

### Take Note!

- We need you to get involved.
- It's not too late to register for the RCM Summer Summit August 8-9

Sharing the joy  
of music from  
the heart of  
the city.

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## President's Message

Dear Teachers,

Here I am, starting my term as your new president. Back in 2011, my husband, Matthew Todd, daughter, Helia, and I moved from Regina to Toronto so that Matthew could pursue a Doctorate in Composition at the University of Toronto. I took our first year here off from playing and teaching to spend time with Helia. I had enjoyed my membership with the Saskatchewan Registered Music Teachers Association and decided to join the Central Toronto Branch, re-entering working life with a small studio of private theory, history, and piano students and volunteering with the branch. When my family isn't working on music, we love exploring Toronto's parks and gardens and other outdoorsy activities: kayaking, swimming, camping, cycling, and x-country skiing. We do love our fresh air! We also love to frequent Toronto's best treasures, like the ROM and the AGO.

It's great to be in this busy, creative town of Toronto, bursting with ideas and culture and our Central Toronto teachers are part of that dynamic. If you have a brainstorm for an event supporting our students and teachers or a way to better serve the same, please contact me. I'd love to hear your ideas and the sooner the better. Your involvement is what makes this branch great! As President I am fortunate to work with all of the talented and wise teachers that make up our executive. I give them a standing ovation for all the fine work they do! Together, we will strive to refine our mainstay events, such as *Teachers in Concert* and the *Scholarship Auditions and Recitals*, as well as bring to life new events, like last year's fantastically success-



ful *Student Cabaret*.

I am honoured to take on position of President for our Central Toronto Branch and am very grateful to Eric Shaw and Alice Dearden for showing me the ropes this past year. I am proud to be a member of this organization and I want to thank all of you for your support!



## Upcoming Events!

| <u>When</u>  | <u>Event</u>                 | <u>Location</u>   |
|--------------|------------------------------|-------------------|
| October 4    | Fall General Meeting         | All locations TBD |
| October 25   | Children's Recital           |                   |
| November 7-8 | Fall Scholarship Auditions   |                   |
| November 29  | Fall Scholarship Recital     |                   |
| January 17   | Winter General Meeting       |                   |
| TBD          | Student Cabaret              |                   |
| March 27     | Teachers in Concert          |                   |
| April 9-10   | Spring Scholarship Auditions |                   |
| April 24     | Spring Scholarship Recital   |                   |
| May 7        | Adult Student Recital        |                   |
| May 29       | Annual General Meeting       |                   |

There will be plenty more events over the year. There will be a lot more information to come about Workshop and Master class opportunities for your students. As well there is the Young Artist tour.

## A Message from Eric Shaw

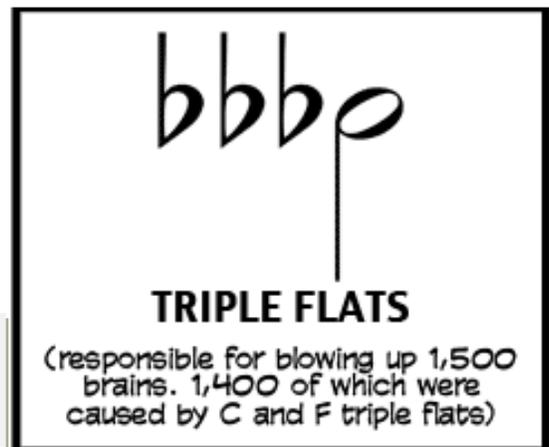
It was my sincere pleasure and honour to have served as your president for the past 3 years. Central Toronto Branch is an exciting and rewarding organization and I leave you in the best of hands with the fabulous Avila Lotoski, your new branch president. The enthusiasm of CTB has resulted in the many glorious events we have witnessed in recent years and I trust some of you will step forward to give us more ideas (and to perhaps help organize an event or two?)

As your Zone Representative (along with Alice Dearden and Irene Fong Leung) and membership convener, I also ask for anyone with ideas for ORMTA to come to me at any time. No idea is too small,...or too big for that matter! Have a great summer and I look forward to hearing from you on any subject that might be on your mind about our amazing ORMTA.

Eric Shaw



Thank you Eric for all of your help on the newsletter over the years. I especially liked adding the jokes - here's one for you.



