

# Manitoba MODES

Official Newsletter of the Manitoba Orff Chapter

## President's Message

BY ERICA ROTHSCILD

We hope your year is off to a great start after some much needed rest this summer. We are looking forward to new exciting guests and projects for 2024-25!

I'd like to thank Piper McKinnon for her efficient and dedicated work during her term as Secretary. Wishing you all the best in your new endeavours!


Our year of workshops is already in full motion. The MOC/WSO Listening Workshop took place on Monday, September 23rd. We explored the Spirit Horse program with Amanda Ciavarelli, Liz Kristjanson, and Jewel Casselman. Our guest, Ken MacDonald, talked about the origin of the Spirit Horse project. The WSO concerts will take place between February 18 and 21, 2025.



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More special and exciting guests this October! On the 4th, in partnership with the DSFM at École Noël-Ritchot, Chantal Dubois from Québec lead the French workshop Orffantastique. We were ready to listen to repertoire from around the world!

We are also so excited to invite David Row for the first time with the MOC!! He will be the chapter's special guest at TEMPO and our featured clinician for Fall Fiesta the next day. So much fun paired with learning!

Building Bridges is being revived by past president Dawn Muir. It is a set of workshops aimed to reach out to our rural communities. Jewel Casselman will be presenting three workshops this year at Mountain View School Division in the Dauphin area.

After a successful debut year, the mentorship program is back! The program has already piqued the interest of a few new candidates. This program is a great tool for teachers in their first five years of teaching who are in search of guidance and ideas.

Another new initiative by Amanda Ciavarelli is the Reading Rhythm book club. Join us for some fun and open discussions around the book Realizing Diversity (by Karen Howard) at École South Pointe School in the evenings of November 5th , January 27th , and April 14th . Make sure to buy your copy of the book beforehand through your music retailer.

The MOC's 50th anniversary is coming up. You have the opportunity of writing the MOC's featured song by contest this year. Visit our website for more details and criteria of the contest. The winner will receive free entrance to all our workshops for 2025-26(valid COC membership is required)!

Wishing you another great year of musical projects!

*Erica Rothschild*





## Advocacy Corner

BY AMANDA CIAVARELLI

Advocacy for music education involves promoting the importance and benefits of music programs in schools and communities. Fall is a great time to share information about the important role music education plays in the lives of students with school staff, administrators, and students' families. While we as music educators have a deep understanding of the role we play, this is sometimes not the case for those who do not have the same expertise as us. Sharing information about music education helps those in our school communities understand and value what we do. Here are a few ideas that you could try in your schools.

### **Create Informative Materials:**

Consider creating a monthly music newsletter, a music program brochure, or an account on social media where you share information with students, staff and families. Information about what students are learning or working towards and the many benefits of music education helps people gain insight into the value of music class.

### **Organize Community Events:**

Concerts and parent/caregiver information evenings are two examples of events that provide opportunities to advocate for music programs. At concerts, give students the opportunity to share what they have learned and why music is important to them. This is also an opportunity for you to share your philosophy of music education and why its impact is so profound.

### **Invite Staff Members into Your Class:**

Have your students been working on a song or activity and are ready to share their learning? Consider inviting staff members or school leaders into your class for students to share their progress. This is a wonderful way for your school team to see your program in action.

These are just a few ideas, and there are many more. If you would like to learn more about music advocacy, The Coalition for Music Education is a great resource for articles and websites to explore. This is also the organization that hosts Music Monday on the first Monday in May each year. You can find their website [here](#).

Wishing everyone a wonderful start to the 2024/2025 school year!

# MOC/WSO Listening Workshop Review

BY ALLISON TURTON

After years of seeing and hearing about MOC's many fantastic workshops, I was thrilled to attend my first one on September 23 which featured the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra's "Spirit Horse Program". I loved being able to take part in the different lessons and went away excited to explore the story through my students' eyes (I teach grades 3-5).

The lessons presented by Amanda Ciavarelli, Jewel Casselman, and Liz Kristjanson were approachable, flexible, and presented many opportunities for students to experience and take part in music making and movement, regardless of skill level/ability. I came away feeling more confident in my ability to guide and grow my students' listening skills and was able to further imagine different lesson possibilities done through listening and storytelling.

