



Red Leaf Pianoworks  
a composers' collective

Martha Hill Duncan  
Susan Griesdale  
Beverly Porter  
Rebekah Maxner  
Janet Gieck  
Christine Donkin

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# Red Leaf News

www.redleafpianoworks.com Newsletter no.4 - October 2010

## Red Leaf on the Road!

### SEPTEMBER:

New Minas, NS Long & McQuade:  
Rebekah Maxner, Presenter  
Kingston, ON Fall Music Fair: Beverly,  
Susan & Martha, Presenters  
Red Deer, AB APTA Convention: Susan  
& Martha

### OCTOBER:

Saskatoon, SK SRMTA Convention; "Finding My Voice": Martha,  
Presenter  
Stouffville, ON ORMTA; Beverly, Susan & Martha, Presenters

### NOVEMBER:

Yorkton, SK; Janet will be adjudicating and performing her works  
Burlington Rotary Music Festival, ON: Christine, Jr Piano  
Bradford Contemporary Showcase, ON: Susan, Jr. Piano & Composition  
Chatham Contemporary Showcase, ON: Martha, Piano & Composition



Rebekah hard at work!

## An Interview with **Rebekah Maxner**

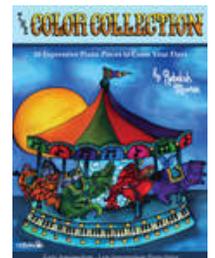
*What were your first musical influences?*

From my earliest memories I can remember playing my own music at the piano. I was the youngest of a large family and grew up in a home where music was celebrated. Several of my siblings did very well with music as teenagers. I was exposed to their classical trumpet, flute and piano repertoire on a daily basis. As a preschooler I began to improvise on the piano, and would jump up to play my Debussy-sounding musical impressions for company. As my brothers and sister matured and married, our family grew to include an opera singer with the Canadian Opera Company, and also a member of the White Family Singers, the niece of Portia White. My ears were always open when musical people visited to

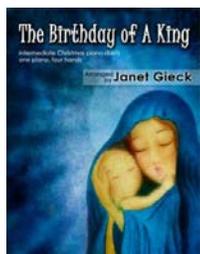
warm up for concerts, and I loved hearing inspiring conversations. My sister, Judy, became my first piano teacher and she encouraged my interest in composition. My brother, Phil, taught me keyboard harmony and chord progressions so I could play music by ear and improvise LH accompaniments from an early age.

*How does your family enhance your artistic process today?*

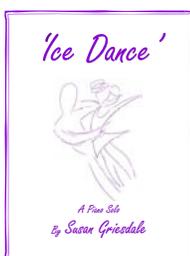
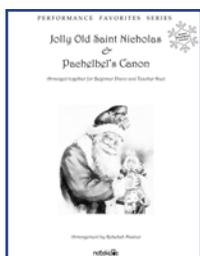
Fast-forward several years. Now I'm married and have three children (11, 8, and 2). My husband and kids certainly play a part in my artistic process. *The Color Collection* was inspired by a book called *I Feel Orange Today* (Annick Press) – and the reason we got that book was because of my son's favorite color – orange. I first began creating the pieces years ago when I hadn't yet decided what kind of composer I wanted to be. Would I continue with the atonal styles I had studied in university? The first color I tried was Blue, and the first version I created just wasn't "it". My husband made me stop playing it. Then I made the connection to Blues music (seems obvious), and created *Blue Train* as it appears in the printed book. It passed Maxner family approval. My piano students also play a part by learning my music as soon as I compose it. If something doesn't work, I make changes.



