

The Opus

Volume 51, No. 1

September 2019

President's Message

Welcome back! I hope you have all enjoyed your first couple of weeks back in the classroom after a wonderful summer vacation. I'm sure for most of you it feels like you never left. It won't be long and we will all be back in full force preparing for assemblies and concerts. The MSIC executive was busy over the summer working away on preparations for Resonate 2019. We are excited to have a wide variety of presenters and to move our conference to a new venue with lots of parking and easy access to the highway. The conference is always the highlight of the year for most of us as it is so rare for so many music teachers to be together in one place. Make sure you get your registration in before the early bird deadline.

We heard from several teachers over the summer who had concerns with the hiring process this year. We have already been speaking with the NLTA on your behalf and will be having a formal meeting with them in the coming weeks to discuss our concerns. There will be some NLTA town hall meetings and other opportunities to voice concerns in the coming weeks. We strongly urge all music educators with questions or concerns to please speak out. The more of us that voice our concerns, the more likely our voice will be heard. We are also continuing to meet with the NLTA regarding the new schools who have not yet received any curriculum resources. At the 2019 NLTA BGM the MSIC put forward the following resolution regarding these resources: "That the NLTA lobby the NLESD and the Department of Education to ensure that teachers have access to the prescribed curriculum resources across all subject areas and grade levels and that, where necessary, these resources be

delivered to all schools (existing and new) by the school opening date for teachers to have access to these materials in order to effectively implement the curriculum." We will be continuing to lobby on behalf of you, our teachers, this year until every school has the prescribed resources.



I was fortunate to have been able to drop by MUN this week and meet the 16 future music educators who are beginning their studies in the Bachelor of Music Education program. It is extremely exciting to see this increase in enrollment. The program is continuing to operate as usual this year with the addition of a three-week Music Education Foundations Institute to provide students with more conducting and instrumental techniques, in addition to their regular course load, as they begin their teaching journeys. I'd like to thank all of you who took part in the survey MUN ran as part of the review of the B.Mus.Ed. program. In addition to teacher participation, the MSIC Full Board assisted with a focus group discussion and the Executive submitted a letter of support for the report. While we still await the official release of the report, we are hopeful it will show the value and importance of this program in our province.

As always, thank you for all that you do as music educators. We are lucky to have such an amazing community of dedicated teachers here in Newfoundland and Labrador. Please don't ever hesitate to reach out to your regional representative or an executive member with any questions or concerns you may have. Best of luck with this new school year!

Ashley Beresford

MSIC does OMEA 100!

Congratulations to **Rachel Huys, Michelle Collins, Jacqueline Moulton and Susan Alexander**, who will each be receiving \$500 funding from the MSIC to travel to Toronto in November to attend the **OMEA 2019 conference**. We can't wait to hear all about it when you return!

Jamie Wilkinson Memorial Award



Jamie Wilkinson was a passionate, dedicated teacher and a long-standing member of the Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association. As a music educator he was loved by his students and teaching colleagues.

Throughout his career Jamie demonstrated his passion for teaching young musicians by inspiring them to reach their fullest potential. Unfortunately, Jamie passed away in May of 2017. A strong advocate for the teaching profession, Jamie is best known for his quiet demeanour, passion for music education and commitment to providing his students with the best musical experiences imaginable.

In Jamie's memory, the NLTA Music Special Interest Council is pleased to announce an award which will be presented to a music teacher within the province of Newfoundland and Labrador who best exemplifies the qualities of Jamie Wilkinson, namely:

- a) who exhibits a passion for music;
- b) who demonstrates perseverance and musically inspires her/his music students;
- c) who takes great pride in her/his school music program and endeavors to encourage young musicians to enjoy all that music offers.

The NLTA Music Special Interest Council invites the submission of nominations for this award. Nominators may be students, colleagues, parents, or community members. The award recipient will be determined by a committee comprised of MSIC board members and other members of the teaching and music communities. A plaque and a \$500 Award will be presented to the successful recipient at the MSIC Annual Conference. The financial component of the award is to be used at the discretion of the recipient to support the music program(s) under her/his jurisdiction.

