



FEBRUARY 2019

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

PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

VIRGINIA HELMER

Hello all,

As we struggle through the frigid temperatures of January and February, and survive the challenges of “Blue Monday”, it is important to remember how lucky we are to be able to immerse ourselves in music. Recently, I attended a choral workshop given by Janet Brenneman. Janet took us through about 20 minutes of vocal warmups at the beginning of the session, and it reminded me just how great it feels to breathe deeply, relax, and sing!

According to the article I have attached below, singing strengthens the immune system, helps us sleep better, lowers stress levels, improves mental alertness and acts as a natural anti-depressant. In addition to the physical benefits, being a member of a choir or other musical ensemble also has significant social benefits. Entering festival season, I hope we all remember that as we encourage our students to work hard to achieve their highest quality performances, we must not lose sight of the enormous value of simply taking a deep breath and making a joyful sound.

In the December edition of the Manitoba Teacher, education minister Kelvin Goertzen encouraged teachers to provide input on a “once-in-a-generation review of K-12 education” in our province. An online component and public forums will provide opportunities for all voices to be heard. The MMEA believes that the best advocacy for music education is strong music programs. We are blessed here in Manitoba to be able to draw attention to the many exemplary music programs operating in our province. Articles like the one below also give us another great tool when we want to help others understand the value of music in our schools.

<https://takelessons.com/live/singing/health-benefits-of-singing>

Enjoy!

Virginia Helmer  
MMEA President

# Calendar of Events and Activities

MBA events - <https://www.mbband.org/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>
2019			
February 8-9	WestMan Region Honour Band		MBA
February 9	Winter Workshop with Aimee Pfitzner		MOC
February 19-22	MBA Concert Band Festival		MBA
February 27 – March 2	MBA Jazz Band Festival		MBA
March 1	Kodály Society of Canada Workshop		U of M
March 14-16	Brandon Jazz Festival		
March 16	Community Band Festival (Roland MB)		MBA
April 5 – 7	Central Region Honour Band		MBA
April 14	Community Band Festival – Pinawa		MBA
April 24-25	Level One Band Festival (Brandon)		MBA
April 26	Children’s Day (Brandon)		MOC
April 30	Children’s Day (Winnipeg)		MOC
April 30-May 3	Level One Band Festival (Winnipeg)		MBA
May 1	Children’s Day – French (Winnipeg)		MOC
May 5-12	Canadian Band Association – National Youth Band in Manitoba		MBA
May 6	Music Monday		
May 7-11	National Youth Band of Canada in Manitoba		MBA
May 9-11	Manitoba Jr and Int. Honour Band		MBA
June 1-2	Community Band Festival (The Forks)		MBA
June 3	Creative Music Festival		MCGA
July 2-12	Orff-Schulwerk levels 1 & 2		MOC/U of M
July 3-6	Canadian Conference of Music Teachers’ Association – Winnipeg		MRMTA
July 15-26	Kodály Level 1		U of M

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

# Da Capo Conference

Brandon University Student Music Educator's Thirteenth Annual Da Capo Conference was held on January 19, 2019. This year the School of Music welcomed more than seventy music education students and teachers alike for a day of learning and music making.

The day began with a keynote presentation by Michael Brandon, master educator from Lord Selkirk Regional Comprehensive High School about the cultural and pedagogical pillars in a music program. Sessions throughout the day were presented by Melissa Spraggs, John Hodge, Roberta Matheson, Justine Burke, Graydon Cramer, Jarrett Fuller, Dr. Wendy McCallum, Kevin Doell, Karen Warner, Marla Fontaine, Taylor Schmidt, Jeff McPherson, and Donna Turk. From An Orff Approach to Arranging, Running a Jazz Band Rehearsal, Simple Technology Tools for any Music Room, to Multi-Level Fiddle Sessions, it was a great day of networking, music making, and learning together.

For the first time, this year's conference featured sessions on fiddle pedagogy. Master educators Donna Turk of Forget, Saskatchewan, and Karen Warner of Winnipeg, Manitoba were featured clinicians.

Before moving to Saskatchewan, Donna Turk was the Artistic Director of the Bow Valley Fiddlers, which is the feeder group to the Calgary Fiddlers in Calgary, Alberta. Currently, Donna has a studio in Forget which includes private and group lessons. She is the co-director of the group Focal Point, a young group of students, who appeared at the Natalie McMaster concert in Winkler, MB this past December. Along with teaching her own studio, she also teaches at a school in White Bear First Nation. Donna's session at Da Capo focused on the initial contact with the fiddle. To demonstrate, she gave adult volunteers their very first fiddle lesson and explained her process.

