

MUSIC IN THE
AFTERNOON

MUSIC IN THE AFTERNOON

NEWS & NOTES

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FUNDRAISING CONCERT FOR THE
CAREER DEVELOPMENT AWARD*By Annette Sanger*

Sunday, May 4 was the first true day of spring in Toronto this year with sunshine and warming temperatures – an ideal backdrop for the WMCT's afternoon concert at the architecturally spectacular and beautifully situated Rosedale ravine home of James Stewart. Shannon Mercer (soprano) and Steven Philcox (piano) enthralled the audience of some eighty WMCT supporters with a wide-ranging program of songs in five different languages (German, French, Spanish, Welsh and English) by composers as diverse as Mozart and Villa-Lobos. Aside from a musical treat, attendees also enjoyed a pre-concert reception with wine and finger foods – a chance to mingle with friends, as well as to look around the stunning venue.

afternoon of Sunday, April 26. We are delighted to report that a net profit of \$11,600 was realized from this event. Sincere thanks and gratitude is extended to all those who purchased tickets or made donations, including especially H el ene and Peter Hunt, artist sponsors, James Stewart, for kindly opening up his home to us and, of course, our performers. We were so fortunate to have Shannon Mercer, not only a superb singer but also the winner of the Career Development Award in 2006. The WMCT particularly prides itself on keeping in contact with its award winners, and it was touching that Shannon so generously "gave back" by contributing to the ongoing future of the award for other talented young classical musicians.



Shannon Mercer (soprano) and Steven Philcox (piano) perform at the May 4th fundraising concert for the Career Development Award

This fundraiser was organized to support the upcoming celebratory tenth presentation of the WMCT's Career Development Award in 2015, which will include a live competition in Walter Hall between the three finalists on the

All WMCT members as well as the general public are cordially invited to the live competition in Walter Hall next April 26 that will be hosted by CBC Radio 2 presenter Julie Nezrallah. Tickets at \$25 are available from the WMCT office. Please join us for this exciting event and help us support young Canadian musicians!

Women's Musical Club of Toronto
Career Development Award
Live Competition

With guest host Julie Nezrallah, CBC Radio Two
Sunday, April 26, 2015 1.30 - 4.30 p.m.
Walter Hall, Edward Johnson Building
80 Queen's Park, Toronto

To purchase tickets contact the WMCT office at
416-923-7052

WMCT PRESIDENTIAL SUMMIT

By Annette Sanger

Several months ago I thought it would be nice to gather together all the presidents of the WMCT – a thought that was instigated mainly because I am in awe of my predecessors and the amazing work they did. Yet, there are few opportunities to chat and hear their histories first-hand, and there are even a couple of Past-Presidents who are still in Toronto that I haven't met. All in all, it seemed like a good opportunity to learn more about the WMCT, re-connect and reminisce. I believe this has been done once in the past, though not for many years.



Nine past presidents and Susan Corrigan attended the event: Emmy Homburger, Annette Sanger, Julia Smith, Françoise Sutton, Hanna Feuerriegel, Susan V. Corrigan, Isabel Jackson, Esther McNeil, Danuta Buczynski, Betty Gray.

Nine WMCT presidents and Susan Corrigan attended the luncheon, which was generously and graciously hosted by Esther McNeil who is not only a Past-President of the WMCT but was also co-founder and Chair of the WMCT Foundation for many years. In addition to Esther and myself, those in attendance were: Danuta Buczynski, Hanna Feuerriegel, Betty Gray, Emmy Homburger, Isabel Jackson, Julia Smith and Françoise Sutton. Their presidencies range back to the 1970s and up to the present day.

We talked about the WMCT's priorities, challenges and successes, past and present. In many ways little has changed, though in the days before we had an arts administrator there was even greater pressure and demands of time on our volunteers. But it is still the presentation of high quality chamber music by Canadian and international performers as well as the support for exceptionally talented young artists through the Career Development Award that everyone felt to be the hallmarks of our venerable organization. Particular challenges we face today, everyone noted, are audience development – continuing to

attract a critical body of subscribers each year – and fundraising, probably one of the greatest concerns for all arts organizations in this day and age.

This very special group of hardworking, dedicated and talented women around the lunch table on April 23rd deserve considerable praise and thanks for their invaluable contribution to the WMCT. Let us build on their legacy and ensure the WMCT continues to grow and prosper after 116 years!

