



Ontario Guild of
English Handbell
Ringers

Clapper Chatter

February 2024

PUBLICATION INFORMATION

SUBMISSIONS

Clapper Chatter welcomes your submissions. All submissions must be received by the following deadlines: September 30th (October issue), January 31st (February issue), May 31st (June issue).

FORMAT

Text in Microsoft Word and high resolution colour photos in .jpg format are preferred.

REPRINT PERMISSION

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DISCLAIMER

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ADVERTISING

Ad sizes and rates are available on request. Advertising must be submitted by the submission deadlines listed above. All final ad artwork must be saved in Adobe Acrobat PDF format. When preparing ads, use high resolution images and fonts, and set the Acrobat Preferences to embed the fonts and images at their original high resolution quality.

CLAPPER CHATTER EDITOR

Please send all submissions to: Andrea Gray —
Clapper Chatter Editor at clapperchatter@ogehr.ca
613-286-7495

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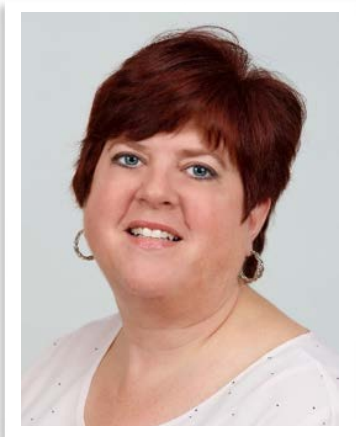
MORE ON SUBMISSIONS

A newsletter thrives or dies based on its content, so we need your input! Do you have a concert coming up, a review of a performance just accomplished, a significant event in the life of your bell choir, or a favourite piece of music that you would like to recommend to others? Send it in! Anything is fair game (subject to editorial review). Accompanying photographs are encouraged, as they really liven things up.

We want your feedback!

Let us know what you like, or don’t like, or would like to see, by e-mailing Andrea at clapperchatter@ogehr.ca

Submission deadline for the next issue: May 31st, for publication on June 15th.



President's Message

I am looking outside my window and I can see the snow gently falling. It is such a peaceful scene! Whether or not you love or hate winter, we can all agree that the cold weather and shorter days can sometimes keep us from venturing outside. Your OGEHR Board members are working hard on providing you with opportunities to improve your ringing, either from the comfort of your home, or by braving the weather and venturing out. Last weekend I participated in the Central East Playdate in Cobourg. What a wonderful, joyous event it was! Over 50 ringers and 5 different conductors just ringing for the fun of it!

Going forward OGEHR is offering a lot of musical events. Information on attending or registering for these events is provided in our weekly Friday emails and on our website www.ogehr.ca. We hope you will consider joining us for these!

February 10 – Virtual Roundtable “New & Wacky Handbell Techniques” – 10-11 am

February 24 – Director/Ringer Virtual Course – “Choosing Repertoire & Assigning Ringers” – 9-11 am

March 2 – In-person Central Area Workshop Day – “A Musical March” – Aurora, 10 am – 4 pm

April 26/27 – Director/Ringer Course – In-person conducting – Aurora

May 5 – Virtual Roundtable “Medley of Favourites” – 7:30 – 8:30 pm

May 26 – Virtual Concert “A Year of Ringing” Premiere – 7:30 pm

July 8-14 – “Christmas in July” Handbell tour of Ontario and Quebec

As always, we value your feedback and comments. Please let us know your thoughts on events we have had or ideas on anything you want to see us do in the future. You can always reach me at president@ogehr.ca.

Stay warm and ring on!

Lisa

Member Activities

“Christmas by Candlelight” – The Note-a-Bells Perform at Lang Pioneer Village Museum, December 2–3, 2023

Every December, Lang Pioneer Village in Keene Ontario holds a weekend event called Christmas By Candlelight in which the public is invited to step back in time and experience Christmas as it might have been in rural Ontario during the 19th-century. Brought to life by interpreters in period costume, the Pioneer Village Museum site becomes a magical place after sundown – aglow with candles, lamps, and lanterns and decorated with pine and cedar garlands. There are horse-drawn wagon rides, chestnuts roasting over an open fire, sugar plums, Father Christmas, costumed carollers, and.....the **Note-a-Bells** of Peterborough providing live handbell music.

The Note-a-Bells were thrilled to be invited for a third year to provide live music for this one-of-a-kind Christmas event. The planning began at the OGEHR Festival in Kingston in June 2023 when Director Nathalie Poirier-Cox and Assistant Director Margo Tant visited the Music Lending Library and selected several pieces of suitable music. With additional music from other sources, a program of six pieces was assembled. Regular rehearsals began in July and continued through to December.

