



AIMTAC Advisor

Association of
Independent Music
Teachers at Alberta
College

Special edition
Summer 2018

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This special abbreviated edition of the *Advisor* offers a retrospective of AIMTAC and its evolution as part of the Conservatory of Music over nearly two decades. We invite you to consider how you, the Conservatory instructors, and your students are benefitting by AIMTAC's presence, how it may be changing, and its role in the future.

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The Muttart Foundation presents Angela Cheng in concert and piano master class. And don't miss the other events!



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Summer fun and learning in these outstanding programs. Register early!



AIMTAC EXECUTIVE

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| President | Dan Davis |
| Vice-President | Robert Klakowich |
| Secretary | Elizabeth Grigaitis |
| Treasurer | Dan Sutherland |
| Directors-at-large | Geraldine Haythorne Carol Mellors Keri-Lynn Zwicker |

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AIMTAC Advisor is published approximately three times a year, and is distributed electronically to faculty and staff of the Conservatory of Music, Alberta College Campus, MacEwan University.

The editor welcomes your comments and suggestions. Please keep us informed of your newsworthy activity, both professional and personal, and feel free to submit short articles of interest to our faculty.

Fall issue submission deadline: September 15.

REMINDER



Contracts

Support your professional association by ticking the "Yes" box for AIMTAC membership on your 2018-19 contract!

CONSERVATORY FACULTY BREAKFAST

Chateau Lacombe Hotel

Thursday, June 14

Time and further details forthcoming

Every effort is made to provide complete and accurate information in this newsletter. The editor apologizes for any errors or omissions.

An AIMTAC Review

A Retrospective of the Association



The Association of Independent Music Teachers at Alberta College marks its inception in 2000, when our fine institution was known as Alberta College Conservatory of Music. The Association was formed by a group of Conservatory instructors whose concern was to work together with Conservatory administration to ensure the best possible teaching and learning environment for music teachers and their students. Then, as now, Conservatory instructors were independent; that is, they were not employees of the institution but ran their own studios both on and off campus, and were assigned this right by contract agreement with the mother institution (then Alberta College). As independents, our instructors have never been eligible for membership in the institution's Faculty Association; as such there has been no official tool for communication between teaching faculty and administration. AIMTAC thus came into existence, with the full support of Conservatory administration, as a group advocating on behalf of the Conservatory's greatest asset—its teachers.

When Alberta College became a public institution in 2002 as part of Grant MacEwan College (now a university), the administrative structure of the Conservatory became more cost effective and, perhaps, more "professional." To be sure, there was some fear and trepidation among instructors that this streamlining might jeopardize the autonomy of the Conservatory, and thus the independency of its instructors. We found, instead, that a Manager, rather than a Director could in fact work more closely with instructors to ensure good communication. Our ten-year association with Brenda Philp as Manager of the Conservatory saw AIMTAC as taking on

a more cooperative rather than adversarial role. Brenda immediately recognized that the Conservatory benefits by the presence of AIMTAC, and thereby the Association was even better motivated to fulfill one of its most important stated mandates—"to preserve and enhance the tradition and dignity of the Conservatory of Music." This statement is prominent in a set of bylaws which were drawn up at this time, while AIMTAC obtained charitable status, and it was then that membership saw a dramatic increase.

Then came yet another phase in the Conservatory's metamorphosis—the advent of the School of Continuing Education in 2014, which now governs it. Hence, we are one of seven program units within the School: three within each of Professional/Continuing Studies and Academic Language Preparation and, standing alone, the Conservatory of Music. At a recent SCE Council meeting, Dean Heather McRae announced that in four years, the School went from a deficit budget to a gain of some \$2 million. This news was greeted with cheers—that financial targets are being met and exceeded is a sign of efficient administration, and one might expect that we are thus better able to address the learning needs of our students. At the same time, a single-minded fixation with the "bottom line" can often create conditions with which we may not be entirely comfortable. To give one example, this year the Conservatory was asked by the SCE to draft a three-year strategic plan. Among many initiatives for Year 2 was a standardization of policies in private studios regarding make-ups, withdrawals, and even tuition rates. As independents, we have an agreement with each of our private students which we view as our own. We adhere to certain Conservatory regulations as spelled out in our contracts to be sure, but any further intervention from a higher level is liable to erode the trust students have with their

teachers. As grateful as we are for what administration does for us, the students' main contact is with teachers, and it is teachers that keep them coming back!

We Need Your Feedback!

Here are a few of AIMTAC's accomplishments since inception:

- Benefit Concert to raise scholarship funding
- Donation of scholarships with Fall Festival
- Professional Development workshops
- Record and print music sales to raise scholarship funding
- Teacher contracts for classes and ensembles
- Better building hours and security
- Annual Christmas lunch and other socials.

