

Manitoba MODES

Official Newsletter of the Manitoba Orff Chapter

President's Message

BY JENNIFER GILLIS

As we bring our Music Month to a close, I hope you have all found plenty of reasons and opportunities to celebrate music making in your classrooms. Whether you were able to perform at the legislature, show off your program for your communities, or just take the time to share special moments in class with your students, May is a chance to remember the importance of what we do. It's a chance to advocate for our programs and a chance for our students to share their knowledge and experiences.



May also means Children's Day! I love watching the students learn so many new things throughout the day. And they're not the only ones: I have a list of ideas that I need to use in my classroom now! And beyond that, there's the energy the students bring back to music class afterwards.

My students have enjoyed learning our 50th anniversary song, Make Music, Manitoba. If you have not had the chance to play it in your classrooms yet, the lively tune and syncopated rhythms make it an engaging song for the end of the year.

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It was wonderful to see so many of you at PASSAGES. For those of you fortunate enough to be able to attend, I hope it was as inspiring an experience as it was for me. The level of creativity and new ideas that I get to bring back into my classroom, was incredible. I have new songs to sing, books to read to my students, and a new way to teach crossover borduns. And so much of it was in French! One of the most interesting sessions I attended was on what makes professional development effective and how important it is that PD is not just a single event, but is spaced out over the year and reflected upon. With all this amazing material, I will make the time across the next few months to reflect on what I learned to better put all of it into practice.



The new COC resource book, Orff... On the Go! En movement! was released at PASSAGES. From songs to go with books, creative movement activities, and Orff arrangements, this new resource book has plenty to offer. I already have some ideas on how to slot it into my plans for next year.

I wish you all an engaging and musical end to your year. Despite the chaos that this time of year brings, don't forget to take time to pause and focus on the special moments that you and your students create together. Continue to make space for your students to create, play, sing, move, and explore.

Jennifer Gillis

50th Anniversary Orff Merch

MOC has organized the creation of celebratory 50th Anniversary merchandise. For more information and to order, click [here](#)



Advocacy Corner

BY BECKI MOSS

As we celebrate Music month in May, I am reminded again of the excellence and proficiency of music programming and education across our province. The concert series at the legislature has been a wonderful highlight of this. Some of the best advocacy for music education in schools is the opportunity for the community to see what is happening within our walls.

As many schools celebrate music month and their programs through spring concerts (as we have) I am reminded of how much families love to see their kids be creative, perform and shine on stage. If spring performances aren't a part of your school's programming, there are other great ways to share the fantastic things that happen in your classrooms.




Cultural celebrations (through the use of folk dances or performing of world music) can be an effective way to celebrate your school's diversity and provide opportunities to learn about our students/classmates backgrounds. It also can provide a fun way for students to share their knowledge, culture and learning with the school and surrounding community.

Talent shows (even within class periods) can help to highlight small group and individual skills and creativity. It provides opportunities for students to also be respectful audience members, support classmates and learn about concert etiquette.

Using digital platforms such as Seesaw can be used to share day-to-day growth or group performance activities that are difficult to share without other classmates or a concert performance (on conference evenings, for example).

If you don't have a performance scheduled, looking for a retirement home, parent association or school board meeting, or an opportunity to sing the national anthem at a sporting event can all be great advocacy opportunities for your program.



Coordinating with middle or high schools in the area for collaborative performance or mini-concerts gives students a chance to create and present. It can and also help strengthen programming and the feeling of community and connection within your division.

Even inviting other classes, admin or adults in the school into the classroom for a mini-impromptu demonstration is a small but easy way to celebrate and strengthen your program.

Performance in any form is such a powerful tool, so big or small, our goals should be to keep providing opportunities for our students to share their learning and music-making. In the words of Ray Charles; “Music is powerful. As people listen to it, they can be affected. They respond.”

Children’s Day Reviews

BRANDON
BY KELSEY SIMPSON

Brandon Orff Children’s Day 2026, held Friday, May 1 at the Brandon University School of Music, was a joyful celebration of music, movement, and creativity. This year’s theme, Celebration, came to life as 99 students from Brandon, Douglas, and Moosomin, Saskatchewan participated in a memorable day filled with engaging musical experiences.

