



Vancouver/Burnaby Branch British Columbia

REGISTERED MUSIC TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

Student Performers' Guild Festival

The Vancouver/Burnaby Branch's Student Performers' Guild Festival (SPG) has a long and proud history. For over eighty years it has nurtured young musicians on a variety of instruments, mostly piano but also voice, violin, guitar, and accordion.

The SPG began in 1941 under the direction of Ida Verral and the inaugural event featured 37 entries in piano, violin, and voice. It continued to expand for thirty years, reaching a high of 690 participants in 1970 with added classes for accordion, guitar, folksong and cello. Unfortunately, everything came to a halt in 1971 when the SPG was affected by turmoil in the Branch Executive but it resumed in 1972, albeit in a smaller form, with 400 entries in piano, vocal, accordion and guitar. By 1975, the Festival was reported to have a higher portion of senior entries and an improved standard of playing overall. In 1980, a new class for blind students was added to the syllabus with a special workshop by blind pianist Linda Jentsch.

The SPG was held in November during Canada Music Week until 2015 when it expanding to an additional Festival in May. This proved to be a more popular time slot and in 2016 the Festival shifted to a single event in May. From 2018-2020 the SPG was on hiatus while restructuring occurred, but it returned in February of 2021 with an online form to cope with Covid restrictions.

Numerous dedicated individuals have kept the SPG Festival running smoothly throughout the years and the Branch offers its sincere thanks to the Chairs as well as the Committee members and volunteers who participated!

Student Performers' Guild Festival Chairs

1982	Helen Hammond
1984	Marilyn Glazer
1986	Ruth Williams
1988	Ruth Williams, Joyce James
1990	Marguerite Echaus
1992-1998	Rebecca Kelly
1999	Not available
2000	John Dupuis
2002	Brent Barraclough
2004	
2005	Rebecca Cheng
2008	Toni Meyer
2014	Hailey Wong
2015-2017	Toni Meyer
2018-2020	On Hiatus
2020-2022	David Vandereyk