

7:30	Registration and Industry Display (Red Gym - South Building)											
	NORTH BUILDING							SOUTH BUILDING				BLUE GYM
	Jubilee Place	Band Room	Theatre	Library	5100	5102	5107	MP Room	Choir Room	3200	3201	
8:40 - 9:50	Darrin Oehlerking	Shelley Jagow	David Stark	Shane Barron	Neil Yorke-Slader	Coutris-Hrousalas & Rempel	Beck Watt	Coty Raven Morris	Spraggs & Dagenais	Michelle Yaciuk	Hees & Miron	Heather Nail
	Winds of the North	Expressive Musicianship	Teaching Children How to Fish	Guitar Program Essentials	What do Adjudicators Want from my Jazz Band?	Many Voices, One Classroom	Q the Music	Discovering Your Inner Superhero	Perform Again	Making Music Education Work for Everyone	Cr��er, collaborer, enseigner	Sing with Joy
9:50 - 10:20 Please visit Industry Displays in the Red Gym (South Building) - refreshments available												
10:20	Manitoba Music Educators' Association Gathering										Jubilee Place (North)	
	Keynote: Tim Lautzenheiser											
11:30	General Luncheon										MP Room (South)	
11:30	MBA Luncheon and Awards										Cafeteria (North)	
12:10 - 12:50	Nick Godsoe - Unlocking MusiCounts										Choir Room (South)	
	NORTH BUILDING							SOUTH BUILDING				BLUE GYM
	Jubilee Place	Band Room	Theatre	Library	5100	5102	5107	MP Room	Choir Room	3200	3201	
1:00 - 2:10	Tim Lautzenheiser	Neil Yorke-Slader	Mary-Lynn Berti	Andrew Erickson	Abraham & Styles		Shelley Jagow	Coty Raven Morris	Larissa Hrabı	Patti Kusturock	Mahir et al.	Heather Nail
	Making the Most of Our Rehearsal Time	Beyond the Notes	Making Musical Connections with Folk Dances	Improv for the Guitar Class	Quick Tips, Lasting Impact		Growing Better Single Reed Sections	Keeping it R.E.A.L.	Trauma Informed Rehearsal Techniques	Learn a Manitoba Fiddle Tune	L'inclusion des ��l��ves ayant des besoins sp��ciaux en musique	Fun and Games in the Elementary Music Class
2:10 - 2:30 Please visit Industry Displays in the Red Gym (South Building) - refreshments available												
2:30 - 3:40	Beck et al.	Shelley Jagow	Rosemarie Todaschuk	Ryan Guth	Gill & Steinhilber	Nick Godsoe	Penno et al.	Coty Raven Morris	Melissa Spraggs	Jennifer Thiessen	Mahir et al.	Heather Nail
	The Warriors Indigenous Drum Group	Making Sense/Cents of Ensemble Intonation	Honouring Culture Through Song	Help! My Guitar Students are Metalheads!	Level Up Your Jazz Pedagogy	From Classroom to Career	Embracing the Awkward Family Photo 2.0	Reading Session: I Lead with my Spirit	Two or More Things at Once	Listening from the First Note	Exploratory Music for Students with Needs	Book and a Song? You Can't Go Wrong!

Tempo: Manitoba Music Educators' Association Conference 2026

October 23, 2026

Mennonite Brethren Collegiate Institute

173 Talbot Avenue

Winnipeg

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

Tim Lautzenheiser

Tim is a trusted friend to anyone interested in working with young people in the pursuit of excellence. His own career involves ten years as a band director at Northern Michigan University, University of Missouri, and New Mexico State University. In 1981 he created Attitude Concepts for Today, Inc., an organization designed to manage the requests for student leadership workshops, teacher seminars, and convention speaking engagements focusing on the critical importance of "the teacher as a leader/role model." He presently serves as the Senior Vice President of Education for Conn-Selmer, Inc. Tim is a co-writer of Hal Leonard's popular band method *Essential Elements*. His books, published by GIA Publications, including *The Art of Successful Teaching*, *The Joy of Inspired Teaching*, *Classic Leadership*, *Pathway to Success*, and many others are best-sellers in the music profession.

Dr. Shelley Jagow

Dr. Jagow is Professor of Music at Wright State University, where she is Director of Bands and teaches conducting. She earned top honors in Music Education from the University of Saskatchewan and the University of Missouri, and the Ph.D. in Music Education from Union Institute & University. She also earned the Certificate in Piano Performance IX (Royal Conservatory of Music) and has been nominated for and received numerous awards, most recently the 2026 OMEA Distinguished Service Award.

An artist clinician with Conn-Selmer, Vandoren, Meredith Music, and GIA Music, “Dr. J” is a clinician, performer, adjudicator, coach, and conductor. She has presented widely across the U.S. and Canada, and internationally in Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Scotland, and Spain.

Dr. Jagow can be heard on the Emeritus label, NPR Performance Today, and America’s Millennium Tribute to Adolphe Sax. She is the author of many books published by GIA/Meredith Music, including *Expressive Musicianship: Concepts and Exercises to Develop a Band's Musical Potential*, and *Tuning for Wind Instruments*, *Intermediate Studies for Developing Artists on the Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Saxophone and Bassoon*. Website: www.shelleyjagow.com

Coty Raven Morris

Coty Raven Morris is the Hinckley Assistant Professor of Choir, Music Education, and Social Justice at Portland State University. A two-time Grammy nominee, she is a newly published composer with works performed at honour choirs and festivals nationwide. Morris also hosts at All Classical Radio and the International Children’s Arts Network (ICAN), fostering access to the arts for children. She serves as Chorus Master and Artistic Collaborator with Portland Center Stage, the Oregon Symphony Orchestra, and Choirs of America. Morris is the Founder of Being Human Together, a community focused on mental health, diversity, and inclusivity in music education.

