

Tempo: Manitoba Music Educators' Association Conference 2025
October 24, 2025
Mennonite Brethren Collegiate Institute
173 Talbot Avenue

Program:

8:40-9:50 am

Session One

9:50 - 10:20 am Industry Display and Coffee Break

10:20-11:30 am

Manitoba Music Educators' Association Gathering and Keynote Address

11:30-1:00 pm

General Luncheon and MBA Luncheon and Awards

1:00-2:10 pm

Session Two

2:10 - 2:30 pm Industry Display and Coffee Break

2:30 - 3:40 pm

Session Three

Sherryl Sewepagaham

Sherryl Sewepagaham (nêhiyâw/Cree) is an artist, educator, and composer from the Little Red River Cree Nation in Alberta. A 2024 Vanier Scholar and PhD student at UBC, her research centers on Cree language and song practices as vital tools for cultural preservation. With over 20 years of experience in K-6 music education, Sherryl brings Indigenous musical traditions into classrooms through teacher resource creation for organizations including MusiCounts, the National Arts Centre's Music Alive Program, and the Alberta Orff Chapter. Her Cree-language choral works have been performed and recorded by the Canadian Chamber Choir, ProCoro Canada, Luminous Voices, the Vancouver Youth Choir, and the Toronto Children's Chorus. A passionate advocate for Indigenous language revitalization, Sherryl continues to shape the future of music education and the choral arts by bridging Indigenous knowledge, artistic expression, and scholarly inquiry.

Patrick Sheridan

Patrick is one of history's most celebrated tuba soloists. He has performed over 3,500 concerts in 50+ countries, from the White House to the Hollywood Bowl. A former member of "The President's Own" U.S. Marine Band, he has been featured on NBC's Today Show and NPR's All Things Considered.

Beyond performing, Patrick is deeply committed to education. His students hold principal positions in major orchestras and military bands across 30+ countries and serve on over 200 university faculties. He has taught at Arizona State, NAU, UCLA, the Rotterdam Conservatory, the Royal Northern College of Music, and the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.

Co-author of The Breathing Gym®, the best-selling method for instrumental improvement, he has presented clinics to over a million students worldwide. The method won a 2009 Regional Emmy® for Instructional Video Production. He serves as Chief Design Consultant for Jupiter Band Instruments, Hercules Stands, and Laskey Mouthpieces.

Jennifer Barnes

Ms. Barnes is a highly sought-after vocalist, educator, clinician and arranger and Professor of Music at the University of North Texas. As Director of Vocal Jazz Studies, Ms. Barnes oversees all vocal activities within the Division of Jazz Studies at UNT, including four vocal jazz ensembles and directing the award-winning Jazz Singers. She has previously taught at seven other universities, served as a guest conductor for District and All-State Music Festivals in sixteen states, taught jazz vocal improvisation at the Jamey Aebersold Jazz Camps from 1998 through 2015, and was the invited conductor of the inaugural ACDA Honor Jazz Choir in 2025. Her vocal arrangements are published by Sheet Music Plus, Anchor Music Publications, UNC Jazz Press, KerryMarsh.com, and self-published on her website, JenniferBarnesMusic.com. She was awarded the 2016 Jazz Education Achievement Award by DownBeat Magazine, as only the second vocal educator to receive that honor.

Ms. Barnes earned the Master of Music degree from the University of Miami (FL) and the Bachelor of Music degree from Western Michigan University.

Susan Brumfield

Dr. Brumfield is Professor of Music Education at Texas Tech University. She is an internationally recognized author, composer and Kodaly specialist. Recent publications include the First, We Sing! Series of Kodály-inspired teaching materials, Hot Peas and Barley-O: Children's Songs and Games from Scotland, Over the Garden Wall: Children's Songs and Games from England and most recently, Jean Ritchie's Kentucky Mother Goose, published by Hal Leonard. She also has an extensive catalogue of choral publications. Her areas of expertise include methodology, folk music research and performance, and choral music for treble voices. She is a native of South Louisiana.

8:40-9:50 am

Session One

I Think I'm Terrible, What Now?

