

The Opus

Volume 51, No. 3

March 2020

President's Message

As I sit here writing this message on the eve of yet another snowstorm, and potential snow day, preparing to adapt and adjust for more missed lessons, I feel a wide range of emotions. A bonus sleep in is always great, but this winter we have had more snow days and closures than I've ever encountered in my (young) career. Like all of you, I'm confident in my professional abilities and know I will still be able to complete my curriculum outcomes for the year, but I am frustrated. Between snow days, state of emergency, holidays and PD days, it's been an extremely choppy two months. I've struggled to get into a good teaching groove. Just as you get on a good roll, snow day (or two or three). This struggle has been evident in our students also. I feel like we have yet to settle into a good routine for 2020. As frustrating as this has been, it pales in comparison to the struggles our colleagues in Ontario are facing. After weeks of rolling strikes they have moved into province-wide strikes. The MSIC stands in solidarity with all Ontario teachers as they fight for their students. This fight isn't about salary or sick days. It is about creating the best learning environment for students – sensible class sizes, with in person teachers who are specialists in the subject (not forced online courses), equal access to resources and a good course offering for students. This is something we are constantly lobbying for here in our

own province. Thankfully we haven't yet seen the destruction Ontario is facing but there is room for improvement.

As we move forward towards spring and Music Monday, please think about how we can be advocates for our education systems and our music programs. Please make sure you send back your Class Size Matters postcards that the NLTA distributed. Please make sure you are wearing your Class Size Matters button. Take time to celebrate Music Monday and the importance of music in our schools. Register with the Coalition for Music Education and celebrate music! Be it through special lessons during class time, assemblies, lunchtime concerts, special guest artists or theme days, it is important to not only stop and smell the roses, but to display the power of music. There's also even a prize up for grabs if you participate in the MSIC Music Monday video project!

Thank you for all that you do for the students of our province. Our job brings so much excitement and joy but also stress and frustration. Enjoy making music with your students and celebrate the successes. Share them in our Facebook group and on your Twitter, tagging the MSIC. It's easy to feel isolated as a music specialist, but our online community is strong and together we are stronger!



Resonate 2020 Call for Presenters – EXTENDED

Resonate 2020 will be taking place **October 29–30** in St. John's, NL at the Sandman Signature Hotel and MSIC is seeking applications for session presentations.

When planning the conference the committee aims to present sessions across all strands, and fill sessions based on topic requests from members, and there are a limited number of slots.

Presenters receive free conference registration as a thank you for presenting (membership is still required).

NEW DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS: March 15th

Application Form: <https://forms.gle/xCm9dMsLDJ2s3jMv5>



Book Nook

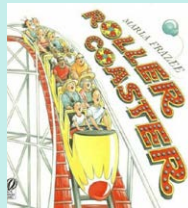
by Ashley Beresford

I love books! I love reading to myself and my own children and I read a book to my students in almost every music class for Kindergarten and primary students. Over the next few newsletters I will be sharing some of my favourite books and lesson ideas with you.

Vocal Exploration

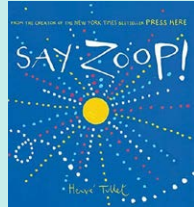
Vocal exploration, or simply exploring the voice, is a great activity to incorporate into your primary classes. It is especially helpful in Kindergarten as students are learning to match pitch and find their head voices. It is a lot of fun! This year I added two new books to my vocal exploration lessons.

Roller Coaster, by Marla Frazee, tells the story of a child going on a roller coaster for the first time. Anticipation builds as they wait in line, but the real fun comes while riding the ride. There are lots of great sound words such as “clickity clack” as the coaster creeps up to the top to begin, and once it starts the descent there are “zips” and “zooms”. I give each student a



googly eye ring and they make a fist, pretending their fist is the person on the roller coaster. Their hands are following the sounds and images the roller coaster is creating in the book – dips and dives and loop the loops! Students have SO much fun with it. The next class, every student gets a pipe cleaner to create their own roller coaster track and they take turns coming up to the front of the class to show them and we all follow their pipe cleaner track.