Heather Nail

Heather has been an Orff Music Specialist for the Calgary Board of Education for 26 years. She holds Orff level three certification, and has a Master of Education degree from the University of Alberta, specializing in Elementary Music. Heather co-teaches the Introductory Orff level in Calgary, presents regularly at music conferences in western Canada and beyond, and in her spare time conducts the Westside Junior Concert Choir. Heather mentors emerging music teachers in Calgary, and is currently serving as the past president of Carl Orff Canada. Follow her on Instagram @mrs_nail_music

8:40-9:50 am
Session One

Winds of the North - Perspectives on Canadian Wind Band Repertoire**Darrin Oehlerking****Sponsor: GIA****Location: Jubilee Place**

Highlighting, discussing and performing historical and contemporary Canadian wind band repertoire and issues for music educators.

Expressive Musicianship: Concepts and Exercises to Develop your Band's Musical Potential**Dr. Shelley Jagow****Sponsor: Conn-Selmer, Inc.****Location: Band Room**

Provide your students with a foundation of tools to respond to notation with stylistic relevancy. Bring your instruments and learn practical exercises and activities to incorporate into daily rehearsal fundamentals. By the end of this clinic, the participants will be able to apply at least 5 concepts to improve musicianship in bands at any grade level.

Teaching Children how to Fish: Foregrounding Student Learning in Early Years Music**David Stark****Sponsor:****Location: Theatre**

Through hands-on experiences, this session will explore strategies to shift our gaze from teaching - engaging or otherwise - to learning. Through assessment for learning, musicianship, project-based learning, instrument-playing, and literacy, this session will encourage us to explore what music class can look like when it is focused on student learning.

Guitar Program Essentials**Shane Barron****Sponsor:****Location: Library**

Discover practical ideas for starting or expanding a school guitar program. This session explores teaching approaches, technique fundamentals, reading strategies, repertoire selection, performance planning, and equipment considerations - while sharing adaptable ideas that foster student creativity through ensemble playing, chords, riffs, and meaningful engagement with popular music.

What do Adjudicators Want From My Jazz Band?**Neil Yorke-Slader****Sponsor: MusicFest****Location: 5100**

Adjudicators want the band to succeed. Don't be worried about the odd wrong note or flubbed rhythmic figure. It's more of an overall approach – "what is the band like as an organism"? Neil will describe how to craft your pieces to best demonstrate your jazz band's acumen.

Many Voices, One Classroom: Music, Identity, and Belonging**Dina Coutris-Hrousalas & Julianna Rempel****Sponsor:****Location: 5102**

This session invites participants to explore where music meets culture in classroom practice through the sharing of an immigrant's lived experiences. Grounded in Greek community roots and enriched by story, movement, and song, the workshop empowers teachers to honor identities, amplify voices and foster empathy and belonging in the music classroom.

Q the Music**Beck Watt****Sponsor:****Location: 5107**

Q the Music, invites you to queer the music classroom. Participants will make music together, practicing actively dismantling common gender binaries and stereotypes in Western instrumental music classrooms. This session will infuse time for personal reflection, group conversation and music making, to give participants an opportunity to reflect on their practice.

Discovering Your Inner Superhero: Authentic Teaching in Today's Classroom**Coty Raven Morris****Sponsor:****Location: MP Room**

Unleash your inner teaching superhero! This workshop offers strategies for teaching with authenticity, addressing challenges of today's classrooms, and balancing creativity with structure. Teachers will walk away with tools to embrace their unique strengths while meeting the needs of their diverse students.

Perform Again: Paths to Choral Growth**Melissa Spraggs & Andree Dagenais****Sponsor:****Location: 3201**

In choral settings, performing is sometimes perceived as the final objective, demonstrating the educational benefits of the rehearsal journey. Featuring voices of Canadian performing arts teachers, we will explore how the acts of performing and repeated performances are essential to completing the educational and artistic process, leading to ensemble flourishing.

Making Music Education Work for Everyone**Michelle Yaciuk, MM, MTA****Sponsor:****Location: 3200**

This session offers practical reminders, adaptable strategies, and honest stories about inclusive music teaching. Participants will leave with classroom-ready ideas, shared insights from peers, and renewed confidence to support diverse learners in meaningful musical ways.

Créer, collaborer, enseigner - une approche simple pour la création d'arrangements Orff

Steven Hees & Christine Miron

Sponsor:

Location: 3201

Pas besoin de réinventer la roue! Dans cette session, nous vous proposons une approche simple et efficace pour créer des ressources pédagogiques en musique à l'élémentaire, à partir d'éléments ciblés et concrets. Ensemble, nous cocréerons une nouvelle ressource que vous pourrez adapter à votre réalité et utiliser directement dans votre salle de musique.