# Music to Celebrate the Holiday Season



**The Birthday of a King** (Janet Gieck) - Intermediate to Early Advanced duets for 1 piano, 4 hands - exciting arrangements for the Christmas season: *Away in a Manger/The Birthday of a King, Deck the Halls, O Holy Night, Silent Night.*



**Jolly Pachelbel** duet for beginner with teacher by Rebekah Maxner

**Ice Dance** grade 6 solo by Susan Griesdale

**Outdoor Skating Rink** (grade 2) from *Dances Daydreams & Dinosaurs* by Janet Gieck

**D'ou viens-tu, bergère?** (grade 3) from *Clowning Around and More!* by Beverly Porter

**Jingle Bell Swing** (grade 3/4) from *Old MacDonald had the Blues* by Rebekah Maxner

**Sledding and Sliding** (grade 3/4) from *In the Neighbourhood* by Christine Donkin

**First Snow** (grade 6/7) from *Precipitations* by Martha Hill Duncan

**White Drift** (grade 7) from *The Color Collection* by Rebekah Maxner

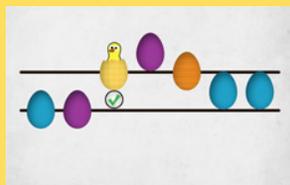
## Correction!

There was an error in Susan Griesdale's complimentary piece (in our first newsletter). For the corrected version, please visit our website at [www.redleafpianoworks.com](http://www.redleafpianoworks.com).

## Tonic Tutor - New Games!



**Jungle Journey**



**Eggs**

Coming soon!

Check out our new **30 day free trial**, or our latest subscription option - just **\$7 per month** for all of our games!

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

*What are the challenges of being a Mom and composer?*

Time is the biggest challenge. Composing at the piano comes fairly quickly. But because I have responsibilities with family, I have limited focus time for the printed music. *The Color Collection* has taken me about eight years start to finish. *Old MacDonald had the Blues* happened much quicker – it took less than a year. But though it is hectic being a Mom and composer, it is worth it. We were listening to some music at dinner recently, and I said, "This is John Williams, our favorite composer," and my son answered, "Except for you, Mom."

*Tell us a little about the complimentary pieces [pages 3 and 4 of this newsletter].*

I am including two complimentary pieces for early staff readers. Both have been favorites with my beginners for the past several years. **Down Over Yonder** is written like a Gaelic folk song, and **Rainbow** is influenced by Nancy Faber's composition style. One note, which is usually at the center of beginner music, is missing from both pieces. Which one?

*And your new Composer Poster?*

The composer poster is especially designed with the piano teacher in mind. As you teach piano music by famous keyboard composers, you can create discussion and make connections to music history.



Three composers represent each stylistic period. The poster features artist Holly Carr's reproductions of the composers' most famous portraits, plus their dates and authentic signatures. Affordably priced, the poster is an asset to the studio, a great gift or practice incentive prize.

*Who are the people who have helped you become a published composer?*

There are so many who have helped me, beginning with family, and my teachers: Marlene Jackson, Barbara Hansen, John Hansen, and Owen Stephens. Within the NSRMTA, Hetty Jackson, Anne Crosby, Dr. Lorna Wanzel, and the teachers who have believed in my music the longest: Marilyn Manzer, Anna-Maria Galante-Ward and Janice Potvin. The Canadian National Conservatory of Music deserves thanks for publishing several of my pieces. Most recently, thanks to my Red Leaf colleagues; especially Martha Hill Duncan, who invited me to join and helped immensely with editing *The Color Collection* – an education in itself.♦

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

# Down Over Yonder

Moderato ♩ = 112 - 132

Rebekah Maxner

RH 1 on \_\_?

Down o- ver the yon- der the ri- ver's gen- tly flow- ing.  
Un- der the wil- lows the blos- soms ev- er grow- ing.

LH 1 on \_\_?

5

Scar- let pim- per- nel and rose, vi- o- let and blue- bell grows. \_\_\_

9

Come meet me sweet-heart, the gen- tle breeze be blow- ing.

Teacher Duet (student plays one octave higher)

*p* *Con pedale* *legato simile* *fine* Student repeats first four measures *D. C. al fine*

# Rainbow

The LH crosses over top of the RH to play the high C's. The dotted line shows how to move through the air while the RH is still playing. As the LH moves, pretend it is the rainbow.

Rebekah Maxner

Moderato  $\text{♩} = 63 - 69$

LH 3 over on \_\_?

LH 3 over

LH 3 Hold the damper pedal throughout on \_\_?

5 4

*mf*

9

LH 3 over

LH 3 over

*p*

Teacher Duet (student plays as written).

*8<sup>va</sup>* throughout

Student repeats line one.

*p* *mf*

6

*p* *mf* *p*