



Red Leaf Pianoworks  
a composers' collective

Martha Hill Duncan  
Susan Griesdale  
Beverly Porter  
Rebekah Maxner  
Janet Gieck  
Christine Donkin  
Joanne Bender  
Teresa Richert

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# Red Leaf News

www.redleafpianoworks.com Newsletter no.5 - May 2011

## New Composers for Red Leaf!

Teresa Richert of Maple Ridge, British Columbia and Joanne Bender of Waterloo, Ontario are looking forward to sharing their passion for composing and teaching with Red Leaf Pianoworks and will be attending the Canadian Federation of Music Teachers Convention in Regina, SK in July.



Joanne enjoys writing for and working with her many piano students, including some who are budding composers. She just completed a piano trio and will be working on a commission for a large choral/instrumental piece for her church. Preparing students to perform as well as adjudicating compositions from neighbouring festivals keeps her busy.

Teresa has been focusing much of her attention on preparing her piano students for spring master classes, festivals and getting her piano collections ready for printing. Her new collections, *Northern Menagerie*, *Seascape* and *Seasons*, are now available. For more info, please visit <http://www.richertmusic.com>



Janet adjudicating a performance

## An Interview with Janet Gieck

### Tell us a bit about your background.

I grew up on a farm in Saskatchewan, into a family where music was celebrated. My mother was always singing and required all her children to sing with her at different events. We attended a small church where everyone sang in four-part harmony all the time, and I was encouraged from a very young age to sing in the choirs and to be involved in accompanying different groups on the piano. As I entered my teen years, I became interested in synthesizers as well as rock and jazz music. This was when I began experimenting with composition. I never took any formal composition lessons until college, but people seemed to like whatever I played for them, so I was encouraged and continued writing. I think

this is a great reminder to me of how much of a difference a word of encouragement to a young person can make!

### What inspires your music writing?

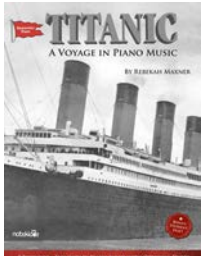
I would say that I am inspired by my family and by Prairie culture and landscape. The space, the skies and the Northern forests are incredible! Also I find music and sound in and of themselves inspiring. Hearing a new scale or a new sound can lead to a new composition. The talents of the other Red Leaf composers are also very inspiring – they encourage me to do my best, both musically and professionally.

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Janet being inspired at the historic site, Fort Carleton, Saskatchewan.

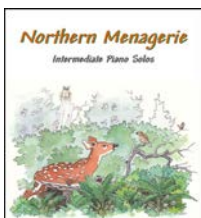
## New Releases



### Coming soon! Titanic - a voyage in piano music.

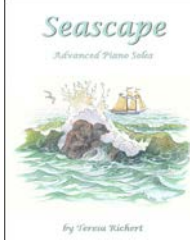
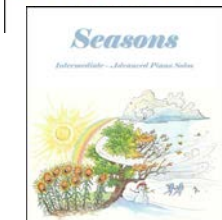
Experience music heard on the Titanic first-hand, plus originals written in 1912 styles. Titles include *Farewell, That Mesmerizing Mendelssohn Tune, Salut d'amour, The Merry Widow Waltz,*

*Silverheels, In the Shadows, Nearer My God to Thee, and The Unsinkable Molly Brown.* Beginner to elementary piano solos with optional teacher duets, up to Grade 1. Bonus student duet: *The Titanic Song (When That Great Ship Went Down).* Arranged and composed by Rebekah Maxner.



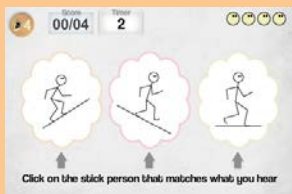
Three new books are available from Teresa Richert. **Northern Menagerie** is a collection of twelve solo piano pieces inspired by wild creatures of Canada.