Sing with Joy – Uniting Choral singing and Orff philosophy

Heather Nail

Sponsor:

Location: Blue Gym

This session will give your students something to sing about! Blending the holistic, creative philosophies of Orff and quality choral singing, participants will explore imaginative music making for elementary students. We will focus on developing confident in-tune singing, vocal and instrumental ostinati, singing in canon and partner songs within an Orff context. Material will be appropriate for K-6 elementary music specialists and elementary choir directors.

10:20-11:30 am

Keynote Address: Building a Culture of Excellence

Dr. Tim Lautzenheiser

Sponsor: Conn-Selmer, Inc. & Hal Leonard, Inc.

Location: Jubilee Place

When we view the fine music programs, they have one commonality; the students reside in a CULTURE OF EXCELLENCE. From the lay-of-the-land to the attention to musical detail, EXCELLENCE is the filter of everything, all things. Fueled by communication, it is the ongoing planting-nurturing-and-harvesting of trust relationships with a constant focus on THE WHY.

11:30 am-1:00 pm

General Luncheon and MBA Luncheon and Awards

12:10-12:50 pm

Unlocking MusiCounts**Nick Godsoe****Sponsor: MusiCounts****Location: Choir Room**

This interactive session explores how MusiCounts supports music education across Canada through funding opportunities, professional development, and open-access classroom resources. We'll discuss the mechanics of applying for funding, share practical tips for building a strong application, and explore how educators can engage with MusiCounts programs—including the CBC Music Class Challenge—to help foster a vibrant, inclusive, and future-facing culture of music education in their schools.

1:00-2:10 pm**Session Two****Making the Most of Our Rehearsal Time!****Tim Lautzenheiser****Sponsor: Conn-Selmer, Inc. & Hal Leonard, Inc.****Location: Jubilee Place**

Much of a music educator's time is spent OFF THE PODIUM. This means we must maximize the ON THE PODIUM time to advance young artists to the highest level of their talents and skills. What are the key factors in creating a climate where our students take advantage of every precious minute of rehearsal time by being focused, committed, dedicated and eager to explore their unlimited potential?

Beyond the Notes - A Jazz Director's Guide to Sound, Feel, and Emotional Impact**Neil Yorke-Slader****Sponsor: MusicFest****Location: Band Room**

Great music isn't just played—it's felt. How can jazz educators move beyond notes and rhythms to unlock real emotional depth in performance? Neil will describe how various musical elements shape the emotional impact of a performance, and help your band sound more alive and compelling—so the audience doesn't just hear the music, they feel it.

Making Musical Connections with Folk Dances in the Primary Grades**Mary-Lynn Berti****Sponsor:****Location: Theatre**

Using folk dance in your early years music classroom not only keeps young brains and bodies busy, it's a great way to make kinaesthetic connections to curricular outcomes. Come prepared to dance with your colleagues as we explore both traditional and modern approaches that will engage students of all ages!

Improv for the Guitar Class

Andrew Erickson

Sponsor:

Location: Library

This session discusses approaches on how to get your students improvising and reading scale patterns.

Quick Tips, Lasting Impact: Micro-Ideas for Band Directors

Matt Abraham & Michelle Styles

Sponsor:

Location: 5100

This session will present a collection of concise ideas that address philosophical, aesthetic, and conceptual aspects of teaching and rehearsing wind bands. The ideas are drawn from the expertise of the presenters, established experts, and respected mentors in the wind band field.

Growing Better Single Reed Sections – Top 10 Fertilizers!

Shelley Jagow

Sponsor: Conn-Selmer, Inc.

Location: 5107

Say goodbye to honks, squeaks and other dysfunctional section sounds. Participants will explore 10 key points and learn successful methods to improve the tone and clarity of your band's clarinet and saxophone section. This clinic will share tips for achieving proper tonal character, matching the right reed to the right mouthpiece, employing exercises to musically manipulate the airstream, correcting pitch errors, and improving articulation clarity.

Keeping it R.E.A.L.: Culturally Relevant Teaching in Today's Classroom

Coty Raven Morris

Sponsor: BriLee Music

Location: MP Room

This session explores how educators can make their teaching culturally relevant while fostering a classroom environment of respect, equity, and authentic learning. Gain insights on integrating cultural responsiveness into the music curriculum and learn strategies to adapt to diverse student needs.

Trauma Informed Rehearsal Techniques for Elementary Choir

Larissa Hrabí

Sponsor:

Location: Choir Room

How do we mindfully and effectively teach choir to students who have experienced trauma, live in poverty, and face neglect? This session will explore the benefits of music education for healing as well as discuss effective ways to keep these students engaged through repertoire, community building, and reframing curriculum.

Learn a Manitoba Fiddle Tune and Let's Jam!

Patti Kusturock

Sponsor:

Location: 3200

Patti will talk about her fiddling history and will teach a fiddle tune by ear. Following this, participants will take part in a jam session using the "Manitoba Fiddle Jam Tune Book Volume 1."

L'inclusion des élèves ayant des besoins spéciaux en musique : l'approche « Petit Groupe »
Melanie Mahir (Prof de Musique), Richelle Lemieux (Auxiliaire), Cara Ingmundsun (Auxiliaire),
Jeriel Celestino (Auxiliaire), Jennifer Rosenbaum (Auxiliaire), Quinn Jones (Prof d'appui)

Sponsor:

Location: 3201

Vous êtes-vous déjà demandé s'il existait une autre façon d'intégrer vos élèves ayant des besoins spéciaux dans les cours de musique, une approche plus enrichissante pour eux que de simplement essayer de s'adapter à ce que fait le reste de la classe ?