Nomination Deadline: September 30, 2019

Applications and supporting documents can be emailed to ashleyberesford@nlesd.ca and submitted through the form on the MSIC website (www.nlmsic.com)

Heather Macdonald Memorial Scholarship

The Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association Music Special Interest Council is inviting applications to its annual Heather Macdonald Memorial Scholarship for music education interns, a tribute to music educator and former Music Council Provincial President, Heather Macdonald. The intent of this scholarship is to recognize the future of music education in Newfoundland and Labrador by offering financial assistance to an outstanding music education intern.

The scholarship has a cash value of \$500. With this financial assistance, music interns will have the financial support to begin building their own music resources and also defray a portion of the costs incurred during their final semesters at university.

When applying for this scholarship, the following items must be included:

- fully completed application form
- a curriculum vitae/resume
- a copy of the most current transcript from Memorial University (and any other university transcript pertaining to the degrees of Bachelor of Music and Bachelor of Music Education)
- two written references from different sources: one academic, one character/personal
- essay — "Why I want to be a music educator" (250–300 words)

All applicants must be registered for the internship program in 2019. The Selections Committee will be comprised of members from the Executive and Full Board of the NLTA Music Special Interest Council. Candidates will be chosen based on their academic performance, written references and educational leadership potential.

Only fully completed submissions will be considered for the scholarship. Submitted documents will not be returned. Thank you in advance to all students who will be applying for the scholarship. Only the successful recipient will be notified by **October 15, 2019**.

The completed application form (available at <https://forms.gle/eki8QpBMkv2QZzxQ9>) with all supporting documentation must be received at the following email or mailing address by **Monday, September 30**: Ashley Beresford, 5 Roscommon Place, St. John's, NL A1A 3C7; ashleyberesford@nlesd.ca

If you require any further information, please contact ashleyberesford@nlesd.ca or rebeccamcdonald1@nlesd.ca.

A Personal Tribute to Dr. Gary Graham

by Jennifer Stratton-Renouf, jenniferstratton-renouf@nlesd.ca, Western Region Representative



Today I sit with a heavy, yet thankful, heart. On June 24, 2019, I lost someone dear to me—a teacher, mentor, colleague, friend. I could share many stories about Dr. Gary Graham, but, right now, there is just one that keeps milling around in my mind.

I was honoured and humbled to be called on as a musical support for “Mr. Graham” (how I always referred to him in my youth) when he was first diagnosed with cancer. During his final year, Gary asked me to co-direct choirs with him at the Graham Academy – a youth education division of Gros Morne Summer Music. I agreed. Not only was it a great professional opportunity for me, but it meant I could support Gary musically while he faced some health challenges.

When planning for the year-end concert, Gary and I both shared a few song suggestions with each other. I was surprised that he picked a couple of my selections, but he was fairly firm in his personal choices for the first and last pieces of the concert. He did not want them to be too challenging, so that even the youngest singers of age 3 and 4 could participate. The final song that Gary chose was “Fill the World With a Song,” by Allen Pote. When we first started practicing this song, the oldest students found it a little corny with its upbeat lilt and simplicity. However, we learned it. The youngest students loved it, including my own young kids who sang it at home all the time prior to the concert.

After Gary’s passing, I woke in the middle of the night and could not get “Fill the World with a Song” out of my head. The melody and lyrics went around and around like a carousel. That’s when it hit me. This song has such a strong and powerful message that I was saddened that I had not noticed it before. The first two lines state, “[f]ill the world with music, fill it with a song. Sing of love and kindness your whole life long.” This was Gary. He filled the world with music – my world. The students and choirs he taught – their world. We enjoyed the music, but music became a positive social connection for so many of us. Also, Gary showed so much love and kindness for everyone he met – young and old! Every walk from the First United Church to Tim Horton’s was filled with multiple social interactions.

