

Manitoba MODES

Official Newsletter of the Manitoba Orff Chapter

President's Message

BY ERICA ROTHSCHILD

Spring! A change of season bringing new life and hope of warmer days!
And like spring buds, great ideas are forming!

Looking ahead to the collaboration with the Manitoba Kodály Society: an opportunity to create new and exciting things for elementary music education in Manitoba! A collaboration we are most excited about!



You know what they say about change...if you don't ride the wave, you'll get swept by it. Thank you, Brent Johnson, for all the invaluable work you have done over the years for music education programming in the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra! We are certain your new beginnings with the MBA will be just as fruitful! We look forward to continuing our close collaboration with the WSO and their new beginning.

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After a most successful Winter Workshop with our Level III graduates, we saw the Children’s Day committee organize a flawless French and English day in Winnipeg. The Children’s Day committee in Brandon worked equally as hard to create a most wonderful day of learning in Brandon.

Everything is geared towards the National Conference, *Constellation 2024*, hosted in Vancouver by the British Columbia Orff Chapter. If you can’t make it to the conference, the amazing COC lesson resource book *It’s Time! C’est le temps!* will be made available in digital format for purchase on the COC website after the conference.

To you, our members, we wish you a renewed energy and spring in your step for this last season of concerts and end of year projects.



Erica

Brent Johnson: A collaboration of long standing

ON BEHALF OF THE MANITOBA ORFF CHAPTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

For 13 years, Brent Johnson has been the pillar of MOC’s collaboration with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra. Brent has been integral in developing and sustaining many new initiatives in education programming. From the beginnings of the children’s concerts to expanding programming with Marceline Moody, he has always kept an open mind and a sense of risk in trying new things. His patience, determination, persistence and advocacy have been indispensable in keeping the education community connected with the WSO.

Brent, you will be sadly missed but we know you will continue to be an outstanding advocate for music programs throughout the province. Wishing you all the best in your new adventures with the Manitoba Band Association!





Advocacy Corner

MAY IS MUSIC MONTH IN MANITOBA
BY AMANDA CIAVARELLI

May is has been proclaimed as Music Month in Manitoba. This is a time to recognize and celebrate the important impact music education makes in the lives of students in Manitoba schools.

Music education is more than learning to sing in tune or to play an instrument. It provides opportunities for self-expression, wellness, learning in each of the Manitoba Framework for Learning Global Competencies (critical thinking, creativity, citizenship, connection to self, communication, and collaboration), many cognitive benefits such as development of literacy and numeracy skills, and so much more. Music programs can shape school communities by bringing people together in ways that words cannot.

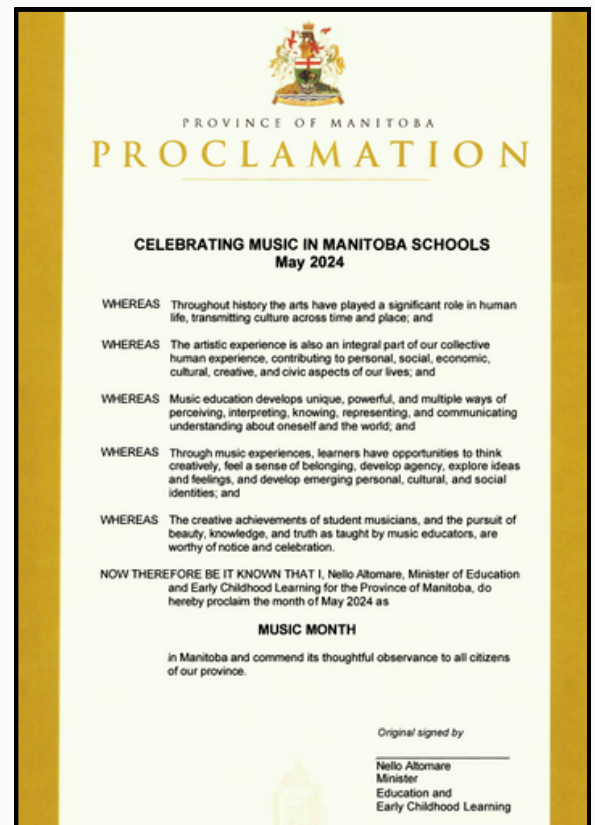
Music Monday also takes place during the month of May. Organized by the Coalition for Music Education, Music Monday is a national celebration of music education that takes place on the first Monday in May every year. This year marks the 20th anniversary of this panCanadian celebration.