Au cours de cette session, nous examinerons une approche différente de l'inclusion en classe de musique : celle de l'approche « Petit Groupe » que certaines écoles commencent à adopter avec succès à la division scolaire de Seven Oaks. Nous guiderons les participants à travers certaines des activités sensori-motrices pratiques préférées de nos élèves, utilisant des instruments, des foulards, des parachutes et bien plus encore. Nous discuterons des avantages que les élèves ayant des besoins particuliers tirent de cette approche, tant sur le plan émotionnel, social et développemental que musical. Nous soulignerons l'importance cruciale du partenariat dans ce type de programme, entre les professeurs de musique, les auxiliaires, les profs d'appui, l'administration et les élèves. Nous espérons avoir une discussion ouverte à la fin de la session sur ce à quoi ressemble l'inclusion dans la salle de musique dans vos écoles. (Venez prêts à bouger et à jouer !)

Fun and Games in the Elementary Music Class

Heather Nail

Sponsor:

Location: Blue Gym

Want to increase student engagement, participation and musical understanding? Play a game! Fun and games are the natural way to access children's understanding of musical concepts, and this session will provide ideas and inspiration for music teachers looking to incorporate some play into their classes! Through movement, singing, listening, speech and the use of basic instruments, we will play games that explore musical concepts from kindergarten to grade 5.

2:30 - 3:40 pm

Session Three

The Warriors Indigenous Drum Group of the Royal Winnipeg Rifles

Corporal Daniel Beck, Sergeant Chris Budlong, and Corporal Bryce Mogan

Sponsor: Canadian Forces

Location: Jubilee Place

The Warriors Indigenous Drum Group was founded in 2020 as a response to tragedy within the Canadian Armed Forces; the passing of Corporal Nolan Caribou. Corporal Caribou's passing highlighted the need for a cultural shift within the Forces. A new way for Indigenous members to feel supported and contribute was needed, as well as a way for non-indigenous members to gain more understanding and appreciation of indigenous culture. Warrant Officer (now Captain) Robert Falcon Ouellette founded the Warriors as a way for Indigenous members to connect with each other and form a deeper connection and understanding of their own culture and practice it in a setting that contributes to the Canadian Armed Forces. The group has become an incredible success, and has contributed to member well being, appreciation among non-indigenous members for indigenous culture, and has become a highlight and source of Pride within The Royal Winnipeg Rifles and the wider defense community. The group contributes to Canada's mission towards reconciliation, and the Canadian Forces' desire to become a place welcoming and celebratory of indigenous culture.

Making Sense/Cents of Ensemble Intonation

Shelley Jagow

Sponsor: Conn-Selmer, Inc.

Location: Band Room

A practical, classroom-ready clinic that helps directors build better intonation using two simple tools: ears and an app. Discover the pros and cons of various electronic and audio-visual tuning tools and learn how to use them to strengthen (not replace) student listening. Participants will explore strategies that get students actively involved in the tuning process, including the most effective tuning notes and tendencies for each instrument.

Honouring Culture Through Song: Ukrainian Music in the Kodály Classroom

Rosemarie Todaschuk

Sponsor:

Location: Theatre

This session introduces Ukrainian songs through the Kodály approach, progressing from simple echo and game songs to solfège-based learning of songs with movement, including basic Ukrainian dance steps. Designed for music educators of all backgrounds, it supports culturally responsive teaching and engages learners while providing accessible tools to include Ukrainian repertoire in diverse classrooms.

Help! My Guitar Students Are Metalheads!: A Survival Guide for Differentiated Instruction in Guitar Classrooms

Ryan Guth

Sponsor:

Location: Library

Ever had a guitar student who can shred circles around your curriculum? This session explores practical differentiation strategies for advanced players in grades 7–12 guitar programs. Discover engaging resources, creative challenges, and ways to keep your “metalheads” motivated while the rest of the class builds foundational skills.

Level up Your Jazz Pedagogy

Brady Gill & Dan Steinhilber

Sponsor:

Location: 5100

Would you like to expand your jazz band pedagogy past the “concert band that swings” stage and begin incorporating authentic jazz practice in your teaching? Join experienced jazz educators Brady Gill and Dan Steinhilber as they walk through effective jazz class sequence, basic transcription techniques (including a list of easy to transcribe tunes/solos), and beginning improvisation. You’ll walk away with some proven “use it on Monday” tips and tricks.

From Classroom to Career: Leveraging the JUNOS in Manitoba

Nick Godsoe

Sponsor: MusiCounts

Location: 5102

This session explores how educators can bring music industry learning into the classroom and help students connect their passion for music to future career pathways. With the JUNO Awards coming to Winnipeg in 2027, this is a unique opportunity for Manitoba educators to fully leverage a major national music event happening in their home province while helping bridge the gap between music education and the music industry. Participants will be introduced to free MusiCounts resources and upcoming educational programming designed specifically for Winnipeg-based educators leading up to the JUNOS, while exploring practical ways to connect students with careers in artist development, live events, media, production, songwriting, marketing, and more. We’ll also discuss how career-connected learning and industry partnerships can serve as powerful advocacy tools for school music programs by demonstrating the broad creative, cultural, and economic impact of music education.

