



Dear Supporter of Music Education,

The Ontario Music Educators' Association (OMEA) annual conference, *Synergy 2023* is taking place in Niagara Falls, Ontario, November 2nd to 4th, 2023 (<https://omea.on.ca/events/synergy2023/>). A member of your staff is wishing to prioritize learning about how your school's music program can be a more inclusive space, carefully considering how students see themselves reflected in their music classes. Synergy 2023 has chosen keynote speakers, featured workshop presenters, and performances who focus on equity and inclusion, to encourage and assist music educators in having conversations about creating anti-racist and anti-colonial spaces, where students know they matter and belong.

Having your school's music educator(s) attend *Synergy 2023* will help them align their work and program to your School Improvement Plan and your school board's Equity and Inclusion Strategy. From the *Ontario Equity Action Plan* (2017):

Our schools should be places in which students not only learn about diversity but also experience it. Students should see themselves and their classmates reflected in their studies. (p. 4)

It is our hope that you will support your music educator in working towards the Ministry of Education's actions in the Ontario Equity Strategy, in contributing to the equity work within your school and school board, and to support their professional learning and growth.

The conference begins on Thursday November 2nd and concludes on Saturday November 4, 2023. In order for your staff member to attend the full Synergy 2023 conference, they will need your support with supply or internal classroom coverage for Friday, November 3rd, 2023. They would be giving their time on Saturday, November 4th, 2023 to continue this important learning. The full conference fee is \$340.00 if registered by September 27th, 2023. To attend, they also need to become or renew their OMEA membership which is \$79.10, which also includes membership to the Canadian Music Educators' Association.

Our Friday Keynote is Jeewan Chanicka, Director of Education, Waterloo Region District School Board, who will be speaking about Inclusive Design and will host a student panel. One of our featured workshop facilitators is Mandart Chan from Victoria B.C., who will be hosting a three-part workshop, "Diverse & Inclusive Classrooms - Where do we start?" on both Friday and Saturday. Our Saturday Keynote is Prof. Nathan Holder, musician, author, and International Chair of Music Education at the Royal Northern College of Music in London, England.

We anticipate a fabulous conference for our delegates, as we work together to foster inclusive classrooms across the province.

Thank you for supporting your music educator and providing opportunities for their professional learning, reflection and planning in service of your students.

Regards,

Tony and Kevin, Synergy 2023 Co-Chairs



ONTARIO MUSIC
EDUCATORS' ASSOCIATION