



MUSIC FOR CHILDREN  
CARL ORFF CANADA  
MUSIQUE POUR ENFANTS

# Manitoba Modes

[www.manitobaorff.org](http://www.manitobaorff.org)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to our Spring 2021 Edition of Modes!

As I reflect on this past teaching year, I am so impressed with how resilient and creative all of you have been. This has been a very difficult year to teach and although music teachers are being continually challenged in every aspect of our teaching, we continue to forge ahead, and through our tenacity and perseverance, thousands of students across Manitoba are continuing to receive the best that we can give them and that is simply amazing.

As president of the Manitoba Orff Chapter, I have the privilege of collaborating with an incredible team of board members who are making my job very simple. I appreciate each member and am so thankful for the work that they do so willingly. While I miss the in-person connections when we have our board meetings and workshops, we continue to connect via online platforms to ensure that we are serving our MOC members to the best of our abilities. We work hard for you, our MOC members, to bring you innovative ways to connect (*MOC Chat Nights*), to receive relevant professional development materials and lessons ([Tuesday Tips](#) and [Manitoba Mosaics/Bach to School](#) with the WSO), and to offer support (through our newsletter *MODES*, our e-news emails, and on our [social media pages](#)). We also continue to advocate for music education in our province across all levels of government and school administrations, keeping in close connection with Carl Orff Canada and MMEA.

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Before we break for summer for some much-needed rest and rejuvenation, we will officially close our 2020/2021 school year by celebrating music advocacy through [PLAY!](#). Please make sure you follow, and share, our social media and watch for upcoming daily advocacy videos, performances, and a premier of a virtual student Orff ensemble! While this has been a fantastic in-person performance and outreach event in the past, we are excited about the possibilities that this virtual version will have, and also the potential it has to reach a new audience. Now, more than ever, we need to make our voices heard about the importance and necessity of quality music education for every child in Manitoba. Please help us spread the word out by liking and sharing our videos and posts!

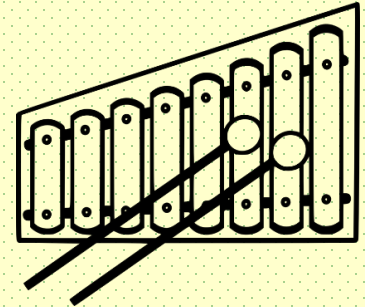
Lastly, I would like to officially wish the Manitoba Orff Chapter a Happy 45th Birthday! This past November marked this momentous occasion, and we are so very pleased to feature Morna-June Morrow, co-founder of MOC, in this edition of MODES. When we are able, we will celebrate together with lots of cake and sing the loudest and heartiest rendition of Happy Birthday and Viva la musica that we can muster!

In the meantime, I would like to wish you all much continued strength and courage as we close out this year. Take your students outside, dance in the sunshine, breathe in the fresh spring air, and congratulate yourselves for making it through one of the hardest teaching years that we have had to endure. Have a wonderful summer and we will look forward to seeing you all next fall!

Yours truly,  
Charisse Wurch  
President, Manitoba Orff Chapter



## LOOKING BACK ON 45 YEARS OF THE MANITOBA ORFF CHAPTER



On April 24, 1973, Doreen Hall wrote to Music Supervisors across Canada about the possibility of forming a Canadian Orff Society. I responded to her letter. On April 20, 1974, Manitobans Edna Knock, Peggy Emmond and I became charter members of the Orff Schulwerk Society of Canada. In January 1975, Edna Knock and I attended the first National Conference in Toronto. At the first formal meeting of the Executive the name was changed to MUSIC FOR CHILDREN, CARL ORFF CANADA, MUSIQUE POUR ENFANTS and it was decided that Winnipeg would host the second National Conference April 30-May 1, 1976. On our flight home, Edna and I decided we must set about establishing a Manitoba Orff Chapter.

On November 4, 1975, 13 music educators gathered at my home making plans to host a National Conference in less than 7 months. 229 delegates attended that conference at the University of Manitoba with Suse Böhm of Munich and Minna Lange Ronnefeld of Copenhagen as European headliners. Since then, 21 Orff educators have served as MOC Presidents.

