

The Opus

Volume 50, No. 3

March 2019

President's Message

As I write this message, I can see the light at the end of the tunnel. Despite the wind and cold outside I know we have survived the longest and hardest part of the year. The clocks go ahead this weekend and our days will become brighter, both literally and figuratively. I hope your snow days were well timed around your busy schedules and that preparations are going well for all of the upcoming assemblies and festivals. The life of a music teacher is never a dull one.

I hope the downtime you had over the holidays allowed you to disconnect and recharge so that you were able to reconnect when the new year began. The full board of the NLTA MSIC reconnected early with meetings in January to dig into planning of Resonate 2019 and discuss the needs and desires of the regions across the province. We have many great plans in the works for Professional Learning, collaboration and performances for both you and your students. We hope that you will always reach out with your needs, requests and questions.

The end of 2018 did come with some challenges for us – the news of the suspension of the Conjoint Bachelor of Music Education program at MUN, a review of the

Bachelor of Music as a Second Degree program and the ongoing search to track down the required music curriculum resources for all of the new schools that have opened in the past two to three years. We continue to advocate on your behalf and have not forgotten these issues. We will be presenting resolutions regarding curriculum resources at the 2019 NLTA BGM in April and we continue to advocate about the strength and necessity of the B.Mus.Ed. program at MUN. Whenever you can, please share the wonderful knowledge you received there, be it by word of mouth or online. When using social media please don't forget to tag the NLTA MSIC, NLESD, MUN School of Music and the CMEA in your posts and #musiceducation. I have gotten so many fantastic lesson ideas from your shared posts, so please keep it up.

Please take time to review the candidate applications for the upcoming CMEA elections and ensure that you vote in April. Both candidates are fantastic and would represent music educators exceptionally well.

I wish you all a good end to the term and best of luck completing your report cards!



NLTA Music Special Interest Council 2018-2020

Provincial Executive

President	Ashley Beresford	Bishop Feild Elem/Holy Family Elem – St. John's	ashleyberesford@nlesd.ca
Vice-President	Michelle Collins	CBS Elementary, CBS	michellecollins@nlesd.ca
Treasurer	Sarah Caines	Newtown Elementary – Mount Pearl	sarahcaines@nlesd.ca
Secretary	Catherine Hoven	Fogo Island Central Academy – Fogo Island	catherinetaylor@nlesd.ca
Communications	A. Rebecca McDonald	Mary Queen of Peace Elementary – St. John's	rebeccamcdonald1@nlesd.ca
Avalon East	Leigh Ann Ryan	Beachy Cove Elem. – Portugal Cove-St. Philips	leighannryan@nlesd.ca
Avalon West	Tiffany Smith	Persalvic School – Victoria	tiffanysmith@nlesd.ca
Central	Amanda Hollett	Pearce Junior High – Burin Bay Arm	amandahollett@nlesd.ca
Northern Peninsula	Cheryl Knight	White Hills Academy – St. Anthony	cherylknight@nlesd.ca
Labrador	Christopher Ryan	Eric G. Lambert School – Churchill Falls	christopherryan@nalcenergy.com
Independent	Vincenza Etchegary	St. Bonaventure's College – St. John's	vetchegary@gmail.com
Affiliate	Chris Davis	Long and McQuade	
Student	Kristian Butt	Memorial University	



CMEA Spring Elections

Membership in your national association includes the opportunity to contribute to the leadership and growth of our organization. Several executive and Directorship positions will be vacant as of July 1st. A call for nominations was issued last fall with a closing date of December 15th. All nominations have been reviewed. Some positions have been acclaimed, some have no candidates and the position of Vice President will be going to election. Vice President is a six-year term. The elected candidate will serve two years as Vice President, two as President and then two as Past President. This is an extremely important election.

All information regarding the candidate and election procedure will be sent electronically. It is extremely important that if you have opted out of CMEA newsletters and journals that you adjust your settings to opt back in. If you are a paid member and not currently receiving newsletters and journals (both come via email, journals to some hard copy), please let the MSIC know as soon as possible so we can make adjustments. If you are not on the CMEA mailing list you will be unable to vote.

There was an article on the candidates in the most recent issue of the journal. If you did not receive it, please contact the CMEA as soon as possible. Elections will be open online from April 1-30, with winners announced in May.

Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.



CMEA Builders Award Nomination

In co-operation with its Provincial and Territorial Affiliates, the Canadian Music Educators' Association seeks to recognize those who advance music education in any Canadian province, through building community or establishing significant collaborative efforts, with the CMEA/ACME Builders Award.

The CMEA/ACME Builders Award is presented annually to a music educator who brings honour to the profession by demonstrating one or more of the following:

- Building a more unified community of music educators
- Raising the profile of the value of music education in Canada

Resource Review

Title: *Benjamin Britten's The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra: Teaching Strategies for the Classroom* (Activity Book/CD Pak with reproducible pages)

Author: Wesley Ball

Publisher: Hal Leonard

Copyright: 2005

I love resources that help planning units and lessons to engage students in learning about composers and various styles of music! They create an accessible starting point as teacher, without feeling the need to re-invent something that may already exist. In this busy life, these types of resources are fantastic! One such resource that I have used for years now in Grade 3 is Ball's *Benjamin Britten's The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra: Teaching Strategies for the Classroom*.

As stated inside the front cover of the book, this resource "[c]ontains a CD Recording, Listening Lessons, Listening Maps, Student Activity Sheets, Score Excerpts, Composer Portraits, Narration, and suggestions for a related Art Project!" In Grade 3, I use this resource to teach about the orchestra and instruments of the orchestra. I photocopy most of the Listening Maps to help guide student listening. They always find this to be very engaging.

Although I make use of this in Grade 3, this resource could potentially be used from Grade 3 to Grade 6 or 8.

This is a fantastic resource that I have enjoyed using over the last few years to help with teaching students all about the orchestra and the instruments within the orchestra.

Submitted by Jennifer Stratton-Renouf

- Making a significant contribution to inter-provincial or national initiatives in music education
- Establishing sustainable collaborative initiatives in music education
- Developing mentorship initiatives for newer and/or pre-service music educators

For more information please visit:

<https://cmea.ca/professional-awards/>

or contact Ashley Beresford (ashleyberesford@nlesd.ca).

**Nominations to our Provincial Executive
are open until June 1, 2019.**



Teacher Profile – Adrien Doucet

1. Where did you complete your Music/Education degrees?

I completed both my B.Mus. and B.Mus.Ed. at MUN, albeit in a very roundabout way. I started off my post-secondary studies in math and physics while also taking a few music courses. I also played in a few MUN ensembles so most my peers

and profs figured I was already part of the music program, though I did not even end up auditioning until after my first year. After completing my B.Mus. I worked in construction, in the airline industry, as a provincial court translator, and nearly every job in between. Not knowing where it might take me, I eventually decided to put my B.Mus. degree to some practical use by taking on the Music Education secondary degree, and I have been teaching ever since. I am now part-way through the M.Ed. program at MUN and loving every nerdy minute of it.

2. Where and what do you teach?

I teach at Vanier Elementary in St. John's where I am the Music Specialist. This is my sixth year at Vanier and aside from teaching choral and classroom music, I teach French Immersion, Science and a rotating roster of Grade 6 subjects. I have also been teaching choir at Orff ensembles at the NL Suzuki Institute.

3. What has been the most memorable moment of your career?

While certain concerts and performances have been extremely memorable, it's the small day-to-day moments in class that resonate the most with me. I think of the time I taught a song with some Swahili words to the whole school and a very shy new Canadian student, who couldn't

identify where she was from or what language her parents spoke at home, burst out with joy – “that’s in my language!”. I don’t think I’ve seen her do anything but smile since. I’ve had a similar experience happen again this year, only this time, a new student with virtually no English ended up knowing the words and melody to a South African song I was teaching. He was able to help teach it to the rest of class, even adding actions.

4. If you could give one piece of advice to a new teacher, what would it be?

Do not be afraid of the road less traveled. If you have the option and ability to do so, take the long way or the scenic route. This will only make you more well-rounded and will affect the relationships you create with your students for the better. The treadmill of life doesn’t stop, but you can hop off and have a little stretch once in a while. Also, do your best to create positive working relationships with your entire school community. This pays off in ways much greater than having chairs put out for your concerts by the custodian. As the music teacher for an entire school you set the tone for much of what happens in your building. Might as well help shape it to be a healthy, nurturing environment. Also, be involved in and informed about your union. This is a group dedicated to working for your professional interests. Especially as new teachers, if you feel they do not appropriately represent you, it is your responsibility to let them know.

