



Notes

A monthly compendium of news and notes from the Cowichan Valley Music Teachers Association meeting.

May 27, 2006

Songfest May 26 & 27 -

Songfest debuted May 26 and 27, the day of our meeting. Kim and Sue, (the organizers), parents, students and the adjudicator, Dr. Marvin Regier, all gave it high marks for involvement, fun and especially for its educational value.

We were all reminded at the meeting about how Songfest and Pianofest are opportunities for not only our students, but for our own professional development. It is our chance to increase our understanding and improve our skills. Try to make time in your schedule to attend next year and the rewards will be great!

Membership fees

Member year begins Sept. 1, but fees may be paid from next meeting. There were two proposals discussed for the amount of the fee - raising the fees by \$5 to a total of \$30, or keeping it at \$25. The reason for the increase is to be sure that we have enough funds to continue to develop the website as a way to register for events such as Pianofest and to list teachers. Members are requested to vote about the amount by e-mail to rmwilliams@shaw.ca before June 23, or in person at the June meeting. **Teachers who have not paid by August 31 will not be listed on the website until fees are paid.**

Music and Discussion Topics

We began the meeting with Tilly Lorence singing, (wonderful!!) and then discussing her techniques for teaching Musical Theatre interpretation in songs.

Lots of suggestions have been forwarded to Ann for topics for next season. We will begin in Sept. with a round table on Studio Policies and Practices - the Business of being a Music Teacher. Bring your experiences and ideas!

Medieval Weekend - October 20-21, 2006

Plans are proceeding for the Pro-D music weekend, "Really Deep Roots Music" which will focus on music (and life) of the European Medieval period. If anyone else would like to join the organizing committee, please call Marilyn, Sue or Kim. We **especially need someone with contacts in the schools**, so as to better involve the school music teachers and their students. Meetings are short and fun!

Last year, some teachers added the cost of 1 class to each student's tuition for October so every student would have the benefit of at least one class. Others simply asked all students to attend at least one. Something to consider in planning next term!

Next meeting -

Friday June 23, Ruth and Garth Williams. 5 pm. There will be music, a very short business meeting, and a pot luck supper. Everyone is welcome.

Other meeting items:

Website report. Tilly reported on the costs of newspaper ads promote the "Find a Teacher" feature of the website. We decided to spend \$100 on classified ads in August, both papers, Tilly will book. Joy Ann will be asked to add our URL to the end of Young Musician of the Week text for each student.

Treasurer's notes: The concert at St. Michael's raised \$500 for the Bursary Fund, and the CV Arts Council has returned \$500 which we donated to them towards the purchase of a piano for the short-lived space in the Community Centre.

Arts Cowichan is working on an Arts and Culture Policy for the valley and have produced a new flyer/rack card. They are collecting names for inclusion in their directory which will be available on the internet. Ann M. to complete the form for the CVMTA; member teachers may want to contact them to add their individual information. Louise McMurray 746-7930

RMT Biannual Workshop will be held the last weekend of September. Early Bird registration is soon. Ruth is going and has all the details - call her 748 - 8314.

Concert Attendance Competition ends May 31. E-mail your total concert going points to Ann Mendenhall (am-pm@shaw.ca)!

Another Concert? Shall we do another fundraising concert? Because of the Pro-D Medieval Weekend, we will be quite occupied in the fall, it would need to be in Jan. 2007 if it were to happen. There was interest from some members in performing, and volunteers: Tilly would organize and Judit would produce the program. Decision to be made in fall...

Upcoming Concerts and Events

June 2 - Duncan United Church - Christine Dandy leads Opus 1 Singers in concert.

June 4, 2:30 pm (Mill Bay) and June 9 (Ladysmith) Betty Allison in Concert. Betty sings farewell to the Cowichan Valley as she leaves us for the Canadian Opera Company.

RCM exams start June 7th Call Trisha if you have any schedule conflicts or questions.

Let's build the Cowichan Valley Music Teachers Association

Remember to check past issues, and find a teacher or their phone number at www.cowichanmusicteachers.com Tell your colleagues!