

DECEMBER 2017

MANITOBA MUSIC EDUCATORS' ASSOCIATION  
L'ASSOCIATION MANITOBAINE DES ÉDUCATEURS DE  
MUSIQUE



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE KAREN TOLE-HENDERSON

Hello

The MMEA values **Music for Life** - *We believe that the ultimate goal of music education is to foster independent and creative musicians, equipped for life long engagement with music and music making.* [MMEA Mission and Values Statement](#)  
Music takes on a more prominent role across our community this time of year. Music is all around. Many of us are preparing for public performances that will build memories for students and their families. These experiences will last a lifetime!

At a recent MMEA Board meeting the following slate of officers was affirmed for 2017-2018:

Past President – Eric Marshall  
President – Karen Tole-Henderson  
Vice-President – Virginia Helmer  
Secretary - Jennifer Shead  
Treasurer – Tyler Yip  
Members at Large: Leanne Jensen and Tyler Yip  
MBA Representative: Jennifer Shead  
MCA Representative: TBA  
MCGA Representative: Jordan Laidlaw  
MOC Representative: Jewel Cassellman

As well as the Board, the following Portfolio Positions have been affirmed for 2017 – 2018:

Music Month: Leanne Jensen  
Newsletter: Meaghan Walker  
Membership Secretary: Danessa Poiron  
Music Monday:  
Conference Chairperson: Judy Giesbrecht  
Archives: Francine Morin  
AMAM Liaison: Tyler Yip  
SAGE Representative: Danessa Poiron  
Web Master: Vic Hooper  
Bookkeeper: Dale Weevers  
Arts Steering Committee Representative: Karen Tole-Henderson  
Communications Chair – Eric Marshall

Thank you to Rob Chrol and Darryl Ferguson who served four years as Members at Large on the MMEA Board. Rob took on the role of Secretary and Darryl has been Treasurer. I would like to personally thank each of them for their thoughtfulness, their vision and their dedication to the MMEA. Both of you raised the level of discourse at our Board Meetings and your work is greatly valued. Many thanks!!

Thanks to Alexis Silver who was the Music Monday Chairperson. It was great to have you working together with the Coalition for Music Education to increase the “visibility” for this important national event.

A huge thanks to Bill Kristjanson who has stepped down as the MMEA representative to the AMAM. Bill has been the consummate leader and a very important voice at the MMEA Board table. Bill lead our organization through our restructuring and worked tirelessly to create a unified voice for music education. Our community is stronger for your vision and persistence. Thank you Bill!

The MMEA community met at Tempo 2017 on Friday, October 20<sup>th</sup>. This conference was very successful in providing members with great learning opportunities and the chance to connect with other music teachers from across Manitoba. The planning of the conference is an ongoing process that is lead by Judy Giesbrecht. Many thanks to Judy and her fantastic team for once again creating a fabulous experience for our MMEA members.

Many thanks to:

Tempo Chairperson: Judy Giesbrecht  
Conference Registrar: Danessa Poiron  
Administrative Assistant: Kim Pelletier  
Conference Treasurer: Dale Weevers  
Industry and Advertising: Meaghan Walker  
Food Services Coordinator: Asha Janzen  
MMEA Representative: Eric Marshall  
MBA Representative: Darryl Ferguson  
MCA Representative: Roberta Matheson  
MCGA Representative: Randy Haley  
MOC Representative: Charisee Wurch  
Strings Teachers Representative: Kristjanna Oleson

Happy Holidays to each of you. I hope that December brings sweet music and time with family and friends. I look forward to working together with our wonderful music education community in 2018!

Musically yours,

Karen Tole-Henderson  
President,  
Manitoba Music Educators' Association

## **MMEA – Calendar of Events and Activities**

MBA events - <http://www.mbband.org/?page=calendar>

MOC events – [www.manitobaorff.org](http://www.manitobaorff.org)

MCGA events - <http://www.manitobaguitar.ca>

MCA events - <http://www.manitobasings.org>

Concerts and Other events – check each events website for updated information.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>
*****2017*****			
December 10	Tuba Christmas Festival (Early reg. deadline Dec. 1 <sup>st</sup> )	Centennial Concert Hall	MBA/WSO
Dec 23 – Jan 7	Winter Break		
January 8	School Resumes		
January 18	Solo & Ensemble Festival (Registration deadline – Nov. 29 <sup>th</sup> )		MBA