Say Zoop, by Herve Tullet, is a great interactive book that helps students explore their voices and also get an introduction into graphic notation. It begins with a blue dot and when you press the dot you say “oh”. Throughout the first section the dot changes – bigger, smaller, connected to each other and instructions are given as to what to do. Sometimes it’s a jump or popping bubbles, other times the dots get closer together and it asks you to speed up. As the book progresses more colours are added, each with a different sound. The students have to remember the “code” and follow the instructions. It is so much fun! It is a longer book so it takes a while to get through. My students usually keep asking for it again and again!



Music Monday 2020

On **Monday, May 4th** we will be celebrating Music Monday 2020! 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 again be using Oscar Peterson’s *Hymn To Freedom* (in the key of Bb) for our compilation video. This is the official 2020 Music Monday anthem. All parts for various instruments and ensembles can be found on the Coalition for Music Education’s Music Monday website (<http://coalitioncanada.ca/musicmonday/>). 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* (Bb!) to rebeccamcdonald1@nlesd.ca by **April 24th, 2020**. Just like the last two years, we will take sections of each video submission and put them all together to make our own unique take on the song!



Every school that submits a video will be **entered to win a \$250 prize** to go toward their Music Monday celebrations! **Get your video in to have your chance at the prize!**

Atlantic Regional Conference for Music Educators

The second Atlantic Regional Conference for Music Educators will be taking place in Fredericton, New Brunswick **May 1-2, 2020**. This two-day event will feature Friday presentations from New Brunswick educators. Saturday will begin with a keynote from Peter Boonshaft and then many sessions, presented by each province, including workshops from Carl Orff Canada and Kodaly Canada. Registration for this two-day conference is just \$125 (*\$100 if you've already paid your CMEA membership through MSIC*).

The MSIC is pleased to be offering five travel grants of \$500 each to support educators wishing to attend the Atlantic Regional Conference in May. There is one travel grant available for each teaching region. Winners will be chosen from applicants in a lottery system. For those selected, funds will be awarded once a final report after the event has been submitted. Teachers should also consider the NLTA Travel Fund and Cultural Connections PLACE grants as other sources of funding. Recipients will be responsible for completing their own registration and travel arrangements.

Please note: teachers are only eligible for one PD travel grant per year.



SAVE THE DATE!!

May 1 - 2, 2020

2ND ATLANTIC REGIONAL
CONFERENCE FOR MUSIC
EDUCATION

Come to New Brunswick to connect with colleagues! More information to follow!



The Alberta Orff Chapter of/Le chapitre Orff de l'Alberta de Music for Children · Carl Orff Canada ·
Musique pour enfants invites music educators to/invite les enseignants de musique à



Carl Orff Canada 26th National Conference
26e Congrès national de Carl Orff Canada
Edmonton, Alberta
April 16-19, 2020 • du 16 au 19 avril 2020

- Outstanding workshops • Des ateliers exceptionnels
- Top notch clinicians • Des animateurs et animatrices de haut niveau
- Children Performing Groups • Une scène réservée aux groupes d'enfants
- A marketplace • Un salon des exposants
- Marvellous entertainment • De nombreux divertissements



www.orffvision2020.ca



Congratulations to Korona Brophy, Winner of Music NL 2019 Music Educator of the Year Award



Korona Brophy, of St. John's, has been a music educator for 44 years. She taught in the Catholic and public school systems from 1976–2007. Since then, she maintains a sessional instructor position at Memorial University of Newfoundland teaching Music Education.

At MUN, Korona instructs students in the MUN Lab Band Orchestra Program as a prerequisite to their internship. This course allows the students to instruct public school children in a band and orchestra setting while they master lesson plans and evaluations and their performance skills in all instrumentation.

