

Celebrating Music Therapy: The Sky's the Limit

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On June 15, 2011, music therapists from Montréal and the surrounding areas gathered at Concordia University for a very special celebration. With the spectacular Montréal skyline as a backdrop from Concordia's downtown rooftop balcony, we were joined by others from the university and the community to raise a glass in honour of the official inauguration of Québec's first and only graduate music therapy program. After much time, effort, and anticipation, graduate music therapy education in Québec is now a reality.

Situated in the Creative Arts Therapies Department, Concordia's graduate music therapy program offers a unique opportunity for interdisciplinary connections between students and faculty in art, drama, dance, and music therapies. The program is the only university music therapy program in Québec, and the only one in Canada within a creative arts therapies department. Furthermore, Québec is now uniquely situated as the only province in Canada to offer entry into the music therapy profession at the graduate level only.

With Québec's graduate music therapy program so long in coming, the end result evolved out of the work and support of many who came before. Though with strong ties to the past, the program is also firmly rooted in the new realities of Québec's distinct society and clinical and educational best practices. Concordia now has two separate degree offerings: the Graduate Certificate in Music Therapy (designed to prepare alumni for entry level into the profession), and the Master of Arts in Creative Arts Therapies, Music Therapy Option (designed to provide advanced training for MTAs, specialization, research, and for preparation for university teaching and supervision). Full-time faculty includes Guylaine Vaillancourt, CAMT Past President, Laurel Young, CAMT Vice-President, and Sandi Curtis, Vice-President elect of the AMTA. Part-time faculty include Marianne Bargiel, Nicola Oddy, and Alpha Woodward.

All of us at Concordia University are looking to an exciting future of increased research, professional growth, and resultant increased access to music therapy. We look forward to working collaboratively with the music therapists of Québec: Only the sky's the limit.