I appreciate all the hard work everyone did to make this workshop happen and would encourage all current and future music educators to experience any of the MOC's events.



## Constellation 2024 Review

BY ERICA ROTHCHILD

Amazing! Superb! Inspiring!

My first experience at a national Orff conference was so amazing! Everything about it was awesome: the beautiful Vancouver weather and scenery, the excellent food, the outstanding music performances, the wonderful people, the amazing clinicians!

I was floored by the superb children's performances. I had never seen anything like it. I had to see it to believe it; what children are capable of doing with proper guidance. And what a stunning performance program the team in BC created. Meeting teachers from across and outside Canada was so special. So many inspiring stories, clinicians, lessons and musicians!

If you've never had a conference experience before, please try one! There are many opportunities for financial support through MTS and ÉFM. Passages 2026, the next national conference, is taking place in Halifax and is promising to be as wonderful of an experience!



## Resource Review - David Row: Make Moments Matter

BY AMANDA CIAVARELLI

The Manitoba Orff Chapter is looking forward to welcoming David Row, elementary music specialist, to present at this year's Manitoba Music Educators Tempo Conference and at the Manitoba Orff Chapter's Fall Fiesta. David is joining us from Kansas City. Learn more about David [here](#).

This edition of the Manitoba Modes Resource Review takes a closer look at David's website, [Make Moments Matter](#). On his website, you can access his blog, podcasts, and video archives of different lesson ideas. He also has many fantastic resources available for purchase on the TeachersPayTeachers platform.

I recently purchased a stretchy band for my music room. I know many colleagues who have them but once I had my new stretchy band in hand, I wasn't sure how to best use it with students. David has a great video in his video archives called [Stretchy Band, Scarves, and Fun Down by the Sea](#) where he talks about and demonstrates how he uses a stretchy band with students, including ways that he can adapt the activity for different learners. He also talks about integrating movement scarves and barred instruments. I appreciate this because I really like when I can explore a story or song in multiple ways including exploration, movement, singing, playing and creating.

I have used many ideas from David's blog. He has great tips and tricks for things like using picture books in the music room, making partners for partner activities, and ideas for advocacy for music education. He also regularly produces a music education podcast with fantastic ideas to engage students in joyful and meaningful music making.

I hope you can attend one of David's sessions at **Tempo** or can spend the day with him at **Fall Fiesta**. You are sure to leave inspired and with great, new ideas for your music program.



## Off the Shelf

BY LORI ARTHUR

Ever gone to a workshop and loved the activities only to discover a while later that you can't remember exactly how that activity went? MOC Lending Library might be able to help you. Many of our workshops such as **Tempo**, **Fall Fiesta** and **Winter Workshop** are recorded. The notes and a copy of the recordings are available for borrowing if you are a current MOC member. Some of the recordings are on VHS tapes or DVDs and others are on flash drives. We appreciate that if you borrow these resources that you treat them with TLC and report any issues to the librarian. These resources are listed on page 39-41 of the listing currently found on our website. Please contact [library@manitobaorff.org](mailto:library@manitobaorff.org) with any questions.

Looking forward to helping you get these off the shelf for a loan period of 30 days!



# Meeting the Sherman Brothers

BY MORNA-JUNE MORROW

In March 1974, I attended the 24th National Biennial Convention of the Music Educators National Conference in the Anaheim Convention Centre right across the street from the Disneyland parking lot. Of the many sessions offered, the most memorable one was the 90-minute session with brothers Robert B. and Richard M. Sherman, who wrote more motion picture musical song scores than any other song writing team in film history. Grammy and Academy Award winners of such successes as *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*, *The Many Adventures of Winnie the Pooh*, *Mary Poppins*, *Charlotte's Webb*, *Tom Sawyer*, *The Jungle Book*, *That Darn Cat*, *Huckleberry Finn*, *In Search of the Castaways*, *The Aristocats*, *Bedknobs and Broomsticks*, *The Parent Trap*, *Snoopy Come Home*, *The Sword in the Stone*, *Little Nemo* to mention but a few.

