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# Vancouver Branch Newsletter

British Columbia Registered Music Teachers' Association

April 2010

## GREETINGS FROM YOUR CO-PRESIDENTS – MARILYN & SHARON



By now, we hope you are all over your post-Olympic sadness. What a wonderful two week party this city had. I'm sure most of you, in some way, participated in the excitement that prevailed for 18 wonderful days.

Now, Spring is in the air and we feel rejuvenated and excited about the next few months. Many students will be participating in festivals, exams and studio recitals, thus keeping us teachers on our toes and busy. Enjoy this time, striving to bring music to life and as we attempt to show our students the personal pleasure music brings to themselves. Encourage them to share their accomplishments with their families and friends. That is what it is all about. Don't forget our next informative meeting, coming up soon – and our Spring Lunch in May.

Sharon and Marilyn

## IN MEMORIAM

**MARGUERITE ECHAUS** - There will be a Memorial Mass at Holy Rosary Cathedral, 646 Richards Street (at Dunsmuir Street) on **Friday, April 30, 2010 at 7pm**. You are invited to attend.

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**Marguerite M. Echaus**, pianist, pedagogue, and valued member of our music community, passed away in January 2010 in the Philippines. With great respect, the Vancouver RMT Branch offers this brief biography of a dedicated teacher and a wonderful person.

Marguerite began her music studies at age 6 at St. Scholastica's College, Manila, Philippines. Through the years she received much encouragement from her professors and eventually pursued her interests abroad in the USA, Canada, and Switzerland. Her resume was impressive including a Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance (Magna cum laude) from The Catholic University of America (Washington, D.C.), a Master of Music Education from Holy Names College (Oakland, California), and a Professional Teaching Certificate from the University of B.C. (Vancouver), as well as the Sigma Alpha Iota Honor Certificate (for academic excellence) and a listing on the Pi Kappa Lambda (National Honor Society for Musicians) and the National Dean's List Publication. In addition to these many academic achievements, she also performed in solo and collaborative recitals in the Philippines and Vancouver.

Marguerite was an enthusiastic and generous teacher. She was thoroughly trained, not only in piano pedagogy but also in Suzuki Piano, Yamaha Group Piano, Orff and Kodaly methods as well and she was head of the Orff department at the Vancouver Academy of Music for many years. To complement her teaching activities, Marguerite volunteered with the Vancouver RMT Branch Executive. Over two decades, she served in various roles, among them the positions of Recording Secretary, Treasurer, and SPG Chairperson. Marguerite was always cheerful, professional, and thorough in her duties, and she could be counted on in difficult circumstances. She gave much to our community and will be sorely missed by students and colleagues alike.

Submitted by Barbara Siemens

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Monday, April 12, 2010 – Healthy Approaches to Piano Technique

Presented by David Vandereyk, Capilano University

This lecture will discuss:

- ♪ How gaining an awareness of our whole body in our daily activities can positively affect us when playing the piano (and other instruments). There will be an overview of the Alexander Technique principles and their application to performance.
- ♪ How gaining an awareness of basic anatomy and physiology can help us play more freely.
- ♪ The importance of understanding why we should avoid certain body use patterns which may lead to fatigue, pain and injury.
- ♪ Techniques to reduce mental and physical tension that can be done away from the instrument



Teachers preparing students for the RCM Intermediate and Advanced Pedagogy Exams will benefit from this lecture as knowledge of basic physiology is applied to piano performance, to develop a healthy technique and to prevent injury is a requirement for the Viva Voce portion.

**Location:** Long and McQuade, Vancouver location (368 Terminal Avenue, Vancouver, V6A 3W9)  
**Time:** 10 am - noon  
**Admission:** FREE to all Vancouver Branch members and Vancouver Branch student teachers  
\$5 for non-Vancouver Branch members

### Monday, May 31, 2010 – Year End Luncheon

Our annual year end luncheon will take place at Flamingo Restaurant, 7510 Cambie Street (at 59th Ave.). Lunch starts at 11:30am. The menu will be MSG free. Cost of the meal is only **\$20** (to be collected at the luncheon), and that includes tax and gratuities. Free parking is available behind and beside the restaurant.