Through her past teaching, Korona was involved with choral music in all her schools, plus choral director for St. Peter's Church Adult Choir and Youth Choir of Mount Pearl. As a volunteer at her church for 29 years, Korona trained many amateur and professional choristers. In 1994, the adult choir travelled to Carnegie Hall, New York City, where they performed Mozart's Requiem under the direction of John Rutter. Her instrumental teaching spans years of conducting

string orchestras, concert and jazz bands, pit orchestras for musicals, as well as countless ensembles within her schools.

Her choral experience and teaching involved school choirs (from K-9), which included Rotary Music Festivals in Newfoundland and Canada (Ottawa and Halifax). Her involvement with choral music, bands and orchestras with Kiwanis Music Festival and Rotary Music Festivals stems over 30 years. Korona has adjudicated music festivals in Stephenville, Clarendville, Goose Bay, Carbonear and St. John's.

In 1993, Korona formed the world-renowned group, The Celtic Fiddlers. With five tours of Ireland, Canada and the United States, the group has brought Newfoundland/Irish traditional music to audiences of all ages. This year The Celtic Fiddlers released their sixth CD, "Ready for the Storm", in celebration of their 27th anniversary. This summer, The Celtic Fiddlers have been invited to New York City to perform for the Canadian Consulate and Canadian Association of NY.

Korona has been nominated for numerous awards with Newfoundland and Labrador Arts and Music NL, winning the Arts in Education Award and Instrumental Artist of the Year, and the 2019 Educator of the Year Award from MusicNL.

Cracking the Musical Code

Music teachers are some of the most creative teachers in a school, so why not target and train those teachers to become more familiar with the world of coding? From making a piano out of bananas or Play Doh, programing an animated scene to music, or creating your own dance mat for rhythmic and melodic dictation, science and technology meets the music curriculum with different aspects of coding, and students (and teachers) are loving it!

On February 10 music teachers had the opportunity to explore the world of coding with a district provided PL facilitated by Melissa Lee and Jennifer Stanley. Through this PL, "Scratch" was used to program music and coordinate it with animation, Chrome music lab was explored, and teachers in attendance had the opportunity to take a sneak peek at the on site Maker Space developed by Brilliant Labs, which was scheduled for its grand opening the following week. Along with learning about new products available,

music teachers also had the opportunity to share experiences they've had with coding materials, and those who had no experience with coding were enticed and instructed as to how to get started. The PL closed leaving the many teachers in attendance looking for coding products to explore in their own classrooms, in an attempt to meet the prescribed music curriculum in a more modern way. Those longing for more instruction and guidance can take advantage of the above mentioned Maker Space. Staff of the Maker Space informed us that it is scheduled to be open, fully staffed, for students and teachers to explore on Mondays and Wednesdays from 3-5 p.m. at the district office on Strawberry Marsh Road.

Deanne Coady
Music Director
Juniper Ridge Intermediate, Torbay



Teacher Profile: Leah Antle

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

I completed all my training at MUN – B.Mus./B.Mus.Ed in 2007 and M.Mus. in 2014.

2. Where and what do you teach?

I teach K-6 classroom music and choir at East Point Elementary and St. Mary's Elementary.

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

My most emotional moment was this October. We had two Syrian families obtain Canadian citizenship in one week, and our principal decided to have a pep rally to celebrate this huge milestone. We had Canadian flags, and we all wore red....I would like to say that I sang *O Canada* with the student body, but I cried like a baby through the whole thing! I love that, as a school community, we highlight major life events beyond the curriculum, and that was a really monumental moment.

In terms of teaching moments, last year I had one student who was really struggling with reading notes on the staff. We were doing recorders, and I had begun doing some work in small groups, as this class size was particularly large. This particular student and I ended up spending most of her “teacher time” working on note reading instead – she knew the fingerings, but was always mixing up the staff. She would read right to left, or use a mnemonic from the top down, or any number of other errors, some that I had never seen before! We spent months on it, and just when I thought she had it, she would mix it up again. This went on until June of last year. I had given the class a fun day, to play a variety of note name games I had for review. She came up to ask me to clarify a note name, and asked her to talk me through the process (for what seemed like the

millionth time!) and she talked through the steps of the treble rhymes, and then, very suddenly her whole face lit up, and she gasped, “I know the answer!”...and she did! I quickly got her to do a few more on the spot, and she got every one correct, and then literally danced out of the room when her teacher collected her class. That one was pretty special – that girl did not get discouraged, and she did not quit. At the time, it felt like I had never worked harder for anything! But it sticks out now because I remember her efforts, not mine. She was so resilient, and so willing to try and try and try.

