Greetings from your new editor

I regularly teach a Native music course at Brandon University which encourages both the appreciation and performance of the many different North American Native musics.

My musical roots are truly folk: I was raised in a tiny Saskatchewan village and nearly all the male members of my immediate family played fiddle in the Scots-Irish tradition; large family get-togethers included a singsong at the piano with an aunt rhythmically playing the “old” songs by ear. From these beginnings I learned to love to sing (anything!) and to play keyboard.

Which leads me to a recent project initiated by the Saskatchewan Music Educators Association in which I participated. This group of farseeing individuals wants to make prairie songs available for school children to perform. They began their project by searching out traditional and contemporary French/Métis/Native songs (Saskatchewan was settled by at least 92 ethnic groups). With their permission I am making some of their recent song “finds” available to Bulletin musicians, fully confident that you will enjoy performing the songs and reading about their varied sources within Canadian history.

As a new editor, I am searching for contributions and will especially welcome ideas to make the Bulletin a truly relevant and national publication. Don’t hesitate to contact me!

Dr. Lynn Whidden,
Department of Native Studies
Brandon University, Brandon, Manitoba
R7A 0T6 Ph. (204) 727-9640 or 727-7422