## You Asked...

### QUESTION

Can I use the ORMTA logo on my website as part of my bio? I think we should use our logo as much as possible to help increase our visibility as an organization.

### ANSWERS

From Judy Home, ORMTA By-Laws:

“That's fine, as long as they are a member in good standing.”

From Avila Lotoski, ORMTA Central Toronto Branch President:

“A member in good standing can state that they are a member of ORMTA. A school, with several teachers, cannot do this because the school is not a member. If the teacher works at a school, the logo must be placed so that it shows the relationship between the member teacher and the organization, without implying that the school is a member of ORMTA. Placing the logo near the teacher bio is a good idea. Another good idea is to reinforce the connection by stating membership within the bio. For example:

*Avila Lotoski is an active member of the Central Toronto Branch of the Ontario Registered Music Teachers' Association.*

Additionally, using the logo as a link to [ormta.org](http://ormta.org) will invite the reader to explore and learn more about the organization.”

### QUESTION

What is the minimum membership fees I can pay? There seem to be some optional payments.

### ANSWER

From Nancy Dale, ORMTA Treasurer:

“\$173.06 is the membership fee for a Central Toronto Active ORMTA member. This fee includes the \$38 Central Toronto Branch levy (this amount differs with each branch).

\*All fees are mandatory except the **Insurance fee (\$32.40) which is optional.**

The word "Extras" on the invoice is deceiving. It is fixed text in the template & cannot be altered at this time. The host site is always upgrading & I'm hopeful this will be one of their targets, since it is very misleading.”

For lots of great information members can find interesting discussions on the [ormta.org](http://ormta.org) Discussion Forum in the Members Only area.

## Valerie Tryon Master Class

On Sunday, March 22, 2015, Central Toronto Branch hosted a piano Master class with Valerie Tryon. The pieces ranged from Classical to Contemporary. The first student, Nathan Shreve, performed Beethoven's *Sonata in E Major, Op. 14, No. 1, Allegro and Allegretto*. Ms Tryon suggested imagining the parts as how they would sound played by a string quartet, which helped the student interpret the piece more thoughtfully. Next, Gabrielle Chan played *The Hermit Thrush at Eve*. This mesmerizing piece evoked the idea of a quiet evening pierced by the striking hermit thrush. Rachel Andal performed *Clair de lune* by Debussy. A few pedaling changes and nuanced adjustments brought out a lovely moonlight effect. The final performer, Anthony Vandikas, presented Liszt's passionate *Après une Lecture du Dante: Fantasia quasi Sonata*. This piece portrayed a musical story of the fiery depths of hell contrasted with the joy and beauty of heaven. Ms Tryon's kind, thoughtful demeanor put the performers at ease and she often demonstrated her ideas on the piano. It was a wonderful afternoon of music.

Hannah Greiner



## A Little Giggle



### Recipe: Salsa Caruso

#### Ingredients

- 1/3 lb. cooked ham, chopped
- 1/2 lb. mushrooms, sliced or cubed
- 1 large tablespoon butter
- 1 Pt. heavy cream
- 1 tablespoon Beef extract (I use Better Than Bouillon)
- 1 cup milk
- 2 tablespoons flour (though some recipes call for corn starch)
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 1/3 cup parmesan cheese, grated
- 1 lb. of medium-sized pasta of your choice.

1. Put the butter in a large sauce pan and saute the mushrooms for a few minutes, stirring occasionally, until they start to soften. At this point add the ham and the beef extract, saute for a couple of minutes, add the salt and the two tablespoons of flour and mix. Add the heavy cream, grated parmesan cheese and milk and keep stirring until the sauce thickens to the consistency of a cream.

2. Cook the Cappelletti or Tortellini, though you can use non-stuffed pasta as well, to your taste, drain, and now there are two ways to continue; you can either mix the pasta in the same pan where you made the sauce and serve from there, or put in a large pasta dish and pour the sauce on top. When you serve each plate top with parmesan cheese as is customary with pasta.

**Cook time:** 30 min **Ready in:** 30 min



**Yields:** Serves between 4 to 6 people depending on appetite.

Modified from: <http://mio-cid.hubpages.com/hub/Pasta-recipe-Cappelletti-Tortellini-alla-Caruso>

This is a pasta dish from Uruguay made for the tenor Enrico Caruso.



