

# The Opus

Vol. 47, No. 2

June 2016

## President's Message

Dear Colleagues,

It's June! And another school year has quickly come to a close. The countdown is on!

The Music Special Interest Council would like to express our appreciation for your suggestions, ideas, and support this year, particularly in light of recent budget implications on education. The Music Council is the voice of music teachers in our province, and we have been speaking out about the effects of this budget on our profession. We will continue to work with the NLTA on this matter, and will provide more information as it becomes available.

We have a WONDERFUL online PD available to our members! Tim Baker, lead singer and songwriter of local rock band Hey Rosetta!, has presented online professional development in Songwriting for Music Teachers. It's great!! I strongly recommend you check it out – it's available in the Members Resources section of nlmsic.com. This opportunity is available to MSIC members, so please make sure your membership is updated.

So, how DO you renew your membership, or become a member of NL Music Special Interest Council?! It's easy! Just visit <http://nlmsic.com/Pages/membership> and fill it in! MSIC accepts electronic payments and Pay Pal. If you have any membership questions, please contact our Treasurer, Deanna Higdon ([deannahigdon@nlesd.ca](mailto:deannahigdon@nlesd.ca)).

Mark this in your calendars: Resonate 2016, our biennial Music Educators' Conference, is happening October 14-15, 2016, in St. John's at MUN School of Music. It is our 50th reunion!!! We have collaborated with MUN School of Music – who are celebrating their 40th anniversary – for a BIG party!!! Registration details and more information will be coming in the next few weeks. It's going to be a time – please join us!

Finally, the Music Council would like to extend our congratulations and well wishes to all the music teachers who are retiring at the end of this school year. Thank you very much for your contribution, your dedication, and your commitment throughout your careers. It is certainly an inspiration to all of us. :)

Thank you for all that you do. Have a happy summer – we deserve it!

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 Members at Large



## Northern Peninsula

Brittany Pike

**Brittany** is a graduate of Memorial University where she studied piano under the direction of Dr. Kristina Szutor. She graduated with her Bachelor of Music and Bachelor of Music Education degrees in May 2011 and is currently completing

a Master of Education degree from Memorial University.

Brittany is the music teacher at Canon Richards Memorial Academy in Flower's Cove, NL and Viking Trail Academy in Plum Point but is teaching at Tricentia Academy in Arnold's Cove this year. Brittany has also taught in St. John's and surrounding areas, Fortune, and London, England. She is delighted to be the Member-at-Large for the Northern Peninsula region with the NLTA Music Special Interest Council.

Alongside Susan Quinn, Brittany is currently the strings coach and assistant conductor for the Newfoundland Symphony Youth Orchestra Junior Strings Program. Brittany was a proud violinist in the Newfoundland Symphony Orchestra and was one of the violinists who recently performed with British rock singer-songwriter Rod Stewart. Her passion for music has brought her to many parts of the world performing with prestigious musical ensembles such as the Quintessential Vocal Ensemble, Celtic Fiddlers and the Newfoundland Symphony Youth Orchestra.

Brittany has performed as a singer and violinist in numerous local musical theatre productions including Divas Do Christmas, Divas Do Broadway, Christmas Spectacular, Fiddler on the Roof, Scrooge, Annie, Wizard of Oz and Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat.



## Independent Schools

Vincenza Etchegaray

**Vincenza** is a native of Filadelfia, Italy. She completed a Music Education Degree at the University of Western Ontario in London, Ontario and did graduate studies at Brandon University in Manitoba. Vincenza has taught instrumental music in

St. John's for the past 29 years. She is currently the instrumental music specialist at St. Bonaventure's College. At the College, Vincenza directs 180 students in eight instrumental ensembles. She 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, the CBC Radio School Band Competition, the Long and McQuade National YouTube Performance Competition and 11 Kiwanis Instrumental Group Rose Bowls.



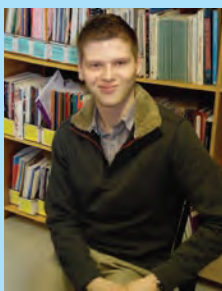
## Student

Colleen McCarthy

St. John's native **Colleen McCarthy** holds a Bachelor of Music (Honours) from Memorial University, where she is currently studying Music Education. As a trombone major at the MUN School of Music, she studied with Dr. Karen Bulmer

and Jim Tranquilla of I Tromboni. During her time at Memorial, she played in the MUN Wind Ensemble, Chamber Orchestra, Jazz Ensemble, Brass Ensemble, and chamber ensembles Paddywagon Trombone Quartet and Brass on the Edge.