Please see [this message](#) from Manitoba Premier Wab Kinew.

How can you celebrate the importance of music education in your school?
Here are a few ideas:

- Ask students and staff why music is important to them
- Plan a community celebration featuring student performances and messages about the importance of music in schools
- Include information about the importance of music education on morning announcements or on class social media pages
- Learn the official Music Monday song provided by the Coalition for Music Education on their website

Happy Music Month!





Children's Day Reviews

WINNIPEG - ENGLISH DAY
BY JOANNE KILFYOLE

This year I was pleased to bring 32 of my grade 5 students to the Manitoba Orff Chapter's annual Orff Children's Day on April 16th. It was held at Centre culturel franco-manitobain on Provencher and was an all-day event providing wonderful learning opportunities in choral singing, recorder, movement, drumming and barred instrument ensembles. My grade 5 students loved this event, which was led by excellent Orff trained clinicians.

Dawn Muir taught creative movement using the music from Star Wars, which engaged the students right away and drew them into the creative story they were telling with their bodies. Erica Rothschild's drumming workshop was immensely popular with the students. The students were challenged to be strong independent players while blending with the group in a rhythm canon. The choral session was taught by Marla Fontaine. She reached the students immediately with a pop song by Serena Ryder called, *Circle of the Sun*. This fun, 2-part arrangement was accompanied by Marla on the ukulele. Jewel Casselman taught the recorder session and shared with us her original song inspired by the recent solar eclipse. This lovely, yet accessible piece was in a major and minor mode evoking the feeling of the eclipse. Lastly, Julianna Rempel taught the Orff barred instrument session. The challenging piece she chose was entitled *Rainy Day*. It included a stormy soundscape as an introduction, and numerous parts on all the barred instruments.

At the conclusion of the day, there was a wonderful sharing session with the parents that highlighted all the student learning from the day. This event was an excellent opportunity to provide inspiration and enrichment for my grade 5 students. I highly recommend taking part in this day not just for grade 5 students, but as a valuable professional development tool for music teachers. I learned many things from watching my colleagues teach and am very grateful to the Children's Day committee and the amazing support of the Manitoba Orff Chapter in putting on such a wonderful event each year.





WINNIPEG - JOURNÉE D'ENFANTS BY CHANTAL COURCELLES LANCASTER

La journée Orff pour enfants en français a eu lieu le mercredi 17 avril au centre culturel franco-manitobain. Ce fut une journée très enrichissante et amusante pour les élèves de la 5e année qui ont eu la chance d'y assister! Les animatrices suivantes étaient formidables et engageantes.

Erica Rothschild pour l'atelier de percussion;
Marla Fontaine pour l'atelier de chorale;
Lucille Fournier pour l'atelier de flûte à bec;
Marie-Claude McDonald pour l'atelier de mouvement;
et Amanda Ciavarelli pour l'atelier en Orff global.

Merci aussi à tous les membres du comité organisateur de cette journée! J'espère que vous allez venir en grand nombre assister à cette journée fantastique lorsqu'elle aura lieu encore en 2025.





SUN, MOON, RAIN, AND MARS!

BRANDON
BY MELISSA SPRAGGS

On Friday, April 26, 127 students from 10 different schools attended Orff Children’s Day in Brandon. Brandon University School of Music was our gracious host, once again. Students and teachers attended from across Brandon School Division, as well as travelling from Oak Lake, Virden, Neepawa, Roblin, and Grand Marais to be a part of the day.



In Dawn Muir’s movement sessions, students enjoyed exploring Laban Qualities and moving like Star Wars characters. They also loved taking on the role of Martians while moving to “In the Hall of the Mountain King”. While drumming with Erica Rothschild, students developed their listening, improvisation, and ensemble skills. Their hands were truly flying at the close of this session.

