

NSMEA NEWSLETTER

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- President's Message
- NSCF News
- Orff NS News
- Call for Presenters 2026
- Music Monday 2026
- CBC Music Class Challenge
- NSMEA conference survey

NSMEA



NOVA SCOTIA MUSIC EDUCATORS' ASSOCIATION

NSMEA Executive

President: Dina Burt
Vice President: Noelle Wadden
Treasurer: Keli Brewer
Secretary: Allison Penwell
Communications: Lauryn MacDonald

President's Message

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Happy New Year and welcome to the January edition of the NSMEA newsletter! I hope this message finds you rested from the holiday season and energized as we begin an exciting new year in music education.

As a professional association of the Nova Scotia Teachers Union, the **Nova Scotia Music Educators Association** exists to support and encourage ongoing professional development for music educators across our province. Whether through workshops, collaboration, grants, or our annual conference, NSMEA strives to be a resource and community for teachers at every stage of their careers. We also hope to strengthen professional connections among our membership and encourage you to reach out if you have questions or concerns in your position or if you want to help your colleagues.

Looking ahead to 2026, we have many opportunities to grow, connect, and deepen our practice. This past year's **NSMEA Conference** — “Inspiring Voices: Cultivating Leadership in Music Education” — brought educators together from across the province to share ideas, explore new approaches, and strengthen our collective voice. The success of this event reminds us of the power of collaboration and the importance of fostering leadership in our classrooms and communities.

One of the great strengths of our association is the diversity of experiences and perspectives within our membership. Your work in education contributes to a vibrant musical culture in Nova Scotia. As we move through the winter term, I encourage you to take advantage of the opportunities available through NSMEA — from **composition grants** and **workshop funding** to shared resources and peer support as well as scholarships for your students.

I am delighted to share that your executive met in November and had a very productive and exciting meeting. Keli Brewer, Noelle Wadden, Lauryn MacDonald and Allison Penwell are a dream team to work with and are very keen to ensure advancements in this association. Our next meeting is in a few weeks with our wonderful affiliates from our partner associations - John MacLeod NSBA, NSCF Heather Fraser, Maureen Dunn Koday NS, Jen Cleveland Orff NS and our Industry partners Andrew Baezley and Carly Newell.

Thank you for your ongoing dedication to music education and for the countless ways you enrich the lives of your students. I look forward to continuing our work together in 2026 and celebrating the many successes that await us this year.

Dina Burt

President, Nova Scotia Music Educators Association

NSCF News

Sing Summer! Junior and Youth Choir Camps - August 9-15 Registration Opens Feb 1!

We can't wait to be under the hemlocks again this summer for a special 50th anniversary summer!

Junior Choir Camp Conductor: Nelle Callanan

Youth Choir Camp Conductor: Ryan Henwood

CHECK OUT THIS CAMP VIDEO TO SHOW TO YOUR CLASSES!

2 Great PD Opportunities!

Treble Voices Workshop: February 21 - Acadia University Guest Conductor: Kelsea MacLean (Charlottetown)

Presented in partnership with the Acadia University School of Music, Treble Tones is a workshop day especially for Soprano/Alto voices! It is an opportunity to learn, have fun and sing treble equal voice music in a mass choir setting. No preparation required, just show up and sing!

INFO AND REGISTRATION

Choral Conducting Workshop - March 6 & 7 - Bedford Clinicians: Joel Tranquilla & Krista Vincent

All conducting spots are now FILLED. However, welcoming singers and observers for this great day of PD in a positive and supportive learning environment! *Note, there will NOT be a summer leadership workshop (because of special 50th camp plans!) - so this is it for 2026!

INFO & REGISTER



Nova Scotia
Choral
Federation

Learn with the Nova Scotia Choral Federation and
The Maritime Conservatory of the Performing Arts

Choral Conducting Workshop

Winter Edition 2026



CONDUCTING CLINICIAN DR. JOEL TRANQUILLA
WITH KRISTA VINCENT AND THE
SETON CONSERVATORY CHOIR

Join as a **conductor**, a **singer**
in the choir, or as an **observer**.
Choose what level of
participation is right for you!

