

Clarkson Music Theatre
Annual General Meeting
September 16, 2025
Meeting via Zoom

Present: Rita Ferguson, President
Christine McMahon, Director of Production
Nick Forrow, Director of Administration/Treasurer
Kevin Roose, Director of Membership
Michelle Ferguson, Director of Marketing
Joey Gargaro, Music Consultant
Susan Wray-Toogood, Director of Finance
Katy Scott, Director of Social Media
Jacki Kingston, Secretary

Regrets: Giselle de Sousa, Assistant Treasurer

Members in Attendance:

Al Kingston	Brian Toogood
Joyce Valentine	Seona Sydor

Plus proxies received from 26 members.

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m.

1. Welcome/Introduction – Rita

Rita offered a warm welcome to all in attendance virtually.

Joey Gargaro read the Land Rights Acknowledgement.

Katy Scott reviewed some housekeeping items regarding meeting over Zoom, such as muting your microphone when you are not speaking and raising your hand emoji if you have a question, etc.

Rita introduced the Board of Directors.

2. Secretary's Report – Jacki

Jacki called the attendance and reported that 26 proxies had been received. With the total number of members in attendance and the proxies received, we have established Quorum.

Motion made to waive the reading of the AGM Minutes from 2024 as members received them in writing ahead of time. **Moved by Jacki Kingston and seconded by Michelle Ferguson.** **PASSED**

Motion made to accept the Minutes of the AGM of September 10, 2024.

Moved by Jacki Kingston and seconded by Michelle Ferguson.

PASSED.

There is no unfinished business from the 2024 AGM.

3. President's Report – Rita Ferguson

Good evening and welcome to the CMT annual general meeting for 2025. Thank you for joining myself, Rita Ferguson, and the board this evening. I would like to introduce the board. (See list at top of this document.) I wish to thank our board members for all the work they have done for the group in the last year. They have worked very hard on behalf of CMT. I feel very proud of this special group of people as we celebrate our 80th year. I wish to express my sincere thanks to all the people who have worked and guided our group through the years and changing world to bring us to where we are today and also thank the City of Mississauga for their support.

It is such an outstanding achievement to provide quality entertainment for 80 years and counting!! This past year was no exception, with the very popular "Something Rotten" as part of the Encore Series, our Christmas Cheer Choir entertaining many at senior centres, and our spring concert "True Tales" which was very well received by the audiences. Sincere thanks and congratulations to our artistic and production teams and to all who took part in any way in these very successful shows. We welcome all the new members and hope they will join us in future shows.

Many thanks and congratulations to all those people who work on our Fundraising. Thank you especially to Susan Wray Toogood who organizes this important work which is such a financial support to our shows and endeavours.

Sadly, we lost several dear members this year. Our sincere sympathies go to those of you who have lost family members and friends in the past year. May you find peace in the many memories shared. To those of you who have welcomed new babies into the world this year, we extend our congratulations.

We now look forward to our fall show "Anastasia" in November at Meadowvale Theatre. Rehearsals are in full swing with a great cast.

My personal thanks to our Board of Directors, who have worked hard for the group throughout the year. We will continue to work for the good of the group. Our thanks to Giselle de Sousa, Joey Gargaro and Jacki Kingston who are stepping down from the board. We appreciate the work you have done in your term of office.

4. Treasurer's Report 2024-25 – Nick Forrow (Treasurer)

The Financial Report is presented on screen by Nick Forrow (Treasurer) / With thanks to Carole Neely (Bookkeeper).

See attached PDF file named [CMT 2025 Financial Statements](#) (attached to the e-mail)

Administration Report 2023 – 2024 – Nick Forrow Director of Administration

January saw us allocate \$7,000.00 to be distributed between the following charities: Trillium Health Partners, Ian Anderson House, Compass Food Bank, the Native Women's Resource Centre, and Embrace – the women's shelter.

As there was no performing arts scholarship issued this year the Board felt it would be appropriate to award the money to The Canadian Red Cross. In fact, we donated \$2,000.00 to aid relief for victims of the Alberta Fire disaster and were in time with the donation for it to be matched by both the Federal and Alberta governments.

