



MANITOBA MUSIC EDUCATORS' ASSOCIATION
L'ASSOCIATION MANITOBAINE DES ÉDUCATEURS
DE MUSIQUE

October 2020

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

VIRGINIA HELMER

Hello all,

I can hardly believe that this will be my last message to you as president of MMEA. The last few months have brought many challenges, but as we worked through communicating with government, preparing guidelines and proposals and figuring out how to adapt to our evolving circumstances as music educators, the strength of our community and your willingness to work together and problem solve on behalf of our students and our colleagues has been abundantly clear. Each of our partner organizations has really stepped up to the plate. Judy Giesbrecht and the Tempo committee have done a great job redesigning our fall conference to an online forum. MBA supported communication between teachers with "The Answer is in the Room". MCGA went ahead with the Creative Music Festival, giving students an outlet for expressing their thoughts and feeling through music. In the absence of summer Orff courses, MOC has continued to offer online PD opportunities. MCA took the lead in petitioning government to revisit guidelines around singing and wind instrument playing. All groups were able to collaborate and contributed extensively to the AMAM/MMEA's Returning to Manitoba Music Classrooms and have continued to work hard throughout the spring and summer to make this school year as good as it can be.

The MMEA is unique across Canada in its mandate to provide a unified voice for music education in our province. I would like to acknowledge the work of early planners Bill Kristjanson, Eric Marshall and Karen Tole-Henderson for their vision in setting up an organization that is perfectly situated to address our current and future challenges. Karen finishes her tenure this year as Past President of MMEA. Her strong leadership and commitment have been palpable throughout her time on the board, and she will be sorely missed. We thank her for her selfless commitment to MMEA over the years.

I am really looking forward to a time when we can be together again at MBCI, hopefully in October 2021. In the meantime, I know you feel as I do that we share a connection that has only been strengthened by our time apart. Here is an article from Tania Miller that does a great job of summarizing the benefits of music education. Point # 9 is "Modern kids spend too much time alone. Music brings them into an inspiring group and shared experience." It made me sad to read that, because it is so hard to make that work right now, but I know we will keep trying. Best wishes to all of you as we work our way through this most unusual year.

Take care,
Ginny Helmer

[15 Reasons Why All Kids Should Study Music](https://medium.com/@tgml/15-reasons-why-all-kids-should-learn-music-89b10ba0b3d3)

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The Virtual Tempo

Friday, October 23rd 2020

Well here we are just a few weeks away from the October 23rd, 2020 Virtual Tempo: Manitoba Music Conference.

The Virtual Tempo Conference is the result of the hard work and dedication of many people. It would not have happened without the support of the MMEA Board and my Tempo committee-

Kim Pelletier, Admin. Assistant

Danessa Poiron, Conference Registrar

Meaghan Graham, Industry and Advertising

Dale Weevers, Conference Treasurer

Darryl Ferguson, MBA

Jewel Casselman, MOC

Randy Haley, MCGA

Sharon Marshall, MCA

Anna Bond, String Teachers of Manitoba

Karen-Tole Henderson and Ginny Helmer, MMEA

A very special mention to Bill Kristjanson who became my “right hand” for Zoom calls, organizing the Perspective sessions, room monitors and a mentor to me re the terminology that goes with putting together a Virtual Conference. Thus he is deemed “Assistant to the Chairperson”. Also a “shout out” to Elisa Janson Jones and the folks at Conn-Selmer Institute for their support and corporate sponsorship.

By now you will have had a chance to read through the SAGE Brochure online at mymmea.ca. There are many different sessions for you to choose from and it is our hope that you will find topics that will be relevant to your learning needs and to the times you are working in.

I have included in my report the information that Danessa Poiron, Conference registrar emailed out to all MMEA members-

Dear MMEA Members,

**Note: If you have already registered for the Tempo: Manitoba Music Conference, please disregard this email.*

We are so very excited to be able to offer this virtual professional development opportunity for you this year and we have lined up some exceptional presenters to ensure it is a great experience for you!

*We are aware that some school divisions have opted not to give the day for MTS PD Day. Your MMEA has been pro-active in this regard and **as part of your registration, every session is available for ONE MONTH after the conference!** You can access the sessions and materials when it is convenient for you. Registration is also at a reduced rate this year for all!*

As always, membership in one of our organizations (MBA, MCA, MCGA, MOC) is encouraged and another way that you can access additional PD opportunities throughout the year.