Initially the MOC offered workshops and reading sessions and educated the public through news media. During the 1977 winter term, MOC members were invited to attend (free of charge) the “Instrumental Music I” course being taught by me at the Faculty of Education. Saturday morning workshops on Introductory Orff were given in February 1977 and 1978 by Ruth Wiwchar, Carolyn Ritchey and myself. This led to discussions with Professor Ursula Rempel at the U of Manitoba and resulted in the establishment of the Summer Orff Certification programs starting in 1980. A tradition of MOC offering a BBQ, including dancing in the park, wine and cheese, picnics, and luncheons, to course participants was established.

By the spring of 1985, *Manitoba Modes* newsletter was initiated. MOC was the first chapter in Canada to sponsor Children’s Orff Days; Orff classes were offered by the Winnipeg Music Festival; Manitoba Conservatory of Music and Arts offered “Music for Children” courses. The MOC offered a Summer Orff Scholarship (later renamed *Helen Neufeld Memorial Scholarship*) to assist full-time Manitoba University students. Recently, PLAY! days in June are a highlight in various shopping centres. Many offerings by MOC are provided both in English and French.

The MOC banner created by Helen Neufeld, Joan Linklater and Morna-June Morrow was unfurled at the 1986 National Conference and continued to be seen at subsequent National Conferences. Since then, MOC has created a series of beautiful posters that are seen at each event.

The website developed in recent years by MOC is outstanding and offers suggestions for teaching music in a different way especially during this global pandemic.

The MOC Resources Lending Library, established in July 1994 with books and recordings from Helen Neufeld, Doreen Hall and Morna-June Morrow was moved to the Faculty of Music along with the National Archives of Carl Orff Canada in 2016.

*Submitted by Morna-June Morrow*



## THE INFLUENCE OF MANITOBANS SERVING NATIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY

MOC members have significantly contributed to the Orff movement, locally, nationally, and internationally. What an honour when requested by Liselotte Orff to present a paper on Orff in Canadian Schools at the Mozarteum in Salzburg during the 1985 International Orff Symposium. Many MOC members teach the Summer Orff Certification program and serve as festival adjudicators. Others have taken their children to perform at national conferences. How many articles by Manitobans have appeared in the *Modes*, *Ostinato*, and books about Carl Orff Canada? Having served on the National Executive/Advisory Board of COC from 1975-1992, I was greatly honoured to be the first educator in western Canada to receive an Honorary Life Membership. Thus began a succession of Manitobans serving on the National organization: Dianne Sjoberg, Joan Linklater, Beryl Peters, Liz Kristjanson as National Presidents. Other positions were filled by Edna Knock, Helen Neufeld, Phyllis Ilavsky, Ruth Wiwchar, Francine Morin, Pauline Loewen, Kristi Grunsten-Yonda, Brenda Chorney, Lori Arthur and Julie Mongeon-Ferré. In 2010, Ruth Wiwchar received a Special Certificate for her outstanding contribution to choral music in Canada, and her sister, Dianne Sjoberg, received an Honorary Life Membership as did Joan Linklater in 2016. Joan also spoke at an International Orff Symposium in Salzburg.

However, everything changed mid-March 2020 with the global pandemic. I admire what MOC directors are doing to ensure members receive many benefits during this past year of extremely challenging times for teachers: access to on-line workshops, *Virtual Chat Nights*, *Tuesday Tips* on Facebook and YouTube, the *Mosaic* Partnership with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, etc. Now the decision has been made that the 2022 National Conference in Winnipeg is to be held virtually. How sad that will be as I will miss the fond embraces of Orff colleagues, that I deem my closest friends. Heartiest congratulations to all MOC members in ensuring the very best music education for the children in your care.