Chednar Akluche, a young Haitian student, is still being supported through Chalice by CMT. We have had Chednar as our sponsored child since 2016 and send an annual amount for his school uniform, lunches and school supplies. Our Board usually agrees to send some extra money in December as his birthday is on the tenth. In return he writes a couple of letters each year and thanks us for the support and tells us how the extra money helped him and his parents and two younger brothers.

Other duties of this Directorship are ensuring that CMT is in compliance with the CRA and the rules governing Charities from the Ontario government along with compliance concerning fundraising from the Rama Gaming House, set by the City and the OLG. We also take care of the annual application to the City for Affiliation which affords us, among other things, special insurance and rental rates for Meadowvale Theatre.

5. Production Report – Christine McMahon (Director of Production)

A Encore Productions:

The Encore Series enjoyed a stellar 2024-2025 season, with many Sold-Out Shows. Congrats to the following recipients of the Subscribers' Choice Awards 2024-2025:

- Eytan Marchus-Wolpert as Oliver (TUPA) (favourite actor / Oliver),
- Laura Carney as Belle (MMT) (favourite actress / Beauty and the Beast),
- MMT's Beauty and the Beast - favourite production.

We know our audiences will be equally delighted with the upcoming 2025- 2026 season.

- EMP presents **Beautiful – The Carole King Musical** (Oct.31 – Nov.9 / 2025)
- CMT presents **Anastasia** (November 21 – November 30/ 2025)
- MMT presents **Sweeney Todd the Demon Barber of Fleet Street**. (January 30 – February 8 / 2026)
- CCMP presents – **The Prom** – (March 13– 22 / 2026)
- TUPA presents **Annie** – (April 24 – May 3/ 2026)

We took turns helping at the MTM table for each of the other 4 shows to promote our organization and answer questions.

Clarkson Music Theatre is proud to present **Anastasia** at Meadowvale Theatre – Nov.21 to Nov.30/ 2025.

- We are pleased to confirm the cast listed below.
- Props, Set and Projection teams have been working steadily through the summer to get things ready in the fall.
- Heads up: Budget will be high with cast of 35 and such elaborate costumes, props, set, mics and new sound requirements
- Costume Alex Amini plus 5 cast/ volunteer assistants!
- Only two cast still to register at our second rehearsal Aug.25th.
- We have initiated shared files on Google Drive to facilitate costume measurement sign ups / volunteer hour sign ups / track membership payments etc.
- Particularly proud to have gained some cast to work fundraising this summer

Artistic Team:

Director:	Danny Harvey
Music Director:	John Pugh
Choreographer:	Jenny Pullon
Producers:	Rita Ferguson, Christine McMahon
Stage Manager:	Ann DeNardis-Tomcko
Set Design:	Beth Spring
Master Carpenter:	Kevin Roose
Costumes	Alex Amini
Lights:	Jim Smagata
Projection:	Nick Rose
Sound:	Greg Salisbury and Sergio Bringas - Vega
Props:	Nicole Chafe
Scenic Painting:	Christine McMahon, Ann Witkowski
Art Design:	Louise Ferguson
Assistant Stage Mgrs.:	Debby Roose, Diane Barnett

Clarkson Music Theatre welcomes our incredible cast ... a great mix of CMT veterans and new friends!

Principals

Emily Searle	Anya
Johnny McGroarty	Dmitry

Kirk DePalma	Vlad
Nathan Younger	Gleb
Allison Colosimo	Lily
Leslie Carney	the Dowager Empress Maria

Ensemble (including some featured roles):

Sarah Bayzat (Paulina), Naomi Bolastig, Laura Carney (Tatiana Romanov), Meagan Dowey (Dunya), Aidan Eddy (Von Rothbart & Gorlinsky), Amelia Eqbal, Michelle Ferguson (Cygnet), Rita Ferguson, John Galbraith (Count Ipolitov), Ben Giannis, Ryan Hocking (Prince Siegfried), Mark Jones, Claire Emery LeBlanc (Little Anastasia), Mayumi Lee (Young Alexei), Rachel Jackson (Teen Anastasia), Samantha Lindgren (Marfa), Christine McMahon (Countess Gregory), Don Montgomery (The Tsar & Count Gregory), Lesley Montgomery, Vernonn Mostacho (Sergei), Andrew Quintal, Esther Raday (The Tsarina), Ciara Radman, Jennifer Gibbs-Reilly (Olga Romanov & Odette), Alex Salois (Count Leopold), Katy Scott (Maria Romanov & Cygnet), Michael Sumblor, Sarah Telfeyan (Cygnet), Rebekah Thompson (Cygnet).

