

CHILDREN'S RIGHT TO MUSIC: SPEAKERS BIOS

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY:



Sandi Curtis, PhD, MT-BC, MTA, has long been active in Community Music Therapy and in the Disabilities Arts Movement. She has combined her skills in music therapy with her work as a social activist throughout her career. Her commitment to ensuring the rights of those of all abilities in the community has been recognized by her nomination for the Jimmy Carter Community Partner

Award (for her work with persons with developmental disabilities) and her receipt of the Social Justice Person of the Year Award from the University of Windsor. She currently serves as Vice-President of the American Music Therapy Association.



Guylaine Vaillancourt, PHD, MTA is an academic expert in the Community Music Therapy field. Her recent doctoral dissertation (2009), *Mentoring Apprentice Music Therapists for Peace and Social Justice through Community Music Therapy*, provides new insight into this emerging field. She has worked and taught in Switzerland, Venezuela, United States, Cuba, and Martinique. She is Past President of the

Canadian Association for Music Therapy (CAMT) and an officer of the Association québécoise de musicothérapie (AQM). She is the author of *Musique, musicothérapie et développement de l'enfant*, published by the Editions du CHU Sainte-Justine.

UNITED STATES:



Marcia Humpal, Med, MT-BC maintains a private practice in the Cleveland, Ohio, USA area after retiring from a long career with the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities. She holds degrees in music education, music therapy, and special education. Having taught elementary music in public schools and served as a music therapy consultant for several school districts, she conducts frequent in- service training for teachers on using music to enhance

curriculum or including learner with special needs into regular education classrooms. She is a chapter author for *Models of Music Therapy Interventions in School Settings* (2002) and author/co-editor of *Effective Clinical Practice in Music Therapy: Early Childhood and School Age Educational Settings* (2006).



Amber Weldon-Stephens, EdS, MT-BC is the department chair and internship director for the Music Therapy Department with the Fulton County School System in Atlanta, Georgia, USA. She started the program 22 years ago and now it is the largest school system music therapy department in the United States. Weldon-Stephens is a chapter author for *Models for Music Therapy Interventions in School Settings* (2002) and has co-authored two collections of children's songs and activities entitled *Animal Clatter* (1998)

and *Kidding with Clatter* (1999). She also currently teaches part time at Kennesaw State University and summers at the University of Georgia summer camps.



John LaForge, MMus, is the Coordinator of Music Education for Fulton County Schools in Atlanta, Georgia. He provides leadership and support for a staff of approximately 200 teachers in 90 schools in the areas of curriculum development, professional learning, resource management, and personnel. He also works with numerous arts

organizations in the Atlanta area, including the Atlanta Opera Education Advisory Committee, and the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Community Engagement Council. LaForge was recently selected to receive the 2012 Administrative Leadership Award by the Georgia Music Educators Association.

MONTREAL SCHOOL BOARD:



Linda Labbé, MTA, is a music therapist with over 25 years' experience at l'école secondaire Joseph-Charbonneau de la Commission scolaire de Montréal. She works with adolescents with intellectual and physical disabilities. Her approach is based in

improvisation and she believes in the importance of creativity and expression in self-discovery. For several years, her focus has been on measurement and evaluation within music therapy.