MORNA-JUNE MORROW,  
MOC FOUNDING PRESIDENT

## Decolonizing the Music Room

On Saturday March 20, I was very pleased to attend the ‘Decolonizing the Music Room’ workshop hosted by Carl Orff Canada and its newly formed Diversity, Equity & Inclusion committee, of which I am honoured to be a part. The virtual workshop featured two fantastic presenters: Brandi Waller-Pace, the founder of the non-profit ‘Decolonizing the Music Room’, and Syreeta Neal. These two amazing Black women brought their perspectives and insights to diversity and inclusion as it pertains to music education. The discussions tackled the minoritization of BBIA voices (Black, Brown, Indigenous and Asian) behind the historical dominance of Western European music.

The conversation and breakout sessions were excellent, allowing the attendees from all over Canada to share their thoughts and experiences, and really allowed us to begin to ‘sit in the discomfort’ as Brandi encouraged us to do. One of the many things I took away from the workshop was learning about positionality, which is all of the things that make up your identity in a social and political context, including things like race, class, gender, sexuality, language(s) spoken, ability, etc. Positionality impacts both how people see you, and how you view others. Knowing this, I can now just begin to scratch the surface of appreciating more the positionalities of my students and how varied and unique each of their lived experiences are.

A few key points that Brandi and Syreeta discussed in terms of actions that can be taken in our own music classrooms, is to first look at song selection. It is important to make sure that the songs we choose to present to our students are free from racist and derogatory content, and that the songs represent diverse cultures and perspectives, not just that of Western European music for example.

In addition, thinking about how we structure our programs in terms of what we choose to emphasize and the content and perspectives that we choose to give voice to speaks volumes to our students. Teaching certain content and perspectives places value on that content, while content that is left out is consequently devalued.

Brandi and Syreeta also advocated for inviting culture bearers into our classrooms, those who are specialists in a style of music or particular song that is being presented. Especially now that leveraging digital platforms is right at our fingertips, it is easier than ever to bring in experts from near and far to engage with our students.

I found it extremely valuable to hear about the experiences of these two wonderful presenters. Having these conversations and addressing the inequities that have been so long held in our society and opening our minds to the perspectives of those positionalities that have been systemically suppressed, is paramount in moving towards a truly inclusive classroom for all students. The workshop provoked deep thought and introspection into my own teaching practices, and I am glad to have been reminded that this process of decolonization is a journey that requires intentional action, not a task to be completed and checked off overnight.

In the words of Maya Angelou: “Do the best you can until you know better. Then when you know better, do better.”

For further information and resources, visit Brandi Waller-Pace’s website: [decolonizingthemusicroom.com](http://decolonizingthemusicroom.com)

*Submitted by Shannon Moses*



## ADVOCACY CORNER



### *All for Orff and Orff for all!*

Dear colleagues, I do not know about you, but I am definitely feeling the burn of this last kilometer in the marathon...

Yet, what a feeling of achievement surviving this teaching year: no singing and in some cases no instruments, having to adapt expectations and sometimes create a new program! It is so great to see positives come out of this experience! One among them: the amazing workshops nation-wide that would not have been otherwise available had they not been virtual.

I find podcasts have definitely helped me with my positive inner dialogue and staying connected. To name a few: Music Ed Mentor Podcast, The Music Room, Make Moments Matter (David Row).

As I ponder what changes we will have to adapt to next year, the government Bill 64 comes as a stark reminder that music educators need their voices heard - and it is not COVID that will stop us from using them!

If you have not checked out the Manitoba Orff Chapter YouTube channel for some #MOCTuesdayTips, your friendly colleagues in Manitoba are there and ready to share ideas that might work for your COVID context setting. Our chat nights are also a great platform to reconnect. What greatness we make together!

### *Tous pour Orff et Orff pour tous!*

Chers collègues, j'le sais, ce dernier kilomètre de marathon COVID commence à nous rentrer dedans – un marathon pour lequel on n's'étaient même pas inscrits d'ailleurs!

