



# Women's Musical Club of Toronto

## Annual Report 2024 - 2025

### 127<sup>th</sup> Season

#### President's Report

The 2024-2025 year was full of outstanding musical performances as Simon Fryer recounts in his report.

The *Tuning Your Mind* lectures prior to the concerts were engaging and informative, thanks to organization by UofT Professor of Musicology Robin Elliott. Program notes by John Mayo added greatly to audience understanding of the music to be performed and he deserves recognition for all he contributes.

A major development in the year was the selection of Amy Hillis, violinist and Associate Professor in the music faculty at York University, as the next Artistic Director of the Women's Musical Club of Toronto (WMCT). Simon Fryer nominated Amy's candidacy and, after considering a number of highly qualified musicians, we felt that Amy was the best fit and were delighted that she accepted our offer of the position.

We contracted with marketing specialist, Jennifer Petrilli, to boost awareness of the WMCT as we continue to be one of the best kept musical secrets in the GTA.

In December 2024 the WMCT received notification from the Ontario government that all requirements for compliance with new Ontario not-for-profit legislation were met. The necessary changes to the Club operations and governance are in place and

have been communicated to the Charities Directorate at the Canada Revenue Agency.

The important student outreach initiatives of the WMCT saw 115 high school music students and their teachers attend concerts, adding their significant energy to our audience. Midori Marsh, 2024 Career Development Award (CDA) recipient, held a workshop for RH King Academy high school vocal students who were thrilled with the session. WMCT member Dianne Henderson's ongoing financial support of our student outreach program is very much appreciated.

To our donors: members, foundations, and especially the WMCT Foundation, you are key to the long-term viability of the WMCT and our ability to provide performance opportunities, scholarships and the CDA. Thank you.

My final message is that what most people are not aware of is how much work our amazing member volunteers do throughout the year. Each volunteer gives time, ideas, and passion for our mission to support music performance and education in Canada. The combination of our volunteer team and Shannon Perreault, our invaluable General Manager, accomplish minor miracles to make everything happen.

Janet Murray,  
*President & Board Chair*

#### Secretary-Treasurer's Report

The Women's Musical Club of Toronto reported a loss of just over \$31,000 in fiscal 2024-25. Past strong performance meant that we could cover this loss from our retained surplus, and we are fortunate in that, as well as in having consistent support from the Women's Musical Club of Toronto Foundation to help sustain us.

With profound thanks to our many donors and supporters, I am pleased to say that the WMCT is well situated to continue its musical activities for years to come. In this we are better positioned than many other arts organizations in the city, some of which have been forced to amalgamate or combine initiatives.

That said, audience numbers are not yet where we would like to see them. We are intensifying our marketing efforts with the aim of building our audiences and our profile. We see this as money well spent.

We will continue to operate prudently and responsibly, and look forward to seeing you all at our concerts.

Robin Sundstrom,  
*Secretary-Treasurer*

## SUMMARIZED FINANCIAL INFORMATION

For the Year Ended June 30, 2025, with Comparative Figures for 2024

	<u>2024-2025</u>	<u>2023-2024</u>
Membership Fees	\$ 33,400	\$ 33,620
General Admissions & Other Revenue	13,950	13,911
OAF Endowment Income	3,344	3,087
WMCT Foundation	86,382	25,400
Other Charitable Foundation Donations	20,062	25,041
Member, Friends & Sponsorship Donations	39,158	109,297
Government Grants	2,140	2,140
Career Development Award from WMCT Fdtn	<u>5,443</u>	<u>21,000</u>
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b><u>\$203,879</u></b>	<b><u>\$233,496</u></b>
Artistic Fees & Expenses (inc. CDA performance)	\$ 50,236	\$ 47,882
Commission of New Work	4,676	5,000
Production, Web Site, & Hall Rental	30,805	27,346
Occupancy Costs	19,133	17,151
Admin, Membership & Other Activities	82,592	72,013
Scholarships	25,000	25,000
Career Development Award Expenses	0	22,000
Special Projects	22,798	9,456
Contribution to WMCT Fdtn & Others	<u>0</u>	<u>1,500</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b><u>\$235,240</u></b>	<b><u>\$227,348</u></b>
<b>Excess of Revenue over Expenses</b>	<b>(31,361)</b>	<b>6,148</b>
Net Assets, beginning of year	<u>69,274</u>	<u>63,126</u>
<b>Net Assets at end of year</b>	<b><u>\$ 37,913</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 69,274</u></b>

