

The Opus

Vol. 48, No. 3

June 2017

President's Message

It never ceases to amaze me how quickly the year passes by. As another school year draws to a close I hope you are reflecting on another wonderful year of sharing the gift of music with your students and also looking forward to a restful and relaxing summer.

While there is lots to look forward to in the fall, such as Resonate 2017, we also know it is a challenging time for teachers as the NLTA continues to work on our negotiations with the Provincial Government. Please take the time to read updates and most importantly, attend meetings in your area about negotiations. We value education and know what our students deserve and it is important to make that known. We need to stand united as teachers and ensure we receive a contract that is fair for both new and veteran teachers.

I'd like to take this time to thank the Provincial Executive, Members at Large and the Eastern Regional Executive for all their hard work and dedication over the past school year and the time they will give over the summer as we prepare for our next conference. We will continue to strive to deliver more Professional Development opportunities across the province for our members. This will include in person sessions, such as the "Co-Teaching with My Video Twin" session that recently took place in Corner Brook as well as online offerings such as those currently featured in the 'Members Only' section of our website. As always, do not hesitate to be in touch if there is something you would like to see!

Wishing you all the best for a safe and relaxing summer!



**Save
the
Date!**

Atlantic Regional Music Education Conference May 2018



The Music Education Associations in Atlantic Canada, including the MSIC, with support of the CMEA are teaming up to offer an Atlantic Regional Music Education Conference. This conference will take place in Halifax, Nova Scotia in the May of 2018 over three days. Stay tuned for more information!

Resonate 2017

Friday, October 27, 2017 • Holiday Inn Hotel St. John's

Registration: 8:00 a.m. • Sessions 8:45 - 3:30 p.m.

Registration now open! www.nlmsic.com

Costs:

\$65.00* – Early Bird Registration (*open until September 30, 2017*)

\$90.00* – Registration after September 30

* *Must be a member in good standing to register.*

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

Steve Giddings from PEI will be our special guest presenting sessions on *Rock Band in the Elementary Classroom*, *Creativity in the Music Classroom*, *The By-Ear-Learning Process* and *Song Writing for Performance!* Other sessions include *Music Moves: Exploring Dalcroze Eurhythmics*, *Stress Management for Music Teachers* and *The Inspired Music Classroom*, just to name a few! Please note the schedule in the registration portal is tentative and still subject to change.

Website – www.nlmsic.com

Don't forget to check the members only section of our website! We are regularly adding resources for music teachers. Last year's songwriting PD session with Tim Baker is still live as well as handouts from many of the presenters from Resonate 2016!

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 Deanna Higdon, 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.** 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 Deanna Higdon, 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:

\$65.00 – Early Bird Registration (*open until September 30, 2017*)

\$90.00 – 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 **Deanna Higdon**.

Teacher Profile: Julia Rideout, Woodland Primary, Grand Falls-Windsor

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

I completed my B.Mus. and B.Mus.Ed from Memorial University of Newfoundland and Labrador, and my M.Ed (Mus.Ed) from the University of British Columbia.

2. Where and what do you teach?

I am currently teaching K-3 music and Grade 3 science, social studies, religion, and art at Woodland Primary in Grand Falls-Windsor.

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

I think one of the most memorable moments occurred early on in my career. It was around the time that I had just made conscious so and mi to my Grade 1 students, when my colleague (a Grade 1 teacher) came to me with this story. She was in the midst of displaying the kids' snowman artwork, putting them on the wall in a pattern of one higher, one lower, etc., when one of her students said, "Miss, that's so and mi". My response to that was, "Yes, they got it!" It was a validation that I was on the right track, and that my students were learning something in my class. It was also interesting to see how they translated their knowledge from the music classroom into the world around them. Even though I have had some great moments and experiences in my career, this particular story is one that resonates with me the most.

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

My advice to a new teacher? I think I would have two pieces of advice: you will fail, and, related to that, don't give up. When I think back to some of the things I did as



a beginning teacher, I cringe. BUT, it was all a learning experience. Through the process I learned what worked and what didn't work. Great ideas (or perceived great ideas!) sometimes fail (and still do). I am still learning and constantly reflecting, experimenting, taking chances, and creating with my students. This shouldn't be discouraging though, because there are some awesome, wonderful, fantastic, and beautiful moments that happen in my classroom too. These moments, for me, far outweigh those moments that do not quite go according to plan.

5. What is the best part of your job?

That's easy. The best part of my job is the kids. You can be having a bad day, but a hug from a student, or the beautiful sound of children singing is enough to brighten your day. I enjoy the excitement that children can have, and the fact that we get to learn and have fun while exploring and creating music. I love that I get to see a child who may struggle in the regular classroom succeed within the music classroom. But, best of all, is when my love and enthusiasm about music manifests itself through my students.