The final production included two alternating twenty-minute sets, each consisting of three pieces of music interspersed with commentary on the history of handbell ringing, an introduction to handbell mechanics, and a demonstration of common bell techniques. The Note-a-Bells performed a set every 30 minutes for four hours each night, for a total of 13 sets over the course of the weekend – a veritable ringing marathon. Thank goodness for the hot chocolate and cookies provided by volunteers to sustain the ringers’ strength!



The Note-a-Bells (left to right) Margo Tant, Stacey Fletcher, Patricia Scoffield, Marisa Giuliani, Ruth Davenport, Cheryl McFarlane (guest ringer), Shelley Evans, Nathalie Poirier-Cox (missing Anne Hare) at Lang Pioneer Village Museum in Keene Ontario, December 2-3, 2023.

The music selections performed were:

Were You There That Christmas Night? by Natalie Sleeth – slow and gentle with an interwoven melody on chimes

Repeat the Sounding Joy by Sandra Eithun – robust and dramatic incorporating a medley of “Joy-full” melodies

Little Drummer Boy by Tammy Waldrop – simple but with lots of techniques to show off!

We Wish You a Merry Christmas by Fred A. Merrett – fun ringing in the bass

Silent Night by Fred A. Merrett – perfect for a candlelit night; simple and evocative with fun accidentals to perk it up.

Carol of the bells - Traditional Ukrainian Folk melody arr. Margo Tant based on a version by Terry Boyce – hang on to your hats!

The Note-a-Bells are a small 8-ringer community bell choir based in Peterborough. Cheryl McFarlane joined the group as a special guest for this event and ended up saving the day after a regular Note-a-Bell ringer contracted Covid-19 just before show time. Thank you Cheryl for helping out.

The Note-a-Bells would like to thank the Music Lending Library and coordinator Debi Sproule for contributing music and arranging to get it to us on short notice. Also, our thanks to St. John’s Anglican Church Peterborough for the use of their bells and rehearsal space, and a special thank you to Lang Pioneer Village for inviting us again to be part of their magical Christmas event. We hope to be back in 2024!

Margo Tant




People don't notice whether it's winter or summer when they're happy.
~ Anton Chekhov ~

After a very long break – since 2018 – the Central East Area's Playdate event was finally held again on January 20th, 2024. Once again, ringers were able to come together and share the joy of ringing and making glorious music together.

The Playdate event is a day-long Read & Ring session, requiring zero preparation by the ringers and zero performance anxiety because there is no formal performance. Playdate offers ringers and directors a chance to share in the experience of learning new music together. This year, the music chosen for Playdate included selections from past OGEHR Festivals – particularly pieces with large numbers of copies available from the OGEHR Lending Library. The music chosen for the 2024 Playdate included the following selections:

Procession of Praise	Festival 1997
In Peace and Joy	Festival 2013
Now the Green Blade Riseth	Festival 2001
The Wizard of Oz	Festival 1997
Change Ring Prelude on Divinum	
Mysterium	Festival 2015
Rejoice! He Is Risen	Festival 2013



Recipe

for a Great Handbell Playdate

- 1** Combine 51 handbell ringers and 5 guest directors from 12 different handbell groups.
- 2** Sprinkle in 7 sets of handbells, 5 sets of chimes, 120 feet of tables and 327 copies of music.
- 3** Add fuel with lots of coffee, dozens of muffins, and bag lunches.
- 4** Stir and simmer until the joy bubbles over in glorious music.
- 5** Top with door prizes, and handbell cookies and stickers for everyone who hands in an evaluation form.
- 6** Serve warm to ward off the chill of a bitterly cold January day.

A favourite from Central East Area for a number of years



51 ringers and 6 guest conductors celebrate the return of Central East's Playdate event

Con't...

The members of the Jubilate Handbell choir of Trinity United Church in Cobourg were our gracious hosts for this event. They provided coffee and muffins, fruit and cookies to get the ringers going first thing in the morning. They also provided a large hall that holds lots of tables and bells and ringers.



On-line Registration was scheduled to be open from December 15th to January 17th. However, the committee met on Tuesday, January 16th, and decided that there would not be room for any more tables and ringers, so registration closed one day early, on January 16th. Registration was capped at a record high of 54 ringers, and 51 actually showed up.