January 18	Make 'n Take	Brandon	MOC
January 20	Da Capo Conference	Brandon University	BU
January 20	Venez vous amusez avec Orff		MOC
January 26	Guitar Education Professional Development		MCGA
January 26-27	Wind Band Teaching Workshop with Craig Kirchoff		U of M
February 2-4	MB Provincial Honour Choirs		MCA
February 9 & 10	Westman Honour Band		
February 10	Winter Workshop – w/ Steph Davis & Sean Fitzmaurice		MOC
February 19	Louis Riel Day		
February 20-23	Optimist Concert Band Festival (Reg. Deadline Nov. 10 <sup>th</sup> )	Wpg Convention Centre	MBA
Feb 28-March 3	Optimist Jazz Band Festival (Reg. Deadline Nov. 10 <sup>th</sup> )	CCFM	MBA
March	Parkland/Norman Honour Band		MBA
March 15 - 17	Brandon Jazz Festival		
March 17	Community Band Workshop in Roland		MBA
March 22	Central Region Honour Band	Morden, MB Morden Collegiate Institute & Access Event Centre	MBA
March 26-30	Spring Break		
April 1	Easter Sunday		
April 18-19	Level One Concert Band Festival (Reg. deadline Jan. 15 <sup>th</sup> )	Brandon	MBA
April 19-22	“Cascade” – Carl Orff Canada Conference	Niagara Falls	MOC
April 23-27	Level One Concert Band Festival Winnipeg – CMU (Reg. deadline Jan. 15 <sup>th</sup> )		MBA
April 25-27	Orff Children’s Day		MOC
May 5	MB Junior and Intermediate Honour Band (Aud. Deadline March 5)		MBA
May 7	Music Monday		
May 21	Victoria Day		
May 28	Creative Music Festival		MCGA
June	Eastman/Interlake HB	TBA	MBA
June 2-3	Community Band Festival at the Forks (Deadline Feb. 15)		MBA
May/June	WJO Honour Jazz Bands		WJO
June 29 – July 3	Podium – “Podium on the Edge”	St. John’s Nfld.	MCA
July 3-13	Orff Certification Courses		MOC – U of M
August	MBA Summer Band Camps, MBA Prairie Percussion Workshop		MBA

**Please contact the sponsoring organization directly to confirm event times, locations and registration information.**

# Advocacy Committee

If you have been following the articles on the advocacy page over the last few months, you will notice that a lot of them have to do with brain research concerning the benefits of music in our lives. It occurred to me as I was looking for a topic for this month's article that perhaps we need to step back and look at *how* to advocate for our programs, in other words, what to do with all of this information. A great resource for us along these lines is the Coalition for Music Education's "Grassroots Advocacy Guide", which can be downloaded for free from their website. I have included the direct link below. Here you will find practical suggestions on what to do to keep the importance of music education at the foreground of conversations with parents, administrators and decision makers. Happy reading!

<https://www.musicmakesus.ca/resources/>

## TEMPO

### **Manitoba Music Conference, October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

Well I'm sure that by now the October Music Conference is a bit of a blur to most of you and that you are well into the hustle and bustle of Christmas and Winter Concert preparations.

We are so glad that you had the opportunity to attend the Tempo: Manitoba Music Conference on Friday, October 20th, 2017. Our conference offered a venue for music educators from across the province to meet, to share areas of common interest and to expand their own learning.

The success of this conference and the excitement it brought would not have been possible without the support from our music community, the many volunteers, sponsors, the music industry, as well as the executives and members of MMEA, MBA, MCA, MOC, and MCGA. As a united voice, we are strong advocates for the value of music education within our province.

I want to personally thank the members of my committee. With excellence, each member worked very hard to put this conference together to offer something special just for you. I was so fortunate to work with each of them.

Now the planning begins for Friday, October 19th, 2018. Thank you to those who filled out the survey. I have gone through each one and was impressed with the quality of comments and suggestions. We do want to provide a conference that will offer each one of you a variety of learning opportunities and your input is valued. If you are interested in being considered as a presenter for Conference 2018, please check the MMEA website at [mymmea.ca](http://mymmea.ca) for the Tempo 2018 Session Proposal Application form.

May I take this time to wish you and your family a blessed Christmas and a restful holiday season.

Judy Giesbrecht

# Henry Engbrecht: A True Builder in our Community

Submitted by Karen Tole-Henderson

*First and foremost, I wish to express my gratitude to the MMEA for presenting me with the CMEA Builders Award. There is no greater recognition for anyone than that given to us by our friends and colleagues - the people who know us; people who have selected our strengths over our weaknesses and our flaws. Of that I am deeply aware.....and it is humbling. This wouldn't have any meaning if it were not for friends and colleagues who worked together with me/us in the trenches; who supported and shared dreams and aspirations to build and nurture music education in our schools and communities. I know how hard my colleagues worked. We are now turning the corner to the third generation of teachers since that time. The energy hasn't let up! How good is that? Thank you all – Henry Engbrecht*

The Manitoba Music Educators' Association was pleased to present a Canadian Music Educators' Builders Award to Henry Engbrecht at our Annual General Meeting on October 20. Henry is the epitome of a builder in our community. Throughout his life, Henry has been inspired to build community through choral music.

As a young child, Henry was fascinated by the group singing that happened in his life. Growing up in a Mennonite family there was a lot of activity that surrounded the church and with that came a lot of singing. He grew up in a congregation that sang a lot – singing before the service, meetings always started with singing. The rich harmonies that happened were impactful as a young child with a community of hearty singers.

A natural outcome was a church choir that would have at least 35 members every Sunday. The choir became the social hub for the community. The choir would join other choirs from across Manitoba at Song Festivals. K.H. Neufeld from Winkler was a leader in stimulating the Song Fests and he was an inspiration to the young people in the community.

Even prior to attending Mennonite Collegiate Institute (1955 – 1958) as a student, Henry was aware of their choirs and the singing tradition at the school. Henry was a natural organizer and, together with others, was able to quickly build male quartets and octets to sing and perform with whether it was at school, church or college.