Annette Sanger is the President of the Women's Musical Club of Toronto, a position she has held since 2012.

THE BASICS OF THE PIANO TRIO REPERTOIRE

By James Parker

The core repertoire of a typical piano trio ensemble comprises the Classical era, the Romantic era, and some combination of 20th and 21st century repertoire. Unfortunately, since the modern piano only came into its own after the Baroque era, there is little repertoire from the Baroque masters that modern piano trio ensembles play.

Haydn is really the father of chamber music, setting the bar high both in terms of quality and quantity. With something close to 50 piano trios and 70 string quartets, there is a wealth to choose from. The Gryphon Trio's very first CD recording was of four of

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TRIO VI.

Allegro.

Violino.

Violoncello.

Allegro.

Pianoforte.

Edition Peters 7456

Piano trio by Joseph Haydn

our favourite Haydn piano trios. His writing is full of invention, rhythmic vitality, and humour. The Mozart piano trios are substantially fewer in number, with only a half dozen fully completed plus a few assorted movements. While they are not often referred to as his best writing, I've found that the last movement rondos really sparkle.

Beethoven has always been my greatest hero in life, and his Archduke piano trio ranks as one of the greatest achievements in this form. It is a masterpiece of form, contrast, and expression. Whenever we perform this work it's like getting to spend time with an old friend. Another half dozen full trios and a handful of shorter works round out his timeless contribution to the genre.

Once we get into Romantic era repertoire, we find representative works by all of the major players: Brahms, Schumann, Schubert, Mendelssohn, Chopin (a little unfair to the pianist, with about six times as many notes as the string parts combined!), Dvořák and Smetana. All of the typical traits that we associate with these individual composers emerge in their piano trios: Brahms reconciles emotional expression within big classical structures; Schumann has erratic bursts of energy; Schubert is full of lyrical melodies and dance-like rhythms; Mendelssohn is fleet of finger with effortless phrases; Chopin combines virtuosity



Trio Wanderer will perform piano trios by Gabriel Fauré, Franz Liszt and Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky at their concert on October 2, 2014 in Walter Hall.

and expressiveness; Dvořák is full of folk-like charm and drama; Smetana delves into tragedy.

During the Romantic era, along with an increased emphasis on emotional expression, we also see the rise of Nationalism, with different countries and composers focusing on different styles. In France, the works of Franck, Lalo, Saint-Saëns, and Fauré point the way towards Impressionism found in an early Debussy work and in the magnificent Ravel trio – a masterpiece of the 20th century. This latter work demands that a piano trio sound like an orchestra in terms of colours and dynamics.



Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Russian composers are typically represented by Arensky, Rachmaninoff, and Tchaikovsky whose epic trio will be performed by the Trio Wanderer at the WMCT's concert on October 2. When the Gryphon Trio performs this work I classify each performance as an 'ascent' – it is such a massive undertaking! By coincidence, we are also performing it this fall.

I think one way of making one's way through the massive 2nd movement Theme and Variations is to regard the theme as a musical embodiment of Nikolai Rubinstein, who inspired this work. Nikolai had been an ardent supporter, friend, and colleague to the younger Tchaikovsky, and when Rubinstein died Tchaikovsky poured his grief into this work and gave it the subtitle 'In memory of a great artist.' As the theme (or Nikolai) progresses through the variations, there are embodiments of celebration, joy, anger, heroism, dancing, and tragedy. The sad opening

theme of the first movement makes a devastating reappearance at the end of the second movement, bringing us full circle in this exhausting emotional journey.

Also from Russia is a noteworthy masterpiece of the 20th century – Shostakovich’s 2nd piano trio, which, like Tchaikovsky’s, was dedicated to a recently-deceased close friend of the composer. Written during World War II, this poignant and profound work emotionally encapsulates the horrors of war.

As we make our way into the 20th century, styles become more scattered and individual, with a new emphasis on ensembles to seek out new composers and works to perform. Many ensembles take up commissioning – this is something that the Gryphon Trio (now in its 22nd year) started doing back in the 1990s. We have worked with dozens of the best Canadian composers, as well as hundreds of students in various venues, but most notably at the Claude Watson Art Program at Earl Haig Secondary School in North York. There are great challenges and rewards with commissioning – the thrill of discovery, the ability to interact with composers, and the stress of deadlines.