Patrick Sheridan

Sponsor:

Location: Band Room

Freaking about Fillmore? Grim about Grainger? Horrified with Holst? Questioning what, how, and why you are teaching? Need to fall in love with music and teaching again? Want to hear your scores in greater detail? Come to this inspirational clinic about intention and focus. Discover pathways to improved musicianship, inspiration, and meaning in your music education career.

Guitar Chords

Andrew Erickson

Sponsor:

Location: Theatre

Teaching chords from junior high to high school (including your jazz band guitar players!) Andrew will go through a variety of common chord shapes, modifiers, jazz voicings and approaches to chord theory. Guitars provided (first 30 people)

L'apprentissage musical à travers le folklore francophone

Rachelle Landry and Jody Stark

Sponsor:

Location: Library

Dans cette session, Rachelle et Jody vont partager des modèles et principes pour approfondir les connaissances et les habiletés musicales des élèves de M à 6e années à travers le répertoire traditionnel francophone.

Rachelle and Jody will share activities for use in the K-6 French music context using traditional folk materials to develop students' musical understanding and skills.

Flute FUNDamentals: Confident Teaching from the First Note

Stéphanie Superle

Sponsor:

Location: 5100

Teaching flute can feel tricky—but it doesn't have to! This hands-on session gives you the tools to tackle embouchure, first notes, tone development, and common classroom challenges. Build your confidence and leave with practical tips to make teaching flute fun and effective! Don't forget to bring a flute!

Music as a Guide – Aural Training for the Rhythm Section

Fabio Ragnelli

Sponsor:

Location: 5102

What are the challenges in describing a rhythm, feel, and/or stylistic approach when working with a rhythm section? Does musical terminology or notation work? Using specific musical examples as a primary resource helps streamline the process.

The session will cover specific styles and recordings, notated examples, rhythm section 'dictionary', and authentic sound (the beat).

nêhiyawêwin Songs for Choirs

Sherryl Sewepagaham

Sponsor:

Location: MP Room

Join music educator and composer, Sherryl Sewepagaham, as she shares her nêhiyawêwin (Cree language) compositions for unison, SA, SSA, and SATB choirs. Participants will be introduced to Cree-focused vocal pedagogy, resonance, sound production, language, instrumentation, and cultural elements of music encompassing a resurgent, compositional approach. Please bring a smart device.

Vocal Jazz 101 - Part 1

Jennifer Barnes

Sponsor:

Location: Choir Room

In this session, we'll cover a broad spectrum of the basics of getting started with a vocal jazz ensemble, with topics to include repertoire, sound reinforcement, rhythm section, vocal jazz ensemble sound and style, and rehearsal techniques.

Note: Whether or not you've attended "Vocal Jazz 101 - Part 1", you're welcome to attend "Vocal Jazz 101- Continued" at 1:00 p.m

Enriching Students with Military Music - An Opportunity

Joel Lessard

Sponsor:

Location: 3200

Explore the benefits of exposing your students (and yourself!) to a military wind band, military music, and the military environment. Learn about the many ways students can musically and personally gain independence, confidence, fulfillment, accountability, adaptability, and much more through involvement in a military Brass & Reed Band.

Making Music More Accessible - Bringing more students more opportunities

Tricia Howe & Sheila Scott

Sponsor:

Location: 3201

This session will talk about some of the equipment currently available to make musical instruments more available to learners with physical barriers, including instruments from a more universal design perspective, and allow attendees some time with the equipment.

Mix it Up! Songs and Games for Brain Breaks, Social Interaction and Fun!

Susan Brumfield

Sponsor:

Location: Blue Gym

Whether it's singing, playing instruments, reading and writing notation, creating or listening intently, many skill-based activities in music classes require intense concentration and focus. Incorporating intermittent "brain breaks" throughout your lessons can provide students with much-needed opportunities to rest, recharge and refocus their minds and bodies, enhancing their overall experience and enjoyment.

These informal activities help to foster social interaction, reduce stress, provide opportunities for sharing musical ideas, build rapport and camaraderie, and create an atmosphere of belonging and community within the classroom. In this session, we will actively explore repertoire with a focus on its musical and extra musical benefits. We'll learn name games, "mixers" and other songs and games along with fun activities designed to get students moving, singing and playing while cultivating a joyful, playful, and relaxed environment for learning.