<b>Where funding comes from</b>	<u>2024-2025</u>	<u>2023-2024</u>
Membership Fees	16%	14%
General Admissions, Other Revenue, & Interest	9%	7%
WMCT Foundation	45%	20%
Other Charitable Foundation Donations	10%	11%
Member & Friends Donations	19%	47%
Government Grants	1%	1%
	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Artistic Director's Report

The 127th *Music in the Afternoon (MitA)* Concert Season opened with three of Canada's best-loved artists, clarinetist James Campbell, soprano Leslie Fagan and pianist Angela Park, here together to perform a program ranging from folksongs to opera. *Images at Nightfall: Georgian Bay* by Canadian composer, Srul Glick - performed in front of Allan Stein's projected paintings - was a showstopper right up to the concluding, solo clarinet loon call. The concert ended on a lighter note, with *Concert Fantasia on Motives from Rigoletto* for clarinet and piano. This duo was "interrupted" and became a trio when the soprano tip-toed onto the stage and joined-in - the audience loved it!

When friends from student days re-connect, there is laughter and delight. When those friends happen to be accomplished performing musicians, the camaraderie is unmistakable. Such was the case when Lithuanian-born violinist Julian Rachlin, along with Canadians, violist Sarah McElravy, cellist Karen

Ouzounian, and pianist Sheng Cai, performed. The program opened with music from J.S. Bach's *Goldberg Variations*, followed by a violin/viola duet by Krzysztof Penderecki, and *Tell Me Again*, for solo cello, composed for Karen Ouzounian by American, Lembit Beecher. Following intermission, the entire ensemble performed Brahms' A major Piano Quartet. The warmth and affection of the performers, for the music and for each other, was returned with a standing ovation.

Two weeks before their scheduled *MitA* concert, the Marmen Quartet cancelled their North American tour. Efforts to save our concert shifted into high gear and after just a little frenzy, the fabulous Balourdet Quartet agreed to make their Toronto debut with *MitA*. The Quartet's flight touched down on the morning of the concert, they found their way to Walter Hall and burst onto our stage! Notwithstanding such drama, the quartet performed as if they had been here all along and brought extraordinary life to works by Mozart, Paul Novak and Beethoven. Their enthusiasm, technical skills, and emotional depth were thrilling and resulted in cheers and a standing ovation from a grateful audience.

By the end of the April concert, many in the audience were weeping. Why? Soprano Midori Marsh, - WMCT's 2024 CDA winner, mezzo-soprano Alex Hetherington, pianist Frances Armstrong, and flautist Rachel Szabo certainly performed superbly, but it was more than that. The program titled *Sister, Sister*, traveled through music by the 17th-century nun, Chiara Margarita Cozzolani, the 19th-century Viardot sisters, and the 20th-century Boulanger sisters, and rose to a heart-felt conclusion, connecting the all-female artists with their audience and the audience, in turn, with the women in their own lives. The final set expressed the richness of sisterhood with works by Libby Larsen and Stephen J. Lawrence, and the tears were real.

*Belonging*: the May, concert, brought an exceptional emotional journey. Through brilliant programming and outstanding artistry, Sri Lankan singer, Asitha Tennekoon, engaged us all in his struggle. What is it like to be an outsider in a country; to be a visible minority; How do you navigate racism? How do you belong? Works addressing such questions included those of Métis Canadian Ian Cusson, and WMCT-commissioned Canadian, Danika Lorèn. In the finale, Tennekoon and pianist Steven Philcox were joined by a string quartet for Samuel Barber's *Knoxville, Summer of 1915*, a work expressing the yearning for belonging from a child's point of view. The profound effect of this performance touched us all and concluded the season in deeply thoughtful yet uplifting fashion.

