

# The Opus

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## President's Message

Dear Colleagues,

The 2015-16 school year is well underway, and a lot has happened so far this autumn. Lots to share with you all!

In late September, MSIC treasurer Deanna Higdon and I attended the NLTA Special Interest Council Leadership Seminar with other SIC Executives. It was a great opportunity to network with colleagues, to share ideas and ask questions.

Shortly after, Vice-President Ashley Beresford and I attended Canadian Music Educators' Association meetings in Mississauga, Ontario in early October. At this time, CMEA National Board meetings were confirmed for St. John's in October 2016 – which will be the same time as our Biennial Fall Conference! During our time in Ontario I attended the CMEA Affiliates' Presidents meeting, where I was fortunate to collaborate and connect with other Council Presidents from across the country. There was lots of great discussion, and many ideas were shared.

On October 27 I made a presentation to the Panel on the Status of Public Education in NL, as a representative of the Music Special Interest Council. The presentations were streamed live and have been uploaded to YouTube, which can be found here: [https://youtu.be/aHKc\\_Qf5d5I](https://youtu.be/aHKc_Qf5d5I). Thank you for sharing your input and concerns, as these helped build this presentation.

The MSIC is hard at work preparing for several projects coming up, including PD days and our Biennial Conference on October 14-15, 2016. This conference will be a celebration for us – it is our 50th anniversary as a Music Council! Party time! Stay tuned for details about this exciting event.

And this means... time to update your memberships! Treasurer Deanna will be contacting our members about this in the near future.

Finally, thank you for all your support and interest in the Music Council and its activities. We couldn't do it without you! As well, thank you for your dedication to music education programs in your schools and communities, and for helping our students bring music to life. Best of luck with your upcoming performances!

Sincerely,

Kathy Conway-Ward  
President, Provincial Music Special Interest Council



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[www.nlmsic.com/](http://www.nlmsic.com/)

**The New Website was launched December 05/15. Check it Out Now!**

# Getting to Know Your Executive



## President

**Kathy Conway-Ward**

**Kathy** is a music teacher, oboist, singer, and proud Newfoundlander. She teaches K-6 classroom and choral music at Bishop Abraham Elementary and string orchestra and band at St. Teresa's School in St. John's. She

is President of the NL Provincial Music Special Interest Council, and is the Director of Public Relations and Member Engagement of the Canadian Music Educators' Association. Kathy is an oboist with the Newfoundland Symphony Orchestra, and she sings with Lady Cove Women's Choir. Kathy resides in beautiful St. John's with her husband Josh and their cats Teena and Lucille 2. She was once a seat-filler on the Dr. Phil show.



## Vice-President

**Ashley Beresford**

**Ashley** graduated from Memorial University in 2008 with a Bachelor of Music (clarinet) and a Bachelor of Music Education. She then moved to Montreal to complete a Masters in Music in Instrumental Conducting at

McGill University. She teaches classroom music, band and choir at Holy Cross Junior High in St. John's, though she is currently on maternity leave. Ashley operates a small private studio teaching piano and clarinet and can often be heard playing clarinet and saxophone in the orchestra for Atlantic Light Theatre's musical productions. Ashley lives in St. John's with her husband Shawn and their son Max.



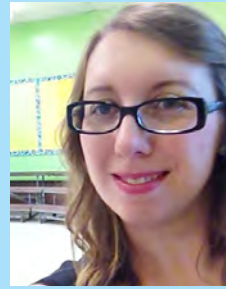
## Secretary

**Bethany Saunders**

**Bethany** graduated from Memorial University in 2011 with a Bachelor of Music (Vocal Performance) and in 2012, with a Bachelor of Music Education and is currently working towards a Masters in Educational Leadership

Studies. She has taught voice and piano privately in St. John's for six years and works as a music teacher with the Newfoundland and Labrador English School District at Newtown and Goulds Elementary. She has completed up to grade 8 Royal Conservatory of Music examinations for piano, and became a certified Kindermusik instructor in 2013. Her studies in university and many years of her own enrollment in private lessons have instilled in her a passion and enjoyment for teaching music. She is really happy to

be a part of the NLTA Music Special Interest Council and is enjoying her first year in the role of Secretary.