Henry's aspiration, hope and longing was to be able to teach music full time at the high school level. But the path had a detour! He attended Brandon College (now Brandon University) to earn a teaching certificate, and the following year taught grade 6 at Earl Oxford School in that city. The next year, he was offered a position in a small Mennonite Bible School in Altona. In his second year there, he also took on the choir at Mennonite Collegiate Institute in Gretna, a short distance away. The administration at MCI offered a full-time position but Henry was keen to finish his Bachelors Degree and to get his Masters in Choral Conducting. Henry was so enthusiastic about the results in the rehearsals with his students that he was fired up and keen to learn more about the possibilities. He was always attracted to the new things that could happen.

In 1967, he returned to MCI from his studies as the only high school music teacher in Manitoba with a Masters Degree in Choral Conducting. At that point in time, MCI and Kelvin High School were the only schools in Manitoba who had full time music teachers that were teaching courses for credit. J.P. Redekopp from the University of Manitoba, Faculty of Education hired Henry to present a summer course in Conducting. The course was loaded with teachers whose goals were to establish music in their schools also. Many of these teachers had only studied privately and their skills needed rounding out. Henry discovered "what kind of a ferment was at work here in Manitoba, it was just brewing with peoples' dreams and the possibilities of music education in the schools". It seemed that everywhere Henry went there was a trail to be blazed. Numerous teachers with aspirations of teaching music in the schools were working feverishly to upgrade their qualifications in this expanding field. And numerous schools were introducing vocal and instrumental programs, starting with part-time music teachers, offering credit courses in music, including band and choir. When these programs were first started, music educators would teach in two or more schools to make one FTE.

Following four years at MCI, Henry took a two-year term position as director of choirs at Canadian Mennonite Bible College (now Canadian Mennonite University). He was then hired by St. James School Division where new work was to be done. He started at both Silver Heights and Sturgeon Creek for the first year where there were no existing programs. The second year he was full time at Sturgeon Creek and built the program from very humble beginnings over the next four years.

In 1974, Henry was invited to be the Chorus Master for the Manitoba Opera Association for their first full-scale stage productions. He was invited to audition as conductor for the

Winnipeg Philharmonic Choir in 1975 and lead that ensemble until 1990. In 1989, he created Canzona, a professional Baroque Vocal Ensemble and was its Artistic Director and conductor until 2014.

In 1978, Henry moved to University of Manitoba School of Music where he taught until 2006. Henry identified the abundant opportunities at the School and set to the task of building the choral program. He established a culture of dedication and professionalism in his ensembles. He also identified the need to connect with the broader community including concerts off campus, tours - local and international, performances with Manitoba Chamber Orchestra, the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, the New Music Festival and the CanAm Choirs. The course work at the School of Music was strengthened throughout Henry's tenure. Academically it climaxed with the addition of a Masters Degree in Choral Conducting. Henry was always stimulated by new things, new possibilities, new programs, innovations.

Henry was the first president of the Manitoba Choral Association which was established in 1976. At that time, he was a member of the ACDA (American Choral Directors Association) and he wondered whether a similar organization could be established in Manitoba. He, and several others requested a meeting time at the annual Manitoba Music Conference (now Tempo). A large classroom was packed with individuals who were interested in creating an organization for choral conductors. There was a groundswell of enthusiastic interest and a committee was struck with Henry, John Standing, Larry Patterson, Beth Cruikshank and Beth Douglas. This committee set to work to plan a concert at Knox United Church with a varied group of choirs to perform together. This event provided momentum for the MCA to begin its programming which developed into

varied programs including the Manitoba Youth Choir, Choralfest, Regional Youth Choirs, and Provincial Honour Choirs. Henry conducted the MYC twice and was the inaugural conductor for both the Central and Eastern Manitoba Youth Choirs. Henry was instrumental in establishing the Foundation for Choral Music in Manitoba in 1997. Today, Henry continues to champion the work of the Manitoba Choral Association and is involved in committee work on the Choral Census and special projects such as Voices Rising.

Henry notes the most exciting thing about staying involved is witnessing over and over again the impact of this very communal activity. The excitement that choirs experience when sharing their music – there is pride in belonging to this community.

Henry believes very strongly that students who sing in choirs do better in all other subjects because of their involvement in a choir. In this age of iPads and devices, there is almost no other activity that provides communication, understanding, and support as there is in a choir.

Henry encourages teachers who are in the field of choral music education to not be afraid to go to the edge. To dare something. When a new project comes along, give it a go. There are always new things from repertoire, the formation of the choir, using a performance space in a unique way and exploring possibilities. It is so important that as teachers we pass on the right thing, that which has integrity and comes from the heart. The rest will take care of itself.

## **CMEA Builder's Award for Newer Teachers - Matthew Careless**

**Submitted by Karen Tole-Henderson**

The MMEA is pleased to present a CMEA Builder's Award for New Teachers to Matthew Careless. As a young teacher, Matthew has demonstrated an understanding of the importance of community.

Matthew has taught Grade 6 – 8 Band and Percussion Ensemble at Robert Andrews School and K – 5 Music and Choir at Sherwood School. He is a founding and current member of the Winnipeg Blue Bomber Drumline. This fall, Matthew established the East St. Paul Community Band to provide a supportive and fun place for community members to play their instruments. Each summer, Matthew leads a music camp for kids at Sachigo Lake First Nations.