Choir with Marla Fontaine was an engaging experience, learning to sing Serena Ryder’s “Circle of the Sun” with ukulele accompaniment and fun harmonies. Students engaged in fun warmups and had the opportunity to carry their own parts during an opening circle song.

Students were challenged to extend their listening and recorder skills during Jewel Casselman’s recorder session. They learned to play Jewel’s composition “Major Minor Solar Song”, adding movement to reflect the solar eclipse. Julianna Rempel’s basic Orff session created a perfect tie-in to the weather of the day. “Rain, rain go away and come again another day” was a truthful statement on this humid and rainy day. In this session, students further developed their playing, listening, ensemble, and movement skills. They were excited to create the sounds of a rainstorm with a variety of non-pitched percussion instruments and move with ribbons and umbrellas.

The day culminated with a packed sharing session of supportive parents, administrators, and school board trustees. Parents were excited to see the students demonstrate their new skills. What a celebration of learning! We look forward to learning together again, next year.



Tech Tip

PLAYSCORE 2

BY ANGIE WEISGERBER

The Playscore 2 App uses the latest Optical Music Recognition technology. Playscore 2 recognizes all standard music notation symbols and can play a variety of sheet music and scores including SATB vocal scores. It makes scanning sheet music a breeze! Simply download the Playscore 2 App, take a picture of your music, or import an image or PDF and the App plays your score. From there you can speed up or slow down the tempo, mute individual instrument lines or just soften certain parts while focusing on the line you want to hear. Playscore 2 is an ideal app for music teachers and music students and was awarded Bronze for the Best Education App in this year's QS-Wharton Reimagine Education Award.

Now that's a smart App!



Winter Workshop Review

BY ELIZABETH NEUFELD

The Winter Workshop hosted by the Manitoba Orff Chapter on March 2, 2024, was a dynamic and enriching event for music educators.

The workshop covered a wide spectrum of Orff pedagogy, from singing and playing instruments in Aeolian mode from Volume IV to incorporating folk dance steps with bucket drumming. A strategy for encouraging student creativity in creating, writing, and publishing recorder songs was explored along with tidbits such as note-naming games. The incorporation of hands-on activities made the learning experience interactive and enjoyable for participants. Information such as where to purchase balloons that work with blacklight or picture books that helped guide understanding of the music played and experienced showed an attention to detail and a commitment to providing practical takeaways for music educators.



The culminating movement activity, which explored the theme of unity and togetherness through the book *We Are Together* by Britta Treckentrup and piece *Hymn of the Worlds* from Cirque Du Soleil, was a poignant and memorable way to conclude the workshop, leaving participants with a sense of connection and inspiration.

The event provided valuable insights and resources that educators can integrate into their music classrooms. Kudos to the Level III presenters—Erin Lees, Halle Vigier, Julianna Rempel, and Krista Janzen—for their contributions. Thank-you and appreciation to Mary-Lynn Berti for hosting the event in the music room at Amber Trails School.



Edna H. Knock

BY MORNA-JUNE C. MORROW

Edna (Little) Knock shared something in common with the Italian composer, Gioachino Rossini as both of them were Leap Year Babies. Edna was born February 29, 1928 in Fredericton, New Brunswick. How well I remember sharing her “*No longer a teenager*” birthday party in Brandon when she turned 80. I asked Edna many years ago, “Being a Leap Year Baby when do you celebrate your birthday – on February 28th or March 1st”, to which she replied, “Why both days of course!”

Edna Knock, Professor Emerita of Brandon University, is a well-regarded choral conductor and teacher. She has conducted church, campus, and school choirs and directed CBC Junior School Music Broadcasts in the Maritimes. Prior to teaching at Brandon University (1969-1990), Edna was a member of the Montréal Bach Choir and was involved with the CAMMAC Music Centre in Québec. She wrote the series *Sight Skills* produced by CBC TV for use in schools in Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Edna was music director of St. Matthews Cathedral in Brandon for many years and in November 2022 was named Music Director Emeritus at St. Matthew’s Cathedral. She was also an Honoree at August Fest at Brandon University.