Registration is open until [October 23rd, 2020](#).

To register:

- *Visit mbteach.org*
- *Click on "my profile"*
- *Enter your username and password*
- *Select "List of Events"*
- *Find the MMEA event*
- *Follow the prompts to complete your registration!*

If you have any questions, please email me at manitobamusicconference@gmail.com or call me at (204) 471-1226

Danessa Poiron Registrar

We are very pleased to offer each of you this diversity of topics and clinicians who will be providing wonderful professional learning opportunities. It is our hope that this virtual conference will provide you with the opportunity to grow in your craft and be inspired and energized as music educators during these very different and difficult times.

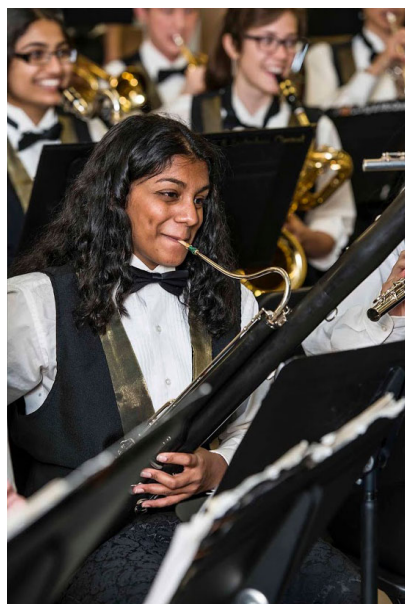
I will miss seeing each of you on Friday, October 23rd, 2020.

Judy Giesbrecht
Conference Chairperson

Music Festivals in a COVID-19 World: Making Lemonade Out of Lemons

Sadly, COVID-19 has taken a very heavy toll on many Canadians. It has also taken a massive toll on the music education system in Canada, particularly with performance-based education. Musicfest Canada was forced to cancel our May 2020 Nationals in Calgary. Most of the regional spring festivals in Canada were also forced to cancel, leaving innumerable bands, orchestras and choirs across the country with no festival performance opportunities until 2021 at the earliest.

In April 2020, MusicFest Canada established a partnership with the National Arts Centre Orchestra to try and mitigate the loss of opportunity for many of the students selected from across the country for some of our Honour Ensembles. Under the direction of Maestro Alexander Shelley, the National Arts Centre Orchestra, Heritage Canada, CBC and Music Monday presented 3 virtual concerts featuring our students, with views in excess of 100,000. Individual members of the Denis Wick Canadian Wind Orchestra, Woodshed Canadian Percussion Ensemble and Thomastik-Infeld Canadian String Orchestra received 2 lessons



courtesy of the NACO musicians, and a sectional prior to recording the concerts. The Ellison Canadian Honour Choir was featured on Music Monday and as part of Heritage Canada's Canada Day Celebrations. The concerts are posted on our website at musicfest.ca. We are working actively with a variety of partners to create similar virtual experiences for all six of our 2021 Honour Ensembles (Denis Wick Canadian Wind Orchestra, Woodshed Canadian Percussion Ensemble, Thomastik-Infeld Canadian String Orchestra, Conn-Selmer Centerstage Jazz Band, Humber National Youth Jazz Combo) should we be unable to run them live in Toronto next May.

For many elementary and high school music programs, festival participation is a key element of their educational experience, and a strong motivator for the students involved. MusicFest Canada has a Canada-wide network of 58 affiliated festivals that support performance-based music education. We have been working with our regional festivals since April 2020, brainstorming, sharing expertise, and exploring various scenarios for spring 2021 regional festivals. We are offering support to all of our Affiliates wishing to offer a virtual festival at the regional level. We are creating a guide which will include the minimum equipment specs for ensembles in the classroom, the minimal equipment for the adjudicators, a step-by-step manual for the software and a troubleshooting guide. In addition, we will have our IT volunteer staff available online to help regional festivals with real-time issues.

Necessity is the Mother of Invention – 3 in 1!

The primary driving force for most new inventions is an urgent and presenting need. MusicFest Canada's "3 In 1 Nationals" will run May 17-21, 2021. All four Divisions (Concert Band, Orchestra, Instrumental Jazz, and Choral) will be offered. Given the smaller size and wide range of instrumentation of ensembles due to COVID-19 restrictions, all existing Nationals

invitations will be expanded to allow the teacher to bring whatever type of ensemble is currently possible for that particular school. All groups who held an Invitation to the 2019 Festival (Calgary) will be able use that Invitation for the 2021 Festival in Toronto.