Matthew serves as a clinician and private teacher and as a guest percussionist for community bands across Winnipeg. Matthew has volunteered for a number of committees including MBA listening committees, CMEA Conference Volunteer, MBA Advocacy Committee and the IFME committee. Matthew plans to continue to contribute to Advocacy and the IFME projects.

Matthew looks forward to continuing to develop his skills as a band director and to further connecting the East St. Paul Band with the community.

Thank you Matthew for your dedication to building community through music. The MMEA honoured to present you with the CMEA Builders Award for Newer Teachers.

## 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Da Capo Conference coming soon!

BUSMEA (Brandon University Student Music Educators Association) is an organization made up of music education students serving music education students. Our goal is to offer professional development opportunities to our members through workshops and other related events.

The Brandon University Student Music Educators Association is pleased to announce the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Da Capo Conference. The Da Capo Conference is an all-day workshop of professional development opportunities for music educators. This year it will be held on January 20, 2018 at the School of Music.

The keynote speaker for Da Capo will be Michael Brandon. Michael is band teacher at Lord Selkirk Regional School. This is Michael's 1<sup>st</sup> time presenting at the Da Capo Conference and we are excited to have him with us this year, addressing the topic of community in a music program.

Other confirmed presenters include Orff representative, Jewel Casselman, Winnipeg based principal and music consultant, Kevin Doell, and Brandon University professor, Dr. Wendy McCallum. Music educators Anna Penno, Deanna Ginn, Graham Dion, Richard Graham, Chloe Plamondon, and Abby Ziprick will share some of Manitoba's wealth of music education expertise.

Session topics include teaching jazz improvisation, developing choral repertoire, music program budgeting, conducting fundamentals, growing a program in diverse circumstances, cooperating teacher and student teacher relationships, being the new teacher on the block, using recording technology, succeeding in a job interview, Orff, and Kindergarten music games.

All are welcome to attend Da Capo, including music educators, music education students, music administrators, education students, performance students and high-school students interested in music education. Registration forms will be available at [www.brandonu.ca/busmea/da-capo-conference/](http://www.brandonu.ca/busmea/da-capo-conference/) or on the B.U.S.M.E.A. Facebook page. Registration will also be taking place at a table in the music building on January 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. Other registrations are due January 11<sup>th</sup>. Feel free to contact any BUSMEA member or email [busmea@brandonu.ca](mailto:busmea@brandonu.ca) with any questions. Don't forget to check out our promotion videos posted weekly on our Facebook page!



## Coalition for Music Education in Canada

### Report to the Manitoba Music Educators' Association Meeting - November 2017

- The Coalition supported and attended the Canadian Network for Arts and Learning's National Conference on *Celebrating Canadian Diversity* in Ottawa (October 18-20). Youth4Music Ambassadors presented a youth-led research poster presentation, and hosted a Youth4Music Ottawa Leadership Symposium for the importance of music and music education in Ottawa.
- As a research partner with the Music Tool Suite programs, the Coalition has implemented these tools into its events and symposium presentations throughout Ontario. The tools support students and teachers in the technological advancement of digital resources for music making, teaching, and learning. For more information please visit [www.musictoolsuite.ca](http://www.musictoolsuite.ca)
- The Coalition hosted an information booth at the OMEA Conference in Deerhurst with four Youth4Music Ambassadors, speaking to Coalition programming including the Youth4Music Program and Music Monday 2018. The Coalition also held a workshop at the conference titled, *Activating Youth Leaders*, centering around the Youth4Music Manifesto. The overall conference experience was a positive one and we look forward to fostering connections made during the weekend.
- The Coalition is hosting two upcoming Youth4Music events in Ontario:
  - Youth4Music Toronto Leadership Exchange (November 18th) at Ryerson University. The exchange will include speakers, live music, panel discussions, creative jam sessions, and networking opportunities with youth leaders who are passionate about music and music education. The day will facilitate actions for change guided by the Youth4Music Manifesto, '*learning, creating, making and valuing music in Canada*'.
  - Youth4Music North Bay event (November 25) at the Big Medicine Studio in First Nipissing Nation will focus on the importance of music and Aboriginal culture. This event is led by Youth4Music Ambassador and First Nations, Métis and Intuit project lead, Cole Forrest and includes speakers, live music, Youth4Music Manifesto discussion and will end with a round dance.
  - More information about our events and to register is available on our website [www.youth4music.ca](http://www.youth4music.ca)
- The Coalition is developing a special Music Monday 2018 announcement for this coming year's Music Monday - Monday, May 7, 2018. In collaboration with rural and urban communities across the country, Music Monday 2018 will focus on collaboration and engagement of local schools and organizations, who celebrate together for the importance of music where they live. '*Sing It Together*' will continue

as the Music Monday 2018 Anthem, with free resources available online at [www.musicmonday.ca](http://www.musicmonday.ca). Stay tuned!





## **A conversation with Patsy Andrews-Vert**

*with Derek Klassen*

(December 2016)

I recently had the honour and privilege to get together with Mrs. Patsy Andrews-Vert, longtime band teacher, former MBA board member, and all-round champion of music education. Patsy has been active in the music education scene for over 30 years in both Saskatchewan and Manitoba, and her contributions to her many students and to our community are numerous. Recently retired, Patsy continues to serve on various boards and volunteer organizations, in addition to subbing regularly in the Prairie Rose and Red River Valley areas.