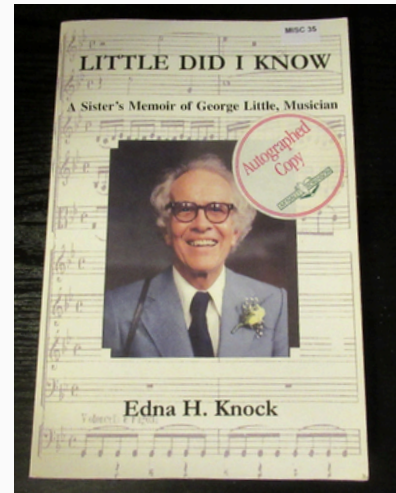
Edna earned a Bachelor of Music degree from Brandon University (1976) and a Master of Music (1983) from the University of Toronto. She also studied voice, theory and pedagogy at McGill University. She earned a certificate in Orff from the Royal Conservatory of Music, and one from the Kodály Musical Training Institute in Wellesley, Massachusetts. Edna studied aural musicianship and musicology at the Franz Liszt Academy in Budapest during which she visited 28 institutions to discover how music was being taught throughout Hungary. Edna also studied in the birthplace of Zoltán Kodály at the Kodály Institute in Kecskemét, Hungary. Edna became an extraordinary professor of both the philosophies of Carl Orff and Zoltán Kodály, educating many music specialists in the province of Manitoba. Edna is an honorary member of the Kodály Society of Canada.

In her retirement Edna pursued her lifelong interest in piano accompaniment and jazz improvisation. Her compact discs are a real treasure: *The Way I Play* (2004), *Here I Go Again* (2007), *Timeless with her friend singer Diane Nelson* (2008), *A Child is Born* (2010), *Take Two with Edna H. Knock and Diane Nelson* (2018).

Edna was one of many artists in an MTS Patchwork of Videos on Demand back in 2013. Her latest venture was on April 21, 2024, when she provided an entire piano program based on the theme of “Colours”. And no doubt *Somewhere Over the Rainbow* was one selection on her program. One time when I was in her apartment, she played on piano her version of this piece à la Dave Brubeck, to which I added my choreography . . . but without ringing the handbells when I perform this piece as a solo handbell ringer.

When I visited Edna in Brandon a few years ago, we went out for dinner at The Keg, and our waiter recognized her as she had provided the entire piano accompaniment for a Charlie Chaplin film *Gold Rush*. Seated behind a screen, she provided 96 minutes of continual piano playing of her own compositions, as well as such classics as Schubert, Schumann, Rachmaninov, Bach and some folk songs. But during the film, the air conditioning unit went on and all her notes she had on the piano blew off – so she was forced to do everything from memory. That’s my Edna!

Edna has always credited her brother George Little, founder of the Montréal Bach Choir, with giving her so much guidance in her own musical career. She wrote a wonderful book called *Little Did I Know – A Sister's Memoir of George Little, Musician*. This autographed copy of the book is available from the Manitoba Orff Chapter Lending Library. Edna recently informed me that the book is being translated into French.



And that brings us to Edna's connection with the Manitoba Orff Chapter. Edna, from Brandon University, Peggy Emmond from St. Boniface School Division and myself as Music Supervisor of the Fort Garry School Division were Manitoba charter members in Carl Orff Canada's Music for Children Musique pour enfants in 1974. Upon returning from the first National Conference of Carl Orff Canada in Toronto, Edna and I were co-chairs of the 2nd National Conference in Winnipeg. On that flight home we decided that it was time to create the Manitoba Orff Chapter although that did not happen until November 4, 1975 when I became Founding President, Edna as Vice President. Edna served on the Advisory Board of Carl Orff Canada from 1975-1977 and again from 1979-1981. I served as COC President from 1984-1986.

So many music educators in our province have benefited from Edna's remarkable expertise in the philosophies of both Orff and Kodály which she passed along to them and they in turn have shared with children that they have taught and still are teaching.

Zoltán Kodály once said the characteristics of a good musician can be summarized as follows:

- A well-trained ear;
- A well-trained intelligence;
- A well-trained heart;
- A well-trained hand.