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

Go with your gut. Whether it's about teaching methodologies, upgrading your education, jobs to apply for, or even jobs to accept – go with what feels right and real for you. The best circumstances for someone else might be absolute torture for you! You know what is best for your situation, and ultimately that will bring you the most satisfaction, and in the long run, productivity.

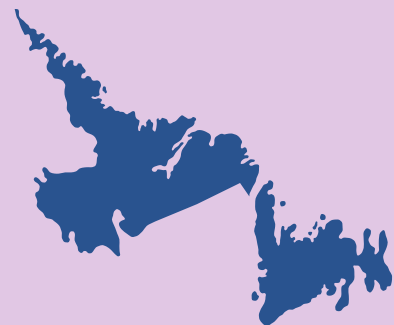
5. What is the best part of your job?

At the risk of sounding like a total cliché, the best part of my job is connecting with kids! And, using music to build those connections. I love when students can't wait to tell me about their weekend, or when we meet in the hallway and we share a wave and a smile. I love when little ones need a little side hug before they go back to class. I love watching older students practice a skill over and over, and seeing huge smiles on their faces when they get it! I love it when students can make connections from music learning to their daily life. I love it when concerts come together. And I love when children are so engaged in what we are doing that they can't do anything but smile. Whenever I am asked by friends or family about my work, I always respond, “Well, there's a lot of joy in my job.” And that's true. Sometimes you have to look for it (sometimes it is buried deep!), but there is a lot of joy.

Newfoundland & Labrador Resources

Thanks to some sharing and discussion in the NLTA MSIC Teacher Sharing Facebook page, a new shared google doc has been created where teachers can share lessons and strategies for using the music and culture of our province to teach curriculum outcomes. Thanks to Leila Brown at Woodland Elementary in Dildo for the idea and Kathy Conway Ward for getting the discussion happening on the Facebook group and to Deanna Higdon for setting up the drive.

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1QzuoDPf6sBWuRNqnwSege2ZH0mj3_S2G?usp=sharing



We are thrilled to announce that Orff Nova Scotia, in partnership with Carl Orff Canada and the NLTA MSIC will be offering Orff Level I in St. John's July 20-31, 2020.



ORFF LEVEL I

St. John's, Newfoundland

JULY 20-31, 2020

**LOCATION: District Conference Centre
40 Strawberry Marsh Road, St. John's, NL**

This course, in the principles and techniques of Carl Orff's *Music for Children*, leads to Orff Specialist certification. The Orff philosophy is an internationally recognized approach to teaching music. In this course, teachers learn to foster student performance skills, literacy, and creativity through carefully sequenced musical experiences using songs, games, rhythms, poems, dances, and stories from around the world. Participants receive training in recorder playing, choral techniques, movement, percussion instrument technique, and pedagogy.



INSTRUCTORS:
James Jackson - Basic Orff
Charlotte Myers - Movement,
Choral & Recorder

Sponsored by
Orff Nova Scotia



Endorsed by
Carl Orff Canada



With support from NLTA Music
Special Interest Council

**Course Fees due before
May 29, 2020**
\$700 + \$25 for COC members
\$725 + \$25 for Non-members

**Additional Late fee after
May 29, 2020 - \$25.**

**Book early! Course is
dependent on numbers.
Registration form and
payment info available**

**Feb 15th at:
www.orffnovascotia.com**

**COURSE DIRECTOR
JAMES JACKSON
jacksoj@nspes.ca**