Dawn Muir’s movement session based on David Bouchard’s book *If You’re Not from the Prairie*, encouraged students to connect music, storytelling, and movement. Sean Fitzmaurice led an energetic Basic Orff session in which students learned an original song and arrangement. Erica Rothschild brought excitement to the percussion session, using rhythms from the opening session activity as inspiration. Students enjoyed learning the Tagalog song and clapping game “Nanay, Tatay” with Julianne Rempel, which quickly became a crowd favourite. Jewel Casselman challenged students with an original recorder piece in 3/4 time, helping students strengthen their musicianship.

The day was filled with enthusiasm, creativity, and memorable musical moments for everyone involved. Thank you to the inspiring clinicians, and we look forward to next year’s event!



Children's Day Reviews

JOURNÉE ORFF POUR ENFANTS
PAR ANNABELLE DRAGICEVIC

La Journée Orff pour enfants a eu lieu le 13 mai à l'Université du Manitoba et a accueilli 111 étudiants pour une merveilleuse journée de création et d'apprentissage musical en français. Tout au long de la journée, les étudiants ont participé à des ateliers axés sur le mouvement, les percussions, chorale, la flûte à bec et orff de base, animés par des cliniciens inspirants.



Steven Hees a animé un échauffement stimulant qui a permis aux élèves de se familiariser avec les activités corporelles. Les élèves ont collaboré en petits groupes et exploré différents styles de mouvement à travers une variété de morceaux de musique. L'un des moments forts a été l'utilisation de cartes de mouvements : les élèves choisissaient une série de mots pour créer et interpréter leurs propres compositions gestuelles.

Erica Rothschild a animé un atelier de percussions dynamique et stimulant. Les élèves ont eu l'occasion de composer leurs propres rythmes de percussions à partir des rythmes présentés lors de la cérémonie d'ouverture. L'expérimentation avec divers instruments de percussion portatifs tout au long de la séance a été particulièrement enrichissante pour eux.

Avant d'apprendre des chants liés à la vie dans les Prairies, les élèves ont participé à des échauffements vocaux stimulants et enrichissants. Carolyn Boyes a animé la séance avec enthousiasme et expertise, et les élèves ont pleinement apprécié le répertoire et les activités.

Heather Burdeniuk a animé un atelier créatif mêlant flûte à bec, percussions et danse en 3/4. L'intégration de ces éléments a offert aux élèves une expérience musicale enrichissante et a contribué à développer leurs compétences musicales.

Marie-Claude McDonald a enseigné une pièce Orff profonde qui explorait les raisons pour lesquelles nous faisons de la musique. Elle a habilement structuré l'apprentissage en présentant la chanson par des percussions corporelles avant de les intégrer aux instruments. Cette approche a permis aux élèves d'interpréter avec assurance leurs parties individuelles au xylophone et de connaître le succès en ensemble. À la fin de la journée, mes élèves s'exclamaient : « C'est la meilleure sortie scolaire de tous les temps ! » Leur enthousiasme témoigne de l'impact de cet événement. Un grand merci à tous les cliniciens et à l'équipe de la Journée Orff pour enfants pour cette expérience mémorable et enrichissante. J'ai hâte d'y amener un autre groupe d'élèves l'année prochaine.

MEET THE NEW BOARD MEMBER

WORKSHOP COORDINATOR



SHAYLA DAVIDSON

I AM IN MY SECOND YEAR
OF TEACHING AND I
TEACH N/K-6AT ÉCOLE
LAVÉRENDRYE IN WSD

SOME OF MY ROLES AS THE WORKSHOP COORDINATOR

- CREATE REGISTRATION FORMS
- PREPARE AND READ THROUGH EVALUATION FORMS
- CREATE NAME TAGS AND WORK THE REGISTRATION DESK
- WRITE UP INVOICES AND ANSWER EMAILS REGARDING ANY WORKSHOPS

A FEW THINGS I ENJOY/LOVE (BESIDES MUSIC OF COURSE)