And surely, we music educators would agree that Edna Knock is a musician extraordinaire!!!



Meet the Board Member

Jessica Taves

MOC Membership Secretary



What's My Role?

I have served on the Manitoba Orff Chapter board since 2021 in the role of Membership Secretary.

I track our organization's membership, send renewal reminders, and answer membership inquiries.

Career and Education

B. Ed, B. Mus (U of M, 2019)
Orff Level II (2022)

I will soon be returning to teach Grade 1-6 Music and 7/8 Band at Arborgate School in Seine River School Division following maternity leave.

Fun Facts

- I have a ridiculous(ly cute) Goldendoodle named Rufus
 - In summer I grow all manner of fruits, veggies and flowers
 - My 1-year old daughter loves playing the xylophone and "bopping and grooving" to Shostakovitch
-



Meet the Board Member

Bonjour! I'm Jennifer Gillis

I have recently become the Vice-President and taken over the job of working with the WSO to organize our listening workshops. I have been on the board of the MOC since 2014 and was previously held the positions of Treasurer and Secretary.

Je suis la vice-présidente et je travaille avec le WSO pour organiser nos ateliers jointe. J'étais un membre du conseil du MOC depuis 2014 et j'ai aussi occupé les postes du trésorier et du secrétaire.

Career and Education

I am in my tenth year of teaching K-6 music at École St. Eustache in French and St. François Xavier School in English. I graduated with my B.Mus/B.Ed from the University of Manitoba in 2011 and taught middle school band before taking my level courses and switching to early years. I completed my Orff level 3 in 2018.

Carrière et éducation

J'ai passé les derniers dix années en enseigner la musique en français à l'École St. Eustache et en anglais à St. François Xavier School. J'ai complété mon B.Mus/B.Ed à l'Université du Manitoba en 2011 et puis j'ai enseigné l'harmonie à l'école intermédiaire. J'ai pris mes cours d'Orff et commencer à enseigner en primaire en 2014. J'ai complété le troisième niveau en 2018.

Interests

I enjoy playing my clarinet in the Winnipeg Wind Ensemble and the Mennonite Community Orchestra, as well as my own solo repertoire. I love to read and garden. I love my sci-fi, and I love my pets Nyssa (cat) and Vala (dog).



Intérêts

J'adore jouer ma clarinette avec le Winnipeg Wind Ensemble et le Mennonite Community Orchestra et mon propre répertoire aussi. J'adore lire et jardiner. J'adore sci-fi et j'adore mes animaux : Nyssa (chat) et Vala (chien).



MOC/WSO Workshop Review

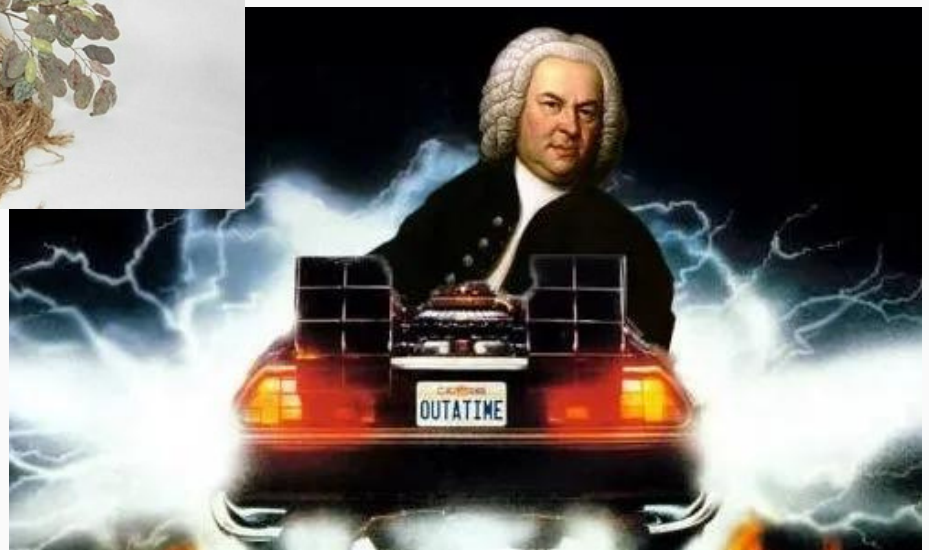
BY RAIZEL MILLET

I am a 2nd year music teacher without a formal degree in music education. As someone with a background in music, I found that it was hard to know where to start with elementary music education. With the MOC workshops I was able to have a starting point in teaching children elements of music with a wide range of activities.