10:20-11:30 am

Keynote Address: The Musical Sounds of Reconciliation

Sherryl Sewepagaham

Sponsor:

Location: Jubilee Place

Historically, the music and song traditions of Indigenous Peoples were systematically silenced—demonized, outlawed, and labeled "immoral" under colonial policies that sought to assimilate and erase Indigenous identities, cultures, and languages. This erasure led to a profound loss of traditional song practices and the cultural knowledge they carry. Yet, as The Honourable Steven Lewis Point (Skowkale First Nation), former Chancellor of UBC, powerfully stated in 2022: "Reconciliation is the song we sing together."

In this TEMPO 2025 Keynote presentation, nêhiyâw (Cree) artist, music educator, and 2024 Vanier Scholar Sherryl Sewepagaham invites music educators into a transformative journey of cross-cultural collaboration, reflection, and practice. Grounded in her ongoing research and decades of experience in K-6 music education, Sherryl explores how collective singing and the integration of Indigenous musical worldviews can deepen cross-cultural understanding and contribute meaningfully to reconciliation.

Through story, sound, and the sharing of a newly-composed song, participants will be invited to engage with Indigenous voice and artistry as a path toward inclusive and respectful music education.

11:30 am-1:00 pm

General Luncheon and MBA Luncheon and Awards

12:10-12:50 pm

Indigenous Artist Sharing Circle

Rhonda Head, Ray (Coco) Stevenson, Sylvia Wastesicoot with Dr. Jody Stark, Amanda Ciavarelli, Andrew Legeny

Sponsor:

Location: Choir Room

In this session participants will have the chance to get to know three local Indigenous musician-educators and their music. While Rhonda, Coco, and Sylvia all work in different contexts and genres, this session explores how their music could potentially provide a way of learning about Indigenous perspectives for students in Manitoba music programs.

1:00-2:10 pm

Session Two

Jazz Band Rehearsal Techniques - An Open Rehearsal

Alexis Silver

Sponsor:

Location: Jubilee Place

We music educators often face the challenge of balancing numerous tasks with limited time. Productive rehearsals require thoughtful planning and goal setting, but covering all the essentials can be tough. In this session, we'll explore ways to listen to influential artists, try a wee bit of basic jazz theory, and encourage style development through student-focused rehearsal techniques. Join us as we dive into warm-ups, listening exercises, rehearsal strategies, and project-based learning, all demonstrated with a great, young, live ensemble!

Rehearsal Techniques of the Masters

Patrick Sheridan

Sponsor:

Location: Band Room

Methodologies for better ensemble intonation, dynamics, articulations, time, and expression drawn from Patrick Sheridan's 35-year career as an international soloist, applied lesson teacher, and 20 years as a community ensemble conductor. Active intonation studies for better ears, dynamic and articulation visual aids, groove games for better time, and free play for improved expression will be demonstrated.

Indigenous/Non-Indigenous Collaborations Through Music

Dr. Jody Stark, Rhonda Head, Coco (Ray) Stevenson, Sylvia Wastesicoot, Andrew Legeny, Amanda Ciavarelli

Sponsor:

Location: Theatre

Indigenous musicians and educators Rhonda Head, Coco (Ray) Stevenson, and Sylvia Wastesicoot, along with music teacher collaborators Andrew Legeny, Jody Stark, and Amanda Ciavarelli, share about

their experience working together to bring Indigenous perspectives into their teaching contexts in a good way along with ethical principles for settler/Indigenous collaborations.

Supporting Guitarists in the Middle and High-School Jazz Band

Rylan Knaggs

Sponsor:

Location: Library

Familiarize yourself with the essential 7th chord voicings and extensions common to jazz guitar players through an adaptable visual format. Learn to make necessary adaptations and simplifications to existing guitar parts using notation software. Facilitate student independence through a self-directed method for categorizing and memorizing the most common chord qualities as they appear on the guitar fretboard.