Now that we’re in the 21st century we see musicians crossing all sorts of boundaries. Ensembles now play in bars, outdoors, and in private homes, in addition to the more standard concert venues. Stylistically, groups can branch out and play more popular kinds of music such as tango, salsa, folk, jazz, and rock & roll. Chamber music ensembles now collaborate with electro-acoustic components, singers, dancers, visual artists – it’s a brave new world out there with room for much experimentation, distillation, and amalgamation.

James Parker is Professor of Piano, Faculty of Music, University of Toronto and a pianist with the Gryphon Trio.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

A warm welcome to all WMCT members as we embark on the 117th season of *Music in the Afternoon*. Once again we have a stellar line-up of chamber music concerts, including three Toronto debuts by performers from France (Trio Wanderer), the United States (Dover Quartet) and the Netherlands (Christianne Stotijn) in addition to high calibre Canadian musicians Jens Lindemann and Ensemble Made in Canada. This concert series demonstrates amply the WMCT’s mandate of presenting both established and newer performers, drawn from within and outside of Canada. It is particularly exciting to be introducing to



Dover Quartet will perform in the Music in the Afternoon series on November 13, 2014 in Walter Hall. The quartet won the 2013 Banff International String Quartet Competition.

Toronto audiences musicians who are already famous and in great demand in Europe but, as yet, little known on this side of the pond. Strangely, there is something of a divide in the classical music world between the two sides of the Atlantic whereby acclaim and renown don’t necessarily make it across the water.

Other exciting offerings for our members are: the Tuning Your Mind lectures prior to each concert, coordinated by Professor Robin Elliott; master classes at the Faculty of Music, U of T by Trio Wanderer on Friday, October 3, 11am to 1pm, and Jens Lindemann (TBA); and the WMCT’s annual commissioned composition, this year by Canadian composer Christopher Mayo (son of our treasured program-note writer John Mayo), which will be performed by the Ensemble Made in Canada on May 7, 2015.



Ensemble Made In Canada will present their programme as part of the Music in the Afternoon series on May 7, 2015.

Last but not least, we hope that many of you will join us on Sunday afternoon of April 26, 2015, for the live competition between the three finalists of the WMCT’s Career Development Award. The jury

of esteemed musicians will confer first, second, and third prizes (\$20,000, \$10,000 and \$5,000) and the event will be hosted by Julie Nezrallah of CBC Radio Two's classical music show, Tempo. Tickets are

Moreover, Susan has always displayed grace, patience and cordiality in her dealings with us all, and her administrative work – ranging from meeting minutes and financial statements to editing and

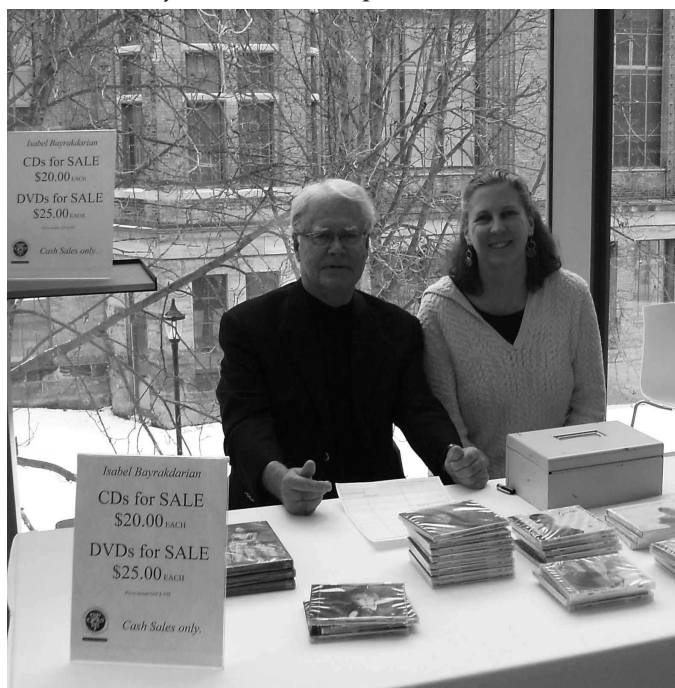


designing the newsletter – has been consistently of a very high quality. I would like to extend most grateful thanks to Susan and wish her a very happy retirement. Fortunately, she will not be leaving us altogether – she will be an honorary adviser to the WMCT and a board member on the Foundation. As well, you will probably see her at some of our concerts. Please check out the WMCT website blog for a more detailed tribute to Susan.