Please email Sharon at [mawpianohouse@shaw.ca](mailto:mawpianohouse@shaw.ca) by **Monday, May 24, 2010** if you want a space reserved for you.

## ATTENTION ALL MUSIC TEACHERS - STUDENT TEACHERS' AUXILIARY NEWS

The Student Teachers' Auxiliary would like to know if any teachers would be interested in opening up their studios once or twice for an STA member to observe and perhaps get a few minutes of hands-on experience under your supervision. Please contact Dr. Carla Dodek at [cmdodek@shaw.ca](mailto:cmdodek@shaw.ca) for more information and to make contact with one of the STA members.



You are all invited to attend the annual Student Teachers' Auxiliary recital to be held at the Unitarian Church on Oak and 49th Avenue on Sunday, May 30 at 2:00pm. Please come out to support these dedicated up-and-coming teachers and their students.

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Dear Members,

As of March 1, 2010, the membership of the following 18 members has now expired. They are no longer covered by the Group Insurance Policy and their names have been stricken from the membership list and the website.

These members are:

Rachel Anderson  
Keitha Campeau  
Laura Hasthorpe  
Jeannie Lee  
Christian Meyers  
Kristina Tovarova

Benson Benovoy  
Gary Eng  
Clemie Hoshino  
Carrie Leung  
Kristy Mo  
Ritsuko Ueda

Marie Calvert  
Nathalie Froud  
Anne Kang  
Looling Liu  
Laytuan Tan  
Yvonne Yu

Should any of these members wish to re-join the branch they would need to do the following:

### Payments made after March 1, 2010:

- Send THREE cheques (all payable to BCRMTA) to:
  - Susan Olsen, Registrar
  - P.O. Box 45537
  - Sunnyside RPO
  - Surrey, B.C.
  - V4A 9N3
- One cheque for the Provincial/Federal Fee of \$91
- A second cheque for the Branch fee of \$71
- A third cheque for the reinstatement fee of \$30

Your Insurance Certificate will be mailed directly to you by the Registrar.

Sincerely yours,

Toni Meyer,  
BCRMTA Vancouver Branch Treasurer

## **PEDAGOGY FORUM: How to Motivate and Overcome Boredom**

One of the challenges facing any music teacher, regardless of the instrument, is motivating their students to continue to grow musically. Our students live a life filled with video games, text messaging, computers, tutorials, extra lessons in tennis, ballet, ice-skating and, of course, homework. As teachers, we need to consider how we can stimulate student interest and ensure that boredom is avoided by including some motivational "tools" in our teaching routine. The following suggestions are based upon personal experiences and "stolen" from such imminent pedagogues as Ingrid Jacobson Clarfield, Martha Baker Jordan and Jeanine Jacobson. Since every student is unique, some of these will work and other will not...just try and try again. The results are worth it!