NACO 150 Tour Instrumental Music PD Review

On April 26th, Instrumental music teachers from St. John's, Mount Pearl, and surrounding areas were afforded an exciting opportunity. The National Arts Council Orchestra (NACO) was going to be in town and it had been arranged that they would come meet with teachers and have a Professional Development session. It was an absolutely wonderful experience. After a greeting from the conductor of the NACO, Andrew Shelley, we teachers were treated to a session with some of the excellent instrumentalists from the NACO: Elizabeth Simpson (French Horn), David Thies-Thompson (Viola) and Douglas Burden (Trombone). They were supported in their lessons by three excellent instrumental groups from schools in the city of beginner to senior level. Each gave tips to the performers and teachers lending us their years of knowledge as instrumentalists. To say that one came away from this morning learning some things would be quite the understatement. They answered each of our questions and worked very well with the young student groups. It was quite

the learning experience, and still there was more to come. After the morning session, we attended a concert featuring the Newfoundland Symphony Youth Orchestra playing alongside members of the NACO. After an exciting performance with a world premiere by Newfoundland composer Duane Andrews, a select few of the teachers were given the opportunity to work with Andrew Shelley, conducting selections from "Carmen". As we watched, Mr. Shelley made small changes to each of the conductor's patterns and movements, it was incredible to see the effect each movement had. It was all very significant. Each of the teachers conducting did a very good job and I am sure they gained a lot from the experience. I know that I did just from watching. What a great day for instrumental music in the province. Hopefully we will have more to look forward to in the future.

Jeffrey Humber
St. Andrew's Elementary

Crescent Collegiate 2017 Florida Trip

During their April 18-23 trip, the Crescent Collegiate Vocal Ensemble received a Gold Standard and 2nd place in the Women's Choir category at the WorldStrides OnStage Competition in Orlando, Florida.

Under the direction of Ms. Sarah McDonald, the Vocal Ensemble wowed the adjudicators and organizers of the event with their beautiful singing and excellent representation of school, province, and country. Mackenzie Smith was awarded a special Ovation award for her outstanding work as a soloist with the Vocal Ensemble.

In addition to top marks and high standing, the Vocal Ensemble has earned the great honour of an invitation to the WorldStrides National Youth Choir, and to the Five WorldStrides Festivals of Gold held in various cities in the USA next year. Each of these opportunities is a great honour and comes with the chance to perform in world-renowned concert halls. Sarah is currently working closely with members of the Vocal Ensemble and school community to decide which option will suit the group best.



Eastern Region Executive Update

The Eastern Division Executive of the MSIC extends a huge thank you to all the school ensembles and their directors who participated in the NLTA Christmas Suite this past November. The Christmas Suite concerts took place from November 21-24, 2016 at the Arts & Culture Centre in St. John's. This year, we welcomed school groups from Arnold's Cove, Clarenville, Conception Bay South, Pouch Cove, St. John's, and Torbay. The Christmas Suite always has a wonderful variety of ensemble types, and this year's concerts featured performances by concert and jazz bands, string ensemble, flute choir, Orff ensemble, a traditional Newfoundland band, and choirs of every age – from primary to senior high! It was such a pleasure for us, the members of the Eastern Division Executive, to see such excellent performances by the ensembles and to feel the excitement of the students before and after their performance. There are wonderful things happening in music education in our province!

For the twelfth year, the Eastern Division Executive of

the MSIC has awarded the Heather Macdonald Memorial Scholarship to an outstanding music education student currently completing their internship. The recipient of this scholarship is chosen based on academic performance, written references, and educational leadership potential. The scholarship is meant to recognize the future of music education in Newfoundland and Labrador.

This year, the Council decided to award the scholarship to two recipients. The recipients for 2016 are Melanie Mercer and Colleen McCarthy. Melanie is a pianist from Bay Roberts, and received a Bachelor of Music and a Bachelor of Music Education from Memorial University. She completed her music internship in December 2015 with Heather Dawe at Coley's Point Primary. Colleen is a trombonist from St. John's, and holds a Bachelor of Music (Honours) and a Bachelor of Music Education from Memorial University. She completed her music internship with Sarah Comerford at Leary's Brook Junior High this past fall.