My kids have been singing the final song of the choral concert since we performed on June 14. Since my middle of the night epiphany, I have sat, played piano, and sang this song multiple times a day. It represents what Gary

did in life, but, as well, it is a message to those he has left behind. Although Gary is no longer physically with us, we need to go into the world and fill it with music, fill it with song. Sing. Share in the making of music with others.

As a young pianist, I spent a lot of time alone. Practicing. Trying to get everything right. When I sang in a choir, I was no longer alone. I was with people. People sharing in something that I am so passionate about – making and sharing music. The connection that people can have in making music together, more specifically for me, in singing together, is incredible and should never be underestimated!

As a music teacher myself, I just hope that I’m able to help guide students to a love and passion for music and singing – to share all that I have learned from Gary and many other music teachers and musicians I have met along the way. However, for now, to remember my teacher, mentor, colleague, friend, I will fill the world with music and song to the best of my ability. In the best ways that I know how. Although my heart is heavy, I will sing and be thankful!

Here are the lyrics to the song:

*Fill the world with music, fill it with a song.
Sing of love and kindness your whole life long.
Sing the colors of the rainbow, sing of springtime and fall,
Winter winds, summer friends, sing one and all.*

*Melodies, sweet melodies of feelings inside.
Filled with emotion of thoughts you can’t hide.
Sing a song of celebration, sing a song that is sad,
But feeling and singing soon make you glad.*

*Fill the world with music, fill it with a song.
Sing a song of kindness your whole life long.
Sing and be thankful, sing alleluia.
Rejoice and fill the world, fill the corners of the world.
Rejoice and fill the world with a song.*

Allen Pote

PD Travel Grant Report: Orff Level 1

by Emma House, emmahouse@nlesd.ca

This summer I was fortunate to begin my journey learning how to teach using the Orff Schulwerk pedagogical approach. I took the Level 1 course, part of a three-year certification program to become an Orff Specialist, with the Ontario Chapter of Carl Orff Canada at the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto. Taking the course with me were 17 other music educators who were mostly from Ontario, but there were also those teaching in British Columbia, Qatar, Vietnam, and China. As well, my best friend from university, Catherine Gautreau, took the course with me; she is a former music educator with the NLESD now living and teaching in New Brunswick.

The course, which ran from July 2 to 12 with one day of rest in the middle, was very intense! Sessions ran from 8:30 until 4:30 or later, and consisted of a standard routine: in the morning, we started with Basic Orff class, taught by the amazing Joy Reeves (she has now taught Orff Level 1 eighteen times!), followed by Vocal class and our Movement session before lunch. In the afternoon session, we had Recorder class and then a final Basic Orff session with Joy to finish off before heading home with a pile of assignments and activities to complete for the following day. We were tested many times throughout the course in various areas of musicianship, such as in soprano recorder playing and body percussion improvisation, and had at least one major assignment to submit every day which would take several hours to complete in the evenings. The breadth of musicianship, leadership, and teaching skills that we developed throughout this course was enormous, and demanded all of our energy and focus throughout those eleven days.

In each of the classes, our instructors taught us songs and activities to use with our own students. While doing so, they would explain the pedagogy behind each activity, which were all very outcome-based and connected with music education curricula, and the instructors sequenced our learning and experience of the music using the Orff approach. We experienced for ourselves the true magic of Orff Schulwerk pedagogy and how it lays the foundation for creating a genuine love for and knowledge of music in children, all the while developing our knowledge of the process involved in teaching musical concepts. The hands-on method of instruction also made for some very hilarious moments, and participating in musical activities intended for primary/elementary students as a group of trained musicians and highly extraverted adults is one of the most joyful things I have ever been a part of. We all participated in every activity 110%, and it was very difficult

to stop laughing at the ridiculous moments that happened throughout the course.