What Works for Me: A Conversation Exploring the Joys and Challenges of Teaching in a Higher Needs School

Mark Sawatsky

Sponsor:

Location: 5100

The music room in any school can be a sanctuary for joy and community for students; a place where they build relationships, feel safe and can strive for excellence. It is vital in schools where students may have fewer resources or opportunities.

The State of Your Fire: Tending to the Soul of the Music Educator

Anna Harrison

Sponsor:

Location: 5102

With so many tasks, responsibilities and a tendency to care deeply about our work, music educators often find themselves in a state of burnout wondering...what happened? In this workshop, we will discuss factors that contribute to burnout and different ways that they manifest in the body, mind and spirit as well as explore a range of boundary setting techniques through creative movement.

Introduction to Audio Technology for Music Educators

Joel Green

Sponsor:

Location: MP Room

This presentation will cover the fundamentals of using an audio console. Basic conceptual foundations and terminology of live sound reinforcement will be discussed, and attendees will learn the theoretical basis for how to properly set up a simple mixer with multiple channels of live microphones.

Vocal Jazz 101...continued**Jennifer Barnes****Sponsor:****Location: Choir Room**

In this session, we'll cover a broad spectrum of the basics of getting started with a vocal jazz ensemble, with topics to include repertoire, sound reinforcement, rhythm section, vocal jazz ensemble sound and style, and rehearsal techniques.

Note: Whether or not you've attended "Vocal Jazz 101 - Part 1", you're welcome to attend "Vocal Jazz 101...continued".

Peer Teaching Wins with the Fiddle**Johanna Hildebrand, Dana Crawford and Tanya Quintana****Sponsor:****Location: 3200**

Join fiddle teacher Johanna Hildebrand, and classroom teachers Dana Crawford and Tanya Quintana in this session exploring how the fiddle room and classroom come together in the peer teaching model used at Constable Edward Finney School in the Seven Oaks School Division. Discover how older students mentor younger ones, enhancing classroom dynamics, fostering leadership, and integrating competencies within the Circle of Courage framework.

Des chansons francophones pour une jeunesse engagée!**Marie-Claude McDonald, Lynne Brémault-Parent****Sponsor:****Location: 3201**

Les chansons francophones contemporaines sont un véhicule important pour contribuer au cheminement langagier, identitaire et culturel des élèves. Venez découvrir un répertoire de chansons « coup de cœur », porteuses de messages riches et engageants pour les élèves de la 4^e à la 8^e année.

Practical Pedagogy: Skill Building and Practice Activities**Susan Brumfield****Sponsor:****Location: Blue Gym**

You've carefully prepared and "presented" each new element, but what's next? Practice, and lots of it! Fast-paced and fun, these 5-7 minute "practice cards" are designed to reinforce new concepts and support literacy skills through sequential, easy to assess activities. Student-tested and approved, these activities fit easily into your rehearsal and lesson plans, with minimum planning and maximum results. Participants will explore creative ways to reinforce musical skill development in singing, playing, reading, writing, composition, improvisation and part-work in both general music and choral settings. We will

explore 5-7 minute practice activities designed to save planning time and to provide efficient and fun ways to deliver instruction and assess.

2:30 - 3:40 pm

Session Three

Unlock Your Brain: Keys to Stress-Free Learning

Patrick Sheridan

Sponsor:

Location: Jubilee Place

Optimize your classroom! Motivation to learn grows through autonomy, relatedness, and competence. Skills develop with mindful repetition and a clear "why." To refine skills, our brain must be in the right state, or bad habits form. Explore the neuroscience of skill acquisition and why musicians must prepare their brains for practice and performance. Discover how breathwork gets your brain excited to learn!

Teaching Improvisation at the High School Level

Greg Gatien

Sponsor:

Location: Band Room

An exploration of techniques and strategies to foster a safe and welcoming space for students of all levels in which they can develop improvisational language that can be expressive, structured, rooted in tradition, and expandable.

Melody & Method: Enhancing Guitar Education with Contemporary Pop Music

Brendan McLean

Sponsor:

Location: Theatre

This session equips educators with a variety of tools and resources that go beyond the typical "strum and hum." Participants will dive into scale patterns related to the CAGED system, triads, 7th chords, bass/melody harmony, and intervals. We'll focus on extracting key elements from contemporary pop songs and developing differentiated lesson plans. Attendees will leave with a comprehensive collection of materials, including fretboard diagrams, chord charts, and tablature, all designed to enrich their teaching and inspire their students.

