



JOYFUL MELODIES NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2024

Congratulations Kirsty!

Congratulations to Kirsty Gibson on receiving a Gold Medal through the The Royal Conservatory! This significant achievement is based on obtaining the highest mark for her level in a full calendar year in the entire Atlantic region (New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland & Labrador). The award was presented at a Celebration of Excellence Ceremony on December 3 in Halifax where Kirsty had the opportunity to perform *Dreamcatcher* by Anne Crosby Gaudet. On the right shows a picture of Kirsty with Elaine Rusk from The Royal Conservatory receiving her medal.

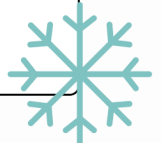


December Incentive Winners

Two winners were randomly drawn for December and they are Kirsty G. and Bronwyn M. The student with the most hours practiced in December is Miriam T. (who also happened to win for November!) with 10.5 hours practiced. Well done!! They will each receive a gift card of their choice.

Practice Kits

Each student this year received a blue, pink or black pouch that holds a piano practice kit. Amongst the sticky tabs, pencil and ruler students also received mood cards. For the mood cards, have your child use these to spice up practicing their technique. Wondering what to do with the dice? Circle a section in the music the student needs to work on, have them roll the dice and that's how many times (in a row!) they need to play it correctly before moving on.



Composer Focus



British Columbia - Christine Donkin

As students “travel” across Canada, I would like to focus in on a specific composer each month. For January, our Composer Focus is Christine Donkin from British Columbia. As an educator, Christine is constantly witness to the process through which musicians must go in order to acquire the skills that they need as professionals, and for this reason, she also prioritizes the creation of music for students of all levels. Her pedagogical compositions and arrangements for piano, violin, and other instruments are featured in the publications of several music exam organizations, including the largest in Canada (the Royal Conservatory of Music) as well as two of the largest in the world (the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music and Trinity College London); and as such are used by music students and teachers in more than one hundred countries. The 2021 RCM violin syllabus includes 36 of her compositions and arrangements (23 of which appear in the printed books); and the 2022 RCM piano syllabus includes 32 of her compositions (with 10 of those in the printed books), making Christine one of the best represented composers in both series.

Listen to a recording of one of her compositions here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yk6bu-9Mv-s>



Upcoming Dates:

- **January 9 - Lessons begin after winter break!**
- **January 20: 10:00am Piano Masterclass**
- **January 20: 2:30pm Performance Psychology Masterclass**
- **January 27: Group Classes 9:30, 10:15 and 11:00**
- **February 17: 4pm - Young Musician Recital at UPEI**
- **March 2: Group Classes**
- **March 9: 4pm - Young Musician Recital at UPEI**
- **April 8: 7pm Silent Film Show at Harmony House**
- **April 13: Performathon**
- **April 22-24: No Classes (Adjudicating in Nova Scotia)**
- **April 27: Group Classes**
- **May 25: Studio Recital, 10:30 at harmony House**
- **June 1: Music Carnival, 11:00am (weather permitting)**



Reserve your tickets today! On April 8th we will be hosting a Silent Film Show - with our students performing the music! This fun event will take place at the Harmony House in Hunter River at 7pm. Admission is a non-perishable food item for the Hunter River Community Fridge. There are 126 tickets available, and we're hoping to have a sold-out show. Students that have completed Kelly Kirby Book 4 and up will be able to participate in this recital. Be on the lookout for an email with more details. Be sure to reserve tickets - and spread the word!