Only 8 Conductor Spots! Don't Delay!
Registration for conductors &
choristers due by January 30th

WWW.NSCF.CA

MARCH 6 & 7, 2026
BEDFORD, NS



Nova Scotia
Choral
Federation



Nova Scotia Choral Federation
in partnership with the
Acadia University School of Music
presents

Treble Tones Workshop

For Soprano and Alto Voices

Guest Conductor
Kelsea McLean

February 21, 2026

Denton Hall,
Acadia University

Workshop: 9:00am-5:00pm

Concert: 7:00pm

Information and Registration:

www.nscf.ca



ACADIA
UNIVERSITY





NSCF FOR SCHOOLS!

The Nova Scotia Choral Federation aims to support singing in classrooms and in schools in ALL its forms!

50%
DISCOUNT

ONLY \$30/YEAR FOR...

Mentor Teachers, Coaches & Artist visits to your school
Free music! | Workshop and Program Discounts
PD Funding & Student Bursaries | Publicity for your Program
Resources and Assistance with anything singing related!

GET OUR FREE NEWSLETTER: www.nscf.ca/e-notes
MEMBERSHIP DETAILS: www.nscf.ca/join

LET US SUPPORT YOU IN YOUR CLASSROOM!



Nova Scotia
Choral
Federation

*Don't Miss Out! Sign up for the NSCF Free
Bi-weekly Newsletter!
Follow us! Instagram @nschoral and
Facebook*

Orff NS News

Passages 2026

Passages 2026 is coming to Halifax! From April 23–26, music educators from across Canada will gather at the Halifax Marriott for Carl Orff Canada's national conference. With inspiring workshops, hands-on music-making, and a vibrant community of educators, Passages 2026: Find Your Way / Trouve ta voie invites teachers of all levels—especially elementary—to reconnect, explore, and be inspired. Registration is now open! Learn more and register at Passages2026.ca.

Orff Level I and II

Orff Nova Scotia is pleased to host Orff Levels I and II courses this July, offering music educators a hands-on, immersive professional learning experience rooted in the Orff Schulwerk approach. These summer courses are ideal for teachers looking to deepen their practice, refresh their teaching, or begin their Orff journey. Visit [our website](#) for more information and to register.



A Chapter of Carl Orff Canada



ORFF LEVEL I & II

JULY 6TH - 17th

Fairview Height Elementary School

210 Coronation Avenue

Halifax, NS

This course in the principles and techniques of Carl Orff's Music for Children leads to Orff Specialist certification. The Orff philosophy is an internationally recognized approach to teaching music. In this course, teachers learn to foster student performance skills, literacy, and creativity through carefully sequenced musical experiences using songs, games, rhythms, poems, dances, and stories from around the world. Participants receive training in recorder playing, choral techniques, movement, percussion instrument technique, and pedagogy.

Register now at
www.orffnovascotia.com

Sponsored by



Endorsed by



NSMEA

JANUARY 2026



Registration now OPEN!
Les inscriptions sont maintenant OUVERTES

Presented by
Présenté par



April 23-26, 2026

29th National
Conference
29^e Congrès national
of/de Carl Orff Canada
Halifax, Nova Scotia

Over 40 sessions focused
on Elementary Music
using the Orff Approach
(including francophone
sessions as well)

Plus de 40 ateliers en
éducation musicale, offerts
en français et en anglais, et
mettant en vedette
l'approche Orff

www.passages2026.ca

**NSMEA 2026 Conference – Call for
Presenters!**

NSMEA
JANUARY 2026

MUSIC MONDAY

MONDAY, MAY 4, 2026



REGISTER AT COALITIONCANADA.CA/MUSICMONDAY

A nation-wide sing-along to demonstrate the power of music and the importance of music education.

Featuring the 1979 hit song *Hold On* by Canadian rock trio Triumph. One song. One day. One voice!



THE COALITION FOR
MUSIC
EDUCATION



CBC Music Class Challenge

Submissions are now open for the Spring CBC Music Class Challenge, with over \$10,000 in prize funding available to Canadian schools.

Classes can participate by performing mitêh (Heart), a new Cree choral work by Sherryl Sewepagaham, or by submitting an original song. mitêh is a modular, open-access piece with free arrangements for SATB, SA, Unison, and Unison + Orff, designed for choirs of all levels. Teaching videos and Cree pronunciation support are included.

Free scores and resources can be found [here](#)

Submission deadline: April 9



NSMEA 2025 Conference Feedback Survey

If you haven't already, please take a few minutes to fill out our [2025 NSMEA Conference Feedback Form](#).

Your feedback is greatly appreciated and helps shape future conferences. Thanks so much for your time!