Chanter et jouer de la maternelle à la 6e année

Amanda Ciavarelli

Sponsor:

Location: Library

Venez explorer des chansons et des jeux français qui encouragent les élèves à participer activement à la création musicale et à l'apprentissage. Cette session comprendra des activités pour les élèves de la maternelle à la 6e année.

For School and Community: Teaching Beyond the Perimeter in Manitoba

Wendy Zander, Andrew Coombs, Aurora Whitehead, Kelsey Zimmerman

Sponsor:

Location: 5100

Music educators live, teach, and thrive in every corner of Manitoba. Teachers, each positioned at the centre of arts education, will share viewpoints on the role and value of teaching and investing in the students, families, and residents in their communities. This roundtable discussion will explore the perceived benefits, challenges, and strategies of teaching in a rural position.

Vocal Health for Singers and Educators: Toward Tension-free Phonation

Catherine Robbins

Sponsor:

Location: 5102

This session provides an overview of the causes of muscle tension in both speech and singing with a focus on principles of tension-free respiration, tone production, and resonance. The session will introduce accessible exercises to develop vocal health in singers and speakers of all ages.

L&M New Music Reading Session for Middle Years and Senior Years Choirs

Vic Pankratz

Sponsor: Long & McQuade

Location: MP Room

Come join us in singing through some highlights of choral music for 2025 for choirs of all ages. The first half of the session (35 mins) will focus on repertoire for early and middle years, featuring unison and 2-part works. The second half (35 mins) will focus on repertoire suited for senior years (grade 9-12) ensembles in 3-part, 4-part, and beyond! Come ready to sing through some great pieces from the 2025 L&M New Music Favourites Choral collection. We have room for lots of voices and the first 30 to arrive for each session half will leave with a complimentary package of octavos!

Next level Vocal Jazz: Moving past the basics

Jennifer Barnes

Sponsor:

Location: Choir Room

An exploration of pedagogical tools for the vocal jazz ensemble director to take their group to the next level! We'll discuss improvisation, programming/repertoire, and advanced stylistic tools including "Micro-dynamics"!

How and Why - Thoughts on Fiddling in Schools.

Daniel Koulack

Sponsor:

Location: 3200

Thoughts and what we are doing and why we are doing it. A few good teaching tricks developed over the years. A discussion of technique. Three elements that determine "success" for more serious students - desire, aptitude, support.

Bring your instruments (there may be a few on hand) - we will play some tunes! Sheet music available for those that are unfamiliar with fiddle repertoire.

Music Belongs to All Learners

Sheila Scott and Holly Walker

Sponsor:

Location: 3201

Bringing together diverse experiences in neurodiversity, Holly Walker (Brandon School Division) and Sheila Scott (Brandon University) explore ways to welcome all learners into inclusive spaces for music education. The applications and perceptions shared are suitable for multiple facets of music learning such as general elementary, guitar, choral, and instrumental.

It's All in Your Head: From Musical Literacy to Improvisation

Susan Brumfield

Sponsor:

Location: Blue Gym

From the moment children can utter sounds, they begin to create their own musical worlds through babbling, moving, speaking and ultimately singing in their own ways. These natural creative instincts can and should be nurtured in a relaxed and playful way, in a fun and safe classroom environment. There is a frequent misconception that the highly structured nature of this approach can inhibit, rather than encourage creativity. In a true Kodály-inspired practice, however, improvisation is an integral part of the process, embedded in each stage of concept development. Some teachers struggle with the idea of teaching improvisation because of their own experience (or lack of experience) with that skill. Even those who feel completely confident about other aspects of planning and teaching may experience fear or musical insecurity at the thought of finding ways for their students to show what they know through improvisation activities. In this session, we will explore improvisation as a skill (not a magic trick!) that can be developed over time, through small, incremental steps, and view spontaneous creation as a fun, enjoyable process for students and their teachers, too.

2025-05-12