

ORMTA Etobicoke – Mississauga Branch  
**Branch Annual General Meeting**

September 30, 2019

Christ First Church: Merigold Room

Minutes

**Welcome:** Lynne welcomed those present.

**Attendance:** Lynne Oliver, Mimi Spencer, Virginia Taylor, Lisa Raposa, Thuy Vi Bach, Abigail Freeman, Lita Zagala, Sandra Pisani, Jill Kelman, Rocco Signorile, Evelyn Indargo, Irina Semenova, Larissa Zoubareva and Carolyn Lykkemark.

**Minutes:** Carolyn moved the acceptance of the September 24, 2018 AGM minutes; seconded by Lita. Carried.

**President's Report:** Lynne reported:

Meet & Greet – September 23, 2019

4 non-members attended. 2 other attendees were members of other branches who are in transition and wanted to hear about our Branch's offerings. None of Joe's Mohawk College students attended. It was felt that if we got just 1 member out of this Meet & Greet, then it was worth doing.

Provincial Council – Ron Spadafore is retiring.

Website – Lisa, Carolyn and I worked through the summer updating all the forms and the layout of the website. The Masterclass forms are yet to be updated, but will be done by November.

The Branch Policies and Procedures need updating. I hope to get this updated as a group (Executive) sometime this year.

**Treasurer's Report:** Thuy reported:

Balances as of September 27: OA \$19,017.99  
September 27: SA \$ 2,193.59

This was the first year that we had split classes and allowed for ties at the Scholarship Recital, hence why there were so many more cheques given out.

We have 67 members. If each member would give just a small donation to the Scholarship fund, that would add up to a nice donation.

The donations to the Scholarship fund is the highest it has ever been, due in large part to Linda Gray and Lisa Raposa's work at the front desk. Donors receive a tax receipt which has also helped to increase donations.

The Fun Afternoon Recital raffle prize valued at more than \$100 donated by Virginia Taylor, plus the 2 - \$50 Tim cards donated by Thuy Vi Bach, were a big incentive for people to buy more raffle tickets than ever before.

The Branch dinner was a big hit: awesome food, companionship and presentation. We will invite Joe back to continue presenting on musical events and places to visit while traveling through Europe. We will pay him this time.

Report attached.

Thuy moved the acceptance of her report; seconded by Lisa. Carried.

**Workshops:** Mimi reported:

In 2019 we had our Theory Pedagogy Workshop with Joe Ringhofer - New Paradigms in Teaching ARCT Harmony & Counterpoint. This was held over 3 mornings ending on the 3rd day with a luncheon and a Q & A with Joe. This was our 11th year.

Each summer we host Joe Ringhofer, co-author of the RCM Theory books, who allows us a view of the theory examination expectations and essentials for being successful with the courses, from the examiner's red pen point of view.

Our 2019 Fall workshops were selected a year in advance by the Executive Committee and voted on at our Branch Meetings or via mass email. Our clinicians are chosen from the ORMTA Website clinician list. We are happy to have Jennifer Smele today and look forward to Deep Ganguly's presentation on the last Monday of October - World of Flutes. Same location.

We welcome any thoughts on workshops for 2020.

This will be my last year on the Executive of the Etobicoke -Mississauga Branch. It's been an educational experience and I have had the privilege of working with many wonderful people.

**Piano Assessments & Branch Competitions (formerly Scholarship Recital) & Piano Master Class:** Virginia reported:

In December 2018, we hosted our first Piano Assessments with adjudicator Wendy Potter. Wendy is a first rate adjudicator, and always welcomes our students with fine suggestions and advice.

Our next Piano Assessments were held in March 2019. This included not only Assessments for entry into our Annual May Competitions, but also the entries into Zone Level Competitions. This entailed a full weekend and was adjudicated by Dr. Brett Kingsbury.

Our Piano Master Class was held on March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019, also with Dr. Brett Kingsbury. We were very pleased with the large number of entries. I am very excited to announce that in 2020, the March Piano Master Class will include a session on the Sat. evening, of Ensemble work. This will include Intermediate and Advanced Duets and Trios. We are so pleased and so fortunate to have as our clinicians, Lisa Raposa Millar and her husband and piano partner, Greg Millar. They are not only noted duo pianists, but Lisa is also the Etobicoke Mississauga Branch Vice President. This opens up a whole new segment of our Master Class format. Etobicoke Mississauga ORMTA continues to grow!

On May 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019, we hosted our Annual Branch Competitions. This year we had a record number of participants. This just confirms the excellent teaching that our Branch members are achieving! Our Piano Adjudicator was Dr. Joe Ferretti. We were so fortunate to have Joe Ringhofer present the awards to the Vocalist and the Pianist who achieved first in the levels that carry his name.