Mais *t'ins!* J'me sens pas mal fière de l'avoir survécu jusqu'ici ce marathon! Pis sans avec le moindre mal : pas d'chant, pas d'instruments (ou presque), et pas d'classe toute en classe – stylé derrière mon écran - genre. Et puis ce gouvernement qui essaie à tout bout d'chant de réinventer la roue...

Malgré cela, la connexion à distance a eu ses avantages... comme renouer avec nos cousins à l'est et partout au pays par l'entremise de Zoom.

Je profite des balados pour nourrir mon dialogue interne et ma motivation lorsque je me sens isolée de mes pairs. L'application OHdio de radio-canada déborde de balados et d'émissions pour tous les goûts musicaux...

**Table tournante**

Avec Louis-Jean Cormier  
Cette émission n'est pas en ondes actuellement.

Rattrapage    À propos

Autour d'une table, Louis-Jean Cormier et ses trois invités discutent de l'importance de la musique dans leur vie.

Nous sommes chanceux au Manitoba d'avoir une communauté musicale vivante et engagée. En commençant par le chapitre Orff! Si vous ne l'avez pas déjà fait, profitez de la chaîne youtube avec les Tuesday Tips ou idées du mardi. Et les soirées de discussions libres parsemées dans l'année. Ensemble, nous sommes plus forts!

*Submitted by Erica Rothschild*



## VIRTUAL MUSIC CHATS

Have you been looking for a place to connect with other music educators and get some fresh ideas? Are you feeling burnt out and isolated because of Covid and the restrictions? Missing that real-time fellowship like we used to have at our in-person Orff workshops? We have a place for you! Our MOC Virtual Chat nights were born out of a desire for real time connection and inspired teaching ideas in the midst of this pandemic. We are all in this together and taking the time to support and encourage our colleagues is not only important but necessary for survival. What better way than to curl up at home with a hot cup of tea and join in some fantastic music sharing and community.

The one-hour evening Zoom meetings began on October 15, 2020 and ended on May 6, 2021 and have included 7 English and 3 French sharing sessions with participants from around our province. The online sessions have had participants sharing a variety of ideas, activities, and discoveries with an average of 10 music educators in attendance.

Topics we have been sharing on have included mindfulness and drumming with plates, buckets, desks and water bottles. We have discussed body percussion activities, sanitizing instruments and holiday activities such as Halloween, Remembrance Day, Christmas, year-end celebrations, and virtual concerts. Because most of us have not been allowed to sing, we have had discussions on using ASL and other strategies for teaching melody in the younger grades. Affordable instrument kits, carts and voice amplification for the mobile teacher have been important topics of these evenings as many have found themselves displaced from their music rooms. There has been sharing on strategies to teach ukulele, lessons for contactless dances and music genres. A variety of resources both in the areas of technology and free games such as Secret Chicken ([www.melissmamusic.com/secretchicken](http://www.melissmamusic.com/secretchicken)) have been

shared as well as assessment and creative ideas for Boomwhackers. Another evening was spent talking about student-led topics and returning to the basics of beat and rhythm. A hot topic has been outdoor music and there are many types of activities you can do outside in all seasons. If you are looking for inspiration, please check out Jennifer Engbrecht's outdoor music journey at [www.engbrecht.weebly.com/music-outside](http://www.engbrecht.weebly.com/music-outside)

Thank-you to everyone who has been able to come to these evenings, asking great questions and sharing your stories and wonderful ideas. Many of us have had significant changes and challenges to our music programs this year and the comradery of these evenings has been welcomed as we seek to find connections and keep connected.

*Submitted by Julianna Rempel*

### **C'est Orffantastique! avec Karine Pion**

C'est avec plaisir que, le 27 février dernier, nous avons accueilli Karine Pion, artiste multidisciplinaire et spécialiste de la danse percussive, dans cette édition virtuelle de Orffantastique. Malgré la distance qui nous sépare, le dynamisme et la passion de Karine pour la danse percussive nous a fait oublier pendant un temps l'écran à travers lequel nous communiquions.