Karen, a strings educator in the Seven Oaks School Division is involved with a number of workshops, including Shivering Strings and Frontier Fiddle Jamborees. In addition to these workshops, she is also an adjudicator for Manitoba fiddle competitions. Karen's sessions at Da Capo focused on group teaching, which is a significant aspect of teaching fiddle. She outlined ideas for teaching and arranging technique and repertoire for multi-level classrooms. Karen's information was especially welcome because pedagogical resources for instruction of this style of music are few.

All the sessions were immensely informative and inspiring. The opportunity to receive ideas and information from leading professionals is an invaluable experience. This is true, not only for people interested in the area of fiddle pedagogy, but for music educators interested in gaining greater breadth of understanding where opportunities are few and far between.

One participant described Da Capo as:

“A very amazing and inspiring day! An incredibly impressive conference!”

Da Capo 2020 will be held on Saturday, January 18 2020– next year's plans include additional fiddle and string sessions as well as a full blown Kitchen Party. See you there.



## A conversation with Donna Wryha

with Jennifer Shead

(April 2018)



### An Interview with Donna Wryha

Donna was born in Winnipeg on May 10, 1960, and was raised in East Kildonan. She received her Bachelor of Music in 1982, and her Certificate of Education in 1983, both from the University of Manitoba. Early on, she played the clarinet, alto and tenor saxophones and tuba, and was on the executive committee of the Kildonan Community Concert Band under the baton of Monty Schoen and Marilyn Bourbonnais. She played the clarinet for one season in the Winnipeg Winds, under the baton of Orv Anderson. She has adjudicated in the Agassiz Festival of the Arts (for recorder), and more recently has enjoyed working with other instructors involved in the Eastman/Interlake Honour Band program. She currently plays the clarinet in the Eastman Community Concert Band under the direction of Peter Hayward and trumpet in the Pinawa Stage Band under the direction of Sandy McDowell. She is also a regular attendee at the International Peace Gardens summer band camp for adults, where she plays under the baton of Cheryl Ferguson in the advanced band, and under the direction of John Darling in the jazz band. Donna recently retired from teaching in the Whiteshell School District in June 2017.

### Could you provide a brief history of your career as a band director?

I started teaching band in 1983 in the River East School Division, first at Morse Place Junior High then River East Collegiate. This was followed by a year teaching general music at Immaculate Heart of Mary School before accepting a position that would last 27 years. This was at Pinawa Secondary School and F. W. Gilbert Elementary School in the Whiteshell School District. For two of those years it also involved a third school, W.B.Lewis Elementary School. I was the itinerant music teacher from 1990 to 2017.

### What have you been up to since retirement?

Since retiring, I have been substitute teaching in the two schools in Pinawa, in all subject areas and grade levels. I have remained an active supporter of the school music program, particularly by staying on the Pinawa Band Aid Executive. Personally, I have made a daily routine for myself of regular exercise and other activities. I continue to play in the Pinawa Stage Band and Eastman Community Concert Band, and enjoy more frequent trips to Winnipeg, visiting family.

### What is a challenge you have encountered as a band director and how did you overcome that challenge?

I have had the challenge of being the only teacher of music in my division. Although the community has been huge in its support of the arts, including a local community band and stage band, some needs I felt were left wanting. Only since the formation in 2015 of the Eastern Interlake Honour Band Committee of regional band teachers have I felt a real and lasting connection to others in my field. Talking to others about programs, challenges and successes reassured me about the things I was also promoting.

**How has the Manitoba band scene changed in the last 35 years from your perspective?**

Since 1983, Manitoba bands have remained vital but smaller, and supported by most. The addition of more accessible events across the province, such as the Eastman Interlake Honour Band, are making it possible for young musicians to play together as a community. There is less isolation of band programs in rural areas, which is so crucial when faced with declining enrollment.

**What was the most rewarding part of your time as a band director?**

April 26, 9:00 a.m., 2010, Winspear Centre for Music, Edmonton, Alberta, Cantando Music Festival. All 3 of my children, Matt (1st Trumpet), Sarah (Bass Clarinet), and Adam (Trombone) were a part of the Pinawa Secondary Concert Band, performing "Fire Dance" by David Schaeffer. One of our chaperones (and former concert band member) replied that he was completely awed by our "flawless" performance. Everything just seemed to come together, musically, emotionally and personally. It is a time my 3 adult children and I still talk about to this day.

