

Hello Everyone!

I hope this newsletter finds you well. Attached are the minutes from last week's meeting where we discussed a number of items. We are always looking for your feedback and suggestions, so please feel free to email me anytime (lesliesmusicstudio@hotmail.com) and I will bring it to the attention of the Executive Committee. I would like to extend a very warm welcome to our 4 new members: Rachelle Courtney (www.arcmusic.ca), Lesley Andrew (www.dreaminprogress.com), Stephen Faris, and Tina Aintablian. I look forward to seeing you at various ORMTA functions!

1. First a huge congratulations and thank you to Joyce Trapp and the many volunteers who assisted in making the Western Zone Convention a successful day. Here is a summary from Mary-Lou Phoenix-Sheeler:

“On Friday, November 6, 2009, the London ORMTA hosted the Western Zone Convention at Riverside United Church, with 40 in attendance. The morning began with coffee and goodies, following which we assembled in the church sanctuary to listen to a talk by our speaker for the day, Jenny Regehr from Ottawa. She gave us an interesting lecture on the subject of “Customized Teaching to Suit Each Individual Student’s Needs”. Jenny told of various instances in her own teaching where she adjusted her instruction to meet particular situations in a student’s life.

A wonderful lunch and relaxing time was had by all, after which we assembled for a recital by our Young Artist, Willi Weng, who gave an impressive performance on the piano.

The second lecture by Ms. Regehr was on the topic of “Prioritizing and Simplifying” in our private teaching. She emphasized that the basis or foundation of all music rests on rhythm. Without a solid rhythm, the other areas of Sound, Beat, and Harmony will not be properly conveyed. Ms. Regehr demonstrated the importance of alignment of hand and arm and the concept of ‘lifting’ the music from the piano, rather than trying to press it into the instrument, and the difference this makes to the tone.

The day was a real success and a huge thank you goes out to those who organized, planned, and worked so hard to show that London ORMTA has a core of individuals who rise to the occasion when there is a challenge such as this. Special thanks to Joyce Trapp, who had the task of coordinating all the areas into a well-run event.”

2. In September 2009, Irina Vinogradova organized a concert featuring pianist Anastasia Rizikov. A thank you card was received from the Rizikov family extending their gratitude:

“We would like to express our gratefulness and appreciation to the London Branch of ORMTA for the sponsorship of Anastasia Rizikov’s solo concert in London.”

Thank you Irina, for all your work in organizing this concert!

3. ORMTA London Website – Let’s all contribute to updating our website. If you notice incorrect information, please send an email to Yolanda and she will forward it to Helga Morrison, our webmaster.

4. Important Dates to Remember

February 5 from 11:00am-12:30pm Brainstorming Session at Mary-Lou Phoenix-Sheeler’s home (RSVP: Mary-Lou at mlps@lweb.net or 519-439-2927)

February 13 Mini Festival: Contact Sandra Weaver at jandsweaver@hotmail.com or 519-439-6596 for more information

March 27 from 2:00-4:30pm: Second Student Recital “Pre-festival Recital” and Third Branch Meeting (after recital) at Belle Air Music downtown (RSVP: Liz Corbett at 519-672-4661)

April 9 at 7:30pm Teachers in Concert at Jetty Haakman’s home (RSVP: Jetty Haakman at 519-473-1892)

April 12-30 Kiwanis Music Festival of London. See www.kiwanismusicfestivallondon.com or 519-432-5183 for more details.

Early May Young Artist Branch Competitions: Contact Shirley Morris at shirley.morris@sympatico.ca or 519-268-3652 for more information

Late May Zone Competitions in Windsor: Contact Shirley Morris at shirley.morris@sympatico.ca or 519-268-3652 for more information

May 29 at 2:00-3:30 Third Student Recital “Spring Recital” at Belle Air Music downtown (RSVP: Liz Corbett at 519-672-4661)

June 28 Fourth Branch meeting—AGM and Potluck...location: Home of Mary-Lou Phoenix-Sheeler-729 Rowntree Ave, London, ON (RSVP: Yolanda Postma at yolanda@primarilypiano.com or 519-686-8346)

July 25-28 2010 Convention at the Hilton downtown (Contact Victoria Warwick and Leslie Linton for more details)

Note from Yolanda Postma: My apologies for getting this information out later than I had hoped. Sorry for the hold-up!