Ce fut un riche moment de partage avec nos participants québécois, et un sujet qui déborde de possibilités créatives. J'en ai puisé des activités de création et le courage de les essayer en classe. À la fin de l'atelier, je n'ai pu m'empêcher de songer à quel point cet atelier doit être inspirant à vivre en personne. Merci et à la prochaine Karine!

*Submitted by Erica Rothschild*



## TECH TIP



Teaching during a Pandemic has definitely required music teachers to become very adaptable. Whether you are teaching outside, in a gym, going room to room on a cart or in a school foyer, one thing that teachers are asking is “what kind of sound system works best for you?” Here is a list of some suggested headsets & speakers that some teachers are using.

### [WinBridge – Multi-fuction Wireless Headset Microphone U8 Pro](#)

The adapter plugs into speaker and pairs with the wireless headset, rechargeable through a USB charger. The receiver plugs into a mic input not an aux inline.

### [Bietrun wireless headset](#)

Make sure to get USB rechargeable headphones! The battery packs will kill your budget!

### [Shidu M-800 wireless headset and Bluetooth](#)

Find it on Amazon. This works well for classrooms and medium sized gyms.

### [Bietrun wireless headset](#)

This one is easy to wear and has an adjustable mic.

### [100W ECOXGEAR portable speaker](#)

It requires some adjusting to speaking volume on the headset

### [Ion Pathfinder 4 Bluetooth speaker](#)

### [Soundhot R6 MPOW Bluetooth speaker](#)

It is a great little speaker with a BIG sound!

### [Alto Professional Uber PA 50W Portable Rechargeable Bluetooth PA System | Long & McQuade](#)

### [Sennheiser XSW Digital Base Set XLR Plug-on Wireless \[XSW-D XLR BASE SET\] : AVShop.ca - Canada's Pro Audio, Video and DJ Store](#)

Be sure to read through reviews to find the system that best suits your teaching situation. Good luck!

*Submitted by Angela Weisgerber*





## UPCOMING EVENTS

JOIN US AS MANITOBA STUDENTS PERFORM IN CELEBRATION OF  
CARL ORFF'S APPROACH TO MUSIC EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN

# PLAY!

2021

Making *Music* Together While  
We Are Apart

*Join our celebration on  
social media  
beginning May 31!*



[www.manitobaorff.org](http://www.manitobaorff.org)

**PLAY!**  
We are excited to present Play! Celebrating Elementary Music Education in Manitoba on social media and on our website from May 31 - June 11. Tune in to see advocacy messages from community members, a look back at past Play! events, information about the Orff process, and a premier of our virtual Orff ensemble that will include video submissions from 15 schools across Manitoba!

## UPCOMING EVENTS



**WINNIPEG 2022  
INTERSECTIONS**

WHERE MUSIC AND CHILDREN MEET  
LA RENCONTRE DES ENFANTS  
ET DE LA MUSIQUE

**Carl Orff Canada 27th National Conference  
27e Congrès national de Carl Orff Canada**

April 28 - April 30, 2022  
du 28 avril au 30 avril 2022

**VIRTUAL** ● **VIRTUEL**



## ANNOUNCEMENTS



### **Call for Volunteers**

The Manitoba Orff Chapter is seeking volunteers to join the **2021-2023 Board of Directors**, as well as the **MOC Children's Day Committee**.

If you would like to join one of these teams, contact us!

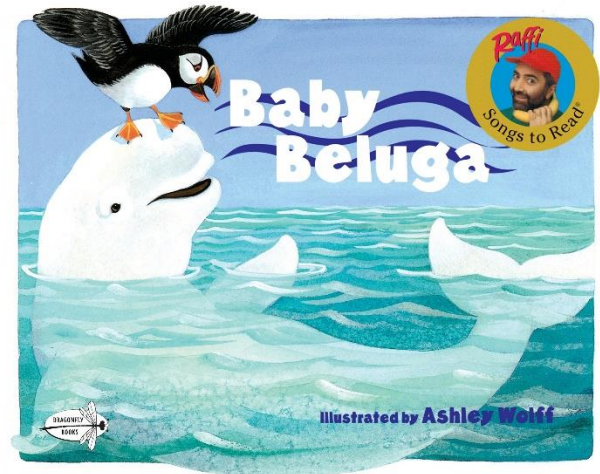
MOC Board of Directors- [aciavarelli@pembinatrails.ca](mailto:aciavarelli@pembinatrails.ca)  
MOC Children's Day Committee- [shannon.moses@hotmail.com](mailto:shannon.moses@hotmail.com)



