

The goal of BCRMTA is to promote and maintain high standards of teaching among our members and to foster music excellence in our students.



Looking for a Qualified Music Teacher?

A Member of:



What is a Registered Music Teacher?

B.C. Registered Music Teachers have been governed by an Act of the Legislature since 1947.

Membership is open to any person who is at least 18 years of age, and holds one of the following credentials:

- A music teacher's certificate or diploma from a School of Music recognized by the Provincial Council, or a University music degree with a major in the instrument or subject of instruction stated in the application.
- A music performer's diploma or degree with a record of four years teaching of the subjects recognized by the Board of Examiners.

These criteria ensure a high level of education and a commitment to the profession. Only those who are provincially registered teachers are authorized to use the RMT (Registered Music Teacher) designation.

A Registered Music Teacher (RMT) is a member of the Provincial and the National Association (Canadian Federation of Music Teachers' Associations) of over 3,300 members.

Choosing the Right Teacher

When choosing a music teacher always consider carefully:

- Musical education
- Teaching experience
- Personality
- Studio atmosphere
- Types of programs offered



A good foundation is essential to the study of any art or science. It is especially important that the beginning student have the best possible teacher.

Whether you are a beginner, training for a career in music, or studying for pleasure there is a Registered Music Teacher for you.

Why Study with a Registered Music Teacher?

Assurance of knowledgeable, competent and qualified instruction

Progressive ideas on music teaching

Ongoing professional workshops and development programs

Performance opportunities at:

- Music Festivals
- Examinations
- Public and Studio Recitals
- Workshops and Master Classes
- Canada Music Week Celebrations
- National, Provincial and Local Competitions

Scholarship opportunities



BCRMTA teachers have chosen music education as a career and are dedicated to the educational, cultural and artistic development of their students.





Hello, my name is Deborah Miles. I am an independent piano and theory teacher. It is my job and my joy to discover what is unique about each student. I encourage students to explore music in all aspects. In addition to one-on-one piano instruction, in the past, my studio offered the following:

- ♪ Two formal recitals each year held in a venue with a concert grand piano. This created a performance setting for the students to demonstrate their skills and enjoy the rewards of an appreciative audience.
- ♪ Group classes where students would gather to listen and play for other students. This created an environment where students learned from and encouraged their peers.
- ♪ Students were encouraged to compose their own music. This allowed the student to explore the creative side of themselves and music.
- ♪ Teaching theory rudiments in small groups. Understanding all the elements of music provides a solid platform for student growth.
- ♪ Encouraged and prepared students for music examinations. Many students received good results.

I use method books such as Alfred, Faber and Faber, Bastien and I follow the RCM syllabus. Each lesson consists of:

- ♪ Technique: early method books and the RCM technique books are excellent guides. The physiological aspect of this is very important: hands, wrists, arms, shoulders, core must be paid attention to - tone production.
- ♪ Studies: take the technical drills to the next level. This requires some research but again, method books and RCM have made this work organized and enjoyable.
- ♪ Repertoire: Baroque, Classical, Romantic, Contemporary, pop, rock, country, jazz, compositions from students, these are all equally important. This includes a galaxy of musical ideas to execute: phrasing, articulation, structure, balance, steady tempo, rhythmic accuracy, memorization, and dynamics.
- ♪ Sight-reading: begins with the task of reading note and rhythm flash cards. Music is a language to be learned just as we learn to read, first one note at a time, growing to groups of notes, intervals, chords, then phrases and chord progressions.
- ♪ Ear training: making use of all our senses. Reinforcing what we see and touch by what we hear. Music is a cluster of creative sound waves all structured to give us pleasure.
- ♪ Theory Rudiments: is a must for all music students, we write as well as read.

“...not only did you teach me about music and the amazing things I can do with the keys & pedals on the piano but you also taught me a lot about life in itself with your kindness, patience, and joy when you teach...”

Each student has a special set of skills. They may have very fast fingers, an exceptional ability to read music, an alert ear for picking out harmony, a love for sitting down and playing the piano just because. My studio and methodology works to build all skills.

“...she (*Deb*) loved piano playing and continuously challenged herself to learn new repertoire for enjoyment and to serve as a role model for her students...”