- Tool #1: Have a Student Survey using a scale of 1-5, 1 being least liked and 5 being most liked. (This is really valuable)
- Tool #2: Choose material that is interesting, appeals to the student and will permit student success.
- Tool #3: Vary the pace and routine of the lesson since variety is always a stimulant: For example: a new way to practice technique; ensemble sight-reading; memorize a portion of a piece after 3 minutes of silent study.
- Tool #4: Never give a student more material than they can handle.
- Tool #5: Be aware of complexities in piece which may create problems in practicing.
- Tool #6: Have specific objectives for each practice session.
- Tool #7: Recognize their achievements through public and private acknowledgements. For example: sitting properly, keeping a steady tempo, achieving a goal.
- Tool #8: Set realistic goals to be achieved within a specific time in order to receive a special recognition award
- Tool #9: Provide performance opportunities appropriate to student (small studio recitals, competitions and festivals, accompanying a choir or participating in an ensemble group.)
- Tool #10: Encourage social playing: school, church, retirement homes.
- Tool #11: Send a detailed report card on a quarterly basis, with suggestions for improvement.
- Tool #12: Give a grade for each lesson and a Progress Study Report on repertoire, technique, etc., using a range of marks from Excellent, Good, Fair, Poor. Include comments for improvement.
- Tool #13: Establish studio contests such Technique Olympics with another teacher.
- Tool #14: Group work such as duets arranged according to abilities (except with teenagers who are embarrassed to work with 8 year olds).
- Tool #15: Combine playing classes with other teachers.
- Tool #16: Have students start a practice diary with comments for each day's practice. (This actually works).
- Tool #17: Have master classes with a guest teacher.
- Tool #18: Have a "Practice" lesson on a specific area such as technique, ear-training, ornaments, etc.
- Tool #19: Achievement Lists: One-Minute Club (name specific number of flash cards or clap specific number of rhythms in one minute); Reader of the Week: Sight Reading; AAA Club (Anytime, Anyplace, Anywhere)  
Performance-ready pieces
- Tool #20: Brag Board: Piano Brags (for piano achievements) and Other Brags for other achievement such as an exceptional grade average, chosen to be in a play or on a debating team.
- Tool #21: Quarterly newsletters to students and parents.
- Tool #22: Invite parents to lesson or have informal meeting with parents to discuss events and answer questions.
- Tool #23: Involve students in selecting repertoire, creating assignments and evaluations.
- Tool #24: Browser Box: to encourage sight-reading and self-study.

Finally, talk less and listen more, focusing on students' feelings and questions. Treat each student as an individual and always be sincere and specific with praise and criticism. Motivation is an ongoing "work in progress" and will never be completed!! But when a student responds positively to your efforts, you know you have really achieved something special. Good Luck!

Submitted by Mary Tickner

## BC Registered Music Teachers' Association - Vancouver Branch Bursary Guidelines

**Objectives** To assist the students of BCRMTA Vancouver Branch members who show potential in their music studies and who demonstrate a need for financial assistance.

**Bursaries** A total of **\$2000 to \$2500** will be awarded using the following percentages. Grade levels are based on the RCME system. Teachers must make adjustments to apply RCME standards to alternative examination systems.

Junior	Grades 2 – 5	20%
Intermediate	Grades 6 – 9	30%
Senior*	Grades 10 – Diploma	50%

**Deadline** All submissions must be delivered and/or postmarked by **May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010** to **Anita Chan** at **4038 Selkirk Street Vancouver, B.C., V6H 2Z4**

### General Requirements for the Junior, Intermediate, and Senior Categories

1. Applicants must be 19 years old or younger, and Canadian citizens or landed immigrants.
2. Applicants must have studied a minimum of one year (12 months) with a BCRMTA Vancouver Branch teacher in good standing, and they must have the intention to continue their music lessons with this same individual.
3. The BCRMTA Vancouver Branch teacher noted on the application must have been a member in good standing for a minimum of two consecutive years (24 months).
4. Applicants are to complete and submit the following documents before the noted deadline:
  - a) Bursary Application Form
  - b) Bursary Student Evaluation Form - *sealed and signed across the seal by the teacher*
  - c) Supporting documents:
    - i. a budget of their proposed course of music study
    - ii. one letter of reference from their current music teacher Form - *sealed and signed across the seal by the teacher*
    - iii. one letter of support from their parents or legal guardians
    - iv. a copy of Canada Revenue Agency Notice of Assessment (form T 452E), *(This information will remain confidential and will be destroyed once the application process is complete).*
    - v. and additional information as noted below for the Senior Category only.
5. Bursaries are made payable to the teacher of the successful applicants and are neither transferable nor refundable.
6. Recipients of bursaries are required to write a note of acknowledgement upon receiving the award.
7. Bursaries will not be awarded to the same individual two years in a row.

