

Music

Week

awards

JAN 6, 1988

Each year the Canadian Federation of Music Teachers sets aside one week in November to honor Canadian composers and musicians.

In keeping with this, Mayor Pat Walsh proclaimed the week of November 22-29, 1987 as Canada Music Week in Fort St. John. Once again the North Peace Registered Music Teachers' Association is pleased to announce the success of our local celebrations.

Concert Pianist, Walter Prossnitz arrived in Fort St. John November 11 to conduct a workshop for piano teachers and students. He performed in two schools November 12 and performed in concert the evening of November 13. Ken Plourd of Dancemasters generously loaned equipment and expertise for recording of the concert.

Approximately 60 students entered the poster, literary, and musical composition contests held during the month of November. Out of these, 10 winners were chosen and presented with red ribbons by Major Pat Walsh on November 22.

Many students practice long hours to prepare for Piano exams each year. This year 18 Fort St. John students earned First Class Honors (a mark of 80 per cent or above). Of these, seven earned \$10 cash awards and the senior student earns a music dictionary for having the top mark in their grade.

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Many students also spend long hours studying for theory exams and 21 of these earned First Class Honors. Four were presented with \$10 cash awards for top mark in their grade.

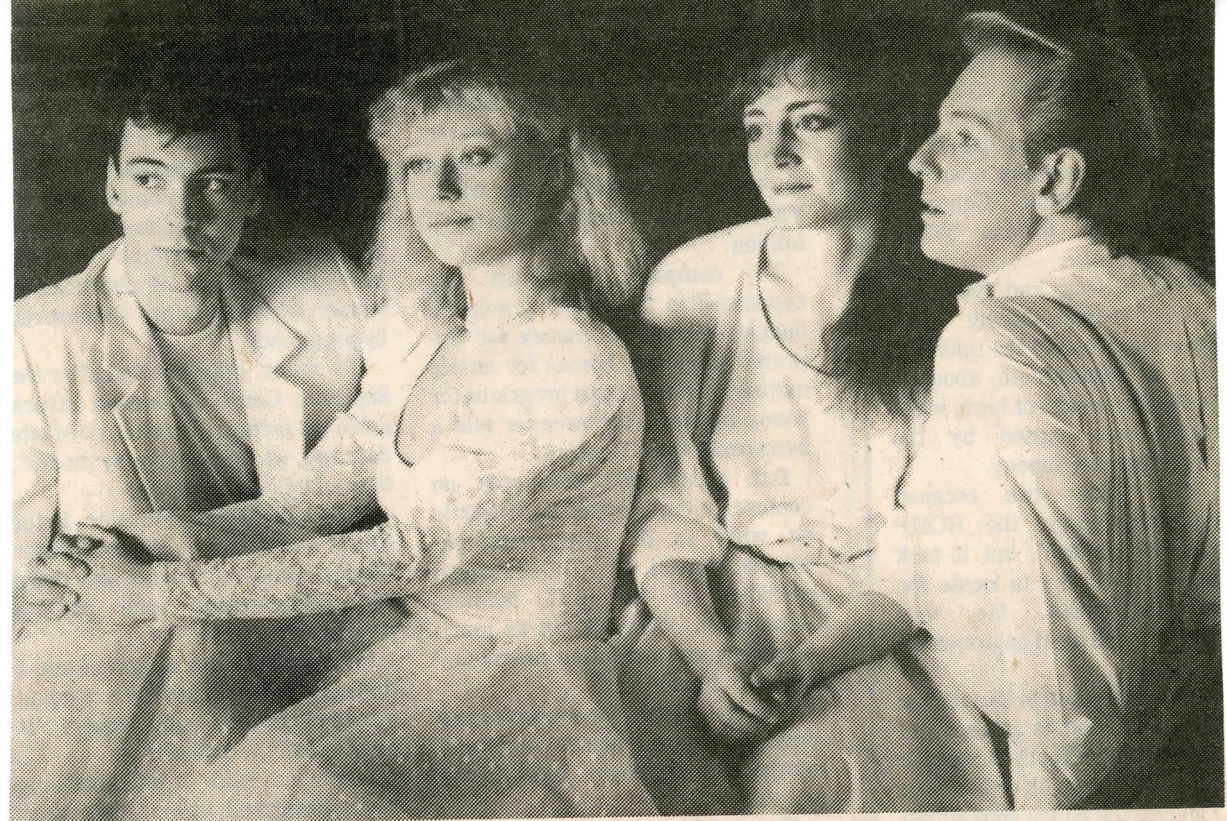
Approximately 60 students performed in two concerts on November 22. They performed their own musical compositions or works by Canadian composers as well as the old masters. The audience was delighted by piano duets and trios as well as a violin quartette. Janet Benedict performed a piano solo written by her husband, Robert. Robert did a bit of background piano music as well.

