



MEDICINE HAT & DISTRICT LIVE MUSIC CLUB Newsletter



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Editor: Betty Bischke lbischk@telusplanet.net

<http://nonprofit.memlane.com/lmc/index.html>

A Tempo

Bringing you up to speed on club activities

It's wonderful to welcome spring weather. It makes it so much easier to get out and about.



Our club continues to meet weekly for jam sessions. We've had a few new members join, and it's always great to see our regulars.

We had a Theme Jam celebrating Valentines Day in February, as well as a St. Patrick's/Welcome Spring Jam in March. Thank you to Rachael McGean and Nancy Paul for their hard work in decorating and providing treats.

Our AGM in February was well attended. The yearly financial report was circulated, as well as budget items discussed. As treasurer, I'd like to thank Colleen Kazakoff and Ron Larson for auditing my bookkeeping.

Elections were held, and all positions remain the same as last year.

Thank you to our board members for allowing their names to stand for another term.



The Medicine Hat & District Live Music Club provides scholarship funds to top students in Medicine Hat. We were delighted to receive a letter from Charlie Brake, a young student thanking us for our support. Many long time members will remember his father, Jared, burning up the piano keys at our jams when he was a youth, twenty years ago. It was the Medicine Hat College who selected Charlie to receive the funds we had donated to them. It was a pleasant surprise to learn of the connection to our club.

More student awards will be presented to deserving students, at the MHC Girl's Choir Recital, Tuesday May 20th at 7:00 p.m., at Fifth Avenue Church. The local branch of Alberta Registered Music Teachers' Association (ARMTA) will present several awards to top students, with many performing at the recital. Our club will be sponsoring several of these awards.

Casino funds are used to pay for these scholarships. We have a casino event coming up on May 9 and 10. Bill desBarres is our casino chairperson. He is currently recovering from surgery, but hopes to be back at club functions soon. He sends his regards, and reminds anyone who would like to help at the casino, to contact him if they have not already done so.



Our regular meeting will be held this coming Thursday, April 16, 7:00 p.m., at the Elks. Please plan to attend. - Betty





BETTY'S CORNER

In 2008, I attended a week long Jazz Camp, at Vancouver Island University, in Nanaimo. They had an excellent music program at the time, but unfortunately, it fell victim to budget cuts in 2024.

The camp was educational and entertaining, as well as providing the opportunity to meet all kinds of interesting people. It was an all ages camp, with the large majority being teenagers, although there was a good turnout of adults of all levels and musical skill. Professional jazz musicians provided the instruction at various classes, as well as performing for an hour each day.

When I arrived, it was my intention to participate in both the piano and vocal classes, but since there were so many piano students, I was steered to the vocal class.

The vocal class was led by grammy nominated jazz singer, Joani Taylor. She has a few CD's and has made quite a name for herself in the Vancouver jazz scene. I was a little disappointed, when on the first day, she spent both our morning and afternoon classes, complaining about not being able to make it as a jazz singer in Vancouver. "Don't do like I did, and stay out here. If you want to make it in the music business, you have to go East." I don't think there were many of us convinced to head to Toronto to pursue a career.

Ross Taggert joined our class for a session each day as our rehearsal pianist. This amazing talent provided the piano accompaniment to the musical selections we had chosen. Joani and Ross would offer feedback, and in the afternoon some of us would have the opportunity to perform our number at the daily workshops, backed by the professional jazz ensemble. (Piano, bass, guitar, drums.)

There were about 6 students in the class, and we all had a turn at singing while Ross accompanied us. The most memorable, being a young woman in her early 40's. She was good looking, slim, confident, and well spoken. When she introduced herself, she told us that she had made 3 CD's, but they were all country, and she was looking to broaden her horizons. She went on to tell us that she had legally changed her name to Aurora Borealis, all part of her marketing plan for her music career.

I was quite impressed, and was looking forward to hearing her sing. She made a big production of the song she wanted to perform, and had brought a CD for Ross to listen to. As he listened, he did some harmonic dictation, (very impressive) and made a chart, so he could accompany her.