Embracing the Awkward Family Photo 2.0: A Portrait of Collaboration

Graydon Cramer, Erin Dodds, Brooklyn Friesen, Meaghan Graham, Anna Penno

Sponsor:

Location: 5107

Brandon School Division’s band teaching team will engage attendees in a roundtable discussion on building partnerships as music educators, as well as their approaches to unite students from Brandon School Division’s 21 schools that offer band across the division’s four band programs. A follow-up to their 2020 zoom presentation, the team will also reflect on changes to their approaches over the last number of years.

I Lead With My Spirit: An Interactive Choral Rehearsal (reading session/ rehearsal)

Coty Raven Morris

Sponsor: E.C. Schirmer

Location: MP Room

Join an interactive rehearsal designed to demonstrate leadership through spirit and connection. Learn practical approaches for empowering student leaders, creating a positive rehearsal environment, and enhancing musical growth through community-building exercises.

Two or More Things at Once: Kodály-Inspired Sight-Reading and Musicianship for Choral Conductors

Melissa Spraggs

Sponsor:

Location: Choir Room

To lead effective rehearsals, choral conductors often perform two or more things at once. Inspired by the Kodály Approach, this active workshop will facilitate practice of simultaneous skills, including sight-singing, movement, and conducting. Participants will discover how incremental skill-building can be used in their own practice and choral rehearsals.

Listening from the First Note

Jennifer Thiessen

Sponsor:

Location: 3200

In this session for all musicians and educators, Jennifer will engage the participants' awareness of listening in the present moment as a valuable tool for playing and teaching. Much of our work as performers, creators, and teachers benefits from an ability to concentrate on the sound that is actually coming out of our instruments in real time. This is where strong technique rises to support emotional expression. Expect Deep Listening, long tones, and a mock lesson.

Exploratory Music for Students with Needs

Melanie Mahir, Quinn Jones, Richelle Lemieux, Jeriel Celestino, Jennifer Rosenbaum, & Cara Ingimundsen

Sponsor:

Location: 3201

How one school's small-group exploratory music sessions with students with the highest needs is making significant positive changes, strengthening relationships between students, teachers and students, and between staff members and admin who work with them, as well as ideas on how to implement this kind of program in your own school.

Book and a Song? You Can't Go Wrong!

Heather Nail

Sponsor:

Location: Blue Gym

Using children's literature in the music class offers the Orff music specialist a wonderful opportunity to incorporate musical concepts while honouring the student's own ideas of how music can enhance the literature. Participants will be introduced to quality children's books to be used as a springboard for the exploration of speech, song, movement, music literacy, notation, and playing instruments.

Matt Abraham

A native of Winnipeg Manitoba, Matt leads the Performing Arts Department at Vincent Massey Collegiate where he teaches a variety of instrumental music courses. As an educator and conductor Matt has worked with honour bands, adjudicated festivals, and presented professional development sessions for many institutions and organizations across North America, with recent engagements in Los Angeles, North Carolina, and Alberta. Intensely passionate about inspiring the next generation of a musically literate society, Matt is a fervent advocate for the importance of music education and the continued development of musicians at every level.

Shane Barron

Shane is a dedicated music educator with 10 years of experience teaching classroom guitar in schools, building on many years of prior private instruction. He is passionate about fostering confidence, creativity, and lifelong musicianship through engaging and accessible music education. Outside the classroom, he works with independent artists through his home recording studio and performs regularly in bands, staying active in the local music community. He also serves as Vice-President of the Manitoba Classroom Guitar Association, supporting fellow teachers and contributing to the growth of classroom guitar programs.

Corporal Daniel Beck

Drumming has always come naturally to Corporal Beck. After completing 2 years in music school, he discovered his passion for audio at Bedside Studio in Winnipeg. He has taken on gigs in Winnipeg's biggest venues, working alongside artists like Sean Desmond and Fefe Dobson. Born in Winnipeg, Daniel's ancestral home of Hollow Water First Nation is where he was given his spiritual name of Standing Bear, and he partook in various cultural activities such as fasts and sweats as a youth. He began singing with The Winnipeg Warriors Drum Group in 2021, and has become a respected leader within the group, steering it toward greater engagement and interaction with the public.

Mary-Lynn Berti

Mary-Lynn is an arts educator who loves to sing and dance with her students in every music class. A graduate of the Royal Winnipeg Ballet Professional Division, she taught ballet and creative movement at the RWB School and Arts Umbrella in Vancouver. She holds Music and Master of Education degrees from the University of Manitoba, specializing in early years music education. She teaches music in the Seven Oaks School Division and conducts the Chickadee Choir for the Winnipeg Youth Chorus. Mary-Lynn received the Morna-June Morrow Award for

Excellence in Music Education and has taught Orff movement levels in both Winnipeg and Vancouver.

Sergeant Chris Budlong

Sergeant Budlong has been involved in military bands since the age of 19. He is currently in his 18th year with The Royal Winnipeg Rifles. When a family member's genealogical search identified Métis ancestry, he began exploring his connection to Métis and Indigenous culture through music while working as a music specialist in various school divisions in Saskatchewan, Manitoba and London, UK. He is currently a Winnipeg SD Divisional Teacher with Sistema Winnipeg. As a founding member of The Warriors Drum Group, he began by learning from elders the cultural protocols of drumming, being a drum keeper, and holding songs for ceremony.