James Stewart, Annette Sanger, Steven Philcox, Shannon Mercer, Helene Hunt, and Peter Hunt at the May 4th fundraising concert

\$25 and can be purchased from the WMCT office. One very important piece of news in connection with the Club is that in recent months there has been a changing of the guard: I am referring to Susan Corrigan's retirement at the end of June after nineteen years as Arts Administrator. Susan's knowledge of all aspects of the organization is unrivalled, and the many presidents, board members and subscribers during her tenure have relied heavily on her for help and advice.

In Susan's place we are delighted to welcome Neva Peykova who was chosen following a rigorous selection process involving over 100 applications for the position. Neva has worked in cultural and business organizations in both her native Bulgaria and Canada. She has taken on the challenge of her tasks at the WMCT with diligence and enthusiasm, and we look forward to her continued involvement over the coming years.



Susan Corrigan and John Caldwell sell CDs at the Koerner Hall concert in February 2010.

Looking back, there are four important events to briefly report. The donors' reception on March 20, hosted by Esther McNeil, brought together some sixty supporters for wine and finger foods and a performance by trombone player Vlad Kalinichenko, the 2012 WMCT Foundation National Youth Orchestra of Canada scholarship winner. Next, a luncheon for WMCT past and current presidents at the home of Esther McNeil (see separate report on page 2). Thirdly, the fundraising concert held on May 4 for the special tenth presentation of the WMCT's Career Development Award next April – a great success that raised \$11,600 towards the extra expense of mounting a live competition with increased prize money for the 2015 CDA (see separate report on page 1). And, lastly our annual Donalds Club "fun raising" luncheon with guest speaker Sandra Horst (of the COC and Faculty of Music's opera program) was enjoyed by fifty attendees on June 4. My sincere thanks to volunteers on the Events Committee who work so hard, as well as to WMCT former president and Foundation chair,

Esther McNeil, for generously opening up her home to us all.

Looking ahead, our Annual General Meeting, open to all members, takes place at 10:30am on Thursday, October 9 at the Women's Art Association of Canada, 23 Prince Arthur (a little north and east of St George station). I have to say that our AGMs are most enjoyable because the business part is short, coffee, tea and a light lunch are provided,



Scholarship winners Lisa Tahara, piano, David Zucchi, saxophone, and Whitney Mather, soprano, with retiring board member Danuta Buczynski (second from right), at the WMCT Annual General Meeting on October 3, 2013.

and the highlight is a performance by the WMCT Foundation's 2014 scholarship winners from the RCM and the Faculty of Music, U of T.

A little later in the fall the new members' reception will be held at the home of Esther McNeil before the concert on November 13. We plan to offer a warm welcome to our many new members, and give them the opportunity to socialize and learn a little bit more about the work of the WMCT. And, hopefully, a few may be interested in volunteering – the Club is volunteer-run with one part-time paid arts administrator, and we are always looking for helpers at our concerts and events, or on our various committees. Anyone (long-standing or new members) who would like to discuss volunteer opportunities further, please call the WMCT office or send an email.

Following the winter break, please be sure to mark in your diaries the 2015-16 Season Launch by our esteemed Artistic Director, Simon Fryer, on Thursday, March 12, 2015 at 12:15pm (in place of the Tuning Your Mind lecture). Simon will offer some insights into the music and the performers in our 118th season, including musical recordings, to give you a taste of what is to come.

