

Red Leaf News



Red Leaf Pianoworks
a composers' collective

www.redleafpianoworks.com

Newsletter no.11 – April 2014

Come and say hello ...

Martha Hill Duncan
Susan Griesdale
Beverly Porter
Rebekah Maxner
Janet Gieck
Joanne Bender
Teresa Richert
John Burge
Irene Voros

May 26th – Oshawa ORMTA – 9:30 AM - Alliance Church - 605 Ritson Rd. N. Oshawa, Susan Griesdale and John Burge presenting

June 20th – Newmarket ORMTA – 9:00 AM – a joint presentation. An introduction to the repertoire of Red Leaf Pianoworks - Martha Hill Duncan and Susan Griesdale presenting along with Darlene Irwin of The New Student Music Organizer.

ORMTA 2014 O Canada Convention - July 26-27 at the Westin Hotel in Toronto – John Burge is presenting.

Summer Sizzle 2014 – August 18-19 at St. Andrew's United Church in Yorkton, Saskatchewan – Janet Gieck, Martha Hill Duncan and Teresa Richert presenting.

APTA 2014 – September 26-27 at the Black Night Inn, Red Deer, Alberta – John Burge is presenting.

Behind the Curtain – What happens “behind the scenes” in the life of a Red Leaf Pianoworks Composer? See page 2



Red Leaf Pianoworks welcomes Irene Voros

An Interview with Irene Voros

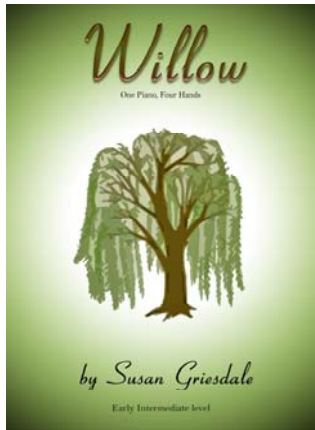
TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF - WHERE YOU GREW UP, WHAT YOUR INTERESTS ARE:

I was born in Vancouver, British Columbia. I was an only child, with wonderful parents. I grew up in a loving, balanced, and nurturing environment. Until I married, I lived in the same neighbourhood of families with many children - who also had lifelong roots. We carried our friendships from birth through marriage. It was an idyllic environment of which I am continually grateful for.

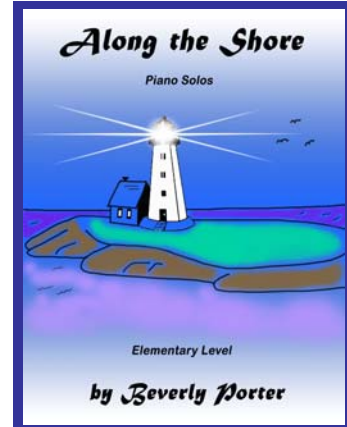
I started piano lessons at age 9, loving it from the moment I started. I was disciplined and structured, so I excelled to Grade 9 at age 14. Achieving my grade 10 was more of a struggle because it was easier to drive to the mall than practice ... my discipline seemed to disappear at age 15! But eventually, I got my act together and completed Grade 10 at age 17. During these years I was musically active in my school and church. It was in the church that I was exposed to rich harmonies, gospel-rooted chords, and energetic rhythms & grooves. Music was my life.
(continued on p.3)



NEW from Red Leaf Pianoworks!

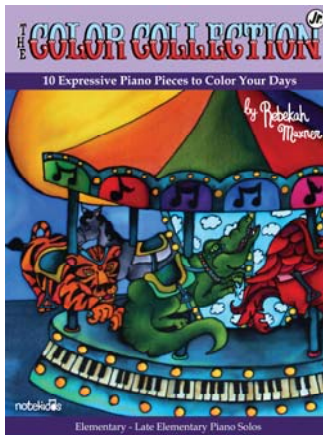


Willow for One Piano, Four Hands
– an Early Intermediate duet by
Susan Griesdale.



Along the Shore. – Elementary
Piano Solos by Beverly Porter.

The Color Collection Jr. –
Ten Expressive Piano
Pieces to Color Your Days,
Elementary – Late
Elementary Piano Solos by
Rebekah Maxner.



Zarzamora - A quirky and expressive Latin suite of five piano solos based on Spanish street names that figured prominently in the composer's early life in Texas. Titles include Zarzamora, Dolorosa, Mariposa, Brazos, Guadalupe. All of these pieces are early advanced except for Mariposa which is at a Gr. 6-7 level. Brazos, (translated: arms) is written for her husband Martin, who wrapped her in his arms and brought her to Canada.