- READING
- YOGA
- CURLING
- PLAYING VIDEO GAMES
- MATCHA!
- BEEN OBSESSED WITH ZERO SUGAR PEACH MANGO GINGERALES RECENTLY

MY FAVOURITE THINGS ABOUT TEACHING MUSIC

- SINGING!
- SURPRISINGLY, RECORDERS 😊
- BEING ABLE TO BE A PART OF A CHILD'S MUSICAL JOURNEY! (HOPEFULLY INFLUENCING THEM TO TAKE PART IN MUSIC/MUSICAL EXPERIENCES IN SOME WAY, SHAPE, OR FORM OVER THE COURSE OF THEIR LIVES)

Off the Shelf

BY LORI ARTHUR

If you were fortunate enough to attend the recent national Orff Conference, *Passages*, in Halifax, you may have seen some wonderful performances by the youth we teach. These performances are subsidized through funds raised from the sales of resources created by a committee of Orff members.



The latest publication, *Orff on the Go! En mouvement !*, was released for this past conference. The lessons included in this resource were contributed by Orff educators from across Canada. Our Manitoba members also made valuable contributions — Amanda and Erica provided lessons en français, while Karen and Erin supplied lessons in English. Alongside several additional lessons in French, English, and Mi'kmaq, these resources are still available for purchase. The digital version can be purchased [online](#), or you can inquire at Long & McQuade for a hard copy.

If there is enough interest from Manitoba educators, we can arrange another print run, as the books were printed locally by Winnipeg's own Galaxy Printers.

If you missed the first version of these resource collections, copies are no longer available for purchase, but you can still borrow one from the MOC library. If you missed the second edition, *It's Time! C'est le Temps !*, it is also available through the library, and physical copies may still be ordered through the Long & McQuade print department.

Planning is already well underway for the next resource collection, which will be released at the next national Orff Conference in Calgary — *Resonate / Résonances 2028*.

If you are interested in taking a group to perform at this conference, or arranging to submit a recording of your group, please remember to access the available funding support. If you have already purchased one of the resources, thank you for your contribution. If you would still like to support this initiative, please consider purchasing one or both of the previously released resources.

Finally, if there is a favourite Canadian Orff specialist whose work you would like to see included in the next resource collection, please let me know at library@manitobaorff.org.



NEW FROM ♦ NOUVEAUTÉ DE

Carl Orff Canada

24 new inspiring lessons
24 nouvelles leçons inspirantes



Orff... On the Go!/En mouvement ! sales have begun.
Please order the resource book [here](#).

The digital version can be purchased [online](#), or you can inquire at Long & McQuade for a hard copy.

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Resource Review

FROM WIBBLETON TO WOBBLETON: ADVENTURES WITH THE ELEMENTS OF MUSIC AND MOVEMENT

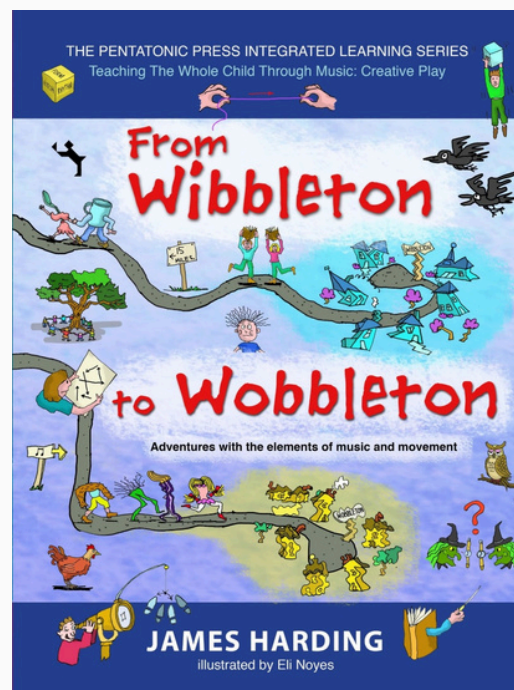
WRITTEN BY JAMES HARDING, ILLUSTRATED BY ELI NOYES
PUBLISHED BY PENTATONIC PRESS, SAN FRANCISCO, CA, 2013


BY SONJA WIENS

Were you inspired by James Harding’s keynote speech and sessions during the recent Orff conference in Halifax? Maybe you missed it and wish you had been there? Or have you perhaps not yet heard of James Harding? If your answer to any of those questions is “Yes”, I would like to recommend Harding’s 2013 Pentatonic Press publication *From Wobbleton to Wobbleton: Adventures with the Elements of Music and Movement*.