The pieces exhibit a variety of styles and forms. **Seasons** is a collection of eight lyrical piano solos inspired by nature and outdoor activities associated with the four seasons. The pieces explore a wide range of moods and technical challenges.



Sunny walks along Vancouver's seawall (and a little imagination) were the primary inspiration for **Seascape**. These four dreamy pieces may be performed individually or as a group.

## Tonic Tutor - New Games!



### Stick People

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[www.tonictutor.com](http://www.tonictutor.com)



### Boxing Glove

(continued from page 1)

### What keeps you busy when you're not composing?

I have a studio of piano and theory students, (yes, I love theory!) and I am quite involved in my church. My husband is the pastor of music and arts there, so he is always giving me projects to compose and arrange. We have 3 children (ages 8, 6, and 4) so next year will hold new adventures for me, having all my kids in school!

### Tell us a bit about your music.

*Dances, Daydreams & Dinosaurs* is my easiest book to date and has 17 imaginative pieces for the younger student. There is exposure to both traditional harmonies, and more contemporary kinds of writing. The complimentary piece, *Outdoor Skating Rink*, is from this collection. *Sundae Soup* (Vols. 1 & 2) contain a variety of styles and rhythms, from jazz idioms to more atonal sounds. *Outside My Window* (Vols. 1 & 2) are more advanced and hold my earliest compositions which lean toward a more impressionistic style. My duet collection, *The Birthday of a King*, is a recital favorite, with four intermediate level Christmas carols inside. The second complimentary piece, *Frantic: Homework Deadline*, is an exciting blast of sound, perfect for the energetic teenager at an early advanced level. It is one of my newer works and is based on the octatonic scale. ♦

You can find more of Janet Gieck's music at [www.redleafpianoworks.com](http://www.redleafpianoworks.com).

[www.RedLeafPianoworks.com](http://www.RedLeafPianoworks.com)

## FREE SHEET MUSIC!

BRING THIS COUPON TO ANY TRADE SHOW IN 2011 WHERE RED LEAF PIANOWORKS HAS A BOOTH AND RECEIVE A FREE PIECE OF SHEET MUSIC WITH EVERY \$25 SPENT!

"An amateur practices until he gets it right; a professional practices until he can't get it wrong."

– Percy C. Buck

"If your practice is sounding great all the time, you're practicing the wrong bits."

– Philip Johnston

# Outdoor Skating Rink

Janet Gieck

Not too fast, in two

Musical notation for measures 1-4. The piece is in 2/4 time. The right hand starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The left hand starts with a bass clef. The tempo is marked "Not too fast, in two". The dynamics are marked *p* gracefully and gently. The first measure has a finger number 4 above the note. The second measure has a finger number 5 above the note. The third measure has a finger number 2 above the note. The fourth measure has a finger number 5 above the note. The piece ends with a double bar line.

Musical notation for measures 5-8. The right hand starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The left hand starts with a bass clef. The dynamics are marked *p*. The first measure has a finger number 5 above the note. The second measure has a finger number 2 above the note. The piece ends with a double bar line.

Musical notation for measures 9-12. The right hand starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The left hand starts with a bass clef. The dynamics are marked *mp*. The first measure has a finger number 2 above the note. The second measure has a finger number 4 above the note. The piece ends with a double bar line.

Musical notation for measures 13-16. The right hand starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The left hand starts with a bass clef. The dynamics are marked *dim.*, *rit.*, and *p*. The first measure has a finger number 5 above the note. The piece ends with a double bar line.

# Frantic: Homework Deadline!

Janet Gieck

Fast and frantic! ♩=144

*mf*

*f*

*dim. poco a poco*

*p*

*lightly*

5 4 3 4

2 1 5 4 3

4 4 4

1 1 1 1

1 2 3-1

27

*mp*

4

32

*f*

3

37

*dim.*

4

42

*dim.*

1

47

*p* *molto cresc.* *ff*

LH 4 RH 4