## Congratulations to our Scholarship Winners

### Junior and Intermediate Scholarships:

| <u>Award</u>  | <u>Name</u>           | <u>Teacher</u>     |
|---|-----------------------|--------------------|
| OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE - JUNIOR-\$60                 | Madelyne Yam          | Janet Hinton       |
| OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE - JUNIOR-\$60                 | Micah Omondi          | Veronika Davy      |
| OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE - JUNIOR-\$60                 | Chanah Reznick        | Lioudmila Axenova  |
| OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE - JUNIOR-\$60                 | Danielle Brown        | Helena Gintere     |
| OVERALL OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE - JUNIOR-\$75         | Miles Chapman         | Susan Griesdale    |
| DUET SCHOLARSHIP PLAYER 1 - JUNIOR -\$100             | Polina Chernik        | Julia Tchernik     |
| DUET SCHOLARSHIP PLAYER 2 - JUNIOR -\$100             | Karim Khakimov        | Julia Tchernik     |
| MARIA CASE TROPHY                                     | Eliot Cram            | Ford Barker        |
| OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE - INTERMEDIATE-\$75           | Elizabeth Gilerovitch | Julia Tchernik     |
| OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE - INTERMEDIATE-\$75           | Billy Jim Canning     | Pauline Potter     |
| OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE - INTERMEDIATE-\$75           | Ella Xu               | Tanya Tkachenko    |
| OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE - INTERMEDIATE -\$75          | Astrid Nakamura       | Susan Griesdale    |
| OVERALL OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE - INTERMEDIATE -\$100 | Robert Wong-Lorentz   | Veronika Davy      |
| NO STRINGS THEATRE SCHOLARSHIP - \$50                 | Chelsea Dell          | Melissa Bencic     |
| OUTSTANDING CANADIAN COMPOSER PERFORMANCE \$75        | Kielan Ellis          | Margaret Halliwell |

### Senior Scholarships:

| <u>Award</u>                                    | <u>Name</u>        | <u>Teacher</u>      |
|---|--------------------|---------------------|
| OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE \$100                   | Charles Wong       | Lioudmila Axenova   |
| OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE \$100                   | Jonathan Cai       | Yevgenia Koretskaya |
| OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE \$100                   | Shenbei Fan        | Joseph Ferretti     |
| OVERALL OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE \$125           | Gabrielle Chan     | Veronika Davy       |
| OUTSTANDING CANADIAN COMPOSER PERFORMANCE \$100 | William Vuong      | Joseph Ferretti     |
| STANDARD VOCAL REPERTOIRE \$100                 | Mikayla Stradiotto | Melissa Bencic      |
| CONTEMPORARY CLASSICAL \$75                     | Jordan DeVries     | Joseph Ferretti     |
| DUET SCHOLARSHIP \$150                          | Jude & Leah Lobo   | Yevgenia Koretskaya |

#### **Total Scholarship Amounts Awarded**

Junior - \$415.00  
 Intermediate - \$525.00  
 Senior - \$850.00  
**TOTAL - \$1790.00**



Recital Adjudicator Sandra Horst was a fair and insightful adjudicator. Her wide experience as a musician and educator was of immeasurable benefit to the students who performed. Our students are very fortunate to have had this opportunity.

## Student Cabaret

It's Sunday evening, March 8, and we're at the Jazz Bistro by the iconic Dundas Square. The club is packed with music teachers, students and families. Servers are busy and the cherry red Steinway is waiting for the show to start. This, our Student Cabaret, was an exciting evening for both the performers and the audience.

The Student Cabaret featured our Fall Scholarship Recital winners performing in solo and ensemble acts, supported by professional pianists and percussion, and family and friends enjoying dinner and drinks. It was inspiring to see these young musicians command the room in a professional setting. We heard impressive performances of piano and vocal solos by composers from Morley to Mussorgsky to Tessori. Gabrielle Chan gave a sensitive performance of *Hermit Thrush at Eve* by Amy Beach. I was impressed how she waited for the right moment to begin, a hush between the clinks and clatters at the bar. Some pianists, including Morgan Huang playing Oscar Peterson's *Laurentide Waltz*, were paired up with Newton Walker on the drum kit. It was great to see the students shining with support from the pros. Our singers presented a wonderful range of show tunes; Zahara Mair sang an enchanting *If I Loved You* from *Carousel* and Mikayla Stradiotto knocked us out with a hilarious *The Girl in 14G*. The evening was also peppered with ensemble pieces. Polina Chernik and Elizabeth Gilerovitch gave us Schubert's *Kindermarsch* while Varshaa and Aishwaria Maxwell relaxed with Henry Klassen's *Ragtime – A Beautiful Day*.