## Treasurer

**Deanna Higdon**

**Deanna** (Power) Higdon received her Bachelor of Music and Bachelor of Music Education from Memorial University, where she studied piano with Timothy Steeves in 2011. In 2015, Deanna completed a Masters degree

at Memorial University where she studied Educational Leadership Studies. Deanna has won numerous awards including the TD Canada Trust Scholarship for Community Leadership and the NLTA Music Special Interest Council Heather McDonald Memorial Scholarship. She has always held a deep love of music and taught in her hometown of Placentia for many years before attending Memorial's School of Music. Deanna has held several replacement positions with the Newfoundland and Labrador English School District, and is currently teaching at Holy Cross Elementary, Holyrood. She is a member of the Newfoundland and Labrador Registered Music Teacher's Association (NLRMTA) and happy to serve as the treasurer on the NLTA Provincial Music Special Interest Council.



## Communications

**Michelle Collins**

**Michelle** began her Bachelor of Music at the University of Prince Edward Island and completed her undergraduate degree at Memorial University of Newfoundland. She completed her Masters degree in

Educational Leadership in 2012. Michelle has taught K-6 classroom music, choral as well as beginner band in St. John's and surrounding areas. She has a keen interest in world drumming and experiencing music through movement and dance. Her greatest musical experience was receiving accolades from composer Anne Crosby after adjudicating her piano students. Her favorite teaching moment occurred when her students asked their teacher if they had music or gym. When they were told they had music, they fist-pumped because we were doing bucket drumming and were so excited to be performing in the upcoming concert. Music trumped Phys.Ed!! Michelle operates her own piano/voice studio from her home in St. John's. She is a busy mom of a teen and preteen but also finds time to enjoy hiking, swimming, cooking and reading.

# NLTA Music Special Interest Council 2014-2016

## Provincial Executive

President	Kathy Conway-Ward	Bishop Abraham Elementary/ St. Teresa's School, St. John's	catherineconway-ward@nlesd.ca
Vice-President	Ashley Beresford	Holy Cross Junior High, St. John's	ashleyberesford@nlesd.ca
Treasurer	Deanna Higdon	Holy Cross Elementary, Holyrood	deannahigdon@nlesd.ca
Secretary	Bethany Saunders	Goulds Elementary, Goulds/ Newtown Elementary, Mount Pearl	bethanysaunders@nlesd.ca
Communications Officer	Michelle Collins	St. Edwards, Conception Bay South	michellecollins@nlesd.ca

## Members-At-Large

Avalon East	Chris Miller	Fatima Academy, St. Bride's	chrismiller@nlesd.ca
Avalon West	Deanne Delahunty	Amalgamated Academy, Bay Roberts	deannedelahunty@nlesd.ca
Central	Adam Baxter	Lewisporte Intermediate/ Lewisporte Collegiate, Lewisporte	adambaxter@nlesd.ca
Western	Jennifer Stratton-Renouf	Elwood Elementary, Deer Lake	jenniferdstratton@yahoo.com
Northern Peninsula	Brittany Pike	Tricentia Academy, Arnold's Cove	brittanypike@nlesd.ca
Labrador	Vacant		
Associate/Independent	Vincenza Etchegary	St. Bonaventure's College, St. John's	vetchegary@gmail.com
Student	Colleen McCarthy	Memorial University, St. John's	colleenmariemccarthy@gmail.com

## Eastern Executive MSIC

President	Melissa Cooper	Frank Roberts Junior High, Foxtrap	melissacooper@nlesd.ca
Vice-President	Alanna Fitzpatrick	St. Kevin's Junior High, Goulds	alannafitzpatrick@nlesd.ca
Secretary	Andrea Lane-Gardner	Elizabeth Park Elementary, Paradise	andrealane-gardner@nlesd.ca
Treasurer	Deirdre Costello	Substitute Teacher, NLESD	deirdrecostello@nlesd.ca

## **CMEA Report**

*Ashley Beresford*

Since Kathy Conway-Ward is now the Director of Public Relations and Member Engagement I travelled to Toronto October 1-3 to attend the annual board meetings for the CMEA as the delegate representing the MSIC. It was a very interesting and exciting weekend. On Thursday Kathy attended the President's meeting where there was representation from all music educator associations across Canada that are affiliated with the CMEA. It was a very positive session where presidents shared their good news, discussed challenges and shared ideas pertaining to curriculum.

