMTA Calgary Branch Report –February 2025

It has been a busy few months in the ARMTA Calgary Branch! Our dedicated board continues to work hard to innovate and deliver programs for ARMTA Calgary teachers and students as well as reaching out through our magazine “Impromptu.”

We have had some well received events and are excited about those coming up soon!

The ARMTA Calgary Endowment Society announced its inaugural DETSA Competition. There are two categories, #1, an award for students who demonstrate a high level of accomplishment in an ARMTA discipline (music/speech arts), as well as a subject area that falls outside of ARMTA instruction and #2, an award for students who demonstrate a high level of accomplishment in two ARMTA disciplines (music/speech arts). The 1st DETSA winners will be announced after the January 31st deadline. The Endowment Committee is also very excited to be announcing a new Story Competition in 2025!

ARMTA Calgary is looking forward to hosting **Piano Heist**, a super fun piano (and other instruments) duo from British Columbia, on February 16th, 2025, at Brentwood Baptist Church in Calgary. This ARMTA Calgary fundraising event is designed for the entire family.

Calgary ARMTA is proud to once again be sponsoring the Rotary Calgary Concerto Competition. This year’s competition will take place March 7-9 at Michael Lipnicki Fine Pianos. Winners will perform with the Calgary Civic Symphony in Jack Singer Concert Hall in June with Runner Ups performing in the foyer prior to the concert.

ARMTA Calgary held a very successful Brain Gym workshop with Dana Luebke on November 26 at St. David’s United Church. Thank you to Colleen Athparia for spearheading this well-attended workshop.

ARMTA Calgary held an online Student Recital on Sunday Nov 17th and in person SE Calgary Student Recital on December 15th. Upcoming 2025 Recitals include **ACRA on January 25** (ARMTA Calgary Recital and Awards) and **OSR on February 8** (Outstanding Student Recital).

Calgary ARMTA is excited to announce two new Conference Grants available for ARMTA Calgary members. The first is the **MTNA Conference Grant (Music Teachers National Association)** and the second is the **Miscellaneous Conference Grant (for conferences other than MCA, CFMTA and MTNA)**.

ARMTA Calgary is offering professional development through a series of three online workshops. Any ARMTA Provincial member is invited to attend and members of the public are welcome to attend for a fee of \$25 per course. *Each session runs from 10:00 to 11:00 am.*

Calgary's Merlin Thompson will present:

Thursday, January 9th "The Chill Out Concert"

Tuesday, February 18th "What Music Teachers Need to Know About Practicing"

Thursday, May 22nd "Twenty Years from Now"

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Steeves & Sandra Joy Friesen

ARMTA Calgary Provincial Representatives

ii. Edmonton

Our branch has continued with monthly executive meetings via Zoom with one in-person meeting every three months. We are now sitting at 149 registered members.

The events that have student participation are the recital program, which is offered three times per year, the Clementi project in conjunction with EYO (Edmonton Youth Orchestra) and the Northern Alberta Concerto Competition (NACC). An uncertain issue this year has been finding performance space for the Clementi and NACC programs, as the MacEwan Conservatory is no longer in its physical space providing easier access for these programs. However, we do look forward to finding a suitable home in the late spring.

We continue to provide a strong scholarship program at the Awards Ceremony, held this year in early December 2024. Continuing Education still provides interesting and topical subjects. Most seminars are via Zoom, which also allow for other ARMTA members across the province to participate.

In early February, we are looking forward to an in-person event for our Membership Appreciation. Our Pedagogy group is beginning again in February. The NACC final concert will be held in late winter, and in mid March will have the performance-based Clementi Project.

We are still missing key positions in the areas of membership, Provincial rep(s), as well as a sitting VP. All of these vacancies provide challenges, but a big concern is the vacant VP seat, as my term as president is coming to a close in June of 2025. The Edmonton executive is promising to source names to help fill these spots. The other convenors are eager and committed and are highly appreciated.

Submitted by *Esther Madsen*

iii. Grande Prairie

At our September meeting, we voted in our branch officers.

President - Elizabeth Peters

Vice-President - Ashley Clayton

Treasurer - Esther Ling

Secretary - Esther Thompson

We are meeting monthly on the first Thursday of each month.

We held a mixer event on October 20th, 2024, at the residence of Esther Thompson (secretary of GPMTA). GPMTA members were encouraged to invite a local music teacher to the event who was not a member of the group. Eleven people attended the event, with five teachers attending that were not GPMTA members. The event included enjoyable conversation, and refreshments. At the end of the event three draws were made for door prizes donated by local businesses. We plan to hold this event annually.

We formed a committee to award the Continuing Education Fund awards to students nominated by our members. The meeting was held on January 15 and the Convenor was notified of the winners' names.

We are planning for a workshop and Master Class to be held in February or March of 2025.