B. Meadowvale Theatre Open House

Meadowvale Theatre celebrated its annual **Open House** on Sept. 7th. Thank you to the city for its support of this event. Thanks to Rob Travassos and Chris Noakes, Vanessa Leung (Meadowvale Theatre supervisor) and the staff of Meadowvale Theatre, Councillor Martin Reid Ward 9, Erica Astles who music directs the Encore Series portion of Rehearsal Hall performances, The Meadowvale Theatre Community Panel, The Board of Music Theatre Mississauga (MTM – the Encore Series). Some highlights of the event include: giveaways; free ice cream; Arts and Crafts stations; Face Painting; Firetrucks; Behind the Scenes video montage 2024-2025 saluting the work of our volunteers who bring theatre to life; a look back stage and a Scavenger Hunt with prizes; a Dress up Station and photo op on stage; coffee on the patio; more intimate performances in the Rehearsal hall by user groups; Lobby tables for user groups to spread the word about events at the theatre; an active presence by IN'Sauga. What an event! Please don't miss our "Discover Meadowvale Theatre" event to out to help us open an exciting season of entertainment at Meadowvale Theatre!

C. The Christmas Cheer Choir

This choir is perhaps the most important of all of our year long productions. The choir will continue its great work in 2025, entertaining seniors in the community.

- Rehearsals began Wednesday, September 3rd and run from 1 to 3 p.m. weekly.

- Our thanks to Ruth McDonald (MD), Seona Sydor (Production), Robin Dalglish (Pianist). Ruth has advised that this will be her last year as MD of the Christmas Cheer Choir. A special thanks to Ruth for her exceptional leadership of this group.
- Thanks to Catherine Ambrose for her years of service accompanying the choir.
- Thanks to Susan Wray Toogood who supported the registration process

D. Spring Concert – 2026 “From Good to Evil” – the Heroes and Villains of Broadway / May 8/9 / 2026 / Budget presented and approved to Board June 2025)

- When: May 8 and 9 / 2026
- Venue: Eden United Church, 3051 Battleford Road
- Producers: Rita Ferguson, Christine McMahon
- Music Director: Erica Astles / Assistant MD Joey Gargaro
- Rehearsal Pianist: Robin Dalglish
- A quintet of musicians
- CMT offers a special salute to the great Heroes and Villains of Broadway. We are considering music from: Wicked, Newsies, Chicago, Prince of Egypt, Hercules, and other great Disney musicals with heroes and villains, Little Shop of Horrors, Into the Woods, Legally Blonde, Shucked, Les Mis and so much more! Selections will include half SATB, half featured solo/duet/group numbers.
- Auditions for featured performances: January 10th, 2026 – 10 to 3p.m., by appointment. Auditions may be booked after December 15/2025 with ritaferguson20@gmail.com
- Important Dates: Sixteen general rehearsals / Mondays and Wednesdays at Christ First, starting March 9th till May 6th from 7pm to 10pm. No rehearsals March Break March 16, 18. Soloists rehearse by appointment on March 28th. Full Cast rehearsal Saturday May 2nd with the 5-piece band.
- Early bird tickets \$25 through ticketscene (link on our website available after February 15th www.clarksonmusictheatre.com) / Regular price of \$30 after April 23rd. or call 905-616-1362 to reserve your early bird price

E. Tannery Clean Out

- The Tannery Clean out has been an ongoing process through the summer. Thanks to the Builders (Kevin Roose et al) for sorting casters, storing and sorting wood, etc. Paint room has been cleaned out of old paint.

- If you are free Saturday September 13th at 10am – members of MTM will be sorting the furniture and props area and making sure that all is ready for our own build which starts October 6th.