Something that I had not expected to take away from this course was developing my skills as a composer. Our nightly Orff assignments required us to create our own instrument and/or body percussion arrangements of chants and songs, increasing in complexity every day. There were a lot of rules that we had to learn to use, and composing Orff arrangements is nowhere near as simple as I thought it would be! Another huge bonus in taking this course was that we were given freedom to choose the subject matter of our arrangements and compositions which allowed me to create new materials that highlight the culture of my Inuit students at my school in Nain, Labrador. I found and wrote poems and songs that were Arctic or Inuit-themed – complete with a few Inuktitut words! – and used them for most of my Orff arrangements. I am so glad to have left this course with a set of materials designed specifically for the Inuit culture of my students, as there are no easily-accessible primary/elementary music educator resources that highlight the wonderful Inuit language and culture.

One of the best parts about taking my Orff Level 1 this summer was that it allowed me the opportunity to reconnect with my friend Catherine, whom I hadn't seen in almost two years, and to share this fantastic experience together. We both completed our teaching internships at Lakecrest School with Angela Warren who provided us with our first experiences in the Orff approach, and who planted the seed that eventually led to our beginning Orff training together. Even though the cost of travelling and taking this course was quite high, it was worth the expense, not only for the phenomenal professional development we both received but also to be able to catch up and spend some quality time together. We had a lot of laughs participating in the course, helped each other out with assignments, and were mostly well-behaved and did not disrupt the class too often!

Throughout this course, I learned so much about the innate qualities of music, and how the elements of music derive naturally from language, movement, and play. In terms of an overall influence on my teaching practices, I think my main takeaway from this course is what it really means to have to internalize and feel the music in your body as a prerequisite to cognitive musical understanding. This understanding is something I always learned about in my development as a music teacher, which I mostly understood but did not fully realize the importance of until the immersive experience of this Orff pedagogy course. On a practical note, having taken this course, I now have a huge collection of resources

and lessons that I will be able to use in the music classroom, and I am on my way towards developing a pedagogically grounded yearly plan for K-6 music classes, which is great to have going into my second year of teaching.

Overall, Orff Level 1 lived up to being the phenomenal professional development experience that I anticipated it would be, and more. Thank you to the Music Special Interest

Council for awarding me funding for my Orff course this summer! For now I am getting ready to begin Year 2 of my career, teaching K-12 Music, English Language Arts 8, and Art 7, 8, and 9 at Jens Haven Memorial School in Nain, along with my choirs and a new brass band I'll be starting this year. Best wishes to all the teachers going into the 2019-2020 school year!

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

- For **FREE** and **READY** to use 2019/2020 teaching and learning resources go now to nsomusic.ca and check out the **K-12 Educational Resources section where you can access our google drive page in one click**. For all grade levels, we have well over **200 instrumental and choral arrangements, PowerPoints, listening and viewing activities and reproducibles, all matched to the NL Curriculum Outcomes** for Music. Be sure to check out our **Archived Educational Resources all right there on the same page**.
- **NEW! STAYED TUNED** as we introduce our new **"Families and Instruments of the Orchestra"** teaching resource in September 2019. This resource package will include video clips of the NSO Principal Players and the NSO families of the orchestra, a PowerPoint, listening activity and reproducibles designed for all Grade levels. Lovely resource when you are planning your instruments unit.
- **REMEMBER...** We can arrange school/grade level/studio **visits** and/or **performances** from NSO conductor, Atlantic String Quartet, and/or NSO Musicians. Select guest artists may be available for school visits. We also offer **Pre-Concert Cameo Student Performances** which are great performance opportunities for your students and lots of fun for your students as they can stay on and enjoy the show.
- **Plan to Join Us...** Our popular Matinée **"Play and Sing-in Jam"** with the NSO musicians and conductor will take place on **February 4, 2020** and **February 5, 2020**. The Play and Sing-in Jam offers your students the opportunity to perform live with the NSO and collaborate with other schools in a fun and relaxed atmosphere. Registration opens on Monday, December 9, 2019.
- **BACK AGAIN... NSO GOES TO THE ROOMS!** Thinking about a student field trip to The Rooms? Why not join the musicians of the Newfoundland Symphony Orchestra at The Rooms in an exciting session to explore the world of music and create your own sounds. Enjoy some time in the Here We Made A Home exhibition to hear and learn about traditional Newfoundland music. Be sure to confirm your spot early for this innovative session as bookings are limited.
To arrange your visit call The Rooms at 757-8090.

