

# Red Leaf News

www.redleafpianoworks.com

Newsletter no.19 – March 2019



Red Leaf Pianoworks  
a composers' collective

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

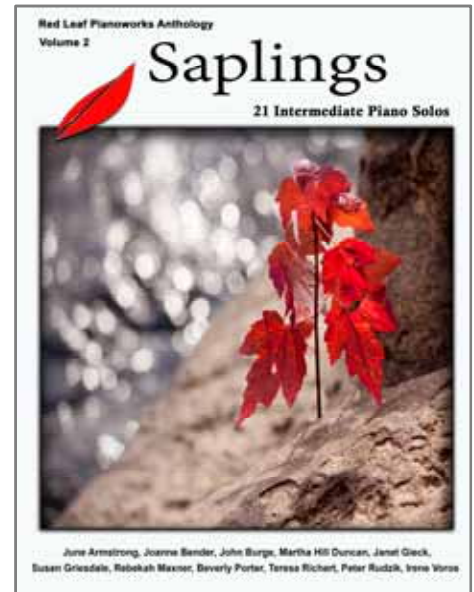
## *Red Leaf Pianoworks' New Anthology!* **SAPLINGS**

**For early intermediate to  
intermediate Level 3 to 5.  
Available late July 2019!**

### **Congratulations Teresa!**

Bouncing Ball from her **Toy Collection** is included in the Australian Music Examination Board's Piano series.

**Congratulations June!** June has had two pieces selected for ABRSM 2019-20 Piano Syllabus – Dusty Blue from **Paint Box** at Grade 2 and Unicorn from **Stars** at Grade 3. Dusty Blue has also been selected for the Royal Irish Academy of Music 2019 Grade 2 Piano Syllabus.



### **Congratulations also to Martha Hill Duncan, Teresa Richert and Susan Griesdale.**

Martha's **Tribute for Woodwind Quintet, Baritone, Soprano & Percussion**, Teresa's **The Charmer** for mixed ensemble and Susan's solo flute collection **Voices from the Earth** are included in the first universal catalogue containing the repertoire for the flute by women composers from all the world. the Compendium Musicae Flauta has just been published (636 pages) and is the first universal book containing the repertoire for the flute by women composers.

## Highlights from last year



Red Leaf had a great time at the ORMTA Convention in Ottawa last summer. Left: Beverly Porter started off our Playful Piano workshop. Right: Hanging out at the trade show with Elizabeth and Christine Tithecott!



## Highlights from last year

Martha, Teresa and Rebekah at the trade show during the MTNA Convention in Florida in March 2018.



Six of us together (a rare occurrence!), Joanne Bender, June Armstrong, Beverly Porter, John Burge, Martha Hill Duncan and Susan Griesdale presenting Red Leaf music at Queens University in August 2018 to a very enthusiastic audience!

*John Burge* was at McGill University's Schulich School of Music as a visiting composer on October 25-26, 2018. The highlight of this visit was a lecture/performance of his **Twenty-Four Preludes** in Tana Schulich Hall with the composer at the keyboard. He also delivered a lecture titled: Ten Approaches to Creativity: A Canadian Composer Plays with a Snowdrift and conducted a composition masterclass in which Burge critiqued music that had been sent to him a week before written by four composition students (shown in the photo from left to right: Marilou Buron, Francis Choinière, John Burge, Seth Gordon and Tomas Cardoso-Grant).



## What are we up to Now?

*Irene Voros* gave presentations to the BCRMTA Abbotsford branch March 1st and Richmond branch April 3rd



### [BCRMTA - Richmond Branch](#)

“Yesterday, our group was visited by local composer, Irene Voros. As a member of the Red Leaf Pianoworks collective, she presents and promotes Canadian composers with collections and albums of thematic and graded publications. This is an awesome way to include new and exciting repertoire into our studios from the RCM lists and as Own Choice selections. We really appreciated the wide selection of materials she brought along as a Pop-Up Store of us to shop on site.”





## What are we up to Now?

*June Armstrong* is preparing to launch a new book for beginners called **Alphabet**. She has been commissioned to write two pieces for ABRSM **Piano Star** Grade 1 book just published – Sunlight Through the Trees and an arrangement of The Lark in the Clear Air.



She recently gave a presentation of some of the pieces from **The Girona Suite** at the opening Girona Gold event in Northern Ireland.

Here is June with a pupil, Rowan Woods who won the most promising pianist up to Grade 3 at Lagan Festival in Belfast.



*Joanne Bender* is adjudicating the BCRMTA composition competition and the Niagara Falls ORMTA piano competition in April.