**What are your top 5 concert band pieces of all time?**

"Irish Tune From County Derry and Sheperd's Hey" by Percy Grainger; "Three Ayres from Gloucester" by Hugh M. Stuart; "Concert Variations" by Claude T. Smith; "Creed" by William Himes; "Fire Dance" by David Schaeffer; and "Tu Ungane" by Scott Watson (honourable mention: last piece I conducted).

**From your perspective, what is the number one thing we should be teaching kids about music?**

Play to perform. Learn your craft well enough to hopefully inspire others to want to join in. Stay the course. Learn to play with good tone, rhythm, phrasing, dynamics and technique. Have as many mini performances as possible for one or more to hear. Record yourself often. Listen and give yourself and others feedback. Be your own audience first if you want to play in front of an audience.

**What is the best piece of advice you could give to a young band director in Manitoba?**

Get into the students' classrooms and involve yourselves if at all possible in learning something new along with them. It could be reading a student novel, learning a new dance, song lyrics, sport or new instrument, etc. Show that you are human, and a life-learner. This is what you should want for each of your students.

**Is there anything you are really passionate about that you want to communicate?**

Play in a band. Do not let an instrument collect dust if you have an opportunity to play it. Life-long learning is key to a long, happy life.



# Manitoba Orff Chapter

MUSIC FOR CHILDREN - CARL ORFF CANADA - MUSIQUE POUR ENFANTS



## UPCOMING EVENTS...

### WINTER WORKSHOP – FEBRUARY 9, 2019

Winter Workshop with Aimee Curtis-Pfitzner is coming up on Saturday, February 9, 2019 at École South Pointe School. Please note the change in time for this workshop this year; the workshop is from 8:45am-1:15pm. Aimee is an excellent Orff educator and clinician. If you haven't checked out her resources or blog, please see our website for links. This workshop is sure to be a lot of fun and an excellent professional development opportunity! Register [here](#)!

### CHILDREN'S DAY – APRIL 26, APRIL 30, & MAY 1, 2019

The Manitoba Orff Chapter's Children's Day Committee has been hard at work preparing for this year's Children's Day events on April 26 (Brandon), April 30 (Winnipeg- English), and May 1 (Winnipeg-French). This year's theme "These Are a Few of my Favorite Things" is sure to excite and inspire children and adults alike! Registration is open until March 22, although, limited space is available. Click [here](#) for more information.

### STAY 'N PLAY – MAY 16, 2019

Mark your calendars! This year's Stay 'n Play will be led by Sean Fitzmaurice on Thursday, May 16, 2019 from 5:00pm-7:30pm at Highbury School. Sean has a wealth of knowledge about and experience with the repertoire in all of the Volumes, as well as the supplemental books. This workshop is an informal opportunity to play repertoire from the volumes with colleagues, and is always a lot of fun. This event is free for MOC members!

### PLAY! – JUNE 6, 2019

Mark your calendars! Every two years, the MOC holds an advocacy event called **Play!**. Play! is a day of performances by children's groups in celebration of elementary music education in Manitoba. This year's event will be held on Thursday, June 6, 2019. Registration for performing groups is now open. Click [here](#) for more information.

### ORFF LEVELS COURSES – JULY 2-12, 2019

This year, the University of Manitoba is offering Level I and Level II from July 2-12. Click [here](#) for more information. If you are planning on taking Level II this year, there are two different scholarships that you can apply for to help with the cost of tuition and resources. The first is the Gunild Keetman Scholarship (due April 15) that is awarded annually by Carl Orff Canada and the second is the Helen Neufeld Memorial Scholarship (due May 17) that is awarded annually by the Manitoba Orff Chapter. For more about these awards, please visit the Awards and Scholarships page on the MOC website: <http://www.manitobaorff.org/scholarships---awards.html>

### CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS!

The Manitoba Orff Chapter is beginning to plan for its 2019-2021 Board of Directors. Serving as a board member is a great opportunity to network and give back to the music education community! If you are interested in volunteering on the board please contact Jewel Casselman at [jicassel@mymts.net](mailto:jicassel@mymts.net)



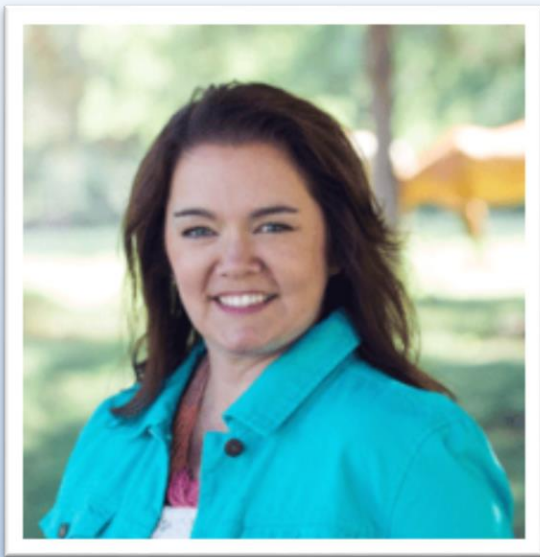


*Manitoba Orff Chapter*  
MUSIC FOR CHILDREN - CARL ORFF CANADA - MUSIQUE POUR ENFANTS



Join us for...