### **Where and when were you born?**

I was born in Melita, MB on February 26, 1961.

### **Tell me about your early experiences in music.**

I started singing in junior church choir when I was three, and I had to memorize everything, because I couldn't read yet. It's surprising, since I can't memorize anything now! I started taking piano when I was about seven years old. In school, we had "classroom music" in early years, but it was the classroom teacher who taught it (not a music specialist), so it was basically singing – which I was good with! When I moved to Souris, we had a music specialist, so from mid-grade 4 to grade 6 I had that. Then in grade 7, we chose band or art, and I chose band. From there on I took band all the way through high school.

### **Give us a brief synopsis on how you became a music educator. Were there specific people or experiences that inspired you?**

I took piano and band all the way through school, and I always attended IMC for a week each summer. I was also very involved in 4-H during my school years. As I neared high school graduation, my two choices on what to pursue were Home Economics (now known as Human Ecology) or Music. The first day of grade 12 I went to see the "advisor" in the office, and I said "I think I'm going to go into music", to which her reply was "I was hoping you'd say that! Anyone can go into Home Ec, but not just anyone can go into music successfully." When I heard that, it was like confirmation that it was the right thing for me to do, so that was how I made my initial decision. I entered the Faculty of Music at Brandon University right out of high school. In my final year, even before I had received my diploma, the band director in Reston/Sinclair/Elkhorn/Kola was in an accident, and so myself and another girl who I was graduating with split the job for about 6 weeks in April/May – she did two schools and I did two – that way we could still have time to go to job interviews as well. It was way more money than we were used to at the time!

### **Describe some of your early teaching assignments.**

Right out of university, I applied for a job in Neepawa and didn't get it. There weren't many jobs available in Manitoba that year (1984) – it was pretty dry, even in Winnipeg. I applied in Saskatchewan, and was hired with the Arcola School Division, which is just over the border – straight west on highway number two. There I taught for seven years in Bellegarde, Redvers, Manor, Wawota, and Kennedy, and lived in Redvers. The first year I taught at all five schools, but by the end of my time there was down to just three. The cool thing about that job was that we also had two divisional bands that met once a week. It was mostly parent-driven, and I think we

met Mondays after school in Carlyle, which was a central location. In this way we got to team teach – there were two band directors and we shared a common library. It was a very cool experience as a new teacher. The fellow that I initially team taught with was a seasoned teacher from Ontario. Then Blaine McClary came in – he had taught in Swan River for a while – and he was a master teacher, just amazing. The other person that worked with him in Swan River or maybe Yorkton was Murray Lawrence. By my last year in this position, a new teacher came in to do the other half, but by then I had some experience and could help out the new person – just the coolest experience! Team teaching has been a very positive and worthwhile experience any time that I’ve had the opportunity to do it.

**Upon retirement, you had held your position in St. Paul’s/Starbuck/Sanford for 25 years. What are some accomplishments from your time there that you are particularly proud of?**

I would say the growth in the program over the years – when I arrived at St. Paul’s there were about 35 students, and when I left we had about 100 – we had been above that number, but of course the school populations go up and down. We always sort of prided ourselves at St. Paul’s that we were around 50% of the student population in band. I always had supportive administration at St. Paul’s, which was a huge part of the success.

**What is a memorable experience from your teaching career?**

The kids always looked SO forward to going on tour every other year. Sometimes we had to make concessions on the type of trip, because going to “place x” just wasn’t in the cards financially for enough of the group. If they didn’t pretty much all go, then no one was going! I learned early on from my kids that they preferred to play for other kids – that when they went on tour they didn’t really care if they went to a festival. A festival was memorable for ME, and was a great educational opportunity, but in the end it wasn’t really something that they talked about afterwards. Reading the kids and knowing what will work for each group is important. Probably the most memorable experience – and one that the kids still talk about when I see them in Wal-Mart or wherever – is playing for inner-city kids in Minneapolis. Some of them have really tough backgrounds. Those kids love music, and as soon as you start to play, they move. There is nothing more than knowing that you’ve reached your audience. And for the students, being asked for an autograph from a little kid is just the ultimate!

**What advice do you have for younger directors or recent graduates entering the field?**

Know your students. No amount of clarinet technique or score study will help you know who you are teaching. You just have to get to know your students. It does take time, but you have to know your students and your community, especially in rural areas. How do you do that? You have fun once in a while, you supervise dances, you go to their basketball games, go to their 4-H achievement events, and just get out there. You also have to be you, and also let them be them – no matter how much you want to or try to, you cannot mold your students into you!

**Further to the last question, what are your thoughts on keeping a healthy work/life balance in the music teaching profession?**

As I got older, I realized I needed to leave things at school. That’s not something you know when you’re young, or can even necessarily do when you’re young. When I started teaching, it didn’t matter when we went on tour, but as I got older I began to guard certain times such as Spring Break and May Long Weekend, and I started only going back to my classrooms after Labour Day. I felt it was better for me to take that break, and then if I needed to stay longer hours the first week back in September, that was fine. If you’re given personal days, use them; if you’re sick, stay home! There are busy times of year for sure, but those happen in any profession. In our profession we are fortunate to have built in chunks of time to slow down – we need that time. Since my husband is a pastor, we would also take some time each year to go away – if not flying somewhere, then just going away for a few days. Even if we had time off at home, there were still phone calls, people at the door, the computer, etc. Sometimes you just need to unplug and get away!