F. Future Productions 2026

- i. CMT is delighted to confirm the rights and purchase of: **“Spongebob Square Pants”** as our 2026 Production.
- ii. Spongebob Square Pants is a family favourite and is new to the Meadowvale Stage. Spongebob features the music of great pop icons such as Sarah Bareilles, John Legend, Tyler Perry, Aerosmith and Cyndi Lauper and more.
- iii. Please note performance dates will return to a later run. Nov.27 to Dec.6 2026

G. Thank Yous:

Thank you to all of the volunteers who work endless hours on behalf of Clarkson. A special nod to our own John Dalglish, who is taking a well-deserved break from stage management this year, as well as Catherine Ambrose, our beloved accompanist for the Christmas Cheer Choir. Thank you both for all that you do.

Thanks to all of those volunteers who help with set building, prop making, art designing, costume making, marketing, back staging, fundraising, planning, prepping and implementing.

Thank you to our audiences for their patience, your loyalty and your support. Together, we are community theatre at its finest.

6. Social Media Report – Katy Scott (Director of Social Media)

We started the year off with our marketing campaign for “Something Rotten”, highlighting our huge cast and incredible behind the scenes work of our crew. A special shout-out goes out to Nick Rose and Rose Digital Media Group for the spectacular advertising video they created for us.

The start of 2025 brought the excitement of Clarkson Music Theatre’s 80th anniversary! Special logos and profile photos were rolled out across all of our platforms in celebration and first featured on our advertising for the creative team call for Anastasia. Recognition of this incredible milestone was shared from the Mississauga Arts Council MARTY’s.

The spring brought our True Tales Concert, the return of the ACT-CO Thea Awards (where Something Rotten was nominated and awarded in many categories) and the casting of Anastasia.

Big updates are coming to the CMT website, so stay tuned for those in coming months. As always, thanks for your engagement with this group. Whether in comments on Facebook or sharing on Instagram, it is always great to see your excitement for our CMT project.

(Personal Note from the Secretary), Katy Scott deserves many thanks for the hours spent on our social media. She has worked so very hard on the changes to our website and cast interviews, etc. Brava!

7. Fundraising Report – Susan Wray-Toogood (Director of Finance)

CMT was assigned fewer sessions at Rama Gaming House this past fiscal year. The City of Mississauga is taking a closer look at the charities' annual budgets and expenses, as well as trying to balance increased revenue at OLG with the charities. CMT was assigned 24.25 sessions and attended 17,75 sessions for a total revenue of \$39,412.86. This compares favourably with last year's revenue. We chose to give up our sessions in December again as it was a busy month for our group. We remained in compliance with the City of Mississauga and the OLG permit requirements.

A Volunteer Appreciation event was held at Rama Gaming House (RGH) in April 2024, which Anna Paveling and I attended on CMT's behalf. This will be an annual event every spring. The number of charities working at RGH continues to grow and is currently about 85, which is 15 more than a year ago.

A mandatory in-person coordinators meeting was held in September primarily to clarify misunderstandings from email correspondence, as to the obligations of the charities when working at Rama, with respect to promoting RGH. I believe this was a particularly helpful to the newer charities.

The permit application process for 2025-2026 was done in March of 2025 and now must include an Expense Request Form itemizing expected expenses for the year.

We now have a core group of 18 volunteers that can be scheduled for the Hall. Last summer and fall, we had 7 cast members from "Something Rotten" sign up for fundraising, which provided our regulars with a break. We also had three individuals join us on a regular basis. Thanks to the Producers for that success.

As always, I am grateful to every person who gives of their time to raise funds so that CMT can continue to present our high quality shows and concerts to the Mississauga community.

8. Membership Report - Kevin Roose (Director of Membership)

The 2023-2024 season was a season of growth for Clarkson's membership. Despite losing two of our beloved lifetime members and staging what was, by Clarkson's standards, a smaller cast main stage show, we still close out the year a total of 105 members, 20 more members than we did last year. We reached this number by bringing 31 wonderful first-time members into the Clarkson Family. We welcome them and hope that they will be counted among the members of the 2024-2025 season.

Our membership of 105 is comprised of: • 22 Lifetime memberships • 18 members from our 9 family memberships • 65 Single memberships. In addition to the active memberships, we also maintain a list of 301 Email addresses of people who are interested in hearing news and updates about CMT. As we begin our 2024-2025 season, we are pleased to announce that rehearsals are already underway for our fall production of Something Rotten as well as the Christmas Concert. On behalf of the Board of Directors, again I would like to say, “Thank You” for your support and commitment to Clarkson Music Theatre.

9. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Board Members whose terms of office end with this AGM were thanked for their contribution to the Board of CMT. Nick thanked those not running again.

Directors standing for re-election:

- Kevin Roose
- Katy Scott

The following is being nominated for election to the CMT Board:

- Mary DiRenzo

All candidates named above were elected by acclamation. Congratulations!

10. CMT BY-LAW REVISIONS (presented by Christine McMahon)

The CMT Board respectfully submits for the approval of the membership, the revised By-law No. 1 dated September 2025.

We are deeply grateful for the invaluable support of Jay Prestage, Attorney at Law, who has served, once again, as our guide towards these necessary revisions.

The following changes align CMT’s By-law No. 1 to those stipulated by ONCA (Not for Profit Corporations Act)

- a) Redefined the number and title of directors. The by-law now proposes a minimum and maximum number of directors.
- b) The language regarding directors’ titles, roles and job descriptions became less proscribed. This change allows the Board to adapt as needed to new roles which might arise. The By-law still requires a President, a Secretary, a Treasurer and a Director of Production.
- c) Sections on “Board of Directors: Suspension” were deleted from CMT’s By-laws as ONCA already stipulates these procedures.

The following changes improve the day-to-day operation of the Board.

- a) The frequency of Board meetings was relaxed from a mandated “monthly meeting” to “at least quarterly”.

- b) The day-to-day operations of sub-committees and how they function was moved to “CMT Policies” to allow future revisions to be approved at the Board level (and not have to wait for the next AGM approval. (Changes to By-laws must be approved by the membership.)
- c) We removed the “Resident Music Consultant” as a required director’s role.
- d) We allowed a CMT director to serve as chair of MTM, with the approval of the Board.

A link to the revised By-law No 1 September 2025 may be found [here](#).

The revised By-law No 1 September 2025, was electronically delivered to the membership on July 29, 2025 to provide the opportunity for our members to question the revisions or offer concerns. As we received no negative feedback, Christine made a motion for the membership of CMT to approve the revised Clarkson Music Theatre By-law No 1 dated September 16, 2025. Seconded by Rita Ferguson.

PASSED.

11. 80th Anniversary Year for Clarkson Music Theatre (CMT)

Congratulations to all CMT members spanning over 80 years on our 80th Anniversary! This is a very special year as we celebrate eighty years of shows, concerta, choir and especially our wonderful members. We are so proud of this amazing group and our 80 years of wonderful performances!

In a sense, the entire 2004-2005 season celebrated CMT. Each of our three productions (“Something Rotten”, Christmas Cheer 2024 and True Tales) embodied how we live our motto to “entertain Mississauga”.

A special Gala celebration to honour our 80th milestone was held in May at the Irish Club. We enjoyed a lovely dinner and dancing. It was great to mingle and see so many faces we haven’t seen in a while. Thank you to our Gala Committee for all of the great work and a wonderful evening! We thank Rita Ferguson NS Christine McMahon (chairs), Nick Forrow, Beth Springs, Chantelle Whitter, Brenda Gravelle, Emily Paveling, Sydney Horeau, Mary DiRenzo, Brett Paveling, with thanks to Ewa Lesiak, Chris Filippelli, Anna Paveling, and Maria Moore.

We were delighted in June to receive a special Marty Award from the Mississauga Arts Council for “Excellence in Community Theatre”. This award is dedicated to all of our members, Boards, Directors, Produces and volunteers past and present. All of you have given so much of your time, talent and commitment to make every show and concert a success. We are blessed to have you in our Clarkson family. Thank you so much!

We will close this sensational year at our opening night of Anastasia on November 21st. We will host special guests (including members of our MTM Encore family groups, councilor Martin Reid Ward 9, MAC and hopefully many of our loyal members. There will be a special CMT video tribute, some snacks and perhaps a wee gift for you to help remember us.

12. Other Business

Grateful thanks are extended to our Encore Series Sister Groups, the City of Mississauga, Christ First and Eden United Churches and Rama Gaming House for all of their support. We especially thank our

audience members, volunteers, Board of Directors and directorial teams and to everyone who has helped CMT grown in every way.

A final congratulations to Clarkson Music Theatre Inc for standing the test of time, for special events, and for growing stronger as the years pass. We plan to continue to present first-class entertainment to Mississauga in the years to come.

Meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.