Schools with a valid Invitation in one Division (i.e.: Concert Band) will be permitted to register Ensembles to participate in any class and category of that Division, and any class and category of the other Divisions (i.e.: Orchestra, Jazz, Choral). With a performance landscape that will likely (hopefully) evolve and change over the next few months, the deadline for registering using a 2nd-year invitation has been extended to January 15, 2021.

MusicFest has ensured that all qualifying ensembles can participate by introducing a new three-platform model:

- 1) Onsite (traditional) Festival: We are continuing with plans for a traditional onsite festival in Toronto. Since most (if not all) participating schools would be doing a same-day field trip, all feature concerts will be offered at lunchtime. Artists will include York University Jazz Combo, The Toronto Symphony Orchestra Chamber Ensemble, The Humber Experience and FreePlay.

Schools impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic that will not be able to travel to the Festival in Toronto (and schools that traditionally have been unable to attend the Festival due to the travel expense; this will make MusicFest Nationals accessible to schools who never could have consider attending in the past) will be able to participate in the Festival virtually in two new ways (for more information go to www.musicfest and click on “Virtual Festival”):

- 2) Virtual: Ensembles with Official Invitations can perform virtually for adjudication live for a panel of adjudicators followed by a 1 hour clinic.
- 3) Video Recording: Ensembles with Official Invitations can submit a video recording, which will be adjudicated by a panel of adjudicators, and a clinician will arrange for a 1 hour clinic.

In all three Festivals, participating ensembles will receive digital results and awards will be mailed following the adjudication and clinic. A copy of the adjudicated performance will be made available. All ensemble performances from each of the three platforms will be streamed during the Festival in May.

None of us know how the next school year will unfold, and we all have to be nimble and look for opportunities to promote music education. Perhaps when we are in a post-COVID world, we will have added some pedagogical approaches that will make the long-term view even richer. At MusicFest Canada, we have been brainstorming, discussing, researching and working since mid-March to ensure that we can continue to provide meaningful performance-based activities for students from across Canada, and be a support to all school programs as they search for new ways to involve and motivate their students in these unusual and challenging times.

Sobeys Gift Card Fundraiser

Purpose: To support the Intersections 2022 National Orff Conference

When: October 5 - November 2, 2020.

For further information regarding purchasing Sobeys gift cards contact Jewel Casselman at jicassel@mymts.net



Manitoba Choral Association is excited to announce a new slate of programs and activities for the first half of the school year! Join us for virtual meet-ups, workshops, webinars, and more as we celebrate and support the choral community in creative ways. More details will be announced soon, so keep checking our website!

DON'T MISS THESE EXCITING PROGRAMS & EVENTS!

In Tune: Monthly Virtual Meet-Ups

Once per month – October 7, November 5, December 8

Join us for our series of monthly virtual meet-ups! Share ideas and experiences with other choir directors to strengthen our choral community. Meet-ups will cover new topics every month and are open to both members and non-members.

ChoralFest: Virtual Edition

November

ChoralFest may be cancelled this year, but in its place MCA will offer virtual workshops and webinars with acclaimed adjudicators & conductors from Manitoba and beyond. Engage your choir students and learn something yourself at sessions covering topics like vocal pedagogy, repertoire, healthy singing, vocal warmups, and more! Brush up on vocal technique, jazz theory, improvisation, and other areas with our vocal jazz session offerings. There will be something for everyone at this virtual event.

Holiday Choir Concert

December

Tune in to MCA's social media during the month of December to watch performances of holiday pieces from MCA member choirs in an extended virtual choir concert! Keep an eye out for the call for videos.

SAVE THE DATE!

October 7 – ***In Tune: Virtual Meet-Up***


October 17 – **Annual General Meeting** (RSVP to mca@manitobasings.org)

November – **ChoralFest: Virtual Edition**

November 5 – ***In Tune: Virtual Meet-Up***

December 8 – ***In Tune: Virtual Meet-Up***

December – **Virtual Holiday Choir Concert**




MANITOBA CHORAL ASSOCIATION PRESENTS

In Tune: Virtual Meet-Ups

connect with other Manitoba choral leaders
share ideas and experiences
build and strengthen our community
new topics every month

JOIN US OCTOBER 7
FOR OUR FIRST MEET-UP!

 **Manitoba Sings** MANITOBA CHORAL ASSOCIATION INC.