**You have and continue to wear many hats within the MBA and beyond. What projects are you currently involved in?**

My other love besides teaching band and being involved with bands is handbells. I got involved in that 27 years ago after we were married. Our church was given a set of handbells, and so my husband and I went to IMC to learn how to play bells. We've just continued with it – it's something that he and I do together – we have a choir at our church, I'm very involved provincially, I play in a quartet in Winnipeg, and I'm the national chair. This also leads to international gatherings, one of which we held in Vancouver this past summer – representatives from Japan, Korea, Australia, Britain, North America, and others attend, so it's a big deal. Since it was held in Canada, I chaired that meeting as well, which was very cool. In two years, I'll go to Australia, and I'll probably be the Canadian rep there.

**Why do you feel it is important for teachers to get involved in associations like the MBA & MMEA?**

It's the island thing. If you don't get involved in this field, especially in cases where band is only a portion of your job, you'll end up isolated. By belonging to a professional organization, at least you have contacts that do some of the research for you and make your job easier. You can ask people "What are you playing with your kids for Christmas?" or "What are you playing with your kids for festival?". That's the other side of it – you can take your kids to events like Optimist and Solo and Ensemble and the list goes on. You might not go every year, but when it will benefit the kids, then go! There again you need to know your students.

**In your view, how can we best advocate for band education?**

That's a tough question. We all know what we do well, but often we don't "advertise" it as much as we should, or we don't explain it to others in a way that they can understand. This advocacy piece is something I've struggled with my entire career. I know what it is and what it should be, but to communicate that – and I don't mean simply putting a paragraph in the school newsletter – is difficult. I really feel that advocacy goes right back to your connection with the community. Community groups help a lot. The Prairie Redcoats are out of Miami/Somerset, and we had a community band in Winkler for a few years under Paul Moen as well. My friend Margaret and I went down to play in that one, and now we go to play in the Westwood Community Band every week. Last year we came to Starbuck to do a concert, and we are coming again this week to do another one. Last year I had my three oldest students from Starbuck play together with the community group for one piece, and a similar thing will happen this week. This is a good way to show people that music doesn't stop after high school – you can and should continue to be involved in it throughout life.

**What is the value of being able to participate in a school band program?**

Teamwork. Everybody is a piece of the puzzle. You don't have to be a "star" on your particular instrument in order to be part of that larger group. Now in later years, we've all had kids with special needs who contribute many things to our ensembles – not always musically or rhythmically – but they contribute inclusion, acceptance, and many times humour! Those students can come on tour with us, but they would not be able to go on tour with the basketball or volleyball team, at least not as a player. I think it's also a way that we can give back to the community. Need someone to play trumpet for Remembrance Day? Very often we can – not every time, but sometimes. We can provide Christmas concerts, which is part of Canadian tradition in many areas. These events bring people together, and bring parents and grandparents into the school that would likely never come otherwise.

**Is there anything you would like to share with the Manitoba band community?**

We are very fortunate in Manitoba to have such a strong band community – in fact we have a strong music community. MBA, MCA, MMEA, the Manitoba Guild of English Handbell Ringers, and the Manitoba Orff Chapter are all strong – we are lucky in Manitoba! We have people who are willing to

share and willing to volunteer time to be part of those organizations. We all know that volunteerism is down in society in general, but I don't think these organizations have seen any suffrage. Our band community is very supportive of one another, and always willing to share – we really do a great job of paying it forward, and the MBA ties us all together.

**THANK YOU PATSY!**

# WARM UP THIS WINTER AT OUR UPCOMING WORKSHOPS!



**BRANDON MAKE 'N TAKE**  
January 18, 2018  
Register [HERE](#)

**VENEZ-VOUS AMUSER AVEC ORFF**  
avec Stephanie Gogal et Marie-Claude MacDonald  
January 20, 2018  
Enregistrez [ICI](#)

**WINTER WORKSHOP**  
with Sean Fitzmaurice and Steph Davis  
February 10, 2018  
Register [HERE](#)



# **MOC UPCOMING EVENTS**

Please visit [www.manitobaorff.org](http://www.manitobaorff.org) to register.

## **Brandon Make 'n Take**

January 18, 2018

## **Venez vous amusez avec Orff! (French Workshop)**

January 20, 2018

## **Winter Workshop with Sean Fitzmaurice and Steph Davis**

February 10, 2018

## **Cascade – COC National Orff Conference (Niagra Falls ON)**

April 19-22, 2018

## **Children's Day (English, Winnipeg MB)**

April 25, 2018

## **Journée pour enfants (French, Winnipeg MB)**

April 26, 2018

## **Children's Day (Brandon)**

April 27, 2018

## **Stay 'n Play**

May 17, 2018





# STUDENT POWER!



Students are the vehicle of information and advocacy for the future! They are also a vehicle of knowledge and information for their parents. I once had a student say in the middle of class “Basically we learn Math, Geography, Science, English and Music all in one class!” What was even better is this happened to be when my principal was sitting in to do one of my teaching evaluations. The part that made me especially happy was that this student could realize that, yes, we were learning and using aspects of other subject areas, but that Music also had to be in a category of its own as there are things we learn that cannot be done in any other setting.

