



## **A Time to Share – Canadian Band Association**

Expanding our Musical and Cultural Perspectives

Wednesday March 24, 2021 7:00PM EDT

### **PRESENTERS • SESSIONS • BIOS**

#### **KRISTEN MYERS & KAITLYN GEIS**

##### **TITLE: Band Together: Inclusion in the Instrumental Music Program**

##### **DESCRIPTION:**

In this session, we will discuss the importance of creating music programs that are accessible to all, and where all students are purposefully engaged and have a role to play in the success of the ensemble. We will discuss strategies and evidence-based practices used to include students with various diagnoses (i.e. physical, cognitive) and learning challenges in band programs. There will be time provided in the session for participants to actively discuss and brainstorm around their own specific school situations, including students who are already participating in band programs or those not yet in the band class.

##### **BIOS:**

Kristen Myers is currently the Coordinator of French Immersion, Arts Education, and Band in Prairie Valley School Division (Regina, SK) where she oversees band and music programming in 39 schools. In 2013, Kristen co-created a program called AMP it Up (Art, Music, and Physical Education) designed to bring intensive supports students together for additional learning experiences in these curricular areas. Kristen has served as the Vice President of the Saskatchewan Band Association, has presented at the Saskatchewan and Manitoba Music Conferences, and has served on the faculty of the University of Manitoba Summer Jazz Camp, the Saskatchewan Band Association Summer Band Camp, and the Wisconsin Summer Music Clinic. Originally hailing from Manitoba, Kristen taught band in Pembina Trails School Division (Winnipeg, MB) and holds B.Mus./B.Ed. degrees from Brandon University as well as a Master of Science in Curriculum and Instruction (Music Education) from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Kaitlyn Geis is currently the Inclusion and Complex Needs Consultant for Prairie Valley School Division, where she supports inclusive programming for all students in 39 schools in their home communities. Kaitlyn has continued the legacy of AMP it Up (Art, Music, and Physical Education) after Kristen moved into her Coordinator position. Prior to a consultancy, Kaitlyn was a Learning Support Teacher in Fort Qu'Appelle, Saskatchewan and has many varied experiences in creating inclusive classroom spaces for students with physical, cognitive, or behavioural needs. Kaitlyn holds a B.Ed from the University of Regina, and is Special Education Teacher Qualified as recognized by the Saskatchewan Ministry of Education.

## **BECK WATT**

### **TITLE: Quick Tips for Queer Inclusion**

#### **DESCRIPTION:**

Beck's session will encourage participants to reflect on their classroom spaces and teaching practices through a queer lens. We will look at how language can be used to create more inclusive space for ALL students, not just those who have been identified as part of the queer community. Beck aims to give participants a way to access queer inclusion from wherever they are at, and not make it feel like an additional full time job.

#### **BIO:**

Beck Watt is a tattooed teacher of music from Winnipeg, Manitoba, and a graduate of the University of Manitoba. Beck currently teaches in the Winnipeg School Division and has been focused on developing the grade 7-12 music and band programs at St John's High School. Outside of teaching, Beck would normally be found performing with the Winnipeg Wind Ensemble, and various other small ensembles around the city, as a flute and piccolo player. In addition to their work within the Manitoba music community, they have been a guest speaker for various Manitoba Teacher's Society and Manitoba Education and Training PD sessions on supporting transgender and gender diverse students in Manitoba. Beck looks forward to continuing their work on developing resources for queer inclusive music programs, and schools, through their Masters research beginning this fall.

## **ALANA SCHARFSTEIN**

### **TITLE: ESL Learners in the Music Classroom**

#### **DESCRIPTION:**

With the diversity in our student populations growing at a remarkable rate, it is becoming more important than ever for educators to prepare to respond to all of the remarkable needs currently present in a typical classroom. In this session, we will examine how we can include our ESL learners in the creation and process of music making in an authentic and meaningful way. We will see who our ESL learners are, discuss the particular needs that they bring to the music classroom, and explore some practical strategies related to the successful integration of the ESL learner within the music classroom today.

#### **BIO:**

Alana Scharfstein is a public music educator who has been teaching elementary music and middle school band for over 15 years. Born and raised in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, she earned her Bachelor of Music and Bachelor of Education from the University of Saskatchewan and later pursued her TESOL Certificate from the University of Toronto. Alana has taught in both Saskatoon and Toronto, in addition to teaching for a year in Bangkok, Thailand. She has conducted many concert bands, jazz bands, choirs, and instrumental ensembles, and has led many ensembles to successful performances at local and provincial music festivals. As a believer in lifelong learning, she is currently pursuing her Masters in Music Education from Acadia University. When not teaching, Alana can be found wrangling two small humans, followed by drinking yet another cold cup of coffee.