

Chatham-Kent NEWS

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The Chatham-Kent Branch of ORMTA is proud to celebrate the start of our 2006-2007 teaching season with the launch of our new website. We hope that this site will prove a useful resource to teachers, parents and other community members.

ORMTA Calendar

Charline Farrell and Lynda Homeniuk have been hard at work producing our annual ORMTA calendar. At a cost of only \$3.00 this calendar is an important fundraiser for our branch. The money raised helps fund our annual music writing competition, branch recitals and scholarships. This calendar is a handy resource for parents and teachers. It includes important dates and deadlines with regard to exams, Kiwanis Music Festival and of course the dates of our recitals. Calendars will be available by mid August.

Music Writing Competition

The deadline for submissions to our annual Music Writing Competition is November 1st. Sue Lowther is again coordinating this event for us. Age categories are as follows: 11 years and under; 15 years and under; 19 years and under; and open. The composition categories are: solo instrument; any combination of instruments; or voice (with or without accompaniment). Manuscripts should be written in black ink on 8 ½ x 11 manuscripts or printed by computer. Medals will be awarded at our Canada Music Week Recital and some of our young composers' perform their work in public for the first time! Congratulations to our 2005 winners: 11 years and under 1st place went to Stacy Klassen; 15 years and under 1st place went to Christian Podlacha, 2nd place to Brittany Renaud and 3rd place to Ella Bradley.

Western Zone Convention

The Sarnia Branch is hosting the Western Zone Convention. This event is being held at Dunlop United Church in Sarnia. Clinician is Randall Faber. Mr. Faber, a resident of Michigan, has toured extensively as a clinician, teacher and performer. He and his wife Nancy are co-authors of the popular Piano Adventures teaching method. Workshop registration begins at 9:00 a.m. and the workshop

runs from 9:30 to 3:30 with lunch at 11:45. The cost of the workshop is \$30.00 for ORMTA members.

Kiwanis Music Festival

A reminder to parents and students that the deadline for festival entries has been moved up to November 15th.

Upcoming Recitals

Each year our branch hosts a number of themed recitals. These recitals provide an excellent performance opportunity for our young students. Recitals take place at the newly renovated St. Andrew's United Church and begin at 7 p.m. There is a small admission fee of \$3.00 to help cover the hall rental fee. On October 25th we host our Halloween Recital. This recital is always a favourite with students and parents as many of our young students perform in full Halloween costume! On November 22nd we celebrate the work of Canadian composers with our Canada Music Week recital. At this event we also award plaques to students receiving the highest marks in their Royal Conservatory or Conservatory Canada exams as well as awarding the winners of our annual Music Writing Competition. On December 13th we hope you'll celebrate the season with us at our annual Christmas recital.

Navigating our Website

As you navigate our website we hope you'll check out the **Contact** link. Here we have provided important information for both teachers and parents. Along with our 2006-2007 Executive Members you'll find the names of all our Branch Convenors and Committee members as well as recital contacts.

Our **Activities** link is another important resource to learn about ORMTA meetings, workshops, recitals, competitions, Kiwanis Music Festival as well as exam dates and deadlines.

We hope you find our website useful and informative.