Report submitted by *Elizabeth Peters*, President of the Grande Prairie Branch

iv. Lethbridge

Our local branch put on a "Mindful Yoga for Singers" workshop at the Lethbridge Public Library Theatre Gallery on Saturday, October 5, 2024. The workshop and masterclass were co-taught by branch member and voice teacher Martha Renner and her guest Rosemarie van der Hooff, a singer and yoga instructor. Several students performed songs "before and after" a yoga and breathwork session. Lethbridge Branch president, Brad Parker accompanied singers at the piano. Audience members participated in the yoga session and observed the masterclass.

Our Canada Music Week (CMW) Recital occurred on Saturday, November 23rd in the Casa Community Room. This event was an opportunity to perform works by Canadian composers and to recognize local achievements. Awards were given to local teachers for long-time ARMTA service, and to students who achieved the highest marks in both practical and theory examinations.

Betty Jo Radley held an Adult Christmas Get-together at her home on Friday, December 6th at 5:15 p.m. She then hosted a Christmas Student Recital the next morning at her home.

Upcoming plans:

Our annual Keys to Piano workshop will take place March 15-16, 2025, at Casa. Clinicians are local teachers, Cheryl Emery-Karapita, and Carolyn Herrington. They will present a workshop for teachers on Friday night. Saturday's event will include performances, masterclasses and workshops for students.

As part of CFMTA's Branching Out tradition, our branch will be holding a "Harpichord Adventure" Saturday, February 15th at the home of Christine Rogers.

Our Practice-a-thon will take place February 3-8, 2025 to raise money for our annual awards program and for the Lethbridge Music and Speech Arts Festival awards that we sponsor.

The Lethbridge and District Music and Speech Arts Festival dates are March 31-April 12, 2025.

Item for inclusion in the agenda:

Presently, donations to the ARMTA Recognition Fund provides prizes and scholarships for:

- the biennial [Alberta Round of the CFMTA National Piano Competition](#)
- the biennial [Alberta Round of the CFMTA National Voice Competition](#)
- the biennial [ARMTA String Competition](#)
- the [ARMTA Student Composer Competition](#)
- ARMTA Branch Awards
- Needs Based [Bursaries](#)
- Pedagogy and Continuing Education
- [Calgary Arts Summer Camp](#)
- Contemporary Showcase Festivals in [Edmonton](#) and [Calgary](#)
- other awards designated annually by the ARMTA Provincial Board

I would like to discuss the rationale behind supporting non-ARTMA events and competitions.

We voted to support the Calgary Rotary Concerto Competition with prize money of 2 x \$1000. This competition is only open to students of Calgary resident teachers. What are the ramifications of funding non-ARMTA events or competitions that are fairly restricted and not accessible for most ARMTA members?* Since this door has been opened, I suggest that the parameters for this need to be discussed and perhaps clarify the process for other groups to request funding for non-ARMTA events. Should ARMTA prioritizing funding for local branches for awards and professional development? How should we determine what events we support with scholarship money?

*For instance, the Lethbridge Symphony holds a Young Artist concerto competition biannually that is open to all Alberta undergraduate students. Last year half of the entrants were from Calgary and the winners were from Calgary.

Submitted by *Carmen Letourneau*

v. Medicine Hat

No report at this time.

Submitted by: *Sheryl Schnare* (President, Medicine Hat branch)

vi. Red Deer

Executive:

- President - Estelle Carpenter
- Vice President - Dara Fensky
- Personal Assistant/Secretary - Amanda Michel
- Treasurer - Teresa Allred
- Provincial Representative - Anita Kennedy Roberge

Convenors:

- Student Awards Convenor - Estelle Carpenter

- Communication Convenor - Jeran Giles
- Website - Anita Kennedy Roberge

Committee:

- All that Jazz/Pop Rock & Blues: Anita Kennedy Roberge, Angela Siemens, Teresa Allred, Dara Fensky

Information:

Meetings: Monday Sept 16th, Jan 13th & AGM May 26th.

Staff Group (STUDENT TEACHERS ADVANCEMENT FOR THE FUTURE) - The 4 teachers have met with their individual student teachers and discussed a plan for their mentorship.

RDSO (RED DEER SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA), SEATS FOR STUDENTS, Nov. 16th tickets were won by Anita Kennedy's Studio and her family of 4 enjoyed the "Suite Serenade" and the family was very thankful for this opportunity.

SCHOLARSHIP award winners were finalized and delivered by the end of Nov. The award winners are on our website.

EVENTS:

"Festival of Trees" was a Christmas performance opportunity on Nov 30th and Dec 1st with ARMTA students filling an hour of classical and Christmas music. Estelle Carpenter organized it and she said that it was a successful event.

Submitted by *Anita Kennedy Roberge*