Behind the Curtain

What happens behind the scenes in the life of a Red Leaf Pianoworks composer?

Martha Hill Duncan

Making Musicians: In my piano studio I often struggle with students filling their practice time with non-assigned music. They choose to figure out the latest pop song over their assignments, ask for help with an impossibly difficult accompaniment for a school group or long to learn music that is really beyond their level. As a beginning teacher, I would have likely lead them gently back to the job at hand. Today, I rejoice at their interest and plunge into satisfying their latest musical cravings. Whether it means improvising a difficult LH, with chords, learning a complicated RH passage or figuring out a complicated pop rhythm, they're still learning, I'm still teaching and music making starts to feel boundless.

Things Left Unsaid: When I moved to Kingston, ON in 1988 I called the respected Hungarian-Canadian composer, Istvan Anhalt, to inquire about composition lessons. We spoke for awhile and then he said that he didn't think that I needed lessons, but I should find a choir to conduct. You can imagine my confusion!!!! In 2004 I began conducting the Kingston women's choir She Sings! I should have told him that he was absolutely correct! Unfortunately, he passed away in Feb 2012 at the age of 93.

(An Interview with Irene Voros, continued from p.1)

Dating since my teens, I married Frank Voros at age 19, and we started a family within the first 2 years of marriage. During this time I worked downtown as a receptionist while building my own private piano studio. Our first child was born 1 month after I completed my A.R.C.T. Performance Piano practical exam. By age 26, I had 3 children. When two of my children were ages 2 & 3, I completed my Teacher's ARCT. It was a hectic time, but I loved the achievement & fulfillment of "living music". When my children were a few years older, I had the "diploma itch" again, and completed my Associate in Music Theory from the London College of Music. Each diploma gave me confidence and strength in my profession. I have maintained my piano studio since 1981; starting in Vancouver, and eventually moving it to Surrey, B.C. (suburb of Vancouver).

WHEN DID YOU START TO COMPOSE? I composed my first piano piece 3 months after I began lessons. It was called OLD JOHNNY BOY. I wrote it on school-lined paper in green pencil crayon. I can still play it flawlessly! I continued to compose contemporary pieces for vocal and piano during my teen/early adult years. It was not until 2000 that I seriously began to compose for the piano as a solo instrument, in the classical style that I have played & taught lifelong. Years later, in 2012, I shared my pieces with a colleague. When I realized the pieces were enthusiastically received by everyone (piano teachers, RCM examiners, composers) who heard them, I decided to make composing a serious endeavour. It has been the most adventurous and rewarding experience since I obtained my music diplomas. I am

enjoying the piano as much now as I did as a child and teenager. It is my passion. It has taken courage - for which I am grateful and pleased.

WHAT KEEPS YOU BUSY NOW? I am very active with family life. I have 3 grown children: married, with their own families. I enjoy cooking & baking for "the bunch" once a week. Young bride + young mother = young grandma! I love it. I enjoy reading when I have time - usually on vacation. I continue to teach piano and theory in my private studio. I think about composing, what I should compose next, what should be my next goal, etc.

TELL US A BIT ABOUT YOUR MUSIC. My musical inspiration comes from nature, especially the ocean & coastal landscapes. I also find inspiration in depth of emotions: happiness & contentment — and longing of soul. My personal experiences find their way into each and every piece of music I create. I love the idea of taking a single thought (motif) and expanding it through twists & turns, rhythmic variation, and expansion of chords. I also appreciate simplicity and minimalism. I love the piano - the way it feels under my fingers, the movement of the arms, control of structure, and capacity for rhythmic variation. From the resonance of the bass to the delicacy of the higher register, it truly is an amazing instrument.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR PIECE THAT IS INCLUDED IN THIS NEWSLETTER. "BUILDING THE BLUES" is based on the structure of a Blues Scale. Sequences, rhythmic accents and dynamic range make this a celebratory, playable, and exciting piece!



*also NEW from
Red Leaf Pianoworks!*

Journey Through the Galaxy – Musical Adventures for Intermediate Piano by Irene Voros

Pacific Passages – Eight Evocative Solos for Piano by Irene Voros



BUILDING THE BLUES

Allegro ♩=144-152

Irene S. Voros

4

5

mf

5 3 1 3 2 1 2 1 5

7

mp

5 2 3 5 1 2

10

cresc.

4 2 1 2 4 2 1 2 4

13

1 2 3 4 4 3 1 4 3 2 1

tremolo

f

2 1 2 4 2 1 4 3 2 1