What stands out to me about James Harding as an Orff educator is his deep understanding of the tenets of the Orff-Keetman approach and the creative and thoughtful way in which he invites students to develop their musical understanding and artistry through playful exploration and student-centred creation. In this book, which contains over 30 activities based around speech, singing games, musical props, Orff instruments, and songs, Harding takes the reader on a journey where, in his words “the travelers will be you and your students...the terrain that you will cross will be made of ideas, and your vehicles will be music and movement, rhyme, proverb, drama, science math and visual art.”

Harding’s unique ability to tap into the playfulness and imagination of the young learner brings the material explored in this book – whether it be the solar system, a proverb from Ghana, an old English nursery rhyme, or a familiar singing game that everyone knows – to life through invitations to play, invent and experiment with the elements of music and movement.





His use of accessible, multi-use “props”, such as boxes, string, and egg cartons demonstrate the many ways that musical literacy and musical artistry can be explored and nurtured when children are given opportunities to create in hands-on and open-ended ways. Furthermore, the text is illustrated throughout with amusing cartoon illustrations which not only capture the playfulness at the heart of Harding’s pedagogy but also demonstrate the process and possibility of each activity.

What I appreciate most about this book, however, is that it transcends the realm of a simple collection of activities and instructions on how to execute them. Tying these activities together are almost two hundred pages of reflection on process, pedagogy and possibility, incorporating ideas for cross-curricular collaboration, assessment strategies, and exploration of the big ideas of the Orff-Keetman approach. The underlying message of this book is not so much to replicate the activities and ideas within, but rather to use them as an inspiration and point of departure for your own musical journey with your own students.

– Sonja Wiens

**Morna -June Morrow
Founding Member
Manitoba Orff Chapter**

**Tell us about
the very early days**

Special interview series with Morna-June Morrow

We’re sharing a special interview series with Morna-June Morrow, founder of the Manitoba Orff Chapter. We hope you’ll follow along and enjoy watching the series with us!

Click [here](#) for episode 1



Scholarships & Awards

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.

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.

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.



MOC 50TH ANNIVERSARY 2025-26

MAKE MUSIC, MANITOBA! BY KELSEY SIMPSON

WHAT

Created by Brandon resident, Kelsey Simpson, this song is gifted to you as the Manitoba Orff Chapter celebrates its 50 years on November 4th 2025.

HOW

Feel free to sing it, play it, move with it, and make arrangements of it in your classroom!

WHEN

Starting November 4th and throughout 2025-26, you are invited to post your classroom interpretation on social media with the hashtag #MOC50 or send your interpretation to info@manitobaorff.org.

STUDENT WAIVER FORMS AVAILABLE AT THE END OF THE DOCUMENT



50E ANNIVERSAIRE DU CHAPITRE ORFF
DU MANITOBA (2025-26)

FAIS DE LA MUSIQUE, MANITOBA! PAR KELSEY SIMPSON

QUOI

Créée par Kelsey Simpson, résidente de Brandon, cette chanson vous est offerte à l'occasion du 50e anniversaire du Chapitre Orff du Manitoba, le 4 novembre 2025.

COMMENT

N'hésitez pas à la chanter, à la jouer, à bouger au rythme et à en faire des arrangements dans votre classe !

QUAND

À partir du 4 novembre et tout au long de l'année 2025-2026, vous êtes invités à publier votre interprétation en classe sur les réseaux sociaux avec le hashtag #MOC50 ou à envoyer votre interprétation à info@manitobaorff.org.

FORMULAIRES DE DÉCHARGE POUR LES ÉTUDIANTS DISPONIBLES À LA FIN DU DOCUMENT

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info@manitobaorff.org



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