5. What is the best part of your job?

I’ll admit there are definitely hard and tiring days, where it can be challenging to see the value in what we do as teachers. But in listening to young people and hearing how in-tune they are to current events and the world around them, it can be very enriching to work with them and help guide them through conflicts and to build strong relationships. Music is the perfect avenue for this.

Music Monday

On **Monday, May 6th** we will be celebrating Music Monday 2019! Organized by the Coalition for Music Education, Music Monday is an annual national event celebrating the importance of music in our lives and especially in our schools. It began in 2005. Once again, the MSIC will be creating a Music Monday video and we would love your participation. This year we will be using Oscar Peterson’s “Hymn To Freedom” for our compilation video. This is the official 2019 Music Monday anthem. All parts for various instruments and ensembles can be found on the Coalition for Music Education’s Music

Monday website (coalitioncanada.ca/musicmonday/en/). Please be sure to register your school as a participant through the Music Monday website. This not only helps with advocacy and data for the Coalition, but there are fantastic prizes being awarded to registered schools as well.

Please send a video (filmed horizontally) of your group (choir, band, Orff ensemble, etc.) performing the song “Hymn to Freedom” to rebeccamcdonald1@nlesd.ca by **April 18, 2019**. Just like last year, we will take sections of each video submission and put them all together to make our own unique take on the song!



Save the Date

RESONATE 2019

October 24-25

Sandman Signature Hotel,
St. John's, Newfoundland

Keynote & Feature Presenter: Gena Pretty-Norbury

Registration Opening:

June 1, 2019

Early Bird Registration: \$75;

after September 30: \$100



Resonate 2019 will feature sessions by **Gena** Pretty-Norbury. Gena is a very proud Newfoundlander who completed her musical studies at Memorial University of Newfoundland. Gena is Director of Communications as well as membership coordinator for the Canadian Music Educators' Association and is a past president of the Ontario Music Educators' Association. She now serves as their Elementary Resources & Workshops Director. As well as this, she is also the newsletter editor of the Kodály Society of Ontario. Upon retiring from a 32-year career in K-8 music in 2018, she became the General Manager of Young Voices Toronto (Children's Choir in residence for the Ontario Studies in Education, University of Toronto). In 2013, she received the Hazel McCallion Volunteer of the Year Award and has also received the Educator Championship Award and Award of Excellence from the Peel District School Board. She lives in Mississauga with her composer/teacher husband, Kevin, and their four furry children!

CHRISTMAS SUITE

November 26-27, 2019

Arts & Culture Centre, St. John's

Registration details TBA September 2019

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Instrumental Music Workshop with Sarah Comerford

Monday, May 13, 2019

Grand-Falls Windsor, NL

Coding Corner

Education is constantly changing and evolving and it is our job as teachers to try and keep up. One of the major focuses of the NLESD right now is coding. All classrooms are expected to try and incorporate coding into the regular curriculum. At first it may seem daunting to try and bring this technology into the music classroom, but you will find it may be easier than you think. Here are some great ways to get started coding in the music classroom.



SCRATCH

Scratch is a great web platform where students use blocks of code in a drag and drop format. There are tutorial videos right at the beginning to help students (and teachers!) get started and figure out what to do. It is quite intuitive and doesn't take long to figure out. Scratch music allows them to create their own musical composition (www.hourofcode.com/scratchmus). Dance Party (<https://hourofcode.com/danceparty>) allows students to create dance routines to popular songs they will know from the radio.

BLOCKLY GAMES

Blockly Games (<https://blockly-games.appspot.com/>) is a great platform to use as an introduction to coding. There are several education games to pick from, including a music option. The music program uses block coding and an introduction to functions. Students review notes on the staff and have to use coding in order to have the program play the melody given. It has a little bit higher learning curve than Scratch but is extremely user friendly once the first couple of steps have been figured out. It provides a wonderful, interactive way of reviewing notes on the staff while coding. By the end of the activity students will feel more comfortable with text-based languages.