Dynamic and busy as always, the WMCT continues

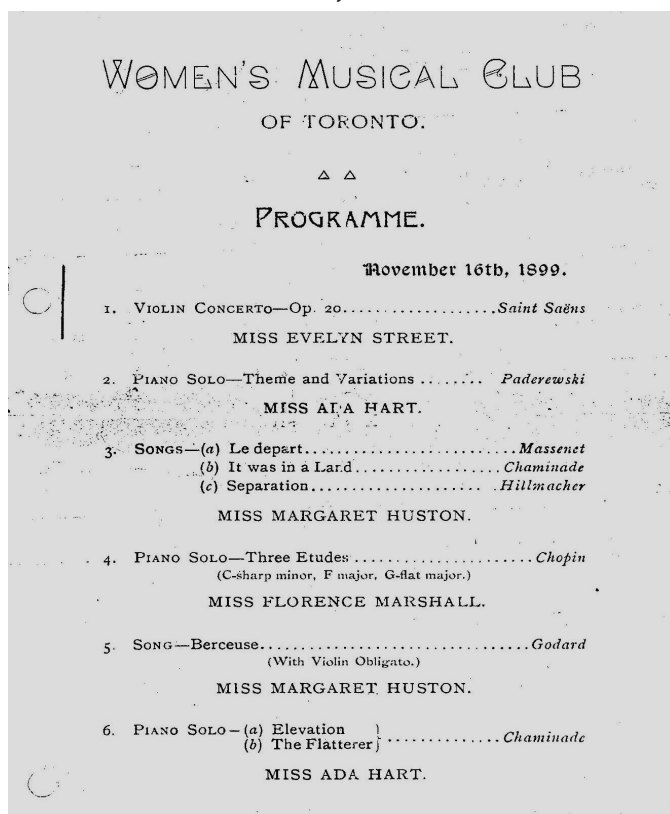
its illustrious and long-lasting tradition of promoting and presenting excellence in the realm of classical chamber music by Canadian and international artists. I am truly honoured to continue as president, but would also like to acknowledge the invaluable support of numerous other people who contribute to the life and soul of the WMCT – board and committee members, colleagues at the WMCT Foundation, the many volunteers, and each and every member. Here's to another great season.

Annette Sanger, *President*

MAKING MUSICAL HISTORY *by Kathy Halliday*

It has been nearly 117 years since the Women's Musical Club of Toronto launched its vision of the wonderful world of chamber music in our city. Led by women musicians and educators, by pillars of the community and unsung volunteers, the WMCT has both created and supplied an enduring market in our city with music of international calibre.

This season is a particularly exciting one for chamber music in our city. The Career Development Award, which is funded by the WMCT Foundation



Women's Musical Club of Toronto programme dated November 16, 1899.

and now held every three years, is being presented in live format on April 26, 2015, to celebrate its tenth presentation, which is also its twenty-fifth year. This will be an outstanding opportunity for music-lovers to hear artists make the case for their talent, and for their worthiness in winning the \$20,000, \$10,000 and \$5,000 prizes. It's a ringside seat at a bit of musical history, considering past winners who have gone on to national and international acclaim. It is not often we have the chance to be present when history is in the making.



Career Development Award winner Vincent Lauzer, recorder, performs in the Music in the Afternoon concert series on February 27, 2014, with Mylène Bélanger, harpsichord, and Mélisande Corriveau, baroque cello. Vincent's recital was sponsored by the WMCT Foundation.

To emphasize the point, let's look at who has won the Career Development Award in the past, starting with the inaugural award in 1990: Francine Kay (piano), James Ehnes (violin), Karina Gauvin (soprano), Jeanie Chung (piano), Yegor Dyachkov (cello), Sonia Chan (piano), Shannon Mercer (soprano), Darrett Zusko (piano), and Vincent Lauzer (recorder). You may have heard each of these wonderful artists in concert, since performing for the WMCT is part of the award. Please go to the WMCT website for more information on the Career Development Award and the upcoming live competition.

Be sure that you're taking advantage of our music history in the making. Buy your tickets to the live Career Development Award final competition, being held on April 26, 2015. And enjoy the WMCT's upcoming season of world-class musicians!

Kathy Halliday is a member of the WMCT and the WMCT Foundation.

WOMEN'S MUSICAL CLUB OF TORONTO/WMCT FOUNDATION 2014-2015 RECORD OF AWARDS

The Women's Musical Club of Toronto and Women's Musical Club of Toronto Foundation Centennial Scholarship – \$10,000

Established in 1997-1998 as part of the WMCT Centennial Celebrations, it is awarded annually to a student in the Performance Program of the Faculty of Music, University of Toronto. The recipient must have attained an annual grade point average of 3.5 or above, have the intention to pursue a career as a concert musician, and be a Canadian citizen or landed immigrant.

2014-2015 Recipient: Alessia Disimino, violin

The Women's Musical Club of Toronto and Women's Musical Club of Toronto Foundation Graduate Fellowship – interest on the \$50,000 endowment

Established in 2001 with a gift of \$25,000 from the WMCT and the WMCT Foundation, and matched by the University of Toronto, to create an endowment that will sustain an annual award in perpetuity for an outstanding graduate student in Performance in the Faculty of Music. The recipient must be a Canadian citizen or landed immigrant.