Dina Coutris-Hrousalas

Dina is an English as an Additional Language (EAL) Support Teacher and vice-principal with extensive experience across K–12 EAL programming. She has taught Literacy, Academics and Language (LAL) to Middle and Senior Years learners and worked as a Senior Years Resource Teacher, supporting students with care as they transition into Adult Education. She contributes to academic programming, assessment, and brings meaningful cultural teachings into classrooms. As a multilingual educator with lived immigrant experience and strong ties to the Greek community, she offers deep insight and empathy. A drama educator at heart, she champions inclusive, equitable learning environments.

Dr. Andrée Dagenais

Dr. Dagenais is a professor of choral studies at Brandon University. Under her direction, Brandon University Chorale performed for MusCan (2023) and Podium (2016). Choral Canada (2020) awarded Andrée a National Award for Robert's "Motets pour la chapelle du roi". She presented at MusCan (2022) and Podium (2022, 2024) on "La corporéité du chef de choeur".

Andrew Erickson

Andrew has been teaching guitar in the Louis Riel School Division for over fifteen years. In his time teaching, Andrew has been in several schools covering grades 5-12 guitar education and has served on the executive with the Manitoba Classroom Guitar Association. He has developed a wide range of methods, techniques and song lists to address a variety of student needs and skill levels. Andrew currently teaches grades 5-8 guitar at Frontenac School and grades 9-12 guitar and electric guitar at Glenlawn Collegiate.

Brady Gill

Brady has been the band, jazz band and choral teacher at Collège Pierre-Elliott-Trudeau since 2005. He has directed the Manitoba Honour Jazz Band, River East Transcona Divisional Band and his ensembles have performed with jazz luminaries Phil Nimmons and P.J. Perry. Brady directed the Canadian Mennonite University Jazz Ensemble, Westside Jazz Band and instructed at the University of Manitoba Jazz Camp and Manitoba Band Association Summer Band Camps.

Nick Godsoe

Nick Godsoe is Director of Programs & Education at MusiCounts, Canada's music education charity associated with the JUNO Awards. He leads national grants, research partnerships, awards, artist development programs, and educational resources. He holds a BMus in tuba performance from Mount Allison University and a MA in musicology from the University of Toronto.

Ryan Guth

Ryan is a guitarist and educator with over a decade of experience in music performance and instruction. He holds a Bachelor of Jazz Studies from the University of Manitoba and has been working as a professional musician and guitar teacher since 2010. Ryan's musical background spans a wide range of styles, from Madonna to Monk to Meshuggah, reflecting his belief that guitar education should embrace diverse musical interests. He currently teaches grades 9–12 guitar at Collège Béliveau in the Louis Riel School Division, where he focuses on building inclusive, engaging guitar programs that support students at a wide range of ability levels.

Steven Hees

Steven est un enseignant de musique formé en guitare et passionné par la musique élémentaire et l'harmonie intermédiaire. Il enseigne aux élèves de la 4e-8e année à l'école Précieux-Sang dans la DSFM. En dehors de l'école, il s'engage activement dans la promotion de l'éducation musicale en français auprès de divers organismes et poursuit une maîtrise en Arts, communauté et éducation à l'université du Manitoba.

Larissa Hrabí

Larissa is an educator in the North End of Winnipeg where she teaches nursery to grade 8 general music and choir. Larissa is the education director for the Manitoba Choral Association

and has achieved Orff Level 2 certification. She is also on the board of directors for the Manitoba Music Educators Association. Larissa is passionate about using music as a means to teach social emotional literacy and teaching her students that music is a form of self-healing and advocacy. In her spare time, Larissa enjoys exercising, crocheting, playing video games, and spoiling her dog.

Dr. Shelley Jagow

Dr. Jagow is Professor of Music at Wright State University, where she is Director of Bands and teaches conducting. She earned top honors in Music Education from the University of Saskatchewan and the University of Missouri, and the Ph.D. in Music Education from Union Institute & University. She also earned the Certificate in Piano Performance IX (Royal Conservatory of Music) and has been nominated for and received numerous awards, most recently the 2026 OMEA Distinguished Service Award.

An artist clinician with Conn-Selmer, Vandoren, Meredith Music, and GIA Music, “Dr. J” is a clinician, performer, adjudicator, coach, and conductor. She has presented widely across the U.S. and Canada, and internationally in Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Scotland, and Spain.

Dr. Jagow can be heard on the Emeritus label, NPR Performance Today, and America’s Millennium Tribute to Adolphe Sax. She is the author of many books published by GIA/Meredith Music, including *Expressive Musicianship: Concepts and Exercises to Develop a Band’s Musical Potential*, and *Tuning for Wind Instruments, Intermediate Studies for Developing Artists on the Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Saxophone and Bassoon*. Website: www.shelleyjagow.com

Patti Kusturock

Patti has been teaching fiddle students for 40 years. She is currently the fiddling instructor at the Desautels Faculty of Music at the University of Manitoba and also teaches private students at home and online. In addition, Patti keeps busy teaching at fiddle camps throughout the country. Her “by ear” teaching style passes on to the younger generation via the style in which she learned. Her fiddle mentors include Canadian fiddle legends Reg Bouvette and Graham Townsend. Patti has recently published the “Manitoba Fiddle Jam Tune Book Volume 1.”