As a performer she and Willem Moolenbeek, tenor sax, performed her **Green Earth Suite** at the North American Saxophone Association convention at University of Western Ontario in London on Feb. 22, 2019. A performance of this suite along with beautiful hand-painted graphics can be heard and viewed at [www.joannebender.com](http://www.joannebender.com)

Joanne also performed Mendelssohn's 2nd Piano Trio in C minor, along with Bruce Skelton, violin, and Ben Bolt-Martin, cello, in a noon concert in Waterloo.

*Martha Hill Duncan* In addition to last year's Red Leaf presentations at MTNA conference in Orlando, Fla. and Ottawa's ORMTA Conference, Martha Hill Duncan was the featured composition educator at the Festival for Creative Pianists in Denver, Co, followed by the creation of a teaching video entitled Matrix Madness for Colorado student composers.

This past November found her happily adjudicating intermediate pianists at the 25th Edmonton, AB Contemporary Showcase and she just returned from adjudicating the Barrie Music Festival.



She also just found out that four of her art songs will be published in Level 3, 5, 7 & 8 of the new graded Voice Series of The Royal Conservatory.

She continues creating new choral works for her Kingston, Ont. women's choir **She Sings!** and enjoys showcasing local Canadian talent.

Her latest project is a new and improved personal website that will allow teachers and musicians PDF and licensing sales of all of her works! She'll keep us posted!

Her advanced piano series **Limestone Etchings** was released along with a new and improved version of "**If Dogs Could Talk**" – double the repertoire and more visually appealing for young pianists.



## What are we up to Now?

*John Burge* is adjudicating senior piano classes for the Peel Music Festival (Mississauga, ON) for the last two weeks of April. To start this off, he will be arriving a day early to present a short solo piano recital of his own music in a pay-what-you-can, fundraising concert for the Festival on Sunday, April 14.

Currently John is writing a solo piano piece for Montreal pianist, Philip Chiu, that Philip will be taking on tour in the fall of 2019 on a Prairie Debut Recital Series. Philip has been a long-time admirer of John's music and studio time has been booked this summer for Philip to record the complete set of John's **Twenty-Four Preludes** for solo piano.

*Janet Gieck* is adjudicating in Humboldt and Maple Creek, SK in March and April. She also adjudicated for Yorkton's Canadian Showcase and student composer competition.

Janet was involved in creating the musical **To Follow a Star** which was performed in December at Millar College of the Bible in SK.

She is also currently working on a commission for 8 hands, 2 pianos, to be premiered this summer at "Kick Start", a program run by the Conservatory at Brandon University. And a commission for brass will be performed in June at the Strata new music festival in Saskatoon, SK.

*Rebekah Maxner* has recently started a new Blog!

Teachers should watch for guest posts by Red Leaf's composers over the next months.

<https://rebekah.maxner.ca>

Rebekah Facetimed the Palmerston, ON, Music Festival in November for Canada Music Week, with students who performed her pieces. She then gave feedback on student compositions, which she had adjudicated.

In February the Valley Chapter of the NSRMTA invited her to give a masterclass for students playing her pieces, as well as a workshop to encourage composition.

She is adjudicating the upcoming Young Composer's Contest for the New Brunswick Registered Music Teachers' Association, as well as piano classes for the Queen's County Music Festival in Liverpool, NS.

A picture of Rebekah with her students from the 'want to compose music' class.

<https://rebekah.maxner.ca/2019/02/26/want-to-compose-music-steps-1-to-4-help-you-begin/>



*Peter Rudzik* just published a new set of piano duets: **Twinkle Variations** (elementary piano duet), **Three Variations in Four Styles** (early intermediate piano duet) and as a bonus **Three Variations in Four Styles** as an intermediate piano solo. It's all in one book of course.

Check out the wonderful reviews of Peter's Collections, **Truly Astounding Animals** and **The Book of Piano Magic** in Clavier Companion <https://www.peterrudzik.com/articles>

Arisa Xiang of Contemporary Showcase Calgary is this year's recipient of the **Mary Gardiner Award of Performance Excellence -Junior Award**. She performed Peter's '**Thoughtful Rhino**'. Watch and listen to her performances at <http://acnmp.ca/category/awards/mary-gardiner-awards/>

# What are we up to Now?

*Teresa Richert* has been commissioned to write a piece for the BC Registered Music Teachers' Association – Coquitlam/Maple Ridge Branch. The piece will be performed by students at the Canada Music Week Recital in November 2019.

