

## The call to advocate

Music is a human act that belongs to all of us. We have the right to make music and it is our duty of care to ensure that every child is given access to music education.

Consistently highlighting the multifaceted benefits music and movement have in aiding the growth of a child is vital to maintaining creative arts programs in schools.

The process of learning music and movement is advantageous to human development across the lifespan. It is vital to share this information with the parent community, colleagues, administration, community partnerships, and stakeholders.

Conveying to the students the reasons that music and movement benefits their well-being enables them to be advocates, now and in the future. We learn about ourselves and others when we make music together.

Discussing the importance of music and movement helps to build and shape an effective music program for all children.

***We are not advocating only for the talented and gifted; we are advocating for giving opportunities to all children.***  
Anita Collins

**Carl Orff Canada** is a not-for-profit national association of music educators, dedicated to the teaching of Orff-Schulwerk. This well-established and proven approach to creative music and movement education was initiated by the work of Carl Orff and Gunild Keetman.

The Canadian association was founded in 1974 by Professor Doreen Hall of the University of Toronto. Guided by a national board it has grown to include regional and local chapters. Music educators and administrators continue to realize the potential of this dynamic approach.

Mission statement: to inspire, connect, and support educators in music and movement, fostering active engagement of all learners through the creative and collaborative Orff-Schulwerk approach.

Connect with Carl Orff Canada. We want to hear your ideas and solutions. We are stronger together. Be part of this call to action.



<https://orffcanada.ca/>  
[advocacy@orffcanada.ca](mailto:advocacy@orffcanada.ca)

## The power of **Music and Movement** Education in the life of the child



Sing | Create | Play | Move | Explore

## Advocating for the right to make music

Carl Orff Canada

# The unique characteristics of the Orff approach

*It is bound up with movement, dance and speech, and so it is a form of music in which one must participate, in which one is involved not as a listener but as a co-performer.*

*Carl Orff*

This approach to creative music and movement education is centred around the resources of the child. It requires the child to contribute and use their own ideas in an artistic and musical way. Together with others they play with and explore the resources at their disposal. The process is social in nature as they design, practice, share, and reflect upon the work they produce.

***It is music of the child, rather than music for the child.*** Carl Orff

## **COMMUNITY**

Music and movement has the power to connect and bond the child to a social collective.

## **ARTISTIC**

It uses a thoughtful process as the child explores, creates, refines, practices, and shares products.

## **SENSORY**

The approach uses the body, voice, musical instruments, and various props to create music and movement.

## **HUMAN**

The child is at the centre as the teacher works with the whole person: body, mind, and voice.

## **INTEGRATIVE**

Language, movement, and music are incorporated with visual arts and drama, exploring cross-curriculum connections.

## **CREATIVE**

The process relies on the exploration and generation of new ideas.

## **RESPONSIVE**

It fosters empathy for the creative ideas and learning needs of others; it fosters the ability to react intuitively to music and movement stimulus.

## **INCLUSIVE**

It transcends skill, gender, intellect, and age, as the approach allows each child to engage in music and movement at their own level and way.

## Benefits of music and movement education

### **Social**

The collaborative act of music and movement, strengthens the child's capacity to work with others. It improves interpersonal skills and enhances communication to support each other.

### **Emotional**

The expressive quality of music and movement attends to a multitude of emotions for the child to experience. Music education can foster the awareness of feelings and offer a deeper understanding of oneself & others.

### **Cognitive**

Research validates that music and movement training improves memory, language acquisition, and problem solving skills. It forms a strong connection between body and mind as it activates all areas of the brain.

### **Physical**

The embodiment of music and movement supports the child's development of fine and gross motor skills. The students express ideas through dance, movement, singing, and the playing of musical instruments.

### **Cultural**

Music and movement has the capacity to convey cultural awareness through listening, discussing, and experiencing many styles and regions. It allows the child to gain information about themselves and the diverse world around them.