## **WINTER WORKSHOP 2019**



with

**AIMEE PFITZNER**

February 9, 2019

8:45 AM - 1:15 PM

South Pointe School

615 Kirkbridge Dr.

Winnipeg, MB

Aimee is widely known for her [O Fortuna](#) music teacher blog as well as publications with Beaten Path Publications. Join us for a day of learning Aimee!

Click [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#) to check out some of Aimee's winter music lessons!



# Journée Orff pour enfants Orff children's Day 2019

These are a few of my Favourite Things...



Un peu de mes joies quotidiennes...

9:00am – 3:30pm

## **Brandon University School of Music, Brandon**

Friday, April 26, 2019 – English

le vendredi 26 avril – anglais

## **Centre culturel franco-manitobain, Winnipeg**

Tuesday, April 30, 2019 – English -

le mardi 30 avril – anglais – **PLEINE**

**FULL**

le mercredi 1 mai - français et

Wednesday, May 1, 2019 – French and

d'immersion française - **PLEINE**

French Immersion - **FULL**

To Register/Enregistrer:

<http://www.manitobaorff.org/children-s-day.html>

Questions? Contact/des questions? communiquez:

Shannon Moses, [shannon.moses@hotmail.com](mailto:shannon.moses@hotmail.com)



## MMEA Newsletter Submission, Winter 2019



The Coalition for Music Education in Canada is a national organization that seeks to raise the awareness and understanding of the role that music education plays in Canadian culture, and to promote the benefits that music education brings to young people. As we move towards May, the Coalition is eagerly preparing for our signature event: Music Monday.

Monday May 6, 2019 will mark our 15th annual Monday Monday. For this special anniversary, the Coalition will be hosting 10 Regional Celebrations across the country, providing Music Monday Dollars to more than 400 schools, and inspiring and supporting countless other events.

At 12:30pm EST, participants will join in a nation-wide collective singing of the Music Monday Anthem. This year, the Coalition is thrilled to announce that our anthem will be Oscar Peterson's iconic *Hymn to Freedom*, in a new bilingual arrangement. At a time when our world can seem divided and fractured, *Hymn to Freedom* espouses a message of unity and equality, which resonates as deeply today as it did in the 1960s, when it was embraced as the anthem of the Civil Rights Movement. We look forward to joining #TogetherInHarmony with you on May 6th.

To be part of this historic day, visit [www.coalitioncanada.ca](http://www.coalitioncanada.ca). You can learn more about our organization, discover celebrations in your area, or register your event. For more information, contact [musicmonday@coalitioncanada.ca](mailto:musicmonday@coalitioncanada.ca)

*There are many registration prizes still to be won! Register today!*



MMEA and Manitoba Education and Training are pleased to present the 2019 Music Month Concert Series at the Manitoba Legislative Building!

Concerts will take place on the Grand Staircase of the Manitoba Legislative Building from 11:30-12:30 on:

Thursday May 9 (en français)  
Thursday May 16  
Thursday May 23  
Thursday May 30

**APPLY TO PERFORM:**

All Kindergarten to Grade 12 Public, Independent, and First Nations schools are eligible to apply to perform at one of these concerts. The May 9th French concert will bring together groups from Français and French Immersion Program schools.

Please visit <https://www.mymmea.ca/music-month/> to apply.

**Applications close Feb 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

**CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS:**

MMEA is looking for volunteers to assist at each of the four Music Month Concerts. Volunteers would assist school groups upon arrival at the Legislative Building. The time commitment would be from 9:30-1:00 on concert days.