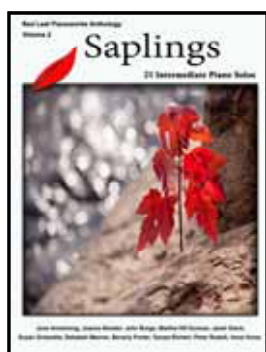
*Susan Griesdale* has just released her new Dance Collection – **Dance, Danse, Danza** in three volumes for advanced piano. You can see video performances of all the dances pieces, performed by Joseph Ferretti, at <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL-9IuzZGoiLFXaNqaAizTvBZ31G2gRhex>.

# What's Upcoming?

## July

### CFMTA CONVENTION IN WINNIPEG IN JULY

Stay tuned for a [Piano Teacher Canada](#) group meet-up. Look for time and place on the Red Leaf Facebook page!



Red Leaf Composers Martha Hill Duncan, Rebekah Maxner and Susan Griesdale will be showcasing our new intermediate level Anthology, **Saplings**, at the Winnipeg convention. Plan to attend to hear the world premier of this wonderful collection!



Rebekah is busy working on her next publication, **Rock the Boat**, which she will debut at the Red Leaf Pianoworks' workshop at the CFMTA convention.

**SUMMER SIZZLE IN OWEN SOUND!** Come and meet Martha Hill Duncan, Joanne Bender and Susan Griesdale at CNCM's Summer Sizzle July 14 – 16!

## August



Join us as Red Leaf Pianoworks gives joint presentations with Darlene Irwin of The Student Music Organizer at Long & McQuade music stores in Ontario:

- ▶ Hamilton Aug 20th
- ▶ Burlington Aug 21st
- ▶ Brampton August 28<sup>th</sup>



## September

Soon we will have another wonderful collection from June Armstrong. A new book for beginners called **Alphabet** - to be available in September!



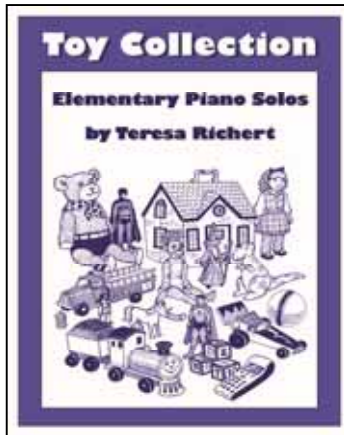


# New Publications Available Now!

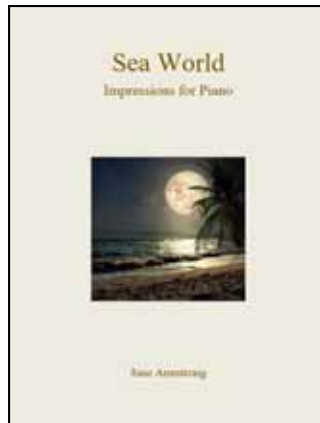
at [www.redleafpianoworks.ca](http://www.redleafpianoworks.ca)



**Dance, Danse, Danza in 3 volumes by Susan Griesdale** includes 7 dramatic dance pieces for advanced students seeking contemporary repertoire! All performances can be viewed on her YouTube channel.



**Toy Collection by Teresa Richert** includes 11 elementary piano solos about "timeless toys." and will appeal to younger students and is fun learning for any time of year!



**Sea World by June Armstrong** 17 Impressions for Piano - a new collection of atmospheric pieces at the early Intermediate to intermediate level.



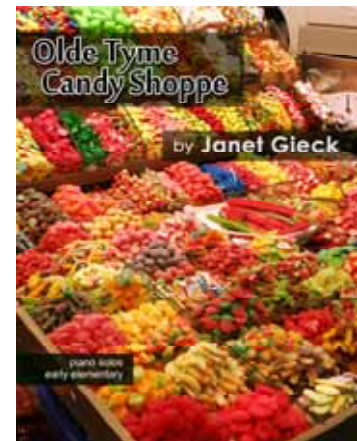
**Nightscapes by Beverly Porter** includes 11 elementary piano solos about the nocturnal world will appeal to younger students and is fun learning for any time of year!



**Rebekah Maxner's Rock That Train** is a piano collection for elementary to late elementary (Preparatory to Grade 2) students. 10 pieces inspired by popular styles, perfect for recitals, festival performances or just for fun.



**Twinkle Variations by Peter Rudzik** - a new set of piano duets! Twinkle Variations (elementary piano duet), Three Variations in Four Styles (early intermediate piano duet) and as a bonus Three Variations in Four Styles as an intermediate piano solo.



**Old Tyme Candy Shoppe by Janet Gieck.** The pieces were composed for my candy loving students in Southwestern Saskatchewan arranged in an order of difficulty according to the learning sequence of Music Learning Theory.