Friday and Saturday were full board meetings. The CMEA Journal was a main topic of discussion. The journal has switched to an e-journal and it was decided that this method seems to be well liked by members and will continue on. Unfortunately people who use their school board email have not all been receiving their copy as the spam filters have often been blocking it. It was suggested that in the future members provide their personal emails for provincial and CMEA memberships so no information is lost in a spam filter.

The National Conference in July of 2015 was a topic of much discussion and reflection on Saturday. While it was a big undertaking it was decided that all those who attended felt it was an extremely enjoyable and informative event and the CMEA will move forward to plan another conference event in the next five years.

Last year the MSIC was fortunate to have now president of the CMEA, Kirsten MacLaine, speak at our conference and lead one of our sessions. We brought forward to the board how valuable this was to our members in feeling our link to the CMEA and it was decided that moving forward, the CEMA will have a voice at all provincial conferences. Our next conference in the fall of 2016 will have many CMEA voices present as St. John's is the location for the 2016 national board meetings for the CMEA and these meetings will be taking place the same weekend as our conference. We are very excited to be hosting our colleagues from across the country and many have offered to present sessions for our members!

Overall the 2015 board meetings were filled with lots of discussion and passion from all board members and it should be an exciting year for everyone!

## **"Hello and How are You?"**

*Leah Antle*

On Saturday, October 24, the Eastern Region Music Special Interest Council hosted a professional development session centered on Orff methodology. Teachers gathered at Holy Family Elementary to hear Rose Suter discuss Orff in her classroom, how she structures class sessions, and how the principles of Orff methodology shape her lesson planning.

It was a fantastic morning of resource sharing. We opened the morning with a welcome song, "Hello and How are You?" and we were able to greet each other as we began the structured lesson. Rhythms were created and shared in each element of the class. We began the morning by echoing a rondo form. Later, we used hand drums to steer carloads of our colleagues in a rhythm ride around the classroom.

A personal highpoint was the insight into how Rose plans and implements lessons. Leading up to Halloween she had planned a series of lessons on bugs. We learned a quick chant using words that began with B, A, and G, and in a very short time, we had created a new song on the recorder using eighth, quarter and half notes – and even some harmony! This was an interesting way of incorporating notes and fingerings, before adding notation, a struggle for some early recorder learners. Rose also shared several composition, creation, and evaluation games, all with bugs and insects as the theme.

We concluded the morning with Orff instrumentations for several Christmas carols – some inspiration for the coming weeks!

We were encouraged to incorporate these ideas in our lessons and engage our students in new and exciting ways. It was certainly an informative, productive, and inspiring morning.



## **inspire Ontario Music Educators Conference**

*Catherine Tansley*

On the weekend of November 5-7 I had the privilege of attending the Ontario Music Educators Conference, inspire, which was held in Mississauga, Ontario. This annual conference is held in various locations in Ontario and this year's conference brought together over a thousand music teachers for professional development, growth and connection.

Over the two days of the conference there were a variety of concerts and cameo performances from local school and university ensembles and sessions ranging from exploring Primary music classroom techniques, Jazz band tactics, to fostering social justice in the music classroom. During each session there were the 18 sessions running concurrently. Something for every educator that was present. During the conference I attended many sessions that applied to my current teaching assignment, Mount Pearl Intermediate. Many lesson ideas and new ideas were shared in the sessions and I especially enjoyed the keynote speaker, author and teacher Barbara Freedman, who spoke of her knowledge and experiences with technology in the music classroom.

I was excited to see the wide variety of music resources, instruments and related items in the exhibitor area of the conference. There was a vast array of instrument makers and music publishing companies. It was quite the impressive selection and it felt a little like Christmas morning for all the music teachers that attended.

One of the highlights of the conference was the session I attended on teaching middle school band. This session was led by a knowledgeable middle school educator and author, Marguerite Wilder. Much insight was given to teaching this age group, technique for teaching music literacy and the psychology of working with this age group. Her presentation was packed with wit and wisdom and I left the session feeling refreshed.