Being part of the Manitoba Orff Chapter has helped me in my teaching by having the resources and support from other music teachers. I enjoy going to the workshops held by the MOC to get new ideas and try out lessons with my students. The workshops are relevant and easy to follow. I especially liked the Fall Fiesta workshop because of all the cultural teachings that went along with the music.

The WSO listening workshops held by the MOC were also well planned and received. I felt that my students were able to fully experience and appreciate the music in a new way because of the lessons made for the concert.

I appreciate all the work that was put into all of the workshops as it helps out new teachers like me have a better understanding of how to teach music in different ways for elementary students. I look forward to attending more workshops in the future to become a more well rounded music educator.



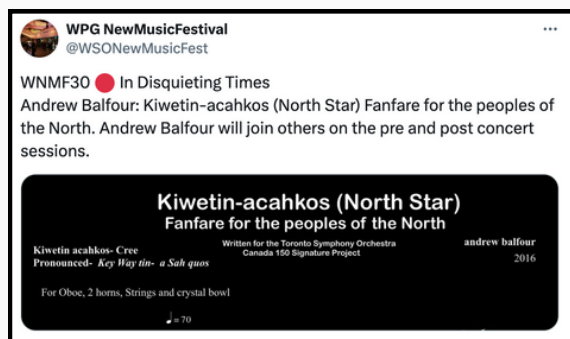
Why students are attending the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra concert

EXCERPT, BY JENNIFER ENGBRECHT

Every year, students in Grade 5 attend the [Adventures in Music Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra Concert](#). It is not simply an outing without pedagogical purpose. Indeed, funding from the school division or school would likely not be able to be acquired for an event with no educational reasoning.

Short answer:

- The outcomes we are learning in connection with this concert come from the [Social Studies Curriculum](#), the [Science Curriculum](#), the [Divisional Multi-Year Strategic Plan](#), the indigenous curriculum of Manitoba ‘[Mamàhtawisiwin](#)’, and the [UN Goals for Sustainable Development](#) that we are using as a school in partnership with the organization [Learning for a Sustainable Future](#).
- And of course, most certainly the [Manitoba Music Curriculum](#) that is part of learning in Manitoba schools.
- They have already actually been learning about the music and concepts that will be a part of this concert, so the concert itself is a celebration of that learning. If students miss the concert, they still learn everything about the symphony concert for the months beforehand; they only miss the afternoon event celebrating as a community with the rest of their classmates.
- As well, whether they attended the concert or not, they will be expected to write a reflection at the end of what they experienced. Students who do not attend will be interviewing other students to learn what this experience that they missed was like. It will be much easier if they can write about it first hand.
- As part of the [Manitoba Music Curriculum](#), students are to demonstrate that they are able to “take time to perceive music experiences before sharing opinions and making judgments.” This is a wonderful goal not only when experiencing an art form, but generally when coming across new learning, or situations as an active citizen in our world, to truly learn about whatever the new/unfamiliar person/place/thing or concept is before judging it. If a child has not ever had the opportunity to go to the beautiful Centennial Concert Hall and hear the live sounds of hundreds of musicians (including their own classmates), here is possibly their only chance.
- The [Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra](#) concert for 2024 has the environment as its theme. The concert takes place during Earth Month, which our school will be recognizing throughout the month.



TO CONTINUE READING, CLICK [HERE](#)



2024-2025 Upcoming Events

SEPTEMBER 2024	MOC/WSO Workshop
OCTOBER 2024	Orffantastique
OCTOBER 2024	Fall Fiesta
MARCH 2025	Winter Workshop
APRIL 2025	Children's Day
MAY 2025	Stay 'n Play
JUNE 2025	Play!



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.

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