We love our pianists and singers but it's a treat to hear other colours too and so we were delighted to have a flute duet from JingYi Jia and Anika Li as well as a recorder duet from Adrian Carpenter and Hans de Groot. Just before intermission Nicole Brooks, student of Denise Williams, led the audience in a call-and-response excerpt from her *Obeah Opera*, which tells the story of African women slaves accused in the Salem witch trials. Her powerful voice and presence filled the room with excitement. The show was framed with two ensemble songs featuring the voices of our singers and pianists. These were great fun and, just as importantly, gave a sense of camaraderie to the performers. And all of this was captured in video and made available to the per-

formers. Rounding out the fun were door prizes and a silent auction with lots of great prizes.

The Student Cabaret was a fundraising event and it was indeed very successful in growing our scholarship funds for our students. But more than that, it was an opportunity for performing time of a different sort than usual for these fantastic young musicians. The performers had their own "backstage" area on the second floor overlooking the main floor. They had a real stage with a great piano, lights and a sound technician and they had an audience who was there to take in some beautiful music. This was a great stepping-stone event from recitals and competitions to real-world performing. For this wonderful evening, we owe many thanks to our talented and creative volunteers: Cabaret Coordinator Melissa Bencic and Silent Auction Coordinators Denise Williams and Jeannette Roberts. Thanks to them, we were definitely sharing the joy of music from the heart of the city!

-Avila Lotoski



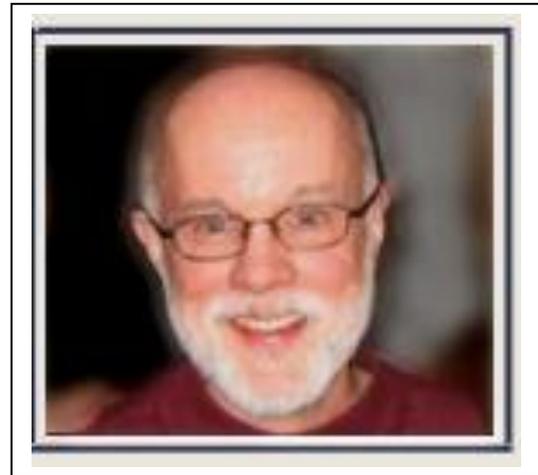
## *Contribution to Teaching Award*

Ted Parkinson was the recipient of the annual Contribution to Teaching Award this year. Ted began his piano studies in Elementary School, but when his family moved to the other side of Oakville, he was not encouraged to continue. After earning degrees in Engineering, Ted worked in the nuclear industry for a few years before returning to Queen's to earn a degree in Education. During this time, he returned to piano, studying for three years with the late Hughreen Ferguson in Kingston. His math and physics teaching career took him to Toronto, where he continued his studies with George McElroy. Ted finally earned his ARCT, with the help of the late Earle Moss, when he was 40! He has been working with teachers on and off, and was privileged to work with Bruce Vogt, head of piano at University of Victoria.

When Ted retired from Branksome Hall, where he was teaching science and International Baccalaureate Physics, he had already started to build his piano teaching practice at Logan Store Studio in Riverdale, in Toronto. Currently he has over 30 students, from ages 6 to adult. He is developing an interest in neuroplasticity, reading the work of Dr. Norman Doidge. He is beginning to introduce some of these concepts into his teaching, particularly with adult students, and into his own learning. Ted is also a strong believer in the Alexander Technique for musicians.

Ted has sung with VOCA Chorus of Toronto under Jenny Crober, and has studied cello as well as piano, having earned Grade IX. He continues to work on piano performance and pedagogy with Peter Kristian Mose.

Ted and his lovely wife Patricia Dales reside in Riverdale in a converted corner store with their 18 year-old cat Jasmine.



