

Using original Canadian music to engage student learners

Canadian International School of Hong Kong Artist in Residence, Canadian Music Educators' Association (CMEA) "Jubilate Award of Merit" recipient, Canadian composer and music educator, Donna Rhodenizer provides a first-hand look at the creative and imaginative music she has composed for children. She leads workshop participants through samples from her published collections of original compositions and award-winning recordings. Using her music resources, Donna introduces activities and strategies that can be used to create positive and engaging learning experiences for students.



Donna's 29 years of experience as an elementary music education specialist ensures that her songs are developmentally and musically age appropriate and in a singable key for children. Her songs have all been tried and tested in her classroom.

Who should attend?

- Elementary-level teachers who provide Performing Arts instruction (K - 6)
- Music teachers
- All teachers who are interested in **new, original Canadian music** for children

Educators:

- ✓ Discover fresh, new repertoire for your **regular and/or music classroom, concert settings and thematic units.**
- ✓ Explore activities and strategies for creating positive and engaging learning experiences for your students.
- ✓ Use Donna Rhodenizer's original music and teaching strategies to support music/Arts curriculum learning outcomes and make cross-curricular connections to other subject areas.

Reproducible vocal scores, lyrics and student worksheets allow teachers to make multiple copies for their students. Her (Donna & Andy) award-winning, professionally recorded CDs are included in the teaching resources. The CDs provide full performance tracks as well as instrumental accompaniment tracks for all songs.

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Workshop content

Workshop repertoire and activities will be drawn from two teacher's resources created by Donna Rhodenizer. Her original songs are well-crafted, age-appropriate, adaptable across grade levels, and have stood the test of time in schools across Canada and the United States. Her activities are creative and multi-level. They incorporate multiple learning styles and provide the opportunity for differentiation and adaptations in the classroom.

Activities supporting the delivery of performing arts curriculum will be highlighted, including music, drama, movement/dance and visual art. Other subject areas such as language arts, social studies, health, etc. will be explored as time and interest allows.

Donna Rhodenizer's original songs and activities can be used to meet music curriculum expectations in the following areas:

- repertoire for performances
- singing in tune
- showing an understanding of the text
- critical thinking
- communication of thoughts and feelings
and how the texts relate to everyday life
- identification of instruments
- writing new lyrics to familiar songs
- composing within set parameters
- adding instruments/body percussion
- performing musical compositions and applying
knowledge of the elements of music and patterns of song
- identification of simple form
- identification of the effect of different musical choices



Donna's learning resources include printed and recorded music for each song and instrumental tracks that can be used for a variety of activities. Printed pages include reproducible rights for student material, worksheets, a list of supplies required for each activity, guided questions for introducing activities and teaching strategies.

All songs on Donna & Andy CDs are presented in two versions: full performance tracks as well as instrumental tracks. The performance tracks provide good vocal modeling of each song appropriately pitched for young singers, clear diction and pronunciation of the lyrics, and arrangements of the music that are interesting, authentic and top quality. The instrumental tracks are a great asset to regular and music classroom activities as well as school concerts and assemblies. Donna & Andy CDs are included as part of songbooks and/or Teacher's Resources for use in elementary school classrooms and music programs. Teachers throughout North America welcome this collection of authentic music for children that enriches their music programs.

Workshop leaders

Donna Rhodenizer is an elementary level music specialist with twenty-nine years of experience. Donna began composing, publishing and performing music for children as an extension of her teaching responsibilities. She has been recognized by the Canadian Music Educators' Association, receiving their Jubilate Award of Merit for her significant contribution to music education in Canada. She has also been awarded the Nova Scotia Music Educators' Association Musica Viva Award acknowledging the impact of her music education publications on music education in Nova Scotia, Canada. Her printed and recorded music resources have been recognized as Approved Learning Resources by the Nova Scotia Department of Education. Donna has presented workshops for the International Society for Music Education, Music Education associations in Ontario, Newfoundland, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, as well as multiple school boards across Canada.

The workshop will be presented by Donna with assistance from Andy Duinker.

Andy brings his expertise as part of the professional performing duo, Donna & Andy. This duo has presented more than one thousand performances, connecting with young audiences and presenting music with passion and a level of excellence that is enjoyed by their young audience members and appreciated by adult listeners. Donna & Andy have been involved in almost a dozen recording projects. Their CDs have received multiple nominations and/or awards from the East

Coast Music Association and Music Nova Scotia as well as receiving a JUNO nomination, recognizing the quality of their original music for children in Canada. Their award-winning CDs provide the performance model and accompaniment tracks for the songs in the educational music resources they create.

