



ANNUAL REPORT 2009 PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Our year began with our pleasant *Teachers on the Town* social event in late August. September was very busy with our first monthly *Pedagogy Meeting*, our first of five *Executive Meetings*, CFMTA's *Atlantic Young Artist Recital* featuring pianist Michael Thibodeau, a PEIRMTA workshop: *Teaching Students with ADHD* by Dr. David Wong and a workshop jointly sponsored by the RCM and the PEIRMTA: *New Horizons: Exploring the Piano Syllabus, 2008 Edition*, with clinician Maria Case.

In October the first recital in our *Young Musicians Recital Series* took place. November started with a PEIRMTA workshop entitled *Teaching Composition* by Dr. Andrew Zinck of the UPEI Department of Music. November 15 saw two Young Musicians Recitals featuring music by Canadian composers only, in celebration of *Canada Music Week®*. We attempted to hold an event for adult students on December 7th, but this had to be postponed because everyone was just too busy. A decision was made to avoid December programming in future.

January 11th was the new date chosen for what turned out to be our largest yet *Social for Adult Students and Teachers*, hosted by Kay and Graeme Linkletter. We advertised the 2009 CFMTA *Call for Compositions*. (Word has recently been received that 80 piano and 19 vocal compositions were received and the 2 selected compositions [for which we will need student performers!] for next November's Cross Canada Performance are on the CFMTA website [www.cfmta.org].) Before January was finished we also had another Executive meeting, a social *Dinner Out* for Members, and the submission of compositions for our 2009 *PEIRMTA Canada Music Week® Composition Competition*.

We were astonished by the unusually large number of people indicating an interest in our February *Learn to Dance a Minuet* workshop. It was fun and there was certainly interest in doing this sort of thing again. Sandwiched between two Young Musicians Recitals at the end of February was the *Awards Ceremony* for the winners of our Composition Competition. One entry was forwarded to CFMTA's national finals.

On March 21, a press release in the local newspaper, *The Guardian*, announced that Member Annabel Cohen had received major funding from the Canadian Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council for her international AIRS project, *Advancing Interdisciplinary Research in Singing*. The PEIRMTA is a stakeholder in this project. Our annual fundraiser, the *PEIRMTA Perform-a-thon*, was the best one yet. The money raised provided awards at each of four County music festivals and the Provincial Festival.

In early April we tried an *Olympic Challenge* (for technique) for the first time, organized by Connie O'Brien and Valerie MacKenzie. The event turned out to be a lot of fun and is something we'll definitely do again (but in May before the June RCM exams). Another Young Musicians Recital was held prior to the Queen's County Music Festival, which was earlier than usual this year. We attended a farewell dinner for our Public Relations Officer, Anne Bergstrom.

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May saw another very successful Social for Adult Students and Teachers, hosted this time by Frances Gray. The last of our Young Musicians Recitals and monthly Pedagogy Meetings were also held.

During the course of the year, we submitted input to *Arabesque*, which is the joint newsletter for NSRMTA and PEIRMTA (the latest issue of which was sent to most of us by email for the first time), and to The Canadian Music Teacher magazine. Our featured PEI composer for the latter was Jennifer Drew. We were also advertised at various times in *The Buzz*, *The Guardian*, the *Queen's County Music Festival Program*, *City Recreation* and the *South Shore Community Newsletter*. A letter was sent to the *Royal Conservatory* protesting their high examination fees. We received a personal response by telephone from its new President, John Tevlin, stating that he strongly agreed with us, that the RCM had received many complaints about this, and that they were currently in financial discussions, struggling to do as we and others had suggested.

With permission, Graeme Linkletter prepared DVDs for the composers, Ernst Schneider and Lilian Safdie, of PEI's contribution to the 2007 CFMTA Cross Canada Performance. These were sent and we have received in reponse their thanks and also Lilian's gracious permission for our Members to copy her piano piece, *Dance of the Loons*, used on that occasion, as well as 2 other pieces which she sent: *Five Bagatelles for Piano Four Hands* (Senior to early advanced), and *Sonata for Cello and Piano* (Advanced).

Our *Annual Meeting and Lunch* will take place on June 13, at which NSRMTA President, Lorna Wanzel, will be speaking. We look forward very much to the *CFMTA Convention* in Sackville, NB in July. Unfortunately PEI will not be represented in the Piano Competition at the Convention. Frances Gray and I will be going as Delegates and several other Members plan to attend various workshops and the Piano Competition.

Respectfully submitted by Jane Naylor, President