

The Opus

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President's Message

Happy New Year to colleagues and friends! I am pleased to bring you my first official correspondence as President of the NLMEA. I trust you have all enjoyed a very well deserved break and returned to your classrooms and schools with a renewed energy. I am pleased to also bring you the first official publication with our new name: The Newfoundland and Labrador Music Educators' Association (NLMEA). This change was voted on and approved by the NLTA at our most recent Biennial General Meeting on October 30th, 2020. We are very excited to align with our provincial counterparts as well as our national organization with the designation of MEA.

The 2020-21 school year has certainly brought many challenges and changes to the way in which we teach. Teaching in the midst of a global pandemic has helped us all to develop new skills and resourcefulness. We have found creative ways not only to deliver the curriculum, but to engage students and meet their social emotional needs through these unprecedented times. You've shown perseverance and resilience in the face of change and challenge. Your commitment to music education has not gone unnoticed.

2020 threw us many curve-balls, including the suspension

of in-person conferences. Despite this, or perhaps as a result of this, we were able to offer a significant amount of Professional Development. Beginning in the Spring of 2020 and continuing through the summer, we responded to the immediate need to provide online PD to address our ever-changing teaching landscape and prepare for what lay ahead. Furthermore, as a result of provincial health guidelines, Resonate 2020 moved to an online platform. While we enjoy Resonate and the opportunity to catch up with colleagues and participate in professional development, an in person conference was not possible. It was a difficult decision to move our conference online. Despite this fact, we were able to deliver some incredibly valuable professional learning for our colleagues. We all look forward to being able to learn together again when it is safe to do so. Until then, your provincial Music Educators' Association will be working hard to provide PD opportunities as creatively as we can.

I look forward to serving as the president of the NLMEA and am available to answer any questions or concerns you may have.

Thank you,
Michelle



NLTA Music Special Interest Council 2020-2022

Provincial Executive

President	Michelle Collins	Admiral's Academy	michellecollins@nlesd.ca
Past President	Ashley Beresford	Bishop Feild Elem. & Hazelwood Elem.	ashleyberesford@nlesd.ca
Vice President	Catherine Hoven	Fogo Island Central Academy	catherinetaylor@nlesd.ca
Treasurer	Sarah Caines	Rennie's River Elementary	sarahcaines@nlesd.ca
Secretary	Mitchell Hamilton	Bishop White Academy	mitchellhamilton@nlesd.ca
Communications	Kristian Butt	Indian River Academy	kristianbutt@nlesd.ca
Avalon East	Kerri Kao	Substitute	kerikao@nlesd.ca
Avalon West	Tiffany Smith	Persalvic Elementary	tiffanysmith@nlesd.ca
Central	Amanda Hollett	Pearce Junior High	amandahollett@nlesd.ca
Western	Jennifer Stratton-Renouf	J.J. Curling Elementary	jenniferstratton-renouf@nlesd.ca
Northern Peninsula	Ryan Wiltshire	French Shore Academy	ryanwiltshire@nlesd.ca
Labrador	Chris Ryan	Eric G. Lambert School	christopherryan@ericglambert.org
Associate	Jenny Hutchison	Long and McQuade	jhutchinson@long-mcquade.com
Student	Madison Curtis	Substitute	madisoncurtis@nlesd.ca

Provincial Executive Nominations

Kristian Butt, Communications Officer

Kristian Butt was elected for the position of Communications Officer of the Newfoundland and Labrador Music Educators' Association (NLMEA) at their most recent Biennial General Meeting in October 2020. Previously she sat as the Student representative with the association. Kristian is a graduate from Memorial University School of Music and Music Education. She is currently working as a K-6 Music Specialist and Grade 5 teacher in Springdale, NL.

Kristian is currently working towards a Masters in Educational Leadership at Memorial University. She has a keen interest in social change, social entrepreneurship and breaking down systemic barriers in education. Kristian enjoys playing bass with The Celtic Fiddlers, singing and conducting choirs.