As music teachers, we all know the importance and benefits of music that students do not encounter in any other setting. However, often we are asked to provide proof as to how music benefits core curricular content since so many others do not see the benefits of music in itself. Instead of seeing this as offensive, we need to use it to our benefit. The reality is that music works the brain in ways that no other classes do, but it also highly supports the learning and development of students in all other areas. So here are some ideas of how you can ensure that message is presented to your students so they can be our young music advocates:

- Have a list of other subject areas on your white board or bulletin board. At the end of music class ask students which subject areas their music learning can also be applied to. Then ask them if there are any parts of their music learning that cannot be applied to other subject areas.
- When working on world music be sure to show students where the countries/cities/etc. are located on a map so they have a clear geographical sense of where we live in relation.
- When writing lyrics to songs as a class or in groups refer to terms they have learnt when studying poetry and writing in class. Onomatopoeia, hyperbole, metaphor, and simile are some that work well with song writing.
- Have students acknowledge their emotional reactions to different songs and musical works. Help them understand why they may be feeling the way they are. As the familiar quote goes “Music allows us to express that which words cannot.” There is something very rewarding about seeing 7 and 8 year old students react with sympathy, empathy, and tears to a successful creative movement and choral performance by their peer class of “True Colors.”

I also like creating a bulletin board display in my classroom that shows how music education helps support all other subject areas. However, it also displays all the things music education provides that cannot and are not learnt in all other subject areas. I find reviewing it with students helps them to further understand what they are learning and the importance that music has on their education across the board.

*Submitted by Brittany Goulet*

## **Invitation destinée aux enseignantes et enseignants de musique œuvrant en français**

Carl Orff Canada (COC) et la Faculté de musique de l'Université du Manitoba explorent la possibilité d'offrir de l'apprentissage professionnel incluant des formations intensives Orff en français à Winnipeg. Nous vous invitons à remplir et à envoyer ce court [sondage](https://fr.surveymonkey.com/r/9PQLH7R) **avant le 15 janvier 2018**. Vos réponses nous permettront d'évaluer l'intérêt. Merci à l'avance! <https://fr.surveymonkey.com/r/9PQLH7R>

## **Invitation to Music Teachers Working in French**

Carl Orff Canada (COC) and the Faculty of Music at the University of Manitoba are exploring the possibility of offering Orff professional learning including Orff levels in French in Winnipeg. We invite you to submit this short [survey](https://fr.surveymonkey.com/r/9PQLH7R) **before January 15, 2018**. Your responses will help us to evaluate the level of interest. Thank you in advance! <https://fr.surveymonkey.com/r/9PQLH7R>

*Julie Mongeon-Ferré*, co-correspondante Carl Orff Canada

*Jody Stark*, Assistant Professor of Music Education, Desautels Faculty of Music  
University of Manitoba

**WSO News** | December, 2017

The holiday season is upon us, and although that likely means a frantic pace, we hope that is followed by a well-earned rest and time to refresh and reflect with family and friends. Everyone here at the WSO wishes you and yours all the best this season!

**Experience live symphonic music!**

There are many opportunities for your students to experience the joy of live symphonic music this winter. We do our best to make it easy for you to connect with us, and we provide a comprehensive, curriculum-connected experience that makes it easy for you to deepen your students' learning experience for students of all ages.

**Musical Discoveries (Gr. 1–3)** is just around the corner on January 15 & 16 and this year we bring you a wondrous Swahili Folk-tale called *The Twins and the Monster* set to music composed by Canadian composer John Estacio. This program, presented by Dandi Productions and designed for students in grades 1-3, will highlight the different instruments of the orchestra while your students enjoy the visuals provided by beautiful hand-carved masks.

**Adventures in Music (Gr 4–6)** this year is a reimagining of *Music in Motion* where students will experience a wide variety of music and dance styles featuring an aerialist, indigenous dance and drumming, Ukrainian dance and ballet plus your very own student performers in dance, string and recorder ensembles on stage with the orchestra. There are still some performance opportunities—don't pass up the chance for your students to share the stage with the WSO at Centennial Concert Hall. No other orchestra provides this kind of opportunity, and it's an amazing experience—one your students will never forget.

Tickets for both programs are just \$7.25 and are still available at several performances (see *Important Dates* to your right). Contact us today to place your order!

We have also expanded our **Student Matinee** series (Gr 6–12) this year due to popular demand, and there are still three more fantastic matinees in the new year. You may have heard that WSO declared this year the Year of the Conductor as we conduct our search for a new Music Director, and not only are these a comprehensive and compact symphony experience for your middle and high school students, but they're also a great way to get to know some of our conductor candidates throughout the year. Lesson plans written by Cheryl Ferguson are provided free of charge with every ticket order.

Thank you for all that you do to provide your students exceptional musical experiences. That's our goal too, and I hope we get to work together this year.

See you at the concert hall,



Brent Johnson,  
*Education & Community Engagement Manager*

**EDUCATION & COMMUNITY  
ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMS**

Check [wso.ca](http://wso.ca) for more concerts!

