

Karin Klassen, Conductor

Karin Klassen, a native of Winnipeg, is both a violinist and a music educator. Karin holds Bachelor degrees in Arts, Music and Education as well as Associate and Licentiate diplomas in violin performance.

As a violinist, she played with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra for eighteen years. She has served as the resident violin instructor at the Canadian Mennonite University. Now she plays the violin as a freelance musician for solo, orchestra or ensemble performances. She is a member of the Allegro String Quartet. Karin also adjudicates at festival and scholarship competitions throughout Manitoba. She is an ongoing faculty member of the International Music Camp, having worked as both orchestra conductor and violin instructor to students and adults. In 2009 she received a Distinguished Service Award for her long-term involvement with the camp. The summer of 2002 saw her traveling to Taiwan to teach and conduct young aspiring string players at the Cantai Music Festival.

As a music educator, Karin taught elementary music at Dalhousie School for twenty-one years, before retiring from the Pembina Trails School Division in June of 2014. Throughout her teaching career, her extracurricular recorder, handbells, drumming and Orff groups performed for the Manitoba Chamber Orchestra and the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, winning trophies and achieving gold medal standing annually at the Winnipeg Music Festival. In 2006 Karin was the recipient of the Morna-June Morrow Award for Excellence in Music Education in Manitoba. In 2010 she spent a wonderful year abroad, teaching music on exchange in Australia. A recent highlight for her was collaboration between her school and Canadian Astronaut Commander Chris Hadfield from the International Space Station in 2013. In the past she has volunteered on numerous committees, been a member on the MMEA board and served as the Manitoba Orff Chapter president. Karin has recently accepted a position as Faculty Advisor to education teacher candidates at the University of Manitoba.

Karin has conducted the Winnipeg Youth Strings Orchestra since 2003.