On the MaHRC

The Newsletter of the Music and Health Research Collaboratory
University of Toronto   October 5, 2012

Noted Music Therapist and Scholar Concetta Tomaino Visits University of Toronto

Connie Tomaino is a pioneer in the field of music therapy for individuals suffering the effects of stroke and other brain trauma or who are afflicted with such degenerative neurological diseases as Parkinson's or Alzheimer's. Tomaino is the executive director and co-founder of the Institute for Music and Neurologic Function and senior vice president for music therapy at CenterLight Health System, formerly Beth Abraham Family of Health Services in New York. Connie has worked with Oliver Sacks for some 25 years and in many cases it is her work that found the stories he tells.

She will be presenting talks in various contexts during her five day residency.

Thursday Nov 8, 12:10 – 1:00 "The Real Experience Behind Oliver Sacks' Stories" Open to the public. Free

Saturday, Nov 10. – "The Music Never Stops– Music Therapy in Parkinson's and Alzheimer's disease." This is part of the one-day Music Care Conference. Conference registration required – see information below.

In addition she will participate in the Forum on Music Medicine (information below) and a talk at the Baycrest Centre.

The Music Never Stopped
Reviewed by Jane Twohey

The character of Dr. Daly in this movie is modeled on the work of Dr. Connie Tomaino, Music Therapist

Based on the true story of a patient of Dr. Oliver Sacks, the Music Never Stopped is a must see film for anyone in a care situation with a loved one. It combines drama with documentary and one is left with wanting to learn more about the science of music and the role that it plays in healing. For full review click on:
http://www.room217.ca/newsletter/index.php?article=252

Music Medicine in Aging – Connaught Grant Development Plans

The Connaught Committee of the University of Toronto has now approved our development plan for the Music Medicine in Aging research focus. Approved is funding for:

1.   Forum on Music Medicine in Aging Nov 11 (see details below)
A visioning forum on music medicine in aging research open to the public featuring four noted scholars in music medicine. Each presenter will speak on the topic, "If I had 2 million dollars for research in music medicine and aging, what would I do?" This will be followed by a moderated hour of questions and discussion from the Connaught team.

2.   Topic-area Symposia
Four symposia on the topics of Pain, Hearing loss, Neurologic music therapy, and Quality of Life – Depression. These will be organized with the Connaught cluster members and noted visiting scholars with the object of consolidating thinking around music medicine and these conditions and with the hope of generating potential research proposals.

3.   Foundational Theory Development – Central Mechanism
Our 2012 Connaught proposal included the theory of Thalmocortical Dysrhythmia (TCD) but did not make it the central organizing theory. The leading proponent of this theory is Rodolfo Llinas who has agreed to come to the University of Toronto during 2012 – 2013 to meet with our Connaught co-applicants and cluster members to explain his research and to engage in a series of topical discussions with the intent of clarifying the theory and considering the synergistic application to sound-based stimulation.

4.   Foundational Theory – Rhythmic Sound Stimulation
One of our "music stimuli" in our original Connaught proposal was the application of Rhythmic Sound Stimulation (RSS) at frequencies ranging from .5 HZ to 40Hz delivered through the somatosensory system or the auditory system. Our team already has members at the leading edge of this research, namely Bernhard Ross and Claude Alain. Dr Gottfried Schlaug, one of the leading music neuroscientists in the world, has agreed to come as a visiting scholar in 2013 to work with these scientists to develop the understanding of the potential for RSS.

Forum on Music Medicine in Aging

On Sunday, November 11, MaHRC is presenting an opportunity for visionary and innovative ideas for music medicine research in a "blue-sky" forum with some of the leading thinkers in the world. This is open to the public with special invitation to the MaHRC community. The forum will include presentations by scholars including Dr. Gottfried Schlaug, Harvard University, and Concetta Tomaino, Senior Vice-President for music therapy at CenterLight Health System, New York, followed by extended opportunity for discussion among panel members and questions from the audience. The intent is to stimulate new and creative research directions for MaHRC associates.
Sunday November 11, 2:00 Walter Hall, Edward Johnson Building, Faculty of Music

Neurologic Music Therapy Training May 2013

MaHRC is organizing and sponsoring a Neurologic Music Therapy Training session with Dr. Michael Thaut and Corene Thaut from Colorado State University. Michael Thaut, PhD, is internationally recognized for research on brain function in music, especially temporal information processing in the brain related to rhythmicity and biomedical applications of music to neurologic rehabilitation of cognitive and motor function. He has been a leader in the definition and development of "neurologic music therapy." This course, limited to 25 music therapists, will take place at the University of Toronto from May 16 – 19. For registration go to:
http://www.gopolestar.ca/site/index.php?option=com_registrationpro&view=event&Itemid=9&did=13

MaHRC Sponsors International Conference on Music Medicine through the Lifespan June 2014

National and International components constitute the 2014 International Conference on Music Medicine through the Lifespan taking place June 24 – 27 in the Faculty of Music with MaHRC as lead organizer. The International Association for Music and Medicine awarded its 2014 conference to Toronto and the Canadian Association for Music Therapy (CAMT) will organize pre-conference sessions starting on Sunday June 22. The organizing committee consists of Heidi Ahonen from the Conrad Centre for Research in Music Therapy at Laurier University, Amy Clements-Cortes, President of CAMT, and Lee Bartel, Acting Director of MaHRC. Some 500 – 800 people are expected to attend.

Music Care Conference

The Music Care Conference at the Faculty of Music, University of Toronto takes place from 8:00 am – 5:00 pm Saturday November 10, 2012. Open to care-givers of all types the program features Connie Tomaino "The Music Never Stops– Music Therapy in Parkinson's and Alzheimer's Disease"; Deborah Salmon, Palliative Music Therapist at the McGill University Health Centre, "Music Therapy in Whole Person Care at the End of Life"; and singer-songwriter Amy Sky sharing her story and songs.
Workshops include:
"Creative Ways of Using Music in Long Term Care" – Daphne Noonan
"Singing for your Health" – Lee Willingham
"HealthRHYTHMS - Group Empowerment Drumming Protocol" – Rufus Glassco
"Music Care Across Cultures" – Monique McGrath
"Striking Sounds: Building Musicality and Community through an Experience of Balinese Gamelan" – Annette Sanger

For more information and to register please go to:
http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07e5xb3py03b413afb&llr=wedapsdab

ALIVE INSIDE
A Powerful Film About the Power of Music

Plan to attend an exclusive screening of Michael Rossato-Bennett's powerful documentary, *Alive Inside*, chronicling social worker Dan Cohen's discovery of the power personalized-music has to awaken deeply locked memories in people with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias.

A trailer from the documentary was watched by 6.4 million people on YouTube in just over four days. The viewers' overwhelming response and outpouring of emotion makes this a must-see film. Following the screening, Michael, Dan and others will participate in a panel discussion about the power of music in person-centred dementia care.

When: **Wed. October 10, 2012** 1:00 p.m. 3:00 p.m. EDT
Where: **Bloor Hot Docs Cinema** , 506 Bloor Street West at Bathurst

Cost: This is a FREE event with registration.

Register Now