It was time for her to try out her number, and it was absolutely stunning. This gal could not carry a tune. It was AWFUL!!

Aurora Borealis had diva issues all week, which just goes to prove my point that the people with the least amount of talent, have the biggest egos. It was incredible. She apparently had angels that she talked to, and they guided her on her every day decisions. On the day we were all to throw some money into a pot for pizza, she had to consult her angels if she could eat pizza, or if she should bring her own lunch.

Then she had to consult her angels to see if she should sing in the wind-up recital. In the end, she didn't show up, because her angels told her not to come.

The best part of the camp, was singing with a professional jazz ensemble, and getting pointers from outstanding jazz musicians. Ross Taggert, the piano instructor, inspired me to go home and practice in all 12 keys, which is something I still do to this day. Sadly, Ross passed away a few years after the camp.

If you have the chance to attend a music camp, I highly recommend it. It can be a great learning opportunity, as well as provide lasting memories. - *Betty*



“These Are A Few Of My Favorite Things”

So very grateful for having been privileged to play and sing with such good musicians for over 60 years. This month's picks are a few of the songs I have performed – either vocally with my own accompaniment, vocally with other musicians, or as an instrumental.

LATIN STANDARD: Meditation – Alba Armengou & Scott Hamilton

Here's one of those songs that captured my musical brain first time I heard it. Antônio Carlos Jobim was such a brilliant song writer, having “created” Bossa Nova, the Latin style most emulated in modern times. He wrote over 400 songs. Girl From Ipanema was recorded by other artists over 240 times. I've heard “Meditation” many, many times and never get tired of it. I'll be playing my arrangement of this at Liquid Nightclub April 13th – with Celine singing English lyrics. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mN5iLTA_tkA

MOVIE THEME: Baby Elephant Walk (Mancini) – Tony Cox

Well, Tony does an incredible job of this Mancini production. As he mentioned in the notes, the sound was captured by just the microphone in the camera. Not bad. I still play this today on piano – having been hooked on it when it was first released. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8F539z21vNg>

CLASSIC FOLK: The Ash Grove – Laura Wright

This tender ballad comes from my copy of the “Manitoba School Song Book” of 1940. I attended school in Winnipeg until age nine. Once in a while, I browse that little book, impressed with the variety and quality of songs but also bewildered by the poignancy of some of the lyrics. The recounting of love lost through death hardly seems fitting for primary students but that is just how it was “back in the day”. Grab your Kleenex.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qak5Vb209Ng>

LOVE SONG: - You Don't Know Me – Michael Bublé

I just love “Love” songs (did I already say that?) even sad songs of “love lost”.

I'm presently working on an arrangement of this outstanding ballad

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U_UnwHp7uuc

JAZZ: Sweet Georgia Brown – Emil Ernebro & Lucas Brar

I admit this version is way too short but a keeper nonetheless. I've been playing my own arrangement for years - one of the most “covered” songs in recent history. These folks are spot on with the presentation. They have their own website. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vWrUUIm9AFk>

STANDARD: Summertime – Billy Strings & Marcus King

Another song that tempted me to do an unconventional arrangement that we'll be doing at Liquid.

A couple of “good old boys” with their own version. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1RNNQYpnuka>

COUNTRY: Lord, I Hope This Day Is Good – Fortune/Walker/Rogers/Isaacs

Don Williams has recorded quite a few easy-listening songs that suit a “mature” voice.

This should be perfect for performance at MHLMC. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wUZaRzjyub8>

Well folks – that's a wrap. Keep pluckin' and singin' – it'll keep you young.

wayne.spackman@gmail.com



LMC PHOTO ALBUM



UPCOMING EVENTS

LMC Meeting
Thursday, April 17
7:00 p.m. The Elks

Copper Coulee Casino
Friday-Saturday
May 09 - May 10

STUDENT AWARDS
MHC Girls Choir Recital
May 20 7:00 p.m.
Fifth Avenue Church