There were five guest conductors scheduled to lead the Read & Ring sessions, including Robert Grandy from Peterborough, Margo Tant from Peterborough, Erwin Stroobach from Lindsay, Lisa Kyriakides from Aurora, and J.-C. Coolen from all over but who actually lives in Ajax.



Robert Grandy



Margo Tant



Erwin Stroobach



Lisa Kyriakides



J.-C. Coolen

One of the many fun things about Playdate is lunchtime. In order to limit expenses and make things simple, ringers are asked to bring a bag lunch. This means that everyone gets EXACTLY what they want to have for lunch, and nobody is stuck slaving in the kitchen to make lunches. There are also no lineups to pick up food. The ringers simply found a spot to sit, and got to spend lots more time getting to know new friends and enjoying each other's company.



Con't...

One of the challenges with holding large-scale events has always been encouraging ringers to complete and hand in an evaluation form. This time, the ringers were bribed. Everyone who filled out and handed in an evaluation form received a hand-made handbell cookie and a sheet of handbell stickers, courtesy of the Central Area Representative.



Here are some of the comments that came from the evaluation forms:

- Well organized; fun
- BRAVO
- You folks are great!
- Loved it
- It was awesome!
- Everything was great
- It was great!
- All good
- So much fun for my first time
- Great! Well run!
- Excellent event
- Thank you to everyone for a wonderful day!
- Thanks so much for your effort to put this together
- Good number of people – easy to manage
- Absolute best time I have had doing music in ages!

The Playdate 2024 committee is extremely thankful for the contributions of:

Our guest conductors: Bob Grandy, Margo Tant, Erwin Stroobach, Lisa Kyriakides and J.-C. Coolen
The OGEHR Music Lending Library and the Coordinator, Debi Sproule
OGEHR Social Media Coordinator Randy Mills for publicity for the event
Our host handbell choir, Jubilate of Trinity United Church, Cobourg
Our “volunteer” helpers – James Fingas and Kieran McFarlane

Plans are already in the works for Playdate 2025, so keep an eye out for information in late 2024, and save the date for a Saturday in late January 2025. Playdate is a bell ringing event that you do not want to miss.



Playdate 2024 Committee (left to right) heather nicholson, Debbie Fingas, Margo Tant and Cheryl McFarlane.

Upcoming Events

A MUSICAL MARCH

Taking Steps To Improve Your Ringing



**Saturday
March
2nd**

**10am-4pm
Trinity Anglican Church
79 Victoria St.
Aurora**

- ✓ Workshops will cover what to do with a new piece of music, weaving, and malleting.
- ✓ Clinicians are Lisa Kyriakides and J.-C. Coolen
- ✓ Read and ring a new piece of music

Registration opens January 26th
Deadline February 24th



Cost includes 3 Workshops,
& new music to read & ring

Questions? Contact Jennifer Schafer at areareps@ogehr.ca



In early May of 1985 the "Festival of Bells" was held at First St. Andrew's Church in London, Ontario. As a result of that festival the Ontario Guild of English Handbell Ringers was founded!

Help us celebrate 40 years of Fantastic Festival Fun at

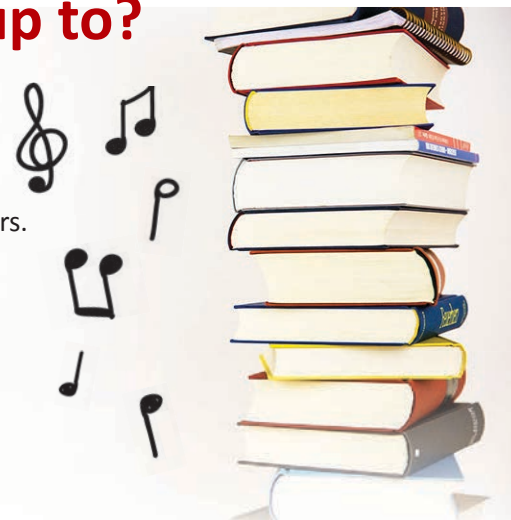
fffortissississimo!

Thursday, June 5 to Saturday, June 7, 2025 at Mohawk College
in Hamilton

What is the education committee up to?

For the past two years, OGEHR's education committee has had a booth at the OMEA conference. What is OMEA? The Ontario Music Educators' Association is a non-profit organization that aims to advance music education in the province. While its appeal is obvious to educators within the school system, it also supports private instructors and community members.

