
KODÁLY EDUCATORS OF IOWA

August/September 2017



From the President~Patty Haman

Greetings and Happy Back To School season! I am writing as President of KEI for the first time and thought I would take the opportunity to introduce myself to you and share how I came to be part of this organization.

My decision to become a music teacher was made when I was 12 years old in light of a graceful comment made by an adjudicator in an instrumental solo contest that could have been a devastating end to my music career. My attention turned towards elementary music during my first semester in the College of Education at The University of Iowa when I learned my license would be for K-12 music. I had incorrectly assumed it would be for band only, and contemplating the privilege of inspiring music students from an early age

was a welcome challenge to the plans I had set for myself to be the next great band director. I remained undecided about my preference between instrumental and general music but was grateful to student teach in an elementary classroom with LeAnn Houlette, the current KEI Vice-President.

After some soul-searching and a gap year working at a camp as part of their program team, I was hired to teach K-5 general music and chorus in Indianola. I am grateful for that first year. I remember a lot of wiser people telling me the first year is the hardest, but I didn't realize it until my second year. I had gone to a few KEI events and heard about levels at Drake, so I took Level I that summer. Through my second school year I realized that the magic of Kodály-inspired teaching made the difficult parts of my first year, "what should I do next?" and classroom management, less mysterious. I worked extremely hard that year to put the Prepare-Present-Practice model into place, spending hours after school thinking about transitions and ways to teach upper level concepts I had not encountered in my first level. The sequential and philosophical foundation had been laid for my planning. It was a transformational year.

Along the way, in addition to finishing my levels this summer (all three at Drake with their fabulous staff), I have been profoundly impacted by KEI. The workshops and experienced members have breathed life and ideas into my classroom and have reached far beyond my own musicianship to influence the students I have taught. I have probably generated less than 10% of the teaching ideas that work in my classroom, and those are typically not the student favorites; everything else (and all of the students' favorites) has come from or been inspired by devoted, generous people, many of whom belong to KEI, MKMEA, or OAKE.

I realize other music teaching organizations could have meant as much to me; I belong to a few and am grateful for their impact as well, but KEI has been the most directly helpful in shaping my career and my classroom. I am grateful to KEI for their offerings for professional development throughout the school year and am moved to contribute to the success and transformation of other teachers by participating in the executive board.

I am anxious to meet you and learn from you, and hope that you feel as served by this organization as I have been throughout my career. Thank you, and my sincere well-wishes for a great start to the year.

Upcoming Events!

8/26/17 - **Connie Van Engen**, FIO

9/23/17 - **Aileen Miracle**,
Simpson

9/30/17 - **