Colleen is an active member of the choral community in St. John's and is a member of Lady Cove Women's Choir and the Quintessential Vocal Ensemble. She was a Choral Scholar with Shallaway Youth Choir from 2012-14, and has served as guest conductor for the QVE Mixed Youth Chorus and the Holy Heart Chamber Choir. Colleen has been the student representative on the Music Special Interest Council since 2014 and loves working with such wonderful music educators as she prepares to enter the field.



## Labrador

Christopher Ryan

**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. There,

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. Christopher is excited to be a part of the NLTA Music Special Interest Council, and representing Labrador.



## Avalon

Chris Miller

**Chris** is an active musician and educator in the St. John's area. During the 2015-16 school year, he has been working with the wonderful students at Fatima Academy in St. Bride's. Chris plays trombone as a member of the

Newfoundland Symphony Orchestra and is a sergeant with the Royal Newfoundland Regiment Band. He also has a vibrant trombone studio of students ranging from elementary to senior high school.

In addition to the MSIC, Chris serves on the St. John's Rotary Music Festival committee and the NSO Players' Council. He

holds the following degrees: M.Mus. (Conducting) from Memorial University, M.Mus. (Performance) from Carnegie Mellon University, and B. Mus Ed. from Memorial.



## Central

### Adam Baxter

**Adam** is a farm raised folk/pop singer/songwriter who is currently based out of Campbellton. Adam also leads a second life as a high school music teacher at both Lewisporte Collegiate and Lewisporte Intermediate schools.

He began performing his original material multiple nights a week on the stages of St. Johns in 2005. In 2006, he started the Epic Songwriter Series that continued until February of 2013 when he relocated to Springdale to begin his career as a music educator. Since relocating to the Central Newfoundland region, he has been building audiences in many towns across the island of Newfoundland by touring as a solo act or with his super fun band Adam Baxter and His Best Friends.

Adam's sound can be described as catchy folk music with an energetic pop twist. His 2015 release Cause and Effectiveness showcases Baxter's musicianship while diving into experimental side. In the same year, Baxter was nominated for MusicNL's Male Artist of the Year.

Adam was also awarded the distinction of 2014 and 2015 MusicNL Music Educator of the Year.

## Avalon West

### Deanne Delahunty

**Deanne** teaches Intermediate music at Amalgamated Academy in Bay Roberts. She holds a Bachelor of Music degree from Mount Allison University and Bachelor of Music Education and Masters in Education degrees from Memorial University. Deanne also holds ARCT diplomas in Piano and Singing Performance. She has worked with school and community choirs, has conducted concert band, and has developed a Traditional Music Ensemble at Amalgamated Academy. Teaching Intermediate music and fostering the traditional NL music tradition is a passion for Deanne.



**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)

[facebook.com/groups/NLMSIC](https://facebook.com/groups/NLMSIC)

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# School Program Profile: Holy Cross Elementary

*Deanna Higdon*

Holy Cross Elementary is located in the community of Holyrood, approximately 45 minutes from St. John's. It is a K-6 school and serves the communities of Holyrood, Harbour Main, Chapel's Cove, and Lakeview. This year, under the direction of music teacher Deanna Higdon, the school was excited to offer a fiddle program for students in grades 4-6. The group has been a great success, with 28 students registering for the after school group. The group is broken into three groups, which allows for more one-on-one rehearsal time with their teacher. The students are currently planning a year end recital in which all students will play a small solo piece along with some ensemble pieces.

As the group gains popularity and musical skill, they have been asked to perform at many different events within the community. In their short time together, the fiddle group has performed at retirement homes in the area, the Harbour Main Parish Family Kitchen Party, and the Holyrood Beavers. Additionally, the students have played at all concerts hosted by the school, including the Christmas Concert, St. Patrick's Day Concert and the Spring Concert. The students love these community "gigs" and look forward to performing more in the future.



# Professional Development Review: Pan Labrador Youth Choir

Colleen McCarthy

Hello everyone! My name is Colleen McCarthy and I am the student representative of the MSIC. From February 26-28, 2016 I had the incredible opportunity to travel to Goose Bay to work with the Pan-Labrador Youth Choir with nine other members of Lady Cove Women's Choir. During that weekend, over 100 Grade 4-12 students participated in a youth choir project, directed by Kellie Walsh, Artistic Director of Lady Cove Women's Choir and Shallaway.

The students were supposed to have all Thursday and Friday to rehearse for the Saturday evening concert, but a snowstorm on Thursday put a hitch in our plans. Schools were closed, so we only had Friday and some of Saturday to learn all of the repertoire for the concert! When members from Lady Cove arrived in Goose Bay on Friday morning, we headed straight to the Lawrence O'Brien Arts Centre to spend the day in rehearsal. We were so impressed with the incredible work ethic that the students showed during the weekend!