Simon Fryer, *Artistic Director* (2006 - 2025)

## SPONSORS 2024-2025

*Our 127th Music in the Afternoon season was brought to you by:*

### Concert Sponsor (\$8,000+)

The Azrieli Foundation  
Nora R. Wilson

### Artist/Commission Sponsor (\$5,000+)

The Catherine and Maxwell  
Meighen Foundation

### Concert/Artist Supporter Plus (\$3,000 - \$4,999)

Wilma Boughtflower

### Student Outreach Supporter (\$3,000+)

Dianne Henderson

### Other Partners & Supporters

Anne-Marie H. Applin  
Foundation at Toronto  
Foundation  
Betty & Joe Gray



CBCmusic



FUNDED BY  
THE CITY OF TORONTO  
**TORONTO  
ARTS - COUNCIL**



## DONORS 2024-2025

*The WMCT gratefully acknowledges the support of the following members and friends:*

### Vivace Supporter (\$1,000+)

Elizabeth Black  
Susan V. Corrigan  
Adair & Ian Hope  
Susan & Don Johnston  
Diane Martello & Don McLean  
Kathleen McMorro  
Margaret Procter  
Annette Sanger & James Kippen

### Allegro Supporter (\$500 - \$999)

Alpscol Fund  
Beverley Chernos  
Janne Farias  
Nancy Hardy  
Lynne C. Howarth  
Janet Murray  
Tamar Adaskin Nelson  
Sylvia Sarkus  
Joan Sinclair  
Mary VanderVennen

### Andante Supporter (\$150 - \$499)

Anonymous (3)  
Neville Austin  
Marjorie Bain  
Patricia Blake  
Lily & Raymond Breton  
Jean Brooke

Giovanna Cavarra  
Penelope Cookson  
Barry Critchley  
Simone Desilets  
Charmaine & David Dimick  
Ann Eder  
Hanna & Fred Feuerriegel  
Elinor Fillion  
Deborah Holdsworth  
Julia Hubble  
Doris & Alvin Jantzi  
Margaret Kelch  
Laura Lane  
Sheila Larmer  
Donna Le Pan  
Sandra Lind  
Elsa Marziali  
Susan McMurtry  
Sheila Murray  
Holly Nimmons  
Bonita O'Dacre  
Karyn O'Neill  
Marilyn Ortiz  
Lena Ouzounian  
Bernadette Palmer  
Heather Robertson  
Cornelia Schuh & Michiel Horn  
Julia Smith  
Daphne Stapleton  
Margaret Treloar

### Adagio Supporter (up to \$149)

Leslie & Peter Barton  
Jennifer & Sandy Browne  
Catherine Buck  
Carol Cormier

Pleasance Crawford  
Beatrice de Montmollin  
Edith Endrenyi  
Michelle Fish  
Jennifer & Frank Flower  
Kayoko Glueck  
Doreen Gryfe  
Shirley Hannah  
Linda Heron  
Marcia Kavanagh  
Marika & Robert Kemeny  
Sandra Kenzie  
Anne Keyes  
Marion Kinch  
Susan Lumley  
Eileen Malik  
Dorothea Manson  
John Marsh  
Blondina Matheson  
Dylann McLean  
Ruth Miller  
Lynda Moon  
Gladys Page  
Donna Price  
Lee Ramsay  
Diana Rowney  
Judith Saunders  
Donna Starr  
Joan Van Duzer  
Wilbert Ward  
Christopher Wernham  
Alisa Weyman  
Peter White  
Jan Whyte



## 2024-2025 AWARD RECIPIENTS

Olivia Morton, soprano  
**110th Anniversary Scholarship**  
(The Glenn Gould School, RCM)

Ian Gillis, baritone  
**Centennial Scholarship**  
(Faculty of Music, University of Toronto)

Anna Boyes, soprano  
**Graduate Fellowship**  
(Faculty of Music, University of Toronto)

Yoanna Haeun Jang, violin  
**TSM Academy Partial Fellowship**  
(Toronto Summer Music Foundation)