The Sherman Brothers had obvious great affection and respect for Mr. Walt Disney and were pleased to be associated with this master of entertainment for ten years. They wrote the music and lyrics for 27 movies for Disney as well as 15 others. Walt Disney films were classified as family entertainment because “*most people I know come from families*”, a direct quote from Walt Disney. Richard (Dick) said he wrote lyrics and music, while older brother Robert (Bob) wrote music and lyrics! Obviously, a team effort. Before engaging in their professional career as “commercial” writers, the two of them had worked in a post office, sold flowers and even did door-to-door surveys to earn money.

Their father, Al Sherman, a Jewish Russian immigrant was a Tin Pan Alley composer in New York. Their father loved word sounds and playing with them. Words mean something in the subconscious even though they may be nonsense words.

Their advice to the music educators present. Avoid being super clever or cute. Keep it simple. Sophisticated simplicity was their motto. They followed the 3 S's for lyrical word content – Simple, Sincere, Singable! The lyrics must be direct enough so as to not cause people to reflect on what they have just heard. It must be an immediate on-going reaction. For relief, you add in a refrain or repeat ideas or themes.

When asked how they go about writing a song, Bob answered with an anecdote. *A centipede was asked by his wife one day before breakfast, which of his 100 legs did he let out of bed first? The centipede started thinking about an answer . . . and died of starvation!*

Dick studied piano, piccolo and flute and later sol-fège, counterpoint and harmony. Bob studied piano and violin. It was their father who suggested that his sons write music for children. As Bob stated, “We enjoy what we do – working with and for children. It happens to be our favorite hobby which has turned out to be our profession. Music educators are people who do their job because they enjoy it. They bring rich experiences to children. We consider music teachers among our closest friends.”

“To make a film is a miracle”, said Bob. He added that “the secret to success is that you must believe that you can do what nobody else can do! The secret of success is “CONFIDENCE”. They said they often bounce off ideas from their own children. But most of all they urged the delegates assembled “to believe in yourself. Teachers must give self-confidence to the children they teach. Remember, music educators, you are unique and special.”



With Bob standing at a microphone, and Dick seated at the piano with a headset microphone, they proceeded to tell us how some of their songs came about. *Mary Poppins* was the first one to discuss. Bob's daughter was bemoaning the fact that she was to be given her second polio shot at school one day and she was terrified of needles. When she came home from school, her father asked her how it went at school. "Oh Dad, they put the cherry-flavoured vaccine in a cube of sugar. It was just like swallowing a spoonful of sugar." The result was *A Spoonful of Sugar Helps the Medicine Go Down* which they started on the supertonic chord. Interesting that sometimes, the word "down" melodically goes up! That's the unexpected things of life. What would be considered a chore in cleaning up the nursery of Jane and Michael Banks, Mary Poppins makes the task a pleasant one with this happy attitude to life song.

Walt Disney called them into his studio one day and explained that he wanted to combine the world of reality with the world of imagination by having Mary Poppins, Bert, Jane and Michael Banks pop through a chalk drawing on the sidewalk into a totally animated scene where they would be featured in a wild horse race. Disney wanted a talisman for the children to take back as a remembrance of this experience. Anything placed into their hands would disappear when they returned to the real world. But a word is everlasting. The Sherman's used to play word games around the dinner table, so it was rather easy for them to come up with the 14-syllable word *Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious*.

I remember taking 90 children in 1965 from Polson School in East Kildonan on the bus to see the movie *Mary Poppins* at the King's Theatre on Portage Avenue in St. James. (Heavens! How many teachers would be used today on such a bus field trip?) The children in my Grade 3 class asked if they could have THAT word on their spelling test next Friday. Although I had no access to the music, I sounded out the word, and printed it on the blackboard for the children to study. Much to my surprise when marking their Spelling tests on Friday, not one child had that long word spelled incorrectly. Give them a challenge, and they will accept it willingly!

The character of Bert, the Chimney Sweep, was an amalgamation of 7 minor characters based on Mrs. Travers' book. The Chimney Sweep is considered the low man in society, however shaking hands with him can bring good luck. This song was inspired by a 5" x 12" sketch of a chimney sweep the Sherman brothers had seen. They gave Bert's character a rather plaintive quality.

Walt Disney's favourite song was *Feed the Birds* and is a favourite of the composers as well. Mr. Disney thought it would become as famous as *Brahms' Lullaby* to lull children to sleep.