Email: Jennifer Brennan at jb@nsomusic.ca or call 709-722-4441 to arrange any of the above (except The Rooms program).

Bonus: We can customize to suit your particular needs!



Applied Music 2206/3206

by Nicholas Gibbs, nicholasgibbs@nlesd.ca

I noticed a bit of 'buzz' over the summer surrounding the new applied music courses in the high school curriculum. I have been heavily involved in the curriculum development for both courses from the ground up. I presented last year at implementation and am slated to do the same this year. For the first time since creation and piloting both courses, this school year I am teaching both levels in the same time slot. I anticipate that I will not be the only teacher faced with both groups in the same time slot so wanted to share my plan as a guide to help others. I have plenty of teacher-created resources for both courses (some of which will be included in the guide but most are not). If you are a 'new-to-the-guide' teacher, please don't hesitate to reach out to me with any questions.

	Applied Music 2206	Applied Music 3206
Introductory Round		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Instrument assignment and basics of classroom procedures, expectations, review of basic instrumental/vocal technique, etc.Both levels will cover 5 main concert scales and their relative minors.Introduction to ensemble and solo playing through warm-up activities.Review of notational standards, basic theoretical knowledge, and writing.		
Performance Round 1	Part Playing I (Global Folk Music)	Part Playing II (Review/Ext.)
Performance Round 2	Protest Songs/Music for Social Justice	Composition (Single Melody)
Performance Round 3	Christmas Carols – Learning by Ear	Graphic Notation
Performance Round 4 NL Folk Music (2206-Traditional/3206-Contemporary and Non-Trad.)		
Performance Round 5	Film Music	12 Bar Blues/Intro. to Jazz
Performance Round 6	A Survey of Music History	Duet Composition w/ Electronic Accompaniment
Performance Round 7	TBD	TBD
Final Round	Independent Project (assisted)	Independent Project (unassisted)
Elements of Music		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">This portion of the course will be taught simultaneously to both levels through listening activities, creation and maintenance of a 'playlist', and through classroom discussion.All concepts will be taught/re-taught. Students enrolled in 3206 will have modified listening 'quizzes' and will be expected to synthesize and extend upon last year's learning.		

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 30, 2019

Heather Macdonald Memorial Scholarship Deadline

SEPTEMBER 30, 2019

Jamie Wilkinson Memorial Award Deadline

SEPTEMBER 30, 2019

Resonate 2019 Early Bird Deadline

OCTOBER 24 – 25, 2019

Resonate 2019, Sandman Signature Hotel, St. John's

NOVEMBER 26 – 27, 2019

NLTA Christmas Suite, Arts & Culture Centre, St. John's

Resonate 2019

Thursday, October 24, 2019, 6:00 – 9:30 p.m.

Friday, October 25, 2019, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Sandman Signature Hotel, St. John's

REGISTRATION: www.nlmsic.com

Costs:

\$75.00* – Early Bird Registration
(open until September 30, 2019)

\$100.00* – Registration after September 30

* Must be a member in good standing to register.

Full time students can attend **FREE** with an MSIC membership!

Sessions include *Orff, Dalcroze, Kodaly, Mindfulness, Coding in the Music Classroom and Fresh Ideas for Instrumental Music*, just to name a few! Please note the schedule in the registration portal is tentative and still subject to change.

Website – www.nlmsic.com

Registration Help

To register for the conference, you must first have your MSIC membership paid. You can access this through the "Membership" page on our website. Payment can be made directly to Sarah Caines, or via credit card or Paypal on our website. You will not be able to register for the conference unless you have first paid your membership. As noted this fall, memberships now expire on August 31st of each year; they are **not** active one year from the date you pay your membership. A reminder of the membership costs:

Full Member: 1 year (\$50); 2 year (\$100)

Available to all members of the NLTA and supervisors or directors of music. Includes voting privileges, NLTA Music Council Publications, CMEA membership, journals and newsletters. \$25.00 CMEA, \$25.00 MSIC