## RESOURCE REVIEW



Did you know that Carl Orff Canada has a triannual national publication called *Ostinato* which is available to Manitoba Orff Chapter members? You can find terrific articles, a database of lesson plans, original compositions, and the sharing of ideas and successful teaching practices related to the Orff Schulwerk approach to music education. Click [here](#), then go to the members only area and request the username and password from the membership secretary. You will have an amazing resource at your fingertips. What a wonderful perk of being an MOC member!



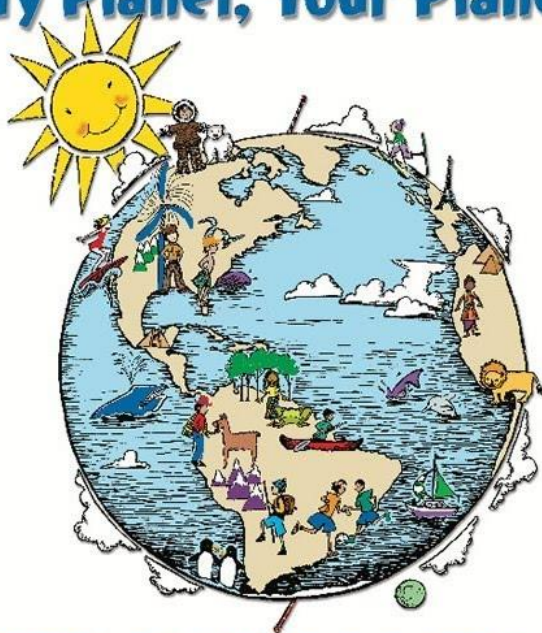
Recently we have been able to return to singing at my school, although the third wave of Covid is now causing a tightening of restrictions and even school closures. In spite of this, I am hopeful that singing will be back this fall. Here are a few excellent resources that my students and I have enjoyed immensely in years past.

[My Planet, Your Planet](#), this collection has 5 songs which work well as stand-alone pieces, or together in a concert setting. It has inspirational, earth-friendly messages about looking after our planet, combined with upbeat, catchy music that students love. An accompaniment CD is included.

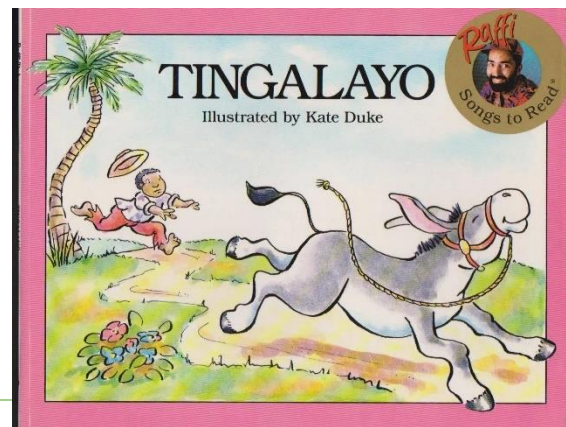
Two more well-loved songs are [Tingalayo](#) and [Baby Beluga](#). These classics are nostalgic for me. They were recorded by children's entertainer, Raffi, who I listened to on repeat my entire childhood. Both songs have colourful books you can share with students either in a print or online version. The sheet music can be found at the back of each book. Raffi has many more song and book combinations excellent for K-3 students.

Submitted by Joanne Kilfoyle

MY-117 Teacher's Handbook  
**My Planet, Your Planet**



An Earth-Friendly Musical Revue For Our One And Only Home  
 by Teresa Jennings



## MOC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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