(Editor's note: Robert Benedict is a well-known Canadian composer. He and his wife Janet moved here about a year-and-a-half ago. They continue to write and publish music here, and have just completed the music score for the B.C. Winter Games.)

Through the courtesy of CKNL, a radio program was aired at 7:30 p.m. each evening during Canada Music Week featuring the seasoned talents of Robert and Janet Benedict, Walter Prossnitz, Esther Oosterbaan, Sheri-Lyn Citulec and Sandra Gunn. Students performing Friday evening were Sandra Lindsay, Arron DeHod, Kathy Kvile and Sara Jordan.

Upper Pine School celebrated with students performing music for each other under the direction of Marliss Moehn.

We wish to thank everyone who helped make Canada Music Week a successful celebration and here's to a bigger and better celebration next year — and in our new Arts Centre in 1989!



SINGING QUARTET of Guild puts on a fun and enthusiastic musical look at the history of music.

The group will perform one show only at the Before Stage on Monday, April 18.

Mixing comedy and history trademark of group 'Guild'

Comedy mixed with history was combined with entertaining music is the trademark of Guild's show called "Monks in the Elevator."

Guild's full length music and comedy show takes an entertaining and "uplifting" look at the history of music. Guild sings swing, pop, jazz, blues with Grand Ol' Orpy and light opera. Past audiences have proclaimed the fun and enthusiasm of Guild as contagious. Guild is heralded as the most talented and entertaining group to tour north in many years. Many communities are

demanding a return performance.

The entire concert is acapella with precision and musical talent. Quick costume changes for these two guys and two gals add flavour to their humorous and unique approach to music.

Guild is the last of the Partly Arts Series 1987-88. Six concerts were featured this past year. Representatives of the organizing committee of Partly Arts will be attending Pacific Contact '88 in April where they will select next year's series from over 35 live performances and hundreds of

performers in the contact room.

This professional singing quartet will perform on the Before Stage for one show only on Monday, April 18 at 8:00 p.m. as part of their British Columbia tour.

The Partly Arts Series 87-88 was made possible by 25 business sponsors, the Fort St. John Community Arts Council with the assistance of the Government of British Columbia.

For further information, contact the Artspace at 785-1988. Tickets available at the Artspace.

Submitted article APR 1988



SPRING CONCERT at Dr. Kearney school started off with a bang and a mounting crescendo last night as the Beginning Band (above) began the second half of a pleasant evening of music by the school's beginning, senior and stage bands. From Ben E. King to Brúsiloff, the young musicians faced the music and played on into the night.





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Piano workshop available

Lori Pistro will visit Fort St. John in January for a weekend of workshop, master class and concert. This visit, sponsored by the North Peace Registered Music Teachers' Association, will provide area teachers, students and parents with an excellent opportunity to share ideas in the field of piano practice, performance and pedagogy.

Pistro will present a piano recital on Jan. 14 at 7:30 p.m. at the North

Peace Mennonite Brethern Church. This program will include works by Scarlatti, Morel, Granados, Chopin and Debussy. Tickets are available in advance at the Artspace or at the door.

On Jan. 13, Pistro will offer a workshop from 7-9:39 p.m. at the Mennonite Church. It will feature a lecture entitled "Practice Techniques for Successful Performing." Piano students, their parents and their teachers will find this very informative.

The master class will be held on

Jan. 14 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Mennonite Church. Special fees for performing in the master class will be payable to that specific session.

Pistro has a Master's Degree in Piano Performance from the University of Toronto. She has performed in many regions of Canada and western United States, is frequently heard in recital, and was recently broadcast on CBC-TV. Pistro is currently pursuing a Doctor of Musical Arts Degree at the University of British Columbia.

Submitted by Jana Jordan

Music Week ends

Canada Music Week has come and gone, but better late than never, so hence this report.