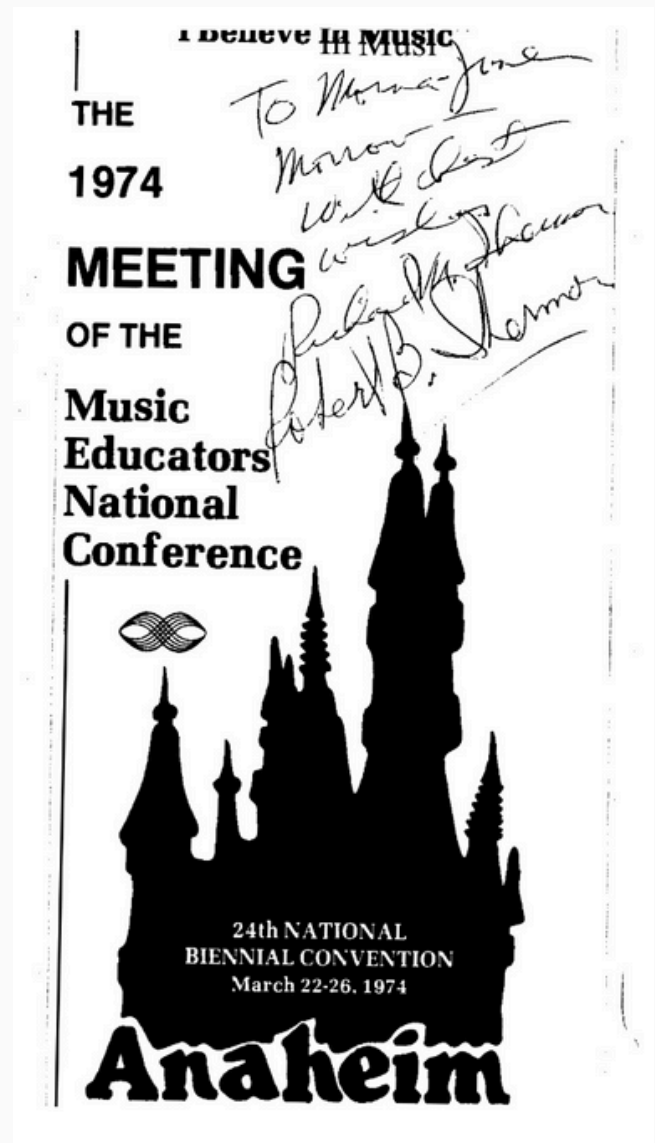
Al Sherman had made kites for his young sons out of sticks, paper and strings, and thus became the inspiration of *Let's Go Fly a Kite Up to the Highest Heights*. They began the upward sweep of the kites on a subdominant chord.

Winnipeggers are very much aware that in August 1914, Winnipeg soldier and veterinarian Harry Colebourn purchased a female black bear cub in White River, Ontario, while on his way to serve in the first World War. When called upon to fight overseas, his pet bear "Winnie", named after the city of Winnipeg, mascot of the Fort Garry Horse, was left at the London Zoo where she lived from 1915 until her death in 1934. The gentle bear was very popular among the London children. She became the inspiration of A. A. Milne's Winnie the Pooh stories.

The person who inspired many of the songs in *The Many Adventures of Winnie the Pooh* was movie director, Tony Walton, Julie Andrew's first husband. The Sherman Brothers were over for dinner at the Walton home, and they were speaking of Mr. Disney wanting to use the whimsical characters from the E.H. Shepard drawings of Winnie the Pooh and his friends in the Hundred Acre Wood in the stories by British author A.A. Milne. Tony Walton, as a child, was rather chubby and his nickname was Pooh. As a matter of fact, Julie referred to her husband as Pooh. Many of the thoughts expressed by Walton as to how he felt as a child when he was teased by classmates, forced to exercise and follow diets are almost quotes verbatim in the songs sung by Pooh, especially in *The Exercise Song*.

The session was about to end, but Dick seated at the piano sang *The Wonderful Thing About Tiggers* at such a rapid tempo, that the I wondered how he could take a breath at such a pace. But as Bob said after the song, "My brother **IS** Tigger!" At that point, the audience erupted with a standing ovation and wild applause. We only wished we could have heard more, but the session was over.