Tim Lautzenheiser

Tim is a trusted friend to anyone interested in working with young people in the pursuit of excellence. His own career involves ten years as a band director at Northern Michigan University, University of Missouri, and New Mexico State University. In 1981 he created Attitude Concepts for Today, Inc., an organization designed to manage the requests for student leadership workshops, teacher seminars, and convention speaking engagements focusing on the critical importance of “the teacher as a leader/role model.” He presently serves as the Senior

Vice President of Education for Conn-Selmer, Inc. Tim is a co-writer of Hal Leonard's popular band method *Essential Elements*. His books, published by GIA Publications, including *The Art of Successful Teaching*, *The Joy of Inspired Teaching*, *Classic Leadership*, *Pathway to Success*, and many others are best-sellers in the music profession.

Melanie Mahir

Bio (English)

Melanie Mahir has taught music in Seven Oaks School Division for 20 years, and 7 years in International schools; (4 in Bangkok, Thailand and 3 in Rabat, Morocco). She has her Master's of Education from SUNY., her Orff levels I - III from Manitoba, level IV from Melbourne, Australia, and Kodály levels from Belfast, Northern Ireland.

Melanie is passionate about inclusion, whether it be learning songs from traditional knowledge keepers and Elders, to include Indigenous culture into the music curriculum, or meeting her students' needs in the music room, so that everyone feels like they belong, and play an important part in music making. She believes wholeheartedly that making music truly is for everyone.

BIO (français):

Melanie Mahir enseigne la musique pour division scolaire de Seven Oaks depuis 20 ans, et 7 ans dans des écoles internationales (4 à Bangkok, en Thaïlande, et 3 à Rabat, au Maroc). Elle a obtenu son master en éducation de SUNY, les niveaux Orff I à III au Manitoba et IV à Melbourne, en Australie, ainsi que ses niveaux de Kodály obtenus à Belfast, en Irlande du Nord.

Mélanie est passionnée par l'inclusion, qu'il s'agisse d'apprendre des chansons traditionnelles partagées par des aînés, au but d'intégrer la culture autochtone dans le curriculum de musique, ou de répondre aux besoins de ses élèves en salle de musique, afin que chacun se sente à sa place et joue un rôle important dans la création musicale. Elle est profondément convaincue que la musique est accessible à tous.

Christine Miron

Christine Miron enseigne la musique à l'élémentaire depuis les derniers 20 ans. Elle a reçu son Baccalauréat en musique et en éducation de l'Université du Manitoba en 2005. Elle a commencé sa carrière dans la division Seven Oaks à l'école Constable Edward Finney School et ensuite, à l'école James Nisbet Community School pour une douzaine d'années, où elle enseigna la musique de la maternelle à la 5e année en français et en anglais. En 2017, elle s'est lancée dans la DSFM à l'école Précieux-Sang, où elle enseigne la musique générale de la maternelle à la 3e année.

Christine Miron has been teaching elementary music for the past 20 years. She received a baccalaureate in music and in education from the University of Manitoba in 2005. She started her career in the Seven Oaks School Division at École Constable Edward Finney School and continued at École James Nisbet Community School for 12 years, where she taught music in French and English from kindergarten to grade 5. In 2017, she started working in the DSFM (Franco-Manitoban School Division) at École Précieux-Sang, where she teaches general music from kindergarten to grade 3.

Morgan, Corporal Bryce

Corporal Morgan has been in the Canadian Armed Forces since 2021 and has served in various domestic deployments across Canada. As a member of The Warriors Drum Group of the Royal Winnipeg Rifles since 2023, he has embraced cultural drumming, Indigenous veterans history and traditional Indigenous music. His Métis heritage has had a deep impact on his exploration of knowledge and culture.

Coty Raven Morris

Coty Raven Morris is the Hinckley Assistant Professor of Choir, Music Education, and Social Justice at Portland State University. A two-time Grammy nominee, she is a newly published composer with works performed at honour choirs and festivals nationwide. Morris also hosts at All Classical Radio and the International Children's Arts Network (ICAN), fostering access to the arts for children. She serves as Chorus Master and Artistic Collaborator with Portland Center Stage, the Oregon Symphony Orchestra, and Choirs of America. Morris is the Founder of Being Human Together, a community focused on mental health, diversity, and inclusivity in music education.

Heather Nail

Heather has been an Orff Music Specialist for the Calgary Board of Education for 26 years. She holds Orff level three certification, and has a Master of Education degree from the University of Alberta, specializing in Elementary Music. Heather co-teaches the Introductory Orff level in Calgary, presents regularly at music conferences in western Canada and beyond, and in her spare time conducts the Westside Junior Concert Choir. Heather mentors emerging music teachers in Calgary, and is currently serving as the past president of Carl Orff Canada. Follow her on Instagram @mrs_nail_music

Dr. Darrin Oehlerking

Dr. Oehlerking currently serves as Associate Dean of Student Affairs for the College of Arts and Science at the University of Saskatchewan, and is a Professor of Music in the USask School for the Arts. His teaching at USask has included courses in Conducting, Music Education, Wind

Band Repertoire, and direction of the USask Wind Orchestra. He is also a True North Master Educator with Yamaha Music Canada. He previously served as Director of Bands and Jazz at Bemidji State University in Bemidji, Minnesota, and as Music Coordinator for the Louis Riel School Division in Winnipeg, Manitoba. He is the editor and compiler of the book *Winds of the North*, and has two arrangements for wind band – *RCMP Regimental March* and *Souvenir de Quebec*.