In August 2019, we hosted “The Joe Show”. This was our 11<sup>th</sup> year of re educating teachers in Harmony, History and Analysis. This is such an important feature of our Branch year, as we, as teachers continue to grow and learn. Another esteemed member of our Branch, Joe Ringhofer, presented a 3 day work shop and a 2 hour Q & A, on the glories of ARCT Harmony. We had 14 participants, who came away quite confident in their “refreshing” of their ARCT Harmony Requirements. Next August, 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup>, we are presenting a 3 day workshop in ARCT Analysis. All teachers are welcome to attend.

We look forward to another successful year in our upcoming Competitions , Master Classes, and Refresher Courses.

**Vocal Assessments & Branch Competitions (formerly known as Scholarship Recital) & Musical Theatre Master Class:** Carolyn reported:

The Musical Theatre Masterclass was held on February 24, 2019 and the clinician was Marie Baron. She will be the clinician again in February 2020. To enhance the experience, Ms Baron has requested that participants attend two performances in addition to their own. Ensemble entries are allowed.

The Vocal Assessments were held on Sunday afternoon, March 3, 2019 and were adjudicated by Allison Arends. The Vocal adjudicator for March 2020 is tentatively Rebecca Poff. She will be confirmed by the end of October.

The Vocal Scholarship Recital was held on Sunday afternoon, May 26, 2019. The adjudicator was Loralie Vancourt. The Vocal adjudicator for the May 2020 Branch Competitions formerly Scholarship Recital will be Denise Williams.

**Media:** Abigail reported:

We have been posting events to our Branch's Facebook page, the ORMTA Facebook page, piano teachers Canada page and the Toronto Community of Classical Musicians page. Please let me know if there are other pages you think it may be worthwhile posting in. If anyone works at a music school and wouldn't mind putting up posters for our events, please let me know!

**Young Artist Recital, Website & Volunteering:** Lisa reported:

In December of 2019, I assumed the role of Vice President. One of the primary responsibilities of the VP is to organize the Young Artist Recital. Over the course of this year, I will be looking at potential venues and ways to draw an audience. The Young Artist Recital will occur in the Spring of 2021.

In other news, this past summer the website underwent some considerable updates. Most information for student and teacher events is now available online. A feature on the calendar allows anyone to share events to Twitter, Facebook or LinkedIn. You can also save the event to your own online calendar. In the Gallery, a new section has been added with pictures of "Thank you" notes from students. We might benefit from spending some money in a year or two to update things even more. For now, feel free to email me any updates you would like to see. The Executive has yet to take the step of offering online registration but continues to look into it as an option.

Lastly, I am again recruiting volunteers to help with Assessments (Dec and Mar) and the Branch Competitions (formerly Scholarship Recital) in May. If you or your students would like to volunteer, please contact me at: [volunteers.etobmiss.ormta@gmail.com](mailto:volunteers.etobmiss.ormta@gmail.com).

**Outreach:** Linda's report:

I have called everyone on the list. I have called Jin numerous times, and the line is always busy. I have had positive feedback from the people and one will join our branch once she has moved. I sent the card to Marg.

I am looking for an ad from ORMTA or anyone else attending to put in Contemporary Showcase Program. I have been out doing ads for Contemporary Showcase, every day.

**Membership Certificates:** Lynne presented:

10 years – Present: Thuy Bach & Evelyn Indargo; Absent: Lisa Iwasaki

15 years – Present: Irina Semenova; Absent: Adelaide Bell

Larissa Zoubareva was present and stated that she has been a member for at least 15 years. We will look into this and if it is true, rectify the situation by printing her a 15 year certificate as well.

**Business Arising:**

We will update the entry forms so that it is 2 pages long for multiple entries of students.

Abigail offered to look into finding a form that can be submitted online.

Larissa Zoubareva is a Music Therapist that has done Masterclasses on adapting lessons for students with mental health and physical issues. We will definitely keep her in mind for a future workshop.

There was a question as to the rule in the Hallowe'en Recital and the Fun Afternoon of a solo piece only being a maximum of 2 minutes in length. If a student is playing a Level 5 piece, 2 minutes maximum is a very short performance opportunity that the teacher may be hard pressed to sell to the student. Maybe a change could be made to the rules so that higher level students might be more likely to enter?

An advertising suggestion for the Young Artist Recital would be that ORMTA make a promo video, of the performer talking and playing a bit, that all Branches can use to generate more interest to promote their performance dates.

On our website, we will publish the names (not the marks) of students who qualify to advance to the Branch Competitions (formerly Scholarship Recital). Lynne will also email the names to the membership.

**Motions:**

1. Bump up Deep's World of Flutes ad on Facebook (\$30)  
YES (9); NO (1) UNDECIDED (2) Carried.
2. Scholarship money handed out in cash instead of cheques. A tie will still be a cheque. All in favour. Carried.

**Adjournment:** Lynne moved for adjournment.

**Next meeting:** Executive Meeting 10:00 AM – Monday, October 21, 2019 at Mimi's Home.