A very successful and well-attended recital was held Nov. 20 at the Mennonite Brethern church. The varied programme included piano solos, piano duets, also flute and guitar solos made a pleasant change. To end this part of the recital, Betty Smith played and sang her own composition — Our Heritage, adding an appropriate verse to honour Canada Music Week.

Robert and Jane Benedict were the very able MCs for the recital and handed out the ribbons, rosettes and money prizes to the pupils for their efforts in various categories.

The awards are as follows: (O Canada contest winners) Linda Couch, Kirsten Wuthrich and Kathy Greenhalgh; (Musical composition winners) David Thiessen, Steven Haab and Jacqueline Ainsworth; (Preliminary rudiments, theory) Cindy Nurnberger; (grade 1 rudiments theory) Marge

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Krezanoski and Beth Pomeroy; (grade 2 rudiments — theory) Jennifer Wrixon; (grade 1 piano) Jaemi-Ann Clayton; (grade 2 piano) Bobbi-Sue Clayton and Nicole Batchelor; (grade 3 piano) Sarah Harris; (grade 4 piano) Janelle Morrison; (grade 5 piano) Lowell Constable; and (senior piano grade 8) Sara Jordan.

To end Canada Music Week, a concert was held Nov. 26 at the Northern Lights College. Again our pianists showed their abilities, and also the Northwinds Trio delighted the audience with their sensitive playing. Helen Woolley was presented with a plaque commemorating her 20 years involvement with the North Peace Registered Music Teachers Association, and to end the evening a cake in honour of the twentieth anniversary of the Association was enjoyed by all present.

The Association is looking forward to having our new building to facilitate all the Arts in the near future

Submitted by Betty Smith



Photo by Wendy Coomber

The Northern Lights Chamber Choir's concert went off without a hitch last weekend, attracting a huge crowd of listeners at the high school. The choir's musical selection included traditional Carols as

well as modern arrangements on well loved Christmas songs. Soloist Laura Cardriver did a magnificent job as the Appalachian Carol, I Wonder as I Wander. The entire choir made the audience remember how beautiful the human voice sounds.

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BRAHMS GROUP that topped Olympics of the Piano; (not in order) Stephanie yenkana, Brennan Ross, Kimberly McInerny, Kimberly Giesbrecht, Talitha Motola, Miranda Barnes, Melanie Sicotte,

Shannon Barnes, Trevor Keddie, Steven Thompson, David Penner, Darci Weber, Kara Kvile, Kathy Kvile, Sandra Linsday. Cheerleader Joan Kvile is also in group.

First notes of Piano-Olympics sounded

The first annual Pianoolympics, sponsored by the North Peace Registered Music Teachers' Association, was held Saturday morning, May 14, at Northern Lights College.

Approximately 50 students entered, after spending hours preparing for technical keyboard feats such as scales, triads, arpeggios, dominant seventh chords and formulas based on requirements of the Royal Conservatory piano syllabus according to their grade level.

Entrants were divided into three

teams: Bachs, Beethoven, and Brahms and given a picture of the composer to wear. Each, in turn, gave various displays of technical brilliance (or whatever) supported by rousing cheers for the Bach team accompanied by cymbals. Joy Morrison, dressed in vivid green jumpsuit and appropriate headgear for the occasion, was the cheerleader for the Beethoven team.

Jan Kvile, ably assisted by Kathy and Kara Kvile, dressed in purple and wearing purple lipstick, tied purple balloons to the Brahmn team

and shouted "Purple Brahms, Number One" throughout the morning.

A panel of three distinguished judges in proper attire, Marge Krezanoski, Marlys Moehn and Rhoda Reedman-Kerr, then held up score cards and appropriate (humourous) comment cards. Scores were carefully totalled and averaged by Brian Shrum and tallied on the chalkboard by Monica Rille.

Emceed by Jana Jordan (in ridiculous garb), the event ended

with a C major scale relay. All participants received certificates by the judges. The Brahms team racked up the highest score and was presented with "Pianoolympics" medals to the singing of the national anthem accompanied by Betty Smith. Ice cream was then served to everyone.

A special thanks to Sandra Scruton for making the team tags to wear, Merilyn Scheck for making the certificates, Jeannette Kurschat and Lily Pagdilao for making the "medals."