Eastern Region Executive

President – Amanda Dawe



Amanda Dawe-Ledwell holds a Bachelor of Music (Voice) and Bachelor of Music Education from Memorial University, as well as a Masters of Music (Vocal Performance) from the University of Manitoba. She currently substitutes at schools in and around the St. John's area. Amanda is a member of Quintessential Vocal Ensemble. Outside the classroom, Amanda teaches private voice, piano, and flute lessons. Amanda is thrilled to be joining the MSIC as the President of the Eastern Region Executive..

Vice-President – Lesley Chafe



Lesley Chafe holds a Bachelor of Music and a Bachelor of Music Education from Memorial University. Following six years of teaching, she returned to Memorial University where she completed her Masters in Curriculum Studies with a focus in Music Education. Since 2012, she has taught music in K-6 at Rennie's River Elementary in St. John's. Although a voice major, she thoroughly enjoys teaching strings after school. The extra-curricular violin program she started in 2012 currently has 35 members in grades 1-6. Like music, she also has a passion for running and often helps out with her school's cross country running team. Lesley is very pleased to be joining the MSIC as vice-president for the Eastern Region Executive.

Treasurer Leah Antle



Leah Antle holds a Bachelor of Music and Bachelor of Music Education from Memorial University. Following five years of substitute teaching, she returned to MUN to complete her Masters of Music in Choral Conducting. She currently teaches K-6 classroom music and choir at Virginia Park Elementary and St. Mary's Elementary in St. John's. Leah is a member of Lady Cove Women's Choir and is an active participant in music making with the Salvation Army. She maintains a private studio of voice and piano students. Leah is thrilled to be joining the MSIC as a provincial member at large and the treasurer for the Eastern Region Executive.

Secretary – Colleen McCarthy



Colleen McCarthy holds a Bachelor of Music (Honours) in trombone and a Bachelor of Music Education from Memorial University. She is currently working as a substitute teacher in the St. John's Metro Region, where she also maintains a private teaching studio of trombone, piano and voice students. She enjoys a busy performing schedule in St. John's, and plays trombone in the 8-piece cover band "The Halliday Band" and in pit orchestras for various musical theatre productions in the city. She is also an active member of the choral community; she sings in Lady Cove Women's Choir, completed the Shallaway Choral Scholar Program, and has been featured as a guest conductor for the QVE Mixed Youth Chorus and the Holy Heart Chamber Choir. Colleen previously served as Student Representative of the MSIC from 2014-2016, and is excited to be continuing her involvement as Secretary of the Eastern Division Executive.



In Memoriam

Passed away unexpectedly on May 23, 2017 at Toronto General Hospital after a long-awaited heart transplant, **Jamie Wilkinson**, 39 years of age.

Left broken hearted are his wife and best friend Heather Lannon; mother Madonna (late George); brother Jason (Paige); sister Bridget (Richard); nephews Lucas, Ryder and Gabriel; nieces Alison, Ashley, Brooklyn and Jayce; closest aunt Anita Dyer and family; a large number of aunts, uncles and cousins; mother and father-in-law Sheila and Jim; sister-in-law Vanessa; bandmates and friends Jimmy, Wayne, Paul, Chris, Curtis, Bryan and Mitch; staff and students at St. Michael's High School, Bell Island; as well as a large circle of friends and other relatives.

Special thanks to his Toronto "mom and dad" Madonna and Danny Foley, "brother" Jeff, "sister" Denise; as well as Gord, Roxanne, Leigha and Emily King.

Jamie lived with a congenital heart disease that created challenges throughout his life. At just a year old he had open heart surgery to correct the defect. When he turned 30 his health began to deteriorate which caused heart failure. The treatment he required was not available in Newfoundland and numerous trips to Toronto for medical treatment were required. In 2014, in an effort to save his life, Jamie and Heather relocated to Toronto to be closer to his medical team. During this time he underwent many medical interventions including the implantation of a VAD (a mechanical heart) that would sustain his life until a heart transplant could occur. After two and a half years in Toronto a new heart was finally found. Unfortunately, due to complications during the transplant surgery, Jamie did not get to experience life with his new heart.

Despite the many obstacles that Jamie faced he remained positive and never let anything slow him down. He was courageous and brave, a fighter and a friend, and would do anything to help others. Jamie's journey was made easier by the dedicated staff at the Peter Munk Cardiac Center – Toronto General Hospital, especially Dr. Lucy Roche and Dr. Phyllis Billia, who supported him right to the end.

His memory will live on as his wish was to help others by becoming an organ donor himself.

NLTA Music Special Interest Council 2016-2018

Provincial Executive

President	Ashley Beresford	Macdonald Drive Junior High	ashleyberesford@nlesd.ca
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Members-At-Large

Avalon East	Leah Antle	Virginia Park Elementary/ St. Mary's Elementary	leahantle@nlesd.ca
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