### \*Additional Requirements for the Senior Category

8. Applicants must indicate on the bursary application form their intention to pursue higher education in the field of music.
9. Applications must include a letter of reference from a qualified professional musician other than their current teacher - *sealed and signed across the seal by the reference person.*
10. Post-secondary school applicants must provide proof of registration from an accredited and recognized post-secondary music institution or music faculty before the bursary will be distributed

**BC Registered Music Teachers' Association – Vancouver Branch  
Student Application Form**

**Name of Applicant:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date of Birth:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Parent or Guardian:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Teacher:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Music Program**

1<sup>st</sup> instrument: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of years studied: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

2<sup>nd</sup> instrument: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of years studied: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

**Financial Information**

Have you received financial assistance from this source before? \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, please indicate the year and the amount of bursary. \_\_\_\_\_

Have you received financial support for this academic year from other sources? \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, give details. \_\_\_\_\_

**On a separate page, please give a brief summary of the following:**

- i. proposed course of study
- ii. music objectives
- iii. reason for financial assistance
- iv. current music tuition fees and other expenses
- v. projected music tuition fees and other expenses

**The above form was filled as accurately as possible by the applicant.**

**Signature of Applicant:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**BC Registered Music Teachers' Association – Vancouver Branch**  
**Bursary Student Evaluation Form**

*This form is to be completed by the teacher of the applicant (sealed and signed across the seal by the teacher), and must be submitted together with the Bursary Application Form.*

**Part I**

Name of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's address: \_\_\_\_\_

How long have you been a member of the BCRMTA Vancouver Branch? \_\_\_\_\_

How long has the applicant been taking lessons with you? \_\_\_\_\_

**Part II**

Evaluate the applicant in comparison with others whom you have known in a similar situation with a check .

	<i>Average</i>	<i>Very Good</i>	<i>Exceptional</i>
<i>Musical potential</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Dedication, diligence</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Achievements</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Part III**

Please submit an accompanying letter using the guidelines below to give a clear assessment of the applicant's overall music talent, ability, achievements, and financial needs. ***Seal the envelope and sign across the seal for confidentiality purposes.***

- i. List the student's musical qualities, aptitude and aspirations that make him/her a deserving candidate for the BCRMTA bursary.
- ii. Provide specific details of the student's achievements in regards to examinations and festivals. List awards, if any.
- iii. State clearly your proposed study program for the student, and his/her specific goals.

The above information and the accompanying letter were prepared by the teacher of the applicant.

Signature of Teacher \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### BRANCH EXECUTIVE & COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR 2010-2011

#### EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Co-Presidents	Marilyn Glazer Sharon West	mglazer@telus.net mswpianohouse@shaw.ca
Past President	Rebecca Cheng	rebeccamusic@shaw.ca
First Vice-President	Mary Tickner	mtickner@shaw.ca
Second Vice-President	Keiko Alexander	keikoalexander@shaw.ca
Recording Secretary	Mary McKinney	marymckinney@telus.net
Corresponding Secretary	Cindy Leung	leungszesum@gmail.com
Treasurer	Toni Meyer	tonimeyer@hotmail.com

#### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Program	Rosalie Carver	rosie@violinrose.ca
Recital Convenor	Anita Chan	anitachan@shawcable.com
Student Teachers' Auxiliary	Dr. Carla Dodek	cmdodek@shaw.ca
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The *Vancouver Branch Newsletter* is a quarterly publication of the Vancouver Branch of the British Columbia Registered Music Teachers' Association. Months of publication are January, April, September, and November.

Deadlines for submission of material are two weeks before the first day of the months of publication. Material must be sent to the Editor by email to haileymusicstudio@gmail.com.

Members' name, address, telephone, fax, and email changes must be sent to Jammy Smith (membership@bcrmta.org).