2014-2015 Recipient: Braden Young, piano

The Women's Musical Club of Toronto and Women's Musical Club of Toronto Foundation 110th Anniversary Scholarship – \$10,000

Established in 2008 and awarded annually to a student who displays musical excellence and is enrolled in the Artist Diploma Program or Performance Diploma Program at The Glenn Gould School of The Royal Conservatory of Music. The recipient must be a Canadian citizen or landed immigrant.

2014-2015 Recipient: Tess Crowther, cello

All scholarship winners are invited to perform at the WMCT Annual General Meeting on October 9, 2014.

LEGACY CIRCLE

Planned giving – by will and similar means – to the Women's Musical Club of Toronto Foundation is an effective, tax-efficient way of supporting the development of emerging Canadian performers of classical music. The *Legacy Circle* recognizes those who support the Foundation in this way.

A planned gift of any size will qualify you for the *Legacy Circle*.

If you have already planned a gift or bequest to the Foundation, you may of course keep this confidential. The Foundation asks, however, that you consider informing it of your gift so that the Foundation can recognize your generosity. By honouring its supporters, others will be encouraged

to make planned gifts to the Foundation. *Legacy Circle* members receive recognition in all WMCT concert programmes and in the Foundation's annual report. Thank you for your support!



NEWS & NOTES TURNS 50

by Susan Corrigan

This issue of News & Notes is number 50, a major milestone. And, as it is published twice a year, it is also the newsletter's twenty-fifth anniversary.

The WMCT newsletter which evolved into the current News & Notes was started in 1991 by members Ruth & Jack Brickenden. This was the third attempt to establish a WMCT newsletter.

As recounted in *Counterpoint to a City*, the first newsletter was started in the 1950-1951 season, with articles on guest artists in the concert series, as well as promising young Canadian musicians. However, the articles on the Canadians were dropped in favour of advertising the upcoming artists in the series, and was discontinued the following season. A second, also short-lived, newsletter was begun in 1970.

It was not until 1991, with the Brickendens at the helm, that the newsletter finally took hold. It was a fairly simple publication, printed on two to four 8.5 x 11" pages, stapled in the upper left corner, and it covered WMCT activities and issues.

In early November 1995 the Brickendens were not able to continue with the newsletter and then past president Muriel Roberts asked newly hired arts administrator Susan Corrigan to take over the role of both editor and layout designer for the newsletter, to be distributed to members just a few weeks later! With the help of then publicity chair Jeannie Sanderson the newsletter was ready on deadline.

The newsletter continued in the same format until the October 1997 issue, when it was printed on large paper and folded in half, the beginnings of its current booklet format (now the newsletter varies from eight to 12 pages and is stapled down the fold). That issue reported on the launch of *Counterpoint to a City*, by Robin Elliott, commissioned by the WMCT and published by ECW Press in conjunction with the WMCT's Centennial Celebrations. Page 4 of that issue also

saw the beginning of a "news & notes" section, with small items of interest on the WMCT, its members, and its activities.

For the February 1999 issue, at the suggestion of then president Mandy Macrae, the newsletter officially adopted the name "News & Notes" for the publication. That issue also included a report from then artistic director Pamela MacKenzie on the 1998 Banff International String Quartet Competition, the beginning of articles not directly about the WMCT and its activities. Scholarly articles related to the series began to appear shortly thereafter, first organized by past artistic director Timothy McGee and now by current president Annette Sanger.

In 2007 a new design for News & Notes, by Denyse Marion, was launched as part of a redesign of other WMCT materials including the concert programme and season brochure.

With this issue of News & Notes, arts administrator Neva Peykova takes over the editing and layout design from recently retired arts administrator Susan Corrigan.

Susan Corrigan is a WMCT honorary adviser and Foundation board member.



The WMCT is thrilled to announce that single tickets for the *Music in the Afternoon* series are now available for purchase through the well-known to all art lovers website *Be-mused.ca*.



Bonnie O'Dacre writes items of interest about the WMCT and the classical music community for the blog on the WMCT website. Here is an excerpt from a recent blog post:

James Ehnes new CD release

A Canadian musician of the highest order, James Ehnes has won a total of nine Juno awards. Most recently he was awarded two Junos on the same night, on Saturday March 29th, 2014.

He has a long history with the WMCT, winning the Career Development Award in 1991 at the age of 15. In 2013 he performed with Russell Braun and Carolyn Maule at a special concert in Koerner Hall celebrating the WMCT's 115th Anniversary.

Find more news about the fascinating history of the WMCT at:
www.wmct.on.ca/blog-media/wmct-news/