*Ted Parkinson*

## *Thank You and Welcome*

The ORMTA Central Toronto Branch has been fortunate over the past four years to have had Liselotte Jongedijk as our treasurer. Her search for clarity, and her organizational skills have really allowed for our branch to flourish. Her tenacity when analysing the details of things that so many have no patience for is quite remarkable. We will miss you, Liselotte. Thank you for all of your work and dedication.

Our new treasurer is David Story. He is enthusiastic about his new role in the ORMTA Executive. He runs a busy teaching studio and is active as a performer. He teaches a variety of styles and we may be treated to a Jazz workshop from him in the Fall.

To find out more about David:

[www.davidstory.ca](http://www.davidstory.ca)

## Teachers in Concert

On March 29th the Central Toronto branch presented our annual Teachers in Concert fundraising event at The First Unitarian Congregation. It was a wonderful afternoon of many musical styles and included some of our December Scholarship winners in addition to our CTB members.

Denise Williams produced and hosted the event - if that wasn't enough on her plate already she also performed a number of opera works including duets with both Jeanette Roberts and Eric Shaw. The Rossini Cat Duet was great fun and the flirtatious *La ci darem la mano* was a delight. Helena Gintere and Kate Carver provided excellent support at the piano.

In addition to the vocal duets there were piano duets performed. Julia Tchernik and Nathalie Tsoy played Brahms arrangements, and Lucy Tonoyan and Helena Gintere impressed with the gorgeous Schubert Fantasie.

We were treated to Alice Dearden's haunting composition *Measure Me Sky*. This was performed by Denise Williams and Alice provided the piano accompaniment. It is always great to hear our member's own compositions.

We had some wonderful solo piano performances as well: Anita Beaty played Clara Schumann and Brahms and shared excerpts from letters to highlight the passion between Clara, her husband Robert, and the young Brahms. Elena Krakopolskaya impressed us with Scriabin Etudes and a beautiful Prelude by Rachmaninoff. Judith deHaney showed a wonderful range of character in her Kabalevsky Preludes.

Jeanette Roberts, in addition to her lovely singing performances, treated us to some wonderful poetry including some of her own creation.

Eric Shaw showed his versatility with performances of Handel's *Ch'io mai vi passa*, and then later closed the show with delightfully toe-tapping *Hello, Ma Baby*.

Students performed admirably. Jaleelah Ammar (student of Judith deHaney) played the lovely piece *A Winter Melody* by Y. Nakada. Elina Gama Fila (student of

Jeanette Roberts) sang *Papillon tu es volage* and was accompanied by Eric Shaw. Zahara Mair (student of Denise Williams) treated us to the Rodgers and Hammerstein classic *If I Loved You* from *Carousel*.

Other hard working CTB members who helped make all of this possible were: Jeanette Roberts (Silent Auction), Liz Craig (Publicity), and Alice Dearden and Liselotte Jongedijk (Program).

I look forward to the concert next year. It is always inspiring to see and hear colleagues perform.

- Anita Beaty

Please contact Denise Williams if you are interested in performing at this year's concert.  
[voicesofcolourmusic@gmail.com](mailto:voicesofcolourmusic@gmail.com)



top: Jeanette Roberts and Denise Williams  
 bottom: Helena Gintere and Lucy Tonoyan.

## Annual General Meeting

On May 31st we held our Annual General Meeting at the beautiful home of past president Eric Shaw. We worked out some details for the coming year and reflected on successes from the past year.

We were lucky to have a presentation on technology from Liz Craig and Hannah Greiner. They reviewed a diverse and interesting array of apps that can be of great use in the teaching studio. There was lively discussion about metronome apps, some great ideas about using youtube as a resource, and we all shared some of our favourite apps and what we use them for. Liz Craig also brought along her AirTurn pedal for hands-free page turns on the iPad - a wonderful addition to the gig bag of the performing pianist.

Here are some of the highlights:



iPad



iPad



iPad and Android

L-R: *Piano Maestro* - a music reading app for iPad that provides a game format for home practice and constant metronomic support. *Forscore* is an app for storing, editing, displaying, and sharing sheet music - a must-have. *MyEarTrainer* is an ear training app for intervals, chords, scales and melodies up to 10 notes. You can even build your own exercises.



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For lots of info.

Please feel free to contact me with any ideas you have for the newsletter that you think the membership will benefit from.