Associate Member: 1 year (\$35); 2 year (\$70)

Available to all private music teachers or any person interested in music education. Includes voting privileges, NLTA Music Council Publications, CMEA membership, and newsletters only. \$12.50 CMEA, \$22.50 MSIC

Student Member: 1 year (\$22.50); 2 year (\$45)

Available only to full-time students. Includes all privileges of full membership, except voting privileges. \$12.50 CMEA, \$8.00 MSIC

Once you are in good standing (your membership is paid), you can proceed to the conference registration. To register for the conference, go directly to our website and follow the link to register. From there you will fill out some information about yourself and then pick the sessions you would like to attend. **Note: registering for sessions is required.** Registration for sessions is first come, first served and there are a maximum number of delegates able to attend each session. You can always edit your choices before the conference if you change your mind. Due to attendance caps for each individual session, we will be checking our registration list at the door of each session. If you are not registered, you may not be able to attend the session.

The last step is payment. Payment can be made directly to Sarah Caines, or via credit card or Paypal on our website.

We strongly encourage sending your payment prior to the start of the conference.

A reminder of the conference registration costs:

\$75.00 – Early Bird Registration
(open until September 30, 2019)

\$100.00 – Registration after September 30

Full time students can attend **FREE** with an MSIC membership!

If you have any issues with registration, please contact **Rebecca McDonald** or **Sarah Caines**.

Resonate 2019: Travel Assistance

This year the MSIC is pleased to be able to offer a limited number of travel subsidies to members living outside the metro area who are attending the conference. Applicants must be MSIC members and registered for the full conference. Priority will be given to members more than 150 km outside the metro region; however, everyone will be considered. The

deadline for applications is October 5th and those receiving funding will be notified by October 15th. MSIC Members are eligible for in-province PD funding; only once per academic year.

Application: <https://forms.gle/fmYWeuPzm24wx8Yk6>

Update from Memorial University Music Education Program

by David Buley & Andrea Rose
dbuley@mun.ca, arose@mun.ca

Firstly, thank you to NLTA MSIC members for your ongoing concern for and support of Music Ed programs at MUN. We have had a very helpful, informative and supportive review process. The review committee has completed its data gathering and is now in the final stages of report writing. Data was gathered through a general survey of all programs, as well as consultations/focus group sessions with various stakeholders in music education (e.g., NLTA MSIC, Faculty of Education and School of Music faculty members and students). Review committee members have been very encouraged by the deep passion and care with which so many have spoken about the important role and value of music education (undergraduate teacher preparation and graduate studies) at Memorial University, and indeed throughout the province's full educational system. We anticipate that the final summary document of the review will be completed soon for submission to the Dean of Education. Some good news is that we have 15 new students in the B. Music Education (Second Degree) program, with some from outside the province! We actually had 24 applications – representing more than 200% over last year. This is a good statistical increase!

We are aware of the ongoing need for the continued preparation of music educators as we strive collectively to maintain a standard of excellence in our K-12 and post-secondary systems in NL, for which we are so well known and respected. This standard has been attained over many years as a result of the work of very dedicated musicians/educators and supporters of a comprehensive education system...one that is representative of the deep, rich musical and cultural histories embedded in this province.

We trust that MSIC members will continue to be supportive of, and celebrate all things music/music education. We remain very hopeful that Memorial University will maintain its historically strong commitment to music education in this province by preparing future generations of musicians/music educators who will ultimately have a great impact on the ongoing development of music education and the musical culture of Newfoundland and Labrador, and beyond!

NLTA MSIC Professional Development Travel Fund

The purpose of the MSIC Professional Development Travel fund is to assist members who are travelling to conferences and/or professional development opportunities over 250km from their residence. This grant can be combined with other travel grants such as those from the NLTA.

To be eligible for funding applicants must be an active member of the NLTA MSIC. All projects must focus on the professional development of educators.

For more information and to apply for funding please visit <https://forms.gle/RRoxmSACmAfCjLPM9>