In her spare time, Kristian volunteers with Kids Help Phone and other community organizations. She also loves to sew and craft on the weekends. Outside of music, Kristian is a social entrepreneur who has worked with the Centre for Social Enterprise, Stella's Circle and the Boys and Girls Clubs of St. John's.

Kristian is excited to be more involved with the NLMEA this year. She is eager to help plan professional learning and explore ways of reaching out to music educators across the island.

Mitchell Hamilton, Secretary

Mitchell Hamilton was nominated and elected for the position of Secretary of the Newfoundland and Labrador Music Educators' Association (NLMEA) at their most recent Biennial General Meeting in October 2020.

Mitchell is a graduate of Memorial University of Newfoundland. He received a Bachelor of Music in flute performance as well as a Bachelor of Music Education. Mitchell was awarded the University Medal for Academic Excellence. He has also earned a Master of Music degree from Indiana University focussing on performance and instrumental pedagogy.

Mitchell began his teaching career overseas where he taught music at an International School. Working at Cambridge English School in Kuwait, he initiated an instrumental music program and acted as interim department head during his short tenure. Mitchell currently teaches Kindergarten to Grade 9 music and family studies at Bishop White Academy in Port Rexton.

In his spare time, Mitchell enjoys reading and baking. He is currently looking forward to welcoming a new puppy at the end of this term!

Mitchell is very excited to be more involved in advocating for music education and helping to plan professional development as he serves his two year term as secretary for the NLMEA.

N L M E A

CALL FOR PRESENTERS RESONATE 2021

Resonate 2021

Will be taking place on **October 21-22** in St. John's. We are seeking applications for session presentations. The **deadline for applications is March 15, 2021.**

Application form can be found here:

<https://forms.gle/sxi1nK7CQQbAnZQb7>



Recipe for a Pandemic Internship

by Madison Curtis

To say that this internship felt like a rollercoaster would be an understatement. Nobody assumes that the obstacles they will face during their internship would escalate to a global pandemic. My many research papers on vocal pedagogy felt obsolete. It was hard putting something I love so dearly aside, but this sadness quickly turned into determination to find fun, guideline-approved activities for the music room. While getting into the groove of the “new normal,” I had a great time teaching material based around rhythm, notation, and improvisation; and the kids did too! I gained new strengths and a great sense of confidence that I will take with me throughout my career, which is all you can ask for from an internship.

I began in September feeling doubtful of myself and the application of my education, but I left my internship knowing music teachers have one of the most important jobs in a school. Sometimes we may feel like we are just the prep period, but for the kids, we are so much more. I feel an overwhelming sense of pride to be such an important piece of each student’s developmental puzzle, and I know that they are a part of mine too. Although I traded many hugs for elbow bumps and air-high-fives, these connections helped get me through these strange, isolating times. I did not know what

to expect for an internship during a pandemic, but I ended up gaining memories and skills that will take me farther than I could have hoped for. I look forward to the day our students can sing without fear, but for now, I feel ready to face any challenges before that day comes.

My internship was a success because of the kind, hardworking teachers at St. Bernard’s Elementary, and the guidance of my incredible cooperating teacher, Cheryl Thorne. I could not have asked for a better leader and friend to navigate through classes, lesson plans, guidelines, and so much more.

To the next class of Music Education students, a good recipe for a pandemic internship is as follows: a little strength, a lot of flexibility, and an open heart. The pandemic has brought many challenges to us all, including our students. They will need our support more than ever. To ensure we bring our best, it is vital that we remember to take care of ourselves.

Thank you to all the teachers that do everything they can to keep their students, co-workers, families, and community as safe as possible. If no one has said this to you in a while, I appreciate you. I support you. You are doing an incredible job.