Members of Lady Cove had the opportunity to give private lessons and small group workshops throughout our time in Goose Bay, and we were absolutely blown away by the talent of the students of Labrador. Many students received voice lessons, while some others brought their instruments and received private lessons from the wind and brass players of the Lady Cove crew!

The highlight of our weekend was definitely working on *Music of the Land*, a stunning new work composed by St. John's native Kathleen Allan and commissioned by the Pan-Labrador Youth Choir. The text was written by Gary and Barbara Mitchell and tells of the history of music in Labrador. Kathleen wrote a gorgeous melody to go along with the text. The piece was very much developed with the singers of the Pan-Labrador Youth Choir; Caroline Nochasak, a brilliant student from Nain, displayed her talent and skill as a throat singer and taught us the verse that was sung in Inuktitut. The piece featured solos and recitations from students and even a drum dancing group made up of students from the northern coast of Labrador! Kathleen also wrote a brass part for the brass players from Lady Cove to play to represent the Moravian brass band tradition.

We were so sad to leave Labrador at the end of the weekend. The teachers and students were so incredibly kind and welcoming and made our stay absolutely wonderful! A huge thank you to the Bruneau Centre for Excellence in Choral Music for getting Kellie, Kathleen and the members of Lady Cove to Goose Bay. As well, special thanks to the NLESD, the Nunatsiavut Government, and Janet Wiseman for making this weekend happen. Finally, thanks to our amazing accompanist, Mark Bonnell, and all the teachers and students who were so incredible to work with.

# Teacher Profile

## Mike Snelgrove – Exploits Valley High

### **1) Where and when did you receive your music and music education degrees?**

#### **What was your major instrument?**

I attended MUN completing a B.Mus. B.Mus.Ed. (1987). I was a trumpet and theory-composition major. I also completed an M.Mus from MUN in 2004 in Instrumental Conducting.

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

There were just so many, it's so hard to pick one. I have had the pleasure of doing four musicals that were monumental amounts of work but very very rewarding. Whenever a student comes back to thank me (or to apologize for something from the past) it makes everything you have done worthwhile. Notes are notes, pieces are pieces, yes sometimes there are great musical moments, but it is the non-musical that are the most self-satisfying.

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

There have been many. My high school teacher, Bill Davies, a great supporter of my music. Ken Knowles, Paul Bendsza and Kjellrun Hestikin for the theoretical knowledge, DF Cook for giving me a kick in the pants, but the main man has to be Dr. Donald Buell. For 35 years he has taught me, fought with me, agreed/disagreed with me. He has shown me that music is about people and your shared journey to get to the end. He has taught the mechanics of the baton, how to play the trumpet, dissect a score, less is more and as much about being a better human being as mom taught me. We are like the odd couple, he's Mr. neat and tidy and I'm disheveled; he's organized to a tee, me – organized chaos. The mentor of all mentors, Buell is da bomb!

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

In all the years I have had a stable of pieces that I have used and enjoyed. Depending upon what needed to be taught to a particular group usually dictated the repertoire. For band, I'm a lover of James Curnow, but I think *Chorale* and *Shaker Dance* by Zdechlik was the best for me. In the choral genre, *Chilli Con Carne* by Edenroth and *She Sings* by Amy Bernon.

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

I love golf. I play every day I can. My goal in retirement is to play 135 rounds in one summer. I play hockey 2-3 times a week. I would like to become a professional chef some day.

# NLTA Music Special Interest Council 2014-2016

## Provincial Executive

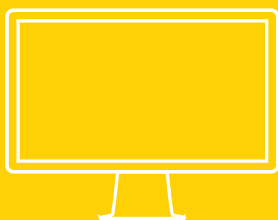
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Avalon West	Deanne Delahunty	Amalgamated Academy, Bay Roberts	deannedelahunty@nlesd.ca
Central	Adam Baxter	Lewisporte Intermediate/ Lewisporte Collegiate, Lewisporte	adambaxter@nlesd.ca
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Labrador	Vacant		
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## Eastern Executive MSIC

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Secretary	Andrea Lane-Gardner	Elizabeth Park Elementary, Paradise	andrealane-gardner@nlesd.ca
Treasurer	Deirdre Costello	Substitute Teacher, NLESD	deirdrecostello@nlesd.ca



## Newsletter Submissions

Have something awesome going on in your music program? Attend a great PD session? Then why not share it with other teachers!!

We love member submissions for our newsletters and now we have a new **INCENTIVE FOR YOU!** As a thank you for submitting your article, your name will go into a draw and two submissions from each newsletter will **WIN** Long & McQuade gift cards for their school!