BEE BOT/CODE AND GO ROBOT MOUSE

Bee Bots are coding robots specifically designed for young children to use. My Grade 1 students have no trouble at all using them and I think they have been used in the Kindergarten classes at my school also. Students use the arrows to program directional sequences for the Bee Bot to move. Each programmed movement moves the Bee Bot 150 mm. You can also have them rotate 90 degrees at a time. We use them in my classroom for rhythm relays. I placed rhythm cards under the Bee Bot grid (so excited we had some already made on our coding cart). When I clapped a rhythm, students had to find it on their grid and then program their Bee Bot to move to the correct square. The teams got quite competitive with each other. It was an extremely fun activity and once you have the grid it only takes a few minutes to create cards to go under it. I have a different set of rhythm cards for each primary grade to align with their curriculum outcomes and I'm planning to create cards with treble clef notes for my elementary students.



Submitted by Ashley Beresford

Full Board Bios

Leigh Ann Ryan, Avalon East

Leigh Ann is originally from Corner Brook and now teaches Grades K-4 Music at Beachy Cove Elementary in Portugal Cove-St. Philips. Prior to this, she completed a B.Mus. (UPEI), B.Mus.Ed. (MUN), and M.A. Musicology (University of Ottawa). Leigh Ann has performed with many musical ensembles and theatre companies throughout Canada, and is currently the Eastern Representative for the NLTA Music Special Interest Council.



Tiffany Smith, Avalon West

Tiffany hails from Spaniard's Bay. She has been an active participant in the Kiwanis Music Festivals since the age of five. Piano, voice, and later playing the fiddle, were her passions. She received her Bachelor of Music (piano) and Bachelor of Music Education from Memorial University in 2007, and her Master of Education Degree from Memorial University in 2011. She has taught privately and in the public school system (Grades K-12) for the past 12 years and is currently a music specialist at Persalvic Elementary in Victoria. Music has always been a big part of her life and she is continuing to foster this love with her two toddlers, Levi and Tessa.



Amanda Hollett, Central

Amanda received her conjoint degree in Music and Music Education from Memorial University in 2006. She has been teaching music at Pearce Junior High School for the past 12 years. She directs her school choir, as well as the Burin Peninsula Youth Choir. Amanda lives in Burin with her husband and two sons.



Jennifer Stratton-Renouf, Western

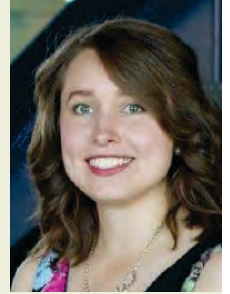
Jennifer is a native of Corner Brook, who developed a great interest in piano, trombone, and singing. Her passion for music and learning led her to pursue a Bachelor of Music (Music Education; Piano) and a Bachelor of Education from the University of Western Ontario. After



beginning her career as a music educator, Jennifer completed a Master in Education (Curriculum, Teaching, and Learning: Music Education) at Memorial University. As a pianist, Jennifer has worked as an accompanist for school and community groups. She hopes to instill an enthusiasm for music in all students that she encounters.

Cheryl Knight, Northern Peninsula

Cheryl is currently teaching K-12 music at White Hills Academy in St. Anthony. She teaches mostly classroom music along with band and guitar. She graduated from Memorial University in 2017 with a Bachelor of Music Conjoint with Music Education. During her undergraduate degree she studied piano with Dr. Philip Roberts and played clarinet in the MUN Wind Ensemble. In the past Cheryl has accompanied on piano for school choirs for concerts and special occasions. She has been teaching piano privately ever since she was in high school and has taught various levels to all ages. Cheryl has Completed the Royal Conservatory Music exams for piano. She has performed in the Kiwanis Music Festival in both Carbonear and St. John's over the years, receiving several awards. In 2009 she performed for the Stars of the Festival and Received the L.F. Clifford Pike Memorial Award. Cheryl enjoys teaching music to students of all ages and strives to create an inclusive and engaging learning environment.