My music education and study is ongoing. I received an ARCT Diploma with the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto. Participating in local music teacher meetings and attending national and international conferences keeps my teaching skills current. I furthered my studies with such wonderful teachers as:

- ♪ Alexander Alexandrov (associate teacher of Mount Royal Conservatory),
- ♪ Mary Burns (well respected counterpoint teacher),
- ♪ Robert Rosen (Canadian composer), and
- ♪ Janice Dahlberg (highly respected pedagogy teacher in Calgary).

I am a gentle teacher, however, tenacity is in my nature. “Yes this piece is difficult, but remember how hard the last piece was? Look how well you mastered it”. I congratulate anyone who walks through the door to attend a music lesson. Learning to play the piano is work, it is rewarding, and it is pleasant and can be exciting! Music makes the world sound happier. Piano teachers give a gift to the performer and to those around who are fortunate enough to hear. It’s a fine household that is filled with live music.

“...Deb's enthusiasm and love of many kinds of music is contagious and one of the many benefits of her lessons was transmitting that love to her students. I am certainly the richer for it.”

Thank you,

Deborah Miles, ARCT
Member of BCRMTA
Member of MTNA

References

“I can't quite recall the exact year I started as your student but do remember I started lessons with you when I was in junior high. I am turning 20 next month, and I can still remember when lessons first took place in your back room. All of the songs and theory lessons still seem fresh. Piano lessons with you were always fun and I was always learning new things. I was quite shy when I first started as your student but you have a way of providing your students with an environment where they aren't afraid or intimidated to grow and learn. As I grew older, not only did you teach me about music and the amazing things I can do with the keys & pedals on the piano but you also taught me a lot about life in itself with your kindness, patience, and joy when you teach. You are truly one of the most wonderful teachers & mentors I have ever had and I have the utmost respect for you as a teacher and as person. I wish you the best in starting your piano studio in BC!”

Janine Cocjin, Calgary, Alberta

I am a registered Calgary piano teacher and have known Deborah Miles as a pianist and piano teaching colleague since 2008.

She is an enthusiastic and dedicated teacher who takes great joy in the learning and accomplishments of her students in her private studio. She takes her professional teaching commitments seriously. We have travelled together and attended professional development conferences and sessions in Calgary as well as in the United States. As well, she loved piano playing and continuously challenged herself to learn new repertoire for enjoyment and to serve as a role model for her students.

I would highly recommend Deborah as a piano teacher and believe that students who study with her will be fortunate to gain her as a teacher.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

Yours sincerely,
Sharon Omura
A.R.C.T
Registered Alberta Music Teacher

Deborah Miles, ARCT

I am 72 years old and about 4 years ago I decided to take piano lessons from Deb. I never took lessons as a child, but started them in my mid-forties and continued for 2 years. I was living in Indonesia at the time and just never got back to the lessons until Deb moved to our street and I received numerous reports about what a wonderful teacher she was. She had several other adult students, and deciding "better late than never" started lessons with Deb. I can honestly say that I loved them and really enjoyed practicing and taking part in our wonderful adult recitals, followed by wine and lots of laughs. Obviously starting at my late stage, I will never become terribly proficient, but I still greatly enjoy sitting down at the piano and playing the pieces I studied or attempting new ones. However I don't imagine that I'll continue with my lessons as I know I'll never find another teacher as wonderful as Deb. Deb's enthusiasm and love of many kinds of music is contagious and one of the many benefits of her lessons was transmitting that love to her students. I am certainly the richer for it.

"Deb's studio became the musical focal point of our community and recitals were the social event of each season."

Patty Benjamin
Calgary, AB

I have had three children taught piano by Deb, each of whom had distinctly different learning styles & musical ability. The eldest began when she was six and didn't stop until she left for university. Deb took them all from playing nursery rhymes to Beethoven. She provided not only the technical expertise that allowed them to successfully complete the Grade 8 RCM examinations but instilled in them a love of music that they will carry with them for the rest of their lives. Equally important is the relationship Deb developed with my daughter Hannah. In her words: "I always felt very supported by Deb - she is a very non-judgmental person and I felt we had a very close, special relationship that was especially important for me as a teenager." Deb also helped Hannah improve her confidence by giving her the opportunity to teach the younger students when she reached a sufficient level of competency. More than once my son decided piano wasn't for him but Deb drew him back into her studio by making the lessons fun and creatively coming up with strategies that would interest a young boy (creating his own compositions, electronic piano, duets with friends, etc...). Deb's studio became the musical focal point of our community and the recitals were the social event of each season.

Jill Benson