The annual conference is held in November each year and hundreds of teachers gather for workshops, networking, and personal development. Presenters on various subjects help educators fine-tune their art. There is also a corporate floor, where music stores, universities, colleges, writers and instrument makers can have booths to show their wares and attract students. Non-profit associations are also part of the booths, and OGEHR has been present the last two years.

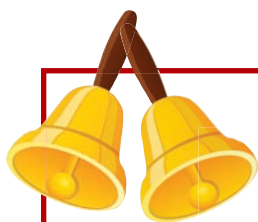


The booth has been manned by committee members Debbie McMackin and Dominique Moreau. The goal is multifaceted:

- We want to increase the visibility of OGEHR within the education system. The Guild has a specific membership for youth choirs, as well as multiple perks for member choirs that school and youth choirs can benefit from.
- We want to foster handbells as a viable music teaching device. Even if a school group does not join OGEHR, we can help new groups get set up and existing groups advance.
- Networking within the greater music community.

We have documents to link handbells with specific expectations of the Ontario Arts Curriculum that we distribute to teachers. We have had many teachers inquire about information, since they have handbells or want to add them to their program.

We are planning on giving handbell-related workshops at the 2024 conference.



Hello Handbell Groups!!

OGEHR's education committee is looking for handbell choirs or ensembles that would be willing to perform in schools. The goal is first to expose kids to the wonderful sounds of handbells and handchimes, and second, to inspire their teachers to take it up in schools.

There is no level requirement or minimum ensemble size. If you might be interested, or have more questions, please contact Dominique Moreau at education@ogehr.ca.



Handbells in Schools

Pre-Covid, Trinity College School, Port Hope Ontario sent out about a dozen ringers to local schools, allowing elementary students to experience ringing a bell. Part of our annual Week Without Walls, all-School, volunteering event, my ringers always enjoyed working with kids from Grade 3 to Grade 8 (chosen by our host school's teachers).

This year, 14 TCS ringers visited St. Martin of Tours RC Elementary in the village of Ennismore, north of Peterborough. Students in Grades 3, 4, 7 and 8 spent three afternoons ringing carols with their high school mentors. Other children from St. Martin were brought to the gym to watch and listen as we rehearsed: a super-keen class of Grade 3s and 4s even sang along en français when they heard us ring A. Sherman's 'He is born'. Most of our carols came from Thompson and Callahan's Ready to Ring for hristmas, 3 octaves.

Mid-week, the local students and families were invited to perform a concert in St. Martin's Church. Of the 100+ school kids who rang during the week, over 30 came out to ring at the concert (one boy made his father bring him an hour early). Another 20 children and teens from my Saturday ringing/singing choir at St. Martin's and my Sunday Latin Mass crew made for a wild, but much-enjoyed, concert of carols for handbells.

Randy Mills



Pre-concert setup at St Martin's Church.



One class at rehearsal in the gym.



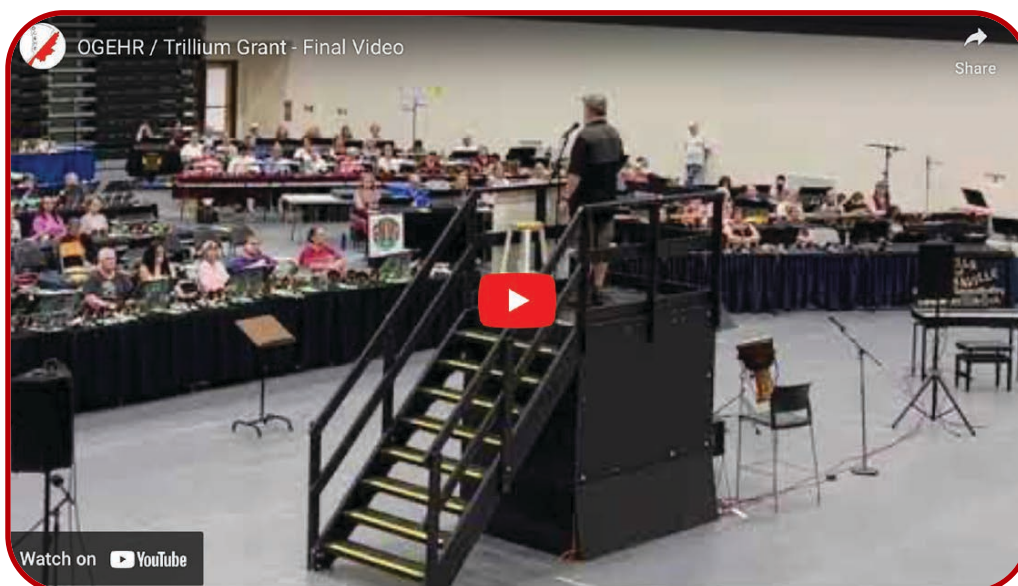
The 14 ringers from TCS this year, with R. Mills and chaperone Ms. Spencer.