NLMEA PRESENTS

Decolonizing and Antiracist Approaches in the Music Classroom

Direct conversations surrounding race, cultural dominance, and marginalization of the experiences, practices, and traditions of racially minoritized people are not common in music education training. This session will present foundational concepts of decolonization and anti-racism as they relate to the music classroom.

MARCH 1ST 2021 4:30 - 5:30
NL TIME

Awards Presentation 2020

The NLMEA is pleased to announce their 2020 award recipients, who were honoured at the 2020 virtual conference on October 30, 2020.

CMEA Honorary Life Member Award

Dr. Ki Adams

Awarded to one individual each year to recognize their outstanding contribution to music education in Canada.

Dr. Ki Adams, a native of Birmingham, Alabama, is Honorary Research Professor at Memorial University of Newfoundland. In addition to a graduate degree in organ (Northwestern University) and doctoral studies in education (University of Wisconsin-Madison), Ki holds specialist diploma programs in both the Kodály method of music education (University of Calgary) and Orff- Schulwerk (Hamline University).



In 1974, Ki and his wife, Janice, moved from the USA to Canada for a teaching adventure in Newfoundland and Labrador. They never returned. Instead, like many others who come to the island for a visit, they decided to stay. Ki was the first music teacher at Eugene Vaters Academy/Collegiate, an all-grade school in St. John's. There he developed a comprehensive K-12 classroom/ choral program with award-winning choirs, including the only high school SATB choir in the city at the time. After 13 years teaching, Ki became Music Consultant with the provincial Department of Education where he worked with music teachers across the island to design and implement the music education curriculum for the province. After 8 years in this position, he accepted a tenure-track position in Memorial University's Faculty of Education, cross-appointed to the School of Music. For the past 25 years, Ki has taught graduate/ undergraduate courses in music education and organ.

Throughout the past 46 years, music education has permeated Ki's full-circle career: from teaching K-12 students in a public school to developing pedagogical strategies/resources for delivering the prescribed music curriculum to students to preparing teacher-musicians for professional music education careers of their own. Keenly aware of the impact and power of professional organizations, Ki has held executive positions with provincial, national, and international music education organizations, including the Music Special Interest Council of the NLTA, Canadian Music Educators' Association (CMEA), Choral Canada, Kodály Society of Canada, and the International Kodály Society. He is currently a board member

for the International Federation of Choral Music (IFCM) and President of the World Youth Choir Foundation. Passionate about celebrating choral music and bringing choirs and singers to Newfoundland and Labrador, Ki was an Artistic Director for Festival 500: Sharing the Voice and Co-Director of the Phenomenon of Singing Symposia. He is Founding Co-Director of The Singing Network, a collective for generating and producing a series of voice-singing-choral experiences ranging from workshops, seminars, master-classes, and dialogues to the biennial International Symposium on Singing and Song. He is Music Director and Organist at St. Thomas' Anglican Church in St. John's.

Ki's contribution to the Canadian music education landscape is demonstrated on four levels: local, provincial, national, and international. His involvement and influence at the local level are observed through his exemplary teaching, his effective conducting, and his tireless committee work. At the provincial level, Ki has been a curriculum developer, a teaching mentor, and an instructional leader working to nurture and grow the extraordinary music education tradition in Newfoundland and Labrador. Nationally, through his numerous leadership roles in Canadian music education organizations, Ki has shared his vision for building the Canadian music education community and has worked with educational colleagues throughout the country to achieve shared goals. Internationally, Ki has been an outstanding ambassador for Canada's exceptional music education programs, scholarship, and research, including Canadian choirs and choral composers. Simultaneously, he has used his professional contacts and relationships in the international choral and music education communities to bring countless world-renowned educators, composers, choirs, and conductors to Canada.

Jamie Wilkinson Memorial Award

LEIGH ANN RYAN

Presented annually to a teacher in this province who exhibits a passion for music, demonstrates perseverance, musically inspires her/his music students and who takes great pride in her/his school music program and endeavors to encourage young musicians to enjoy all that music offers.



