



NSMEA NEWSLETTER

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N S M E A



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

Happy New Year 2026!

There is something pretty special about September in a music room. A fresh beginning, new and returning students and once again we have the privilege of turning a room full of individual students into a musical community.

Although it is a hectic time and the to-do list is endless, I hope you still have a spark of excitement when you are working with your students making music. Whether you are in year 3 or year 33 we have the ability to help students discover their potential to become lifelong musicians.

In our music rooms we get to create something that doesn't exist until our students collaborate. Our students learn that they have a responsibility to one another: to listen, to participate, to encourage, to practice and to keep trying, keep improving. The same is true of our community of music educators in Nova Scotia. We have an incredible wealth of experience and talent among our colleagues, and I hope this year we continue to find ways to share that with one another. We are better when we know one another and when we work together. Please contact us if you are looking for someone to connect with in your area of the province.

Soon we will have the opportunity to do exactly that at our 2026 NSMEA Provincial Conference. This year's theme, "Collective Voices: Stronger Together," feels especially appropriate. We hope you will recognize the importance of this day and join us.

Many thanks to the NSMEA dream team - Keli Brewer, Noelle Wadden, Lauryn MacDonald and Allison Penwell. Our next meeting is next week with our wonderful affiliates from our partner associations - John MacLeod NSBA, Heather Fraser CFNS, Maureen Dunn Koday NS, Jen Cleveland Orff NS and our Industry partners Andrew Beazley and Carly Nowell.

As you begin this new year with your students, don't underestimate the possibilities of changing lives through music. You are not only teaching notes, rhythms, technique and musicianship. You are giving our youth a place to contribute, a place to belong and an opportunity to experience the power of community.

Dina Burt

President

Nova Scotia Music Educators Association



NSMEA 2026 Conference



Collective Voices: Strong Together

October 23rd at Rocky Lake Jr. High

We are delighted to announce that this year's keynote speaker will be internationally acclaimed choral director, **Scott Leithead**, who is also the founder and artistic director of Edmonton's Korora Choir Association.

Registration will open for NSTU members on September 17th and will open to all September 28th

Lunch will be offered by Subway again this year for an additional \$16 added to your conference registration.

To take advantage of our special group rate of \$143 per night at the Sandman Signature Dartmouth, please use the code **2610MUSIC**. Book by **September 21st** to secure the group rate.

Book your stay here:

<https://www.sandmanhotels.com/signature-dartmouth/>

Save the date! Our pre-conference Thursday evening social is returning and will be hosted at Bar One, situated in our host hotel, the Sandman Signature. More details will be shared soon!

CMEA & NSMEA Award Nominations

We are extending the deadline for our NSMEA Musica Viva award and Lifetime Achievement Award. The Musica Viva award was created to acknowledge a group, individual or organization who have made outstanding contributions to music education in our province. The Lifetime Achievement award was created to honour and acknowledge the career of a music educator who has dedicated their life to the betterment of this field in their own school and community, and honours the lasting impact of their service. If you would like to nominate a colleague for either of these awards, please fill out the corresponding form below by **September 17th end of day**

Musica Viva Nomination Form

Lifetime Achievement Award Nomination Form

On behalf of the CMEA, we would also like to encourage our members to nominate colleagues for the various CMEA awards that are being offered this year. For a complete list of awards and how to apply, please visit their website, linked [here](#).

CMEA award nominations are due by **September 15th**

NSMEA Merch

Available for
Conference 2026!



**OATMEAL 1/4 ZIP
SWEATERS \$45
SIZES SM - 3XL**



**BLACK HOODIES \$40
SIZES SM - 3XL**



TOTE BAGS \$23

Keep your eyes peeled for
ordering information that
will come along with
conference registration!