AIMTAC membership is robust, growing from a handful of instructors to the majority of Conservatory teaching faculty. It now has a solid voice. We observe how it has evolved with each new administrative model, successfully adapting to its ever-changing circumstances. The aims remain the same, however, and the Executive is now undergoing a review to determine its priorities going forward. To do this, we need to hear from you, the instructors. **What has AIMTAC done for you so far? Is it serving its mandate? What should it continue doing? How can it serve you better in the future?** Some of Executive members' terms will also be coming due at next fall's AGM. We invite nominations from faculty members, new or old, to stand for one of these richly rewarding positions.

Please respond and make your views known to Dan Davis, President at danjdav@gmail.com.



June Events in Muttart Hall

Angela Cheng in
Concert
Saturday, June 2
7:30 pm

Angela Cheng
Piano Master Class
Sunday, June 3
12 – 2 pm

Collegium Concert
Sunday, June 3
3 pm

Percussion
Ensemble
Sunday, June 10
2 pm

AIMTAC Scholarship Coffers Grow!

Big Kudos to all performers, sponsors, organizers and those who attended for a splendid Benefit Concert on March 4! Due to simultaneous local events, we had a smallish audience this year, but they were ever enthusiastic and, as always, thoroughly enjoyed the remarkable variety and level of musicianship the concert had to offer.

The festivities kicked off with a spirited performance by Bok Brass of Allan Gilliland's *The Flash and the Fury*. Our young scholarship winners then took to the stage. Harpists Seonidh and Siobhan McKenzie-Uhuad, and pianist Amy Chau demonstrated unequivocally why they were deserving of their awards. Vocal pyrotechnics were on full display, thanks to **Ron Long's** interpretation of Beethoven's *Adelaide*, with **Emily Grieve** at the piano. And the audience was quite blown away by the famous trio from Strauss's *Der Rosenkavalier*, offered magnificently by Cara McLeod, **Whitney Sloan** and **Maura Sharkey-Pryma**, accompanied by Viktoria Rieswich-Dapp.

We also delighted in a lively performance of Milhaud's *Scaramouche* by Cathy Jie, saxophone student of **Charles Stolte**, along with pianist **Judy Loewen**. And, as usual, **Carol and Clint Mellors** laid out a sumptuous spread at the post-concert reception.

The print music sale of **Sandra Munn's** vast collection was a huge success, and we are eternally grateful for this exceptional gift to AIMTAC. With concert proceeds and the music sale, the Association raised well in excess of \$2500! Thanks to the Conservatory staff, volunteers, and all who purchased!



Seonidh McKenzie-Uhuad draws a door prize for a lucky winner at AIMTAC's Benefit Concert, as sister Siobhan looks on.

Faculty News



Whitney Sloan was a stellar, many-faceted Zerlina in Edmonton Opera's *Don Giovanni* last April. Standing Os!

Opera NUOVA presented **Maura Sharkey-Pryma** and Renée Brad on May 6 in a dinner cabaret titled "Songs in the Key of Life" at Packrat Louie.

Ron Long does a bit of cabaret himself on June 6 with an evening all his own at the Grindstone Theatre in Old Strathcona. For particulars visit grindstonetheatre.ca.

Mallory Chipman, who recently drew glowing reviews for her album *Rags and Feathers: A Tribute to Leonard Cohen*, is participating in this year's Edmonton International Jazz Festival, performing at the Blue Chair Café on June 29.

The Conservatory Lives in the Summer

Full details on these and other courses can be found at macewan.ca/conservatory.

SUMMER MUSIC THEORY

Instructors: Robert Klakowich (Rudiments & Harmony)
Cameron Watson (History)

Monday through Thursday
July 3 – August 7 (no classes August 6)

Complete Rudiments: 9 – 10:30 am

Basic Harmony: 10:30 am – 12 pm

History Overview: 12:05 – 1:30 pm

History-Middle Ages to Classical: 10:30 am – 12 pm
Intermediate Harmony & Counterpoint: 12:05 – 1:30 pm

Tuition: \$450 per course

SUMMER MUSIC RETREAT

Various instructors

July 5 – 15, 9:30 am – 4 pm (no class July 8)

Tuition: Full day \$500

Morning only \$350

Afternoon only \$295

BELTING WORKSHOP

Ron Long, Instructor

July 8, 1 – 4 pm

Tuition: \$50 Auditors: \$20

TRUMPET WORKSHOP

Robin Doyon, Instructor

August 25 & 26, 10 am – 4 pm

Tuition: \$125

ESTILL VOICE TRAINING PROGRAM

Judith Dunlore, Instructor

July 23 - 27, 9 am – 6 pm

Tuition: \$650

Workbooks: \$80

Late registration fee (after June 22): \$50

SUMMER JAZZ WORKSHOP

MacEwan University music faculty
Victor Goines, Guest Instructor

August 20-24, 9 am – 5 pm

Placement auditions August 19, 1 – 4 pm

Tuition: \$425

Location: Allard Hall

SUMMER JAZZ BAND DIRECTOR'S WORKSHOP

Kevin Willms, Facilitator

August 20- 24, times TBA

Tuition: \$350

Location: Allard Hall