



Karen Headlam Cyrus, Ph.D., LRSM, OCT  
The Helen Carswell Research Associate (2017 - 2021)

**Research interests:** Community music practices; pan-African children's music; group piano pedagogy; social justice in music education.

Cyrus brings to this role her experience in community music as an ethnomusicologist, educator and musician. Her research on community music-making in diasporic contexts is published in *Carnival: Theory and Practice* (Africa World Press, 2013) and her exposition on the nature and definition of repertoires is published in *The Sage Encyclopedia of Music and Culture* (2019). She has written a series of music education textbooks that features children's music from the Caribbean: *Music for Big Ants and Little Ants* (1998) and *Caribbean Integrated Music* (2002, 2004).

Her work in community music includes curriculum development for a Caribbean community music program in Toronto and she has given workshops in schools on music and social justice for the YRDSB as an intern of York University's Knowledge Mobilization Unit. In 2010 Karen received an award from the York Region Arts Council for her volunteer work in community music in York region where she continues to make music in a variety of contexts, such as directing church choirs (2005 - 2015), performing at seniors and nursing homes (2005 - 2020), and facilitating group piano workshops on gospel piano technique (2012 - 2021).

Cyrus' work with the Helen Carswell chair includes research presentations and workshops on a variety of topics such as "Community music practices" (2017), "Equity through community music programming" (2019), "Black music repertoire and representation" (2019), "Community music school structures" (2020), and "Group piano pedagogy" (2019).