OGEHR Trillium Grant

Handchime Loan Project - Full Workshop & Performance Video

The Ontario Guild of English Handbell Ringers with a Resilient Communities Fund grant of \$41,300 will rebuild and recover from the impacts of COVID-19 by OGEHR holding an exciting one day virtual festival to encourage membership renewal, and provide equipment to all involved in the project to ensure that they may participate.

**Did we do that?
A resounding ... YES!**



London, ON: On Saturday, January 13, 2024 MPP Terrence Kernaghan met with representatives from the Ontario Guild of English Handbell Ringers (OGEHR) as they were doing a workshop for students from a number of schools learning how to play hand chimes. This workshop was part of a larger program that's taken place in six areas of the province thanks to a \$41,300 Resilient Communities Fund grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) that was awarded in 2022. Over the course of nearly two years, young people were given the opportunity to join in either through virtual workshops and take part with in-person performances.

Videos from the grant project are available on YouTube:

- Full workshop and performance video (75 minutes) – https://youtu.be/YGJYqnfED_o
- or you can view a performance video featuring two groups (3 minutes) – <https://youtu.be/p2tlyH36Tnk>

For more details, check out the [Trillium Grant](#) page on our website.



Handbells etc



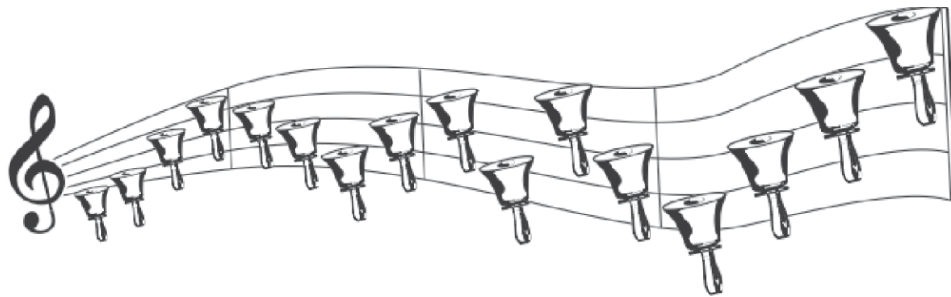
Handbells etc wants to thank the OGEHR membership for all of the support over the past 28 years of business. It has been so great to be able to help you with all of your handbell needs over the years. When we started our company, we had no idea that we would meet so many wonderful people who shared the love and passion for the art of handbell ringing the same as we do. You have become more than customers to us, you have become friends and for that we are truly thankful.

As many of you know, we are retiring from Handbells etc and that Brian and Carol Thurgood from Brandenburg Music will be able to help you with your ongoing handbell needs.

We ask that you continue to make wonderful music with your handbells, to share your music with others and to spread your love of handbells to everyone around you!

Happy Ringing!

*Susan Galloway
Camille Ream*



Terry Head Memorial Scholarship

Need some assistance with funding some new handbell opportunities?

Apply for the Terry Head Memorial Scholarship – The Scholarship may be used for any payment, fee, lessons, training or other related costs to further your knowledge as a director, conductor, educator or performer. For details on how to apply please go to <https://ogehr.ca/Terry-Head-Memorial-Scholarship>

The deadline for submitting application is March 15, 2024.

All email applications to be submitted to the Bursary & Scholarship Committee c/o OGEHR Treasurer, treasurer@ogehr.ca

Thanks for your interest and we will let you know the results.

If you are looking to purchase handbell music in Canada, Long and McQuade can order music from most publishers!

It is best to contact Sheilah Craven, scraven@long-mcquade.com, as she is their Print Music Specialist for Ontario. She will quote the price and can also determine the best way to get music to you— there is no extra charge to pick up music at any Long and McQuade store, even if they don't have a print music specialist. Shipping might be necessary from some locations.

She suggests ordering at least a month prior to when you need the music as few titles are kept in inventory. It is best to know what you are looking for before contacting her.



Email Tree Submissions

If you are interested in making a submission for the weekly email tree, please contact emailtree@ogehr.ca.



Memory Column

Because many friendships are formed over the years through bells, the OGEHR Board recently decided that a “Memory Column” should be incorporated into each issue of the Clapper Chatter. Please let us know if someone in your bell community has passed away and a bit about that person so that we can let bell friends be aware.