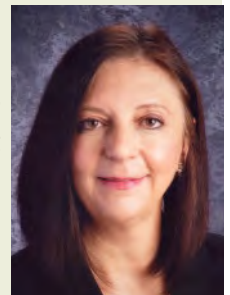
Christopher Ryan, Labrador

Christopher received a Bachelor of Music and Bachelor of Music Education from Memorial University, where he studied piano with Timothy Steeves. He currently teaches at Eric G. Lambert School in Churchill Falls, Labrador, where he teaches K-12 music, along with conducting Elementary Choir, Elementary Band, Senior Choir and Senior Band. Christopher also operates his own private piano studio in Churchill Falls. He is excited to be a part of the NLTA Music Special Interest Council, and representing Labrador.



Vincenza Etchegary, Independent

Vincenza has taught instrumental music in St. John's for the past 31 years. She completed a Music Education Degree at the University of Western Ontario and did graduate studies at Brandon University. Vincenza is currently the instrumental



music specialist at St. Bonaventure's College. At the College, she directs 170 students in seven instrumental ensembles. Vincenza has been the recipient of both a Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence, as well as a Provincial Government of Newfoundland Teacher Excellence Award. Ensembles under her direction have received many prestigious awards including the Canadian Jazz Report Award and first place awards in the NL CBC Radio School Band Competition, the Long and McQuade National YouTube Performance Competition and the CBC Music Class Challenge. The St. Bonaventure's Wind Ensemble has performed for both Pope Francis and Pope Benedict and their video of the CBC Olympic Theme was aired during the 2018 PyeongChang Olympics.

Chris Davis, Affiliate

Chris is an Educational Services Representative with Long & McQuade Musical Instruments, where he works with teachers one-on-one to qualify their needs and supply resources to support their programs. Onstage, his 15 years of musical adventures have taken him to New York, London, Orlando, and Hiroshima, and have included performances with the Newfoundland Symphony Orchestra, Royal Caribbean Cruises, Florian



Hoefner, and John Scofield, amongst many others. Chris is also a co-founder, composer, arranger, and performer in the local funk/R&B band Cabot Power, as well as a yoga practitioner, men's wear consultant, and wine enthusiast. Chris holds a Bachelor of Music degree from Memorial University of Newfoundland and a performance certificate from Manhattan's Collective School of Music.

Kristian Butt, Student

Kristian is a graduate from Memorial University School of Music studying voice and Music Education. She has just completed her internship in Choral and Classroom Music at Holy Heart of Mary High School. Kristian was a Newfoundland representative of the National Youth Choir of Canada in 2014, 2016 and 2017 and was the Tour Manager in 2018. She is an active choral singer in St. John's singing in the PCNSO and Projekt Chamber Voices. A lover of choral conducting, Kristian has worked with many choirs in the city including Stella's Circle Inclusion 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.



NSO Chevron **Symphony Goes To School and... Beyond Program!!!**

- ✓ Over 200 **FREE** and **READY** to use choral and instrumental arrangements designed for **ALL GRADES** as teaching and learning resources (matched to the **NL Music Curriculum Outcomes**). Go to nsomusic.ca to check them out on our [Educational Resources](#) page.

A vast array of **FREE** PowerPoints including everything from composers to the instruments of the orchestra, listening and viewing activities, and reproducibles, all matched to the **NL Music Curriculum Outcomes**. Go now to our [Educational Resources](#) page.

NSO goes to your SCHOOL!! We can arrange **FREE** school or grade level **visits** and/or **performances** from **NSO conductor, Atlantic String Quartet, and/or NSO Musicians**. Select guest artists may be available for school visits.

SCHOOLS go to NSO!! Did you know that you can **bring your students** to any Masterworks Concert? **Student tickets are \$10 each and chaperones are FREE**. Why not meet your students at the ACC for a most wonderful, musical, and educational experience? Maybe even meet the conductor and/or guest artist in person!!

Our popular **FREE** **“Play and Sing-in Jams”** with the NSO musicians and NSO Conductor. The Jams offers your students the opportunity to **sing and play live with the NSO** and collaborate with other schools in a fun, relaxed, and exhilarating atmosphere.

Email Jennifer Brennan at jb@nsomusic.ca or call 722-4441 to make arrangements for any of the above. **Bonus:** we can **customize to suit your particular needs!**

GO NSO!!!!!!!!!!



Atlantic String Quartet goes to

Topsail Elementary!