Julianna Rempel

Julianna is an elementary music educator in Winnipeg, teaching K–5 at Stevenson-Britannia School. A former Manitoba Orff Chapter board member, she values collaboration and enjoys mentoring new teachers. With 25 years of teaching experience across diverse settings, including South Korea, she brings a global perspective to her work. Her Level 3 Orff training and Smithsonian Folkways Certification in World Music Pedagogy inspire her to explore best practices for inclusive, culturally rich music classrooms.

Melissa Spraggs

Melissa is pursuing her DMA in Choral Conducting at Western University. In 2020, she obtained her Master of Music (Education) Degree from Brandon University, earning the Governor General's Gold Medal and the Brandon University Gold Medal in Master of Music. Her research has been published in the *Canadian Music Educator* (63.3; 67.1) and she has presented in Canada and abroad. Her teaching experience includes K-12 Music/Choir, as well as music education and choir courses at Western University and Brandon University. Her research interests include: Kodály-inspired pedagogy in choirs, voice changes throughout the lifetime, and singing environments.

David Stark

David has taught elementary music for twenty years in British Columbia and Alberta and he is currently a music specialist for the Seven Oaks School Division in Winnipeg. David is a well-respected conference presenter. Since 2018 he has taught Kodály musicianship at the University of Manitoba and he is currently the president of the Manitoba Kodály Society. David is the husband of Jody and the proud father of Ethan, Rachel and Jamie. David cares deeply about quality music education and he is thrilled to be of service in the music teaching community as a clinician at TEMPO.

Dan Steinhilber

Dan teaches concert bands, jazz bands, and choirs at Transcona Collegiate in Winnipeg. He's the founder and director of the East Side Jazz Band, and has served as faculty for the U of M Summer Jazz Camp, NorMan Jazz Festival, and the MBA's Jazz 101 Workshop. He completed a Post-Baccalaureate in Jazz Performance at the University of Manitoba in 2018, studying with Derrick Gardner, and served as director for the Manitoba High School Honour Jazz Band in 2023-2025. Dan loves working with young people, especially in developing their confidence and skill in the area of improvisation.

Michelle Styles

Michelle is instructor of music at University of Winnipeg and UW Collegiate. She directs the grade 9-12 band, jazz band, and choir, the U of W choral ensemble (Lux et Veritas) and band (Floreamus Wind Ensemble), and teaches an undergraduate Music Appreciation course. Before moving to Winnipeg in 2017 with her husband, composer Pete Meechan, Michelle taught all ages in both rural and urban schools across Saskatchewan. She completed a Master of Music degree at the University of Manitoba in Wind Conducting under the tutelage of Dr. Jacquie Dawson, and is active as a guest clinician and conductor in Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

Jennifer Thiessen

Jennifer is a musician whose work bridges baroque, classical, contemporary, and experimental music. She writes music for viola, voice, poetry, electronics and field recordings for solo performances and collaborations such as her JUNO-nominated duo Toninato & Thiessen. After 20 years freelancing in Montreal's creative, classical, and historical music communities, she returned to Winnipeg in 2021 where she plays with the Manitoba Chamber Orchestra and presents programs for GroundSwell, Prairie Wires, send+receive, and No Hay Banda (Montreal). She has a Bachelor of Music from the University of Ottawa and a Masters in viola performance from the Université de Montréal.

Rosemarie Todaschuk

Rosemarie has been immersed in music and dance throughout her life. Alongside her sister Charlene, she entertains audiences across North America and in Ukraine. Locally, she enjoys fronting her own Jazz Trio. In collaboration with her sister, Rosemarie has five recording albums to her credit including her Jazz CD. She holds a BFA (Honours) in Music from York University and an Education degree from the University of Manitoba. For 32 years, Rosemarie taught Music and Theatre Arts in Seven Oaks School Division where she was inspired by her students and grateful to be a music teacher in the English-Ukrainian Bilingual Program.

Beck Watt

Beck (they/he) is a practicing flutist and music educator in Winnipeg, Manitoba. They have been the band and music teacher at St. John's High School since 2018, and have been educating on and advocating for the transgender and/or gender non-conforming (TGNC) teacher experience for the past decade. Their Masters thesis brought these two passions together exploring how TGNC instrumental musicians negotiate the gender binary in Western music.

Michelle Yaciuk

Michelle Yaciuk, MM, MTA is an Associate Professor of Education and Music Therapy at Canadian Mennonite University. She's passionate about inclusion and supporting diverse learners, especially in music classrooms. Michelle enjoys helping educators make small, meaningful changes that support all students and foster spaces where learners don't just participate, but truly belong. Drawing on her experiences as a teacher, therapist, and storyteller, she shares practical ideas, real examples, and honest conversations about inclusion in everyday music teaching.

Neil Yorke- Slader

Neil taught music from grades 7-12 for many years, and is active as a jazz composer, adjudicator and clinician. Over 55 of his jazz compositions are available worldwide through J.W. Pepper; several are preserved in the National Library of Canada's archives. In 2018, he was selected as the inaugural recipient of the Tommy Banks/National Arts Centre Outstanding Canadian Jazz Director Award. In 2020, Neil was named an Honorary Life Member of the Ontario Music Educators' Association. He was a contributor to *Jazz Pedagogy, A Canadian Perspective* (available through ArtistShare). Neil is the Executive Director of MusicFest Canada.