**IMPORTANT DATES**

**Musical Discoveries (Gr. 1 - 3)**

**THE TWINS AND THE MONSTER**

[Weblink](#) | [Order Form](#)

- Mon, Jan 15 10:30AM
- ~~Tue, Jan 16 10:30AM SOLD-OUT~~
- Tue, Jan 16 1:00PM

**Student Matinees (Gr.6-12)**

**SCHUMANN'S 3RD**

- Fri, Feb 9 10:05AM [Order Form](#)

**Adventures in Music (Gr. 4 - 6)**

**MUSIC IN MOTION**

[Weblink](#) | [Order Form](#)

- Fri, Feb 9 ARTWORK DEADLINE
- ~~Tue, Mar 13 10:30am SOLD-OUT~~
- Tue, Mar 13 1:00pm
- ~~Wed, Mar 14 10:30am SOLD-OUT~~
- Wed, Mar 14 1:00pm
- ~~Tue, Apr 24 10:30am SOLD-OUT~~
- Tue, Apr 24 1:00pm
- Wed, Apr 25 10:30am
- Mercredi le 24 avril 13h00 (en Français)

**Student Matinees (Gr.6-12)**

**RACHMANINOFF'S 2ND**

- Fri, Apr 6 10:05AM [Order Form](#)

**STRAUSS: EIN HELDENLEBEN**

- Fri, May 11 10:05AM [Order Form](#)

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Seating & Payment Inquiries**

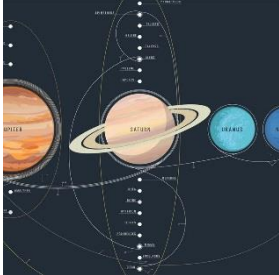
Theresa Huscroft  
Group Events Representative  
Phone: (204) 949-3995  
E-mail: [thuscroft@wso.mb.ca](mailto:thuscroft@wso.mb.ca)

**Program Inquiries**

Brent Johnson  
Education & Community Engagement Manager  
Phone: (204) 949-3964



Orff Children's Day 2018



## ***Back to the Future:***

# ***An intergalactic exploration***



Winnipeg (English) – Wednesday, April 25, 2018 – Centre culturel franco-manitobain  
Winnipeg (français) – Thursday, April 26, 2018 – Centre culturel franco-manitobain  
Brandon – Friday, April 27, 2018 – Brandon University School of Music

9:00am – 3:30pm

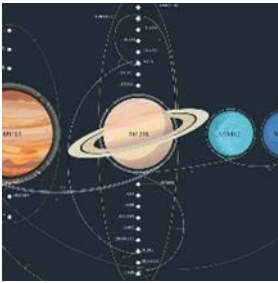
- A day of musical enrichment for grade 5 students and teachers
- Sessions in movement, recorder, choral, percussion, and Basic Orff
- Students experience the Orff approach
- Sessions are led by experienced Orff educators
- Unique PD opportunity for teachers
- Teachers can attend with or without students



Contact Lori Arthur at [lori.arthur@lrsd.net](mailto:lori.arthur@lrsd.net) for more information.



Journée Orff pour enfants 2017



**Retour vers le futur :**

**une exploration intergalactique**



Centre culturel franco-manitobain  
Le mercredi 25 avril : écoles du programme anglais  
Le jeudi 26 avril : écoles des programmes français et d'immersion française

Brandon University School of Music, Brandon  
Le vendredi 27 avril

- une journée d'enrichissement musical pour les élèves de la 5<sup>e</sup> année
- des ateliers de mouvement, chant choral, flûte à bec, percussions et Orff de base
- un enseignement basé sur l'approche Orff
- une occasion unique d'apprentissage professionnel pour les enseignants de musique
- la chance de voir à l'œuvre des enseignants qualifiés en pédagogie Orff
- les enseignants sont les bienvenus avec leurs élèves



Pour plus d'information, communiquez avec Lori Arthur, [lori.arthur@lrsd.net](mailto:lori.arthur@lrsd.net)



*Manitoba Orff Chapter*  
MUSIC FOR CHILDREN - CARL ORFF CANADA - MUSIQUE POUR ENFANTS



## Take an Orff Levels Course This Summer!

A Professional Development Opportunity for **ALL K-12 Music Educators**

### What is the Orff Approach?

The Orff approach is a way of teaching music to all children through doing, exploring, and improvising. It combines elements of speech, rhythm, movement, song, and dance to teach musical elements and provide children with tools to improvise and create. Teaching with the Orff approach provides multiple entry points and endless opportunities for differentiated instruction, creating a place for every child to grow as a musician.

### Read more about the benefits of Level I, Level II, and Level III [here!](#)

\*Level III will be instructed by Marcelline Moody! Don't miss this great opportunity to learn under her guidance!

**Thinking of taking an Orff Levels Course? Please complete this [form](#) to help the U of M plan which levels to offer and to receive updates about the courses and registration information as it becomes available!**

**Questions?** Contact [Jody Stark](#), Assistant Professor of Music Education, Desautels Faculty of Music University of Manitoba

**Scholarships** are available from both Carl Orff Canada and the Manitoba Orff Chapter to assist with tuition. For more information about the *Gunild Keetman Scholarship (COC)* or the *Helen Neufeld Memorial Scholarship (MOC)*, click [here](#).

July 8-13, 2018

# fikamusik

Professional Development for  
Choral Conductors & Music  
Educators

*with*

**Dr. Catherine Robbins**

**Dr. Elroy Friesen**



*REGISTRATION INFORMATION COMING SOON*

[umanitoba.ca/music/fikamusik](http://umanitoba.ca/music/fikamusik)