Honouring the memory of a loved one through a gift to the Ontario Guild of English Handbell Ringers (OGEHR) will create a lasting legacy. When a loved one passes, you may choose to have friends and family members make a donation to OGEHR in lieu of flowers. We will send you a list of names of those who contribute in memory of your loved one. To make your donation, please go to www.ogehr.ca/donate-now. A tax receipt will be provided on receipt of donation.



Estate Planning

Please consider creating a lasting legacy by remembering OGEHR in your estate plan. Called a charitable bequest, your gift will help future generations experience the joy of learning and ringing together. Making a bequest is as simple as inserting a few sentences into your will, specifying either a fixed amount or a percentage be directed to OGEHR.



Ontario Guild of
English Handbell
Ringers

OGEHR Board of Directors as of October 2023

(bracketed year after position or name indicates end of term)

President Directors

Lisa Kyriakides ('25) president@ogehr.ca, programs@ogehr.ca *President ('25); Chair: Board ('25); Programs ('26)*

Rob Cairns ('25) past-president@ogehr.ca *Past-President ('25); Chair: Development ('25)*

Officer Directors

Helen Coxon ('24) secretary@ogehr.ca *Corresponding and Recording Secretary ('24)*

Joanne Gray ('25) membership@ogehr.ca *Membership Secretary ('25)*

Joanna Fleischmann ('26) treasurer@ogehr.ca *Treasurer ('26); Chair: Bursary & Scholarship ('26)*

Directors

Nancy Bell ('24) governance@ogehr.ca
Chair: Governance ('24)

Amy Baker ('26)
Director ('26)

Rob Cairns ('26) festivalchair@ogehr.ca
Chair: 2025 Festival ('26)

Kim Leitch ('25) communications@ogehr.ca
Chair: Communications ('25)

Dominique Moreau ('24) education@ogehr.ca
Chair: Education ('24)

Jennifer Schafer ('26) areareps@ogehr.ca
Chair: Area Representatives ('26)

OGEHR Board Appointed Positions

Area Representatives – Jennifer Schafer (areareps@ogehr.ca) for contact information

Janet McDonald *East Representative ('26)*

heather nicholson *Central East Representative ('25)*

Jennifer Schafer *Central Representative ('24)*

Shirley Reinders *North East Representative ('26)*

Mary Loree *Central West Representative ('26)*

Joan Bolam *West Representative ('24)*

Vacant *South Representative ('25)*

Communications – please contact Kim Leitch (communications@ogehr.ca) for contact information

Randy Mills *E-mail Coordinator ('25)*

Randy Mills *Social Media Coordinator ('24)*

Andrea Gray *Newsletter Editor ('24)*

Kim Leitch *Webmaster ('25)*

Programs – please contact Lisa Kyriakides (programs@ogehr.ca) for more information

Barbara Peaker *Instrument Loan Program Coordinator ('24)* (instrumentloan@ogehr.ca)

Debi Sproule *Music Lending Library Coordinator ('24)* (musiclending@ogehr.ca)

Committees

Standing Committees

Area Representatives

Jennifer Schafer (Chair)
Joan Bolam
Mary Loree
Janet McDonald
heather nicholson
Shirley Reinders

Bursary and Scholarship

Joanna Fleischmann (Chair)
Joan Bolam
Barbara Neal
Joan Plume

Communications

Kim Leitch (Chair)
Janis Cowie
Norma Draper
Andrea Gray
Randy Mills
Man-Yee Sun

Development

Rob Cairns (Chair)
Joan Bolam
Maddy Lang

Education

Dominique Moreau (Chair)
Joyce Hagarty
Mackenzie Malarczyk
Debbie McMackin
Randy Mills

Governance

Nancy Bell (Chair)
Lloyd Winfield
Linda Wilson

Honorary Membership

Lisa Kyriakides-President (Chair)
Rob Cairns-Past President

Nominating

Helen Coxon (Chair)
Joan Bolam
Jennifer Schafer

Programs (2-year terms)

Lisa Kyriakides (Chair)
Sue Linley
Barbara Peaker
Debi Sproule
Janet Thacker
Lloyd Winfield

Ad Hoc Committee

2025 Festival

Rob Cairns (Chair & Registrar)
Festival Coordinator, Auction & Communications
Facilities
Marketplace
Mini Ring
Music
Publicity
Social
Workshops
Secretary & Website

Working Group

Member Terms: Generally, for the life of the Working Group