**The Hammer Band**

Oscar Peterson School of Music



All WMCT Scholarships and  
Fellowships are supported by the  
WMCT Foundation

## HONORARY PATRON

The Hon. Edith Dumont, OOnt,  
Lieutenant Governor of Ontario

## PATRONS

The Rt.Hon. Adrienne Clarkson, PC,  
CC, CMM, COM, CD  
Catherine Robbin, OC

## HONORARY ADVISERS

J. Anthony Caldwell  
Susan V. Corrigan  
Louis Lortie, OC, CQ  
Don McLean  
Esther McNeil  
Peter Simon

## HONORARY BOARD MEMBERS

Hanna Feuerriegel  
Betty Gray  
Mandy Macrae

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2024-2025

Janet Murray, CPA, CA, *President*  
Annette Sanger, *Vice-President*  
Robin Sundstrom, *Secretary-Treasurer*  
Kathleen McMorrow, *Past President*  
Sylvia Sarkus, *WMCT Foundation Rep.*  
Giovanna Cavarra  
Kathy Halliday  
Pamela Hamilton  
Adair Hope  
Daisy Leung  
Diane Martello  
Tamar Adaskin Nelson

## ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Simon Fryer

## COMMITTEES 2024-2025 as at June 30, 2025

### Artists Selection Committee

Simon Fryer, *Chair*  
Neville Austin  
Penelope Cookson  
Diane Martello  
Kathleen McMorrow  
Lena Ouzounian  
Annette Sanger

### Awards Committee

Adair Hope, *Chair, Scholarship Recital Liaison*  
Julia Grant  
Ruth Miller

### Career Development Award Committee

Annette Sanger, *Chair*  
Kathy Halliday  
Adair Hope  
Tamar Adaskin Nelson  
Matthew Parsons, *CBC Radio 2*

### Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee

Annette Sanger, *Chair*  
Neville Austin  
Diane Martello  
Robin Sundstrom

### Finance Committee

Robin Sundstrom, *Chair*  
Kathleen McMorrow  
Janet Murray, CPA, CA  
Annette Sanger  
Ina van Berkel

### Fundraising Committee

Diane Martello, *Chair*  
Kathy Halliday  
Anne Keyes  
Robin Sundstrom

### Membership, Concerts & Marketing Committee

Diane Martello, *Chair*  
Neville Austin  
Giovanna Cavarra, *Telephone Coordinator*  
Kathy Halliday, *Marketing and Media*  
Pamela Hamilton, *Events, Student Outreach*  
Susan Johnston, *Archivist*  
Anne Keyes  
Kathleen McMorrow, *Website, Media Relations*  
Tamar Adaskin Nelson, *Student Outreach*  
Annette Sanger  
Robin Sundstrom

## Marketing & Media Subcommittee

Kathy Halliday, *Chair*  
Diane Martello  
Kathleen McMorrow

## Editorial Subcommittee

Shannon Perreault, *Editor*  
Susan Johnston  
Kathleen McMorrow  
Annette Sanger

## Front of House Subcommittee

Diane Martello, *Acting Chair, Green Room*  
Giovanna Cavarra, *Usher*  
Pamela Hamilton, *Green Room*  
Janet Murray, *Green Room*  
Robin Sundstrom, *Green Room*

## Nominating & Governance Committee

Janet Murray, *Chair*  
Susan V. Corrigan  
Diane Martello  
Robin Sundstrom

## GENERAL MANAGER

Shannon Perreault

## MARKETING SPECIALIST

Jennifer Petrilli

*Program Notes:* John Mayo

## VOLUNTEERS 2024-2025

All WMCT Board & Committee members

*Program Archives:*

Hanna & Fred Feuerriegel

*Photographers:*

James Kippen & Don Johnston

*Tuning Your Mind Coordinator:*

Robin Elliott

## WMCT

2 Bloor Street W, Suite 700  
Toronto, ON, M4W 3E2  
416-923-7052

wmct.on.ca

www.wmct.on.ca

Charitable Registration #  
12371 8637 RR0001



[WomensMusicalClubofToronto](https://www.facebook.com/WomensMusicalClubofToronto)



@WMCT120



@wmct.musicintheafternoon