Leigh Ann Ryan teaches music at Beachy Cove Elementary School in Portugal Cove-St. Philip's, is Artistic Director of the NL Deaf Choir, and is the Eastern Representative for the NLTA MSIC. While growing up in Corner Brook, she was involved in many music ensembles and was inspired by a few dedicated teachers to pursue a life in the arts.

Leigh Ann completed her B.Mus. in Music Education at the University of Prince Edward Island, B.Mus.Ed. at MUN, and M.A. in Musicology at the University of Ottawa. She has spent time in chamber groups, concert bands, theatre companies, on councils, and has spent years giving private music instruction.

Leigh Ann is passionate about her work with the NL Deaf Choir, believing that music is for everyone. She is dedicated to helping her students and communities experience music by finding their own voices both individually and collectively, however that may look.

CMEA Builders Award

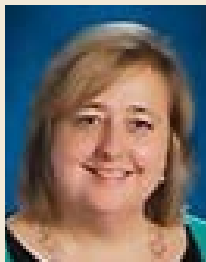
ANDREW MERCER & SUSANNE O'KEEFE

The Builders Awards seek to recognize those who advance music education in any Canadian province, through building community or establishing significant collaborative efforts.

For over 20 years **Andrew Mercer** has been exploring new ideas in online music education. Since 2002 he has been teaching music to CDLI students throughout Newfoundland and Labrador entirely over the Internet. Andrew's work can be found in Canadian Music Educator, Popular Science, The Wall Street Journal, CNN, as well as the ISME Conference, TEDx, MTNA National Conference, NAMM, and MENC.



Susanne O'Keefe currently teaches grades K–6 music at St. Edward's School in Conception Bay South. She has 29 years experience in the music classroom having taught grades ranging from kindergarten to grade 8. Susanne is always looking for new ways to deliver the outcomes to her students, particularly finding ways to use technology to help deliver the curriculum.



CMEA Builders Award for Newer Teachers

KRISTIAN BUTT

Kristian Butt is a graduate from Memorial University School of Music and Music Education studying voice under the direction of Dr. Jane Leibel. She is currently working as a K–6 Music Specialist in Springdale, NL. Kristian was the Newfoundland Soprano representative of the National Youth Choir of Canada in 2014, 2016 and 2017 and was the Tour Manager in 2018. Kristian has sung in many choirs including the PCNSO, MUN



Chamber and Festival Choir and Projekt Chamber Voices. A lover of choral conducting, Kristian has worked with many choirs in the city including Stella's Circle Inclusion Choir, Cara Choir, Atlantic Boychoir, and Lauda Choir. Outside of music, Kristian is a social entrepreneur who has worked with the Centre for Social Enterprise, Stella's Circle and the Boys and Girls Clubs of St. John's. Kristian is currently working towards a Masters in Educational Leadership at Memorial University.

Heather MacDonald Memorial Award

ALISON CLARKE

The Heather MacDonald Memorial Scholarship is awarded annually to an outstanding Music Education intern.



Alison Clarke, from Burin, is currently completing a Bachelor of Music Education degree and a minor in French at Memorial University. In May 2019, she received a Bachelor of Music Degree (Honours) with a major in Piano Performance. Recognized for her academic accomplishments, Alison was most recently awarded the Clyde and Dorothy Bonnell Bursary, the Roger Skinner/Music NL Memorial Award in Music, the Carl Morrissey Bursary, and the Mrs. H. B. Young Memorial Scholarship.

Alison strives to be a well-rounded musician by being involved in the local music community. She enjoys accompanying for musicians and dancers, playing in chamber music groups, and singing in the Quintessential Vocal Ensemble. She holds a keen interest in live piano accompaniment for ballet classes and has participated in ballet accompaniment workshops with pianists Craig Wingrove and David Troya.

Presently, Alison is completing her internship at Holy Spirit High School in Conception Bay South with music teacher Ms. Mary Brennan.