I wish to thank the NLTA Programs and Services and Cultural Connections, Department of Education for their financial help in making this experience possible for me to attend. It was refreshing to meet music educators from another part of the country and to know that our successes and struggles are very much the same. It was inspiring to meet like-minded music educators and to know we are a strong network of professionals who have a passion for music and passing that love to the next generation. I would highly recommend the conference to any music educator who is looking to be inspired and renewed.

## **Resonate 2016 Conference Update**

We are pleased to announce that the NLTA MSIC will be celebrating our 50th anniversary in 2016 and in celebration will be hosting our biggest and best conference ever! Please mark your calendars and plan to join us in St. John's October 14-16, 2016! We are extremely excited to be welcoming Marguerite Wilder to St. John's as one of our clinicians. Ms. Wilder is a middle school teacher who is widely known for her work as a conductor and clinician, especially her workshops on motivating the middle school band.

The CMEA Full Board meetings will also be taking place in St. John's over this weekend so check our website regularly for exciting news and announcements still to come!

## **Resonate 2016 – Call for Presenters**

The MSIC invites music educators, music researchers and graduate students in music and/or education to submit a proposal for workshop presentation at the Resonate 2016 Conference, October 14-16, 2016 in St. John's.

Possible Areas: Band, Choir, Strings, Orff, Social Justice in the Music Classroom, Community Music, Technology in Music, Differentiated Instruction, Student Growth and Motivation, Panel Discussions

Application Deadline: March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016

Visit [www.nlmsic.com](http://www.nlmsic.com) for criteria and application.

## **MSIC Professional Development Travel Fund**

The MSIC is pleased to introduce our new Professional Development Travel Fund to assist members who are travelling to Professional Development 250 km or more from their residence. Applicants are only eligible for funding once every three years. This grant is separate from travel grants offered for the biennial MSIC conference and receiving funding from the Professional Development Travel Fund will not hinder opportunities to receive funding for travel to the MSIC conference. 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, please visit the "Resources" section of the MSIC website.

## Teacher Profile

### Adam Baxter – Lewisporte Intermediate & Lewisporte Collegiate



**1) Where and when did you receive your music and music education degrees?  
What was your major instrument?**

I received my Bachelor of Music from Memorial University of Newfoundland and Labrador (MUN) School of Music where classical guitar was my focus instrument and theory/composition was my focus area. I also received my Bachelor of Music Education from MUN.

**2) What has been your greatest teaching moment so far?**

Though every day in the classroom and school environment is a dream for me, I think the most highlighted moment in my teaching career was winning the 2014 and 2015 MusicNL Music Educator of the Year.

**3) Who has been your greatest musical influence?**

I have a few musical influences in different areas. As an artist my biggest musical influence is Jerry Stamp, who taught me a great deal about singing, performing and the music industry. As an educator my biggest influence is Richard Bennett, who was my high school music teacher. Every time I reach a dilemma or decision I have to make, I always ask myself what Mr. Bennett would do and then go from there.

**4) How has your career as a performing artist in a genre not traditionally associated with school music influenced your teaching?**

I believe that being an artist that writes, performs and records his own music has totally helped me in the classroom. What I do musically is very relatable to the students and what music they listen to outside of the classroom. By doing this it shows that I am an active musician slugging away at the music industry while being a music teacher, which is a display of my true passion for music. I believe being passionate about your subject area is a sure fire way to engage your students as positive energy is something easily transferred in the classroom.

**5) What are your favourite non-music hobbies and activities?**

There are hobbies other than music? JUST KIDDING. My favourite hobbies other than music are road tripping all over Newfoundland, playing tennis and collecting hockey and baseball cards.



**Newfoundland** is known for its breathtaking landscape, vibrant culture and some of the friendliest people in the world!

If you've ever thought about visiting, here's your chance to come see for yourself!

Join the NL Music Special Interest Council on **October 14<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016** in St. John's for our Biennial Provincial Music Educators' Conference.

[www.nlmsic.com](http://www.nlmsic.com)

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