**If you can help at one or more of our concerts, please contact Leanne Jensen at [musicmonthconcerts@gmail.com](mailto:musicmonthconcerts@gmail.com)**



**M**ois de la  
**M**usique  
Music  
Month 2019


*Célébrer la*  
**Musique**  
*au sein des écoles du Manitoba*

[www.edu.gov.mb.ca/m12/progetu/arts/fl1/musique](http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/m12/progetu/arts/fl1/musique)

[www.edu.gov.mb.ca/m12/progetu/arts/fl2/musique](http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/m12/progetu/arts/fl2/musique)

*Celebrating*  
**Music**  
*in Manitoba Schools*

[www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/cur/arts/music](http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/cur/arts/music)



Join the Manitoba Orff Chapter and special guests as Manitoba students perform music in celebration of Carl Orff's approach to music education for children.

# PLAY! 2019

Thursday, June 6, 2019

10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

St. Vital Centre

Winnipeg, MB

Bring your students to perform at **PLAY!**

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Please contact Jewel at [jicassel@mymts.net](mailto:jicassel@mymts.net) for more information.







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## Professional Learning Opportunities for Music Educators at the U of M

### Summer Programs

The University of Manitoba is proud to be offering **Orff Schulwerk level 1 and 2** and **Kodály level 1** this summer. Join our award-winning faculty for an opportunity to enhance your pedagogy through the lens of either of these complementary methodologies. Scholarships are available for both programs through Carl Orff Canada, the Manitoba Orff Chapter, and the Kodály Society of Canada. See the respective association's website for details.

### An Opportunity to Study in French

Basic Orff level 2 will be offered in French **if there are enough people who indicate their interest by May 15**. This component will be available to those taking Orff level 2 for the first time (full days towards Orff certification) and those who have already completed level 2 in English (morning only). Please contact Jody Stark at [jody.stark@umanitoba.ca](mailto:jody.stark@umanitoba.ca) if you are interested in participating in Basic Orff 2 in French.

### Summer Course Dates and Registration

#### Orff level 1 and 2, Orff de base 2

July 2 to 12 (includes Saturday, July 6)

#### Kodály level 1

July 15 to 27 (Monday to Friday)

Registration for summer courses will open in late February.

Watch <http://umanitoba.ca.uml.idm.oclc.org/faculties/music/prospective/summer/index.html> for updated information and to register. We hope you'll join us!

### Kodály Society of Canada Workshop: March 1

The University of Manitoba is also pleased to be hosting a Kodály Society of Canada mini-conference on Friday, March 1 featuring clinicians from across Canada. Join us for sessions on successful part-singing, activities for developing literacy, music for Kindergarten, and inquiry learning. See <http://kodalysocietyofcanada.ca/workshops/> for information and to register. Hope to see you there!

(Also, be sure to check out the Manitoba Orff Chapter workshop this coming Saturday. It will be a great morning of music making and learning! See <http://www.manitobaorff.org/winter-workshop.html> to register).



UNIVERSITY  
OF MANITOBA

# Tempo

## **Manitoba Music Conference, October 25th, 2019**

It is that time of year when both my committee and I are in the beginning stages of planning and organizing your October 25th, 2019 Tempo: Manitoba Music Conference. As usual, there is much to do, but we are confident that as we move forward we will provide each of you with a wonderful and fulfilling day of professional development.

I know that by now you will have received an email from MMEA in regards to a **Tempo 2019 Session Proposal Application**. If you are interested in being considered as a session presenter please complete the proposal form found on [mymmea.ca](http://mymmea.ca) and submit by **Friday, February 15th, 2019**.

We are very excited to welcome back Dr. Tim Lautzenheiser as our 2019 keynote speaker. Dr. Tim is a trusted friend to anyone interested in working with young people in developing a desire for excellence and a passion for high-level achievement. Dr. Tim created Attitude Concepts for Today Inc., an organization designed to manage the many requests for workshops focusing on the area of positive attitude and effective leadership training. He is a nationally recognized voice touting the importance of arts education for every child. His books continue to be bestsellers in the educational world.

Sherryl Sewepagaham is a composer, music therapist, educator, curriculum writer, and national presenter. She is of Cree-Dene ancestry and is from the Little Red River Cree Nation in northern Alberta. Artie Almeida comes to us from Orlando, Florida. She is the author of 27 acclaimed teaching resources for elementary teachers. Michael Sweeney is Director of Band Publications for Hal Leonard Publishing. He contributes as a composer and arranger in all instrumental areas. Sweeney is particularly known for his writing at the younger levels for concert and jazz bands.

Further information about many more conference presenters and sessions will follow in the next MMEA Newsletter.

I look forward to seeing each of you on Friday, October 25th, 2019 at Mennonite Brethren Collegiate, 180 Riverton Avenue.

Judy Giesbrecht-  
Tempo: Manitoba Music Conference Chairperson