At the conclusion of the session, I was determined to get their autographs which they willingly wrote. Bob noticed I was wearing my Canadian flag pin, and he told me that last year (1973) he was operated on by a Quebec Doctor at the Mayo Clinic to do surgery on his knee – the result of being shot at the age of 17 while leading a squad of American army men into Dachau Concentration camp in 1945. For years he had used a cane, but now he was walking around normally after a successful knee transplant.



#### POSTLUDE

Robert (Bob) the older brother was born December 19, 1925 and died Mach 6, 2012 at the age of 86. He was also a painter, metal sculptor, poet and writer of short stories. Awarded many medals for his service in the military, Bob was married with 2 sons and 2 daughters.

Richard (Dick) just passed away in May 2024 at the age of 95. He was married and had a son and daughter. What a remarkable career these two siblings had!

# Meet the Board Member

Elizabeth De Vries Neufeld

## What's my role?

### MOC Member-at-Large

Since 2023, I have served on the Manitoba Orff Chapter Board as Member-at-Large.

In this role, I support and help organize various events and workshops. Sonja Wiens and I coordinate food for most of these events. We manage and update the picture board to reflect our activities and community engagement.

The MOC has been an integral part of my learning and teaching journey as a music specialist. I am happy to assist in making this a part of your journey as well!



I

## Career and Education

B. Ed., B. Mus.

Level III Orff, Level 1 Kodaly

Post Bac. (EAL)

This is year 18 of Early Years Music Education for me in R.E.T.S.D! I am currently at Ecole Salisbury Morse Place School teaching Grade 1-5 music full-time.

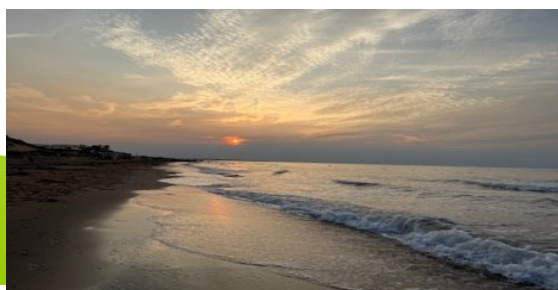
Early in my career, I taught band, MY English, and some EY music in the private school system.

While raising my young sons, I spent several years teaching private piano and Music for Children which was a U of M pre-school Orff program.

Fun things: I have had the opportunity to share Orff with U of W kinesiology students.

Carol Taves and I have planned and taught lessons at the MOC WSO workshops for Adventures in Music.

Learning and sharing with others.



## Fun Facts

*My favorite place to be is the beach.*

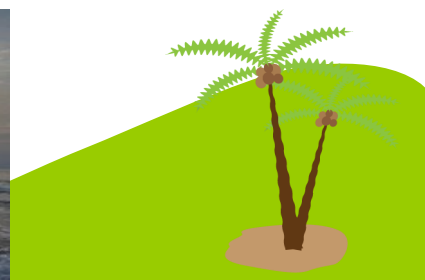
*My second favorite place to be is at a bookstore—that has good coffee.*

*I volunteer at an English-speaking club for newcomers to Canada.*

*I just started playing keys again at our church.*

*I sing in a seasonal choir.*

*I am contemplating a side-hustle as a chocolate tester.*



# MEET THE BOARD MEMBER

## SONJA WIENS



My name is Sonja Wiens and I am one of your two MOC Members-at-Large.

As a Member-at-Large I work alongside with Elizabeth to support MOC events and workshops primarily by storing and transporting supplies, updating photo boards, and planning, purchasing and preparing refreshments.

### EDUCATION

I graduated from University of Manitoba's 5 Year integrated B.Ed./B.Mus. program in 1994, majoring in elementary music and minoring in French. I completed my Level III Orff certification that same summer. In 1998 I took a summer course in San Fransisco with Doug Goodkin and Sofia Lopez-Ibor, and in 2005 I attended the International Summer Orff course in Salzburg. I completed my M.Ed. at the University of Manitoba in 2013. Sometimes I think about pursuing a Ph.D., but we will see!

### TEACHING CAREER

I began teaching music in Seven Oaks School Division in 1994 and have worked in that division for most of my career, in addition to six years teaching internationally in Moscow and Belgium. I currently teach K-5 music at Ecole Constable Edward Finney School in the Maples. Teaching through the Orff approach is my passion and I am particularly interested in collaborating with classroom teachers to give kids opportunities to use their musical skills and ideas to express their learning in the classroom. I also love teaching beginning recorder!

### FUN FACT

Morna-June Morrow was my elementary music teacher from Kindergarten to Grade 6! When I was in grade 1 she let me play the cabasa in a school assembly, and the rest is history.



## Scholarships & Awards

### **MORNA-JUNE MORROW AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN MUSIC EDUCATION**

All nominees (and nominators) must be current members of MOC and meet at least 4 of 6 criteria listed:

- Music teacher in a public or private school or institution for a minimum of 15 years
- Actively using Orff methodology in the music class setting
- Actively involved in community music activities (e.g. divisional, church, or community groups)
- Self-initiating in their professional development
- Strong sense of dedication and organizational skills
- Actively involved with a music-related board/executive (ie MOC, MMEA, MCA, etc)

### **SUSAN BERRY MEMORIAL TRAVEL BURSARY**

This bursary is awarded annually and provides financial assistance to rural music educators attending MOC professional development workshops in Winnipeg.

The bursary recipient will receive up to \$400 for transportation, meals, accommodation, and/or sub costs incurred to attend an MOC workshop.

### **HELEN NEUFELD MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

This award is given to the applicant(s) who best exemplifies Helen's commitment to the philosophies of Carl Orff Canada and her passion for music education.

This award is usually given to a student, or students, taking Orff Level II or III.

### **GUNILD KEETMAN SCHOLARSHIP**

The Gunild Keetman Fund was established in 1976 to provide annual grants to selected Canadian students or teachers.

Scholarships are awarded in the spring of each year and are available for all approved Orff Schulwerk courses offered in Canada, summer and winter. Applicants must be members in good standing of Carl Orff Canada, who have successfully completed a Level I Orff course.

Please visit [\*\*our website\*\*](#) for more information and application forms.



# Contact Us

GENERAL INQUIRIES  
[info@manitobaorff.org](mailto:info@manitobaorff.org)



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LIBRARY	<u><a href="#">Lori Arthur</a></u>
MEMBERS AT LARGE	<u><a href="#">Elizabeth Neufeld</a></u> <u><a href="#">Sonja Wiens</a></u>



# 24-25

**JOIN US FOR  
ANOTHER GREAT  
YEAR OF  
PROFESSIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT!**

**September 23**

**1**

## **MOC/WSO LISTENING WORKSHOP**

Legacy Centre, Winnipeg  
The Spirit Horse Returns  
*Amanda Ciavarelli &  
Liz Kristjanson*

**2**

**October 4**

## **ORFFANTASTIQUE**

Ecole Noel-Richot, Winnipeg  
*Chantal Dubois (QC)*

**October 25 & 26**

**3**

## **TEMPO & FALL FIESTA, AGM**

Tempo: MBCI, Winnipeg  
FF: École South Pointe  
School  
*David Row (GA, USA)*

**4**

**January 2025**

## **DA CAPO**

Brandon University

**2025**

**5**

## **BUILDING BRIDGES**

Dauphin, Mountain  
View School Division  
*Jewel Casselman*

**6**

**February 8**

## **WINTER WORKSHOP**

Highbury School, Winnipeg  
*Sean Fitzmaurice &  
Steph Davis*

**7**

**May 2, 14, 15 2025**

## **CHILDREN'S DAY**

Brandon University, May 2  
University of Manitoba,  
14 - English, 15 - French

**8**

**May 15**

## **STAY 'N PLAY**

École South Pointe School  
*Diane Sjoberg, Liz  
Kristjanson, Ruth  
Wiwchar & Joan Linklater*

**9**

**June 2025**

## **PLAY!**

Date TBD  
St. Vital Centre, Winnipeg

**10**

**July 7-18**

## **ORFF LEVELS**

I & II

University of Manitoba

**November 5, January 27, April 14**

## **READING RHYTHM BOOK CLUB**

Ecole South Pointe School  
*Hosted by Amanda Ciavarelli*