



# NEWS & NOTES

## MUSIC IN THE AFTERNOON

Women's Musical Club of Toronto

### EVERYBODY'S DOING IT!

By Kathleen McMorrow

Your electronic and human-delivered mailboxes have probably been bulging recently, with announcements from your favourite cultural institutions of their plans for next season. Spring is here! 2020 is imminent.

And so is the next WMCT season!

Artistic Director Simon Fryer delivered the *Music in the Afternoon* launch announcement in late February, as an introduction to Joel Quarrington's terrific concert. A reconstructed version of the colourful new WMCT logo embellishes the 122nd season brochure, available on the [website](#), and in print. Please join us in Walter Hall for 2019-2020.



Trio Fibonacci  
(Photo: Haladrian Morilo Photography)

the [Trio Fibonacci](#) will open up the piano trio medium, from Beethoven to the present day.

[Jane Archibald](#) was the 2017-18 COC visiting artist, her coloratura notes filling the opera house as Arabella



Simon Fryer, February 28, 2019  
(Photo: James Kippen)

In mathematics, the *Fibonacci* numbers form a sequence related to the golden ratio; in nature the pattern appears in tree branching or the uncurling of a fern. In music, on October 3,

and Constanze. On November 14, 2019, in the intimate setting of Walter Hall she will explore the French and German song repertoire, and also reflect on her Celtic roots.

The international guest this season is the [Quatuor Diotima](#) from Paris. The quartet's name looks back to German Romanticism, and forward to the music of the avant-garde: in 1799 Friedrich Hölderlin used it as a sobriquet for the woman who inspired his novel *Hyperion*; in 1980 Luigi Nono infused a demanding string quartet with fragments of Hölderlin's poetry to her. The program on February 27, 2020 includes music by Beethoven and Berg, and *Brains*, by Misato Mochizuki.

The composer has written that, after hearing about research in neurology, she wanted to write a work about the functional singularities of the human brain — autonomy, self-renewal, self-awareness, and other attributes which distinguish it from both the computer, and the animal brain. The string quartet, a unity of four musical brains is the ideal medium to embody concepts of dependence, independence and interdependence. (The 2017 concert première of *Brains* is available [online](#); if you click the link, it starts just before the 27-minute mark



Jane Archibald (Photo: Bo Huang)



Quatuor Diotima (Photo: Jeremie Mazenq)



Beverley Johnston (Photo: Shayne Gray)

of the recording.)

If you know [Beverley Johnston](#)'s work, you will be eagerly anticipating her appearance on April 2, with a stage full of percussion instruments, accompanied by some of her Faculty of Music colleagues. If the idea of percussion as chamber

music is new for you, be prepared to be thrilled. Bach on marimba will be an introduction; when she sings, dances, and plays flower pots or a udu drum, it will be a revelation. The program will also include the world première of a WMCT-commissioned composition for percussion quartet by Russell Hartenberger.

When [Blake Pouliot](#) plays on May 7, 2020, it will be two years since he was named winner of our 2018 Career Development Award; we can look forward to hearing an artist matured by study and experience. For a sample of his growth in new directions, listen to his performance at the [2019 JUNO awards](#) with indigenous artist Jeremy Dutcher.

*Kathleen McMorrow is Vice-President of the WMCT, Co-Chair of the Media Relations Subcommittee and the WMCT's Website Administrator.*



Blake Pouliot  
(Photo: Jeff Fasano Photography)

## LOOK WHO'S VOLUNTEERING

*By Bonnie O'Dacre*

It might have been the biggest snow fall of the season - hard to say with the wicked weather this winter - but the renewals had to get to the next day's concert and the car was parked up the street. A sleigh might have worked better. Certainly the folk on Victoria Street weren't impressed by the box-laden trolleys hauled up the slushy sidewalk. On February 27th, the day before the

Joel Quarrington concert, next year's season would be announced, members would be looking for their renewals and Jerri was in charge.

Jerri Merritt Jones, WMCT registrar, had already spent the morning organizing, so when volunteer "stuffers" arrived at 10 am, the boardroom table in the National Youth Orchestra offices, where the WMCT rents space, was piled with new season brochures, renewal forms, envelopes and name stickers all in counted piles. No stamp-lickers here, these envelopes would be filled at the office on Adelaide, and delivered to the concert venue on Queen's Park, snow storm or not.



(L to R) Diane Martello, Julia Smith and Jerri Merritt Jones  
February 27, 2019 (Photo: Bonnie O'Dacre)

The envelopes did arrive at Walter Hall, and more than 300 went home after the Quarrington concert leaving just 99 to be mailed. "It was great," says Jerri. "Some years I have to mail more than half of them." "Be sure to thank people for picking up their renewals." So thanks for that. Jerri also states that not one of her efforts is accomplished without the hard work of good-natured Arts Administrator Shannon Perreault. "She makes it all happen."

As registrar, Jerri makes sure everyone who joins the club is recorded, and details checked, usually twice. We kid her about the "checked twice" but Jerri is a detail person, facts are recorded, information is correct. When the season tickets are mailed out in August there's another stuffing - usually minus the snow - and even "special orders" are accommodated.

This might sound like a full-time volunteer job, but no it's not. Organizing the Annual General Meeting also falls to Jerri, so she finds the venue, organizes food or catering, and checks to be sure the piano is tuned for the scholarship winners' concert that's part of the AGM.

A WMCT member for 16 years, Jerri attended her first *Music in the Afternoon* concert with her neighbour and was so impressed that she said to the gent sitting next to her: "These concerts are great, how do I get to be a member."

"Well you just subscribe."

And then you renew, and then you're in charge of everyone renewing - and then you just hope it doesn't snow.

*Bonnie O'Dacre is Chair of the WMCT Advertising Subcommittee and Co-Chair of the WMCT Media Relations Subcommittee.*

If you are interested in volunteering for the WMCT, please contact us at 416.923.7052 or [wmct@wmct.on.ca](mailto:wmct@wmct.on.ca) or visit [our website](#).

## SURTITLES COME TO MUSIC IN THE AFTERNOON

*By Annette Sanger*

Opera goers in Toronto and all over the world have become used to having surtitles projected onto the back and top of the stage with translations of the words being sung. Believe it or not, surtitles were trademarked by our very own Canadian Opera Company back in 1983. Most would agree this is an amazing invention, far preferable to not understanding the intricacies of song texts or even to reading translations in print from your seat in the semi-darkness, taking your attention away from the stage.

One experiences similar problems in vocal recitals where often songs are sung in foreign languages and sometimes even English is difficult to understand when masked with the music. So, why not use surtitles in concerts too? Well, the WMCT has decided to move with the times

and utilise surtitles to enhance our audience's enjoyment and understanding of song texts.

We did this for the first time in a recital of German songs last November presented by Dutch baritone Thomas Oliemans and pianist Martin



Thomas Oliemans and Malcolm Martineau in rehearsal, November 8, 2018 (Photo: Annette Sanger)

Martineau. The surtitles were created and projected by Emilie Gelinas who had also done this for the Toronto Summer Music Festival in 2018. Emilie will also be providing surtitles for our upcoming recital by soprano Jane Archibald this November 14, 2019.

Rooted in the past as well as embracing the future, the WMCT continues to modernise, always seeking to improve our concerts and the musical experience of our audience.

*Annette Sanger is the WMCT's CDA Committee Chair, Volunteer Subcommittee Co-chair, and Past President of the WMCT.*

## IN TRIBUTE: NEIL CRORY

*By Esther McNeil & Julia Smith*

Neil Crory (1950-2019), a great friend of the WMCT, selected the artists and their programmes for the 100th Anniversary Concert of the Women's Musical Club of Toronto on May 24, 1998, at George Weston Recital Hall in North York's Ford Centre for the Performing Arts. All of the artists were Canadian and had performed for the club in the past. Some were scholarship winners and two were Career Development Award winners. The singers were Russell Braun, Catherine Robbin, and Michael Schade, the pianists Angela Hewitt and Jeanie Chung, and the violinist James Ehnes. The inspired idea underlying the programme was to introduce the artists in solo in the first half of the concert, and in collaborative numbers in the second half. Neil was brought to the artistic planning for the concert by his long-time friend, Walter Homburger, who indeed was the man behind all the planning for the WMCT Centennial Celebration. This sold-out concert netted \$100,000, providing the launch-pad for the WMCT Centennial Foundation established in 2000.

Neil Crory also was the genius behind putting together fourteen young vocal artists for the Millennium Gala at Roy Thomson Hall on December 31, 1999, an event called by William Littler, "the greatest exhibition of Canadian singing those of us lucky enough to have been there will likely ever hear".

Neil Crory, born in Edmonton, began his CBC career as a researcher and retired as Senior Music Producer. He claimed that his interview with legendary Canadian soprano, Lois Marshall, in 1983 after her farewell tour, changed his life. He instigated a three-part CBC Radio documentary of her career, and from that moment on he dedicated his life to mentoring, promoting and recording an entire generation of Canadian artists, garnering eight JUNO awards. He brought out the best work in those he chose to record with always the right mix of songs, and left a legacy of quality and beauty.

Esther McNeil is the Founding Chair of the WMCT Foundation and of the WMCT's Career Development Award, and a former President of the WMCT. Julia Smith is the WMCT's Fundraising Chair, Nominating & Governance Chair, and also a former President of the WMCT.

## 2018-19 DRAW WINNERS

### Early Bird Draw

(Free WMCT Subscription)

Patricia White

### Bring-A-Friend Draw

(Complimentary *Music in the Afternoon* ticket)

Jean Smith

Margaret Opekar

### Amadeus Choir Draw

(Free Full Concert Series Tickets)

Donna Quance

Remember to [renew](#) by May 31, 2019 for a chance to win next season's Early Bird Draw for a free subscription to the 2019-20 season of *Music in the Afternoon*!

## ARCHIVAL TREASURES

By Susan Johnston

The club recently received a treasure trove of old WMCT papers and records, which made me appreciate anew the rich musical legacy of the WMCT. There were programmes for concerts by the likes of Dame Myra Hess, Marian Anderson, Andrés Segovia and a very young Glenn Gould, as well as for more exotic performers like the Uday Ravi Shankar dance troupe (in 1933).

There were also more run-of-the-mill records, of course – lots of minutes from meetings of various committees, but a



Marian Anderson, 1936

fascinating example of that potentially dull material was a handwritten diary of the "Women's Musical Club of Toronto Season of 1917-1918 (by) Anne C. H. Starr, Recording Secretary". This diary included the programme for a Patriotic Concert held in 1918 in Massey Hall, featuring soprano Mme. Maria Barrientos of the Metropolitan Opera. The programme, incidentally, included much advertising for local businesses – another fascinating window on the past. Although Anne Starr's handwriting poses some difficulties, this diary is an invaluable record of our past, and makes us even more appreciative of the club's history.

Also included in the treasure trove are many photographs of the artists who have appeared in our concerts, some of which are pictured here and accessible on our [website](#). We hope to have these documents deposited in the archives of the Toronto Reference Library soon, so that they will be accessible to both the club and the general public. Ours is definitely a proud history.

Susan Johnston is the WMCT's Archivist and Scholarship Winners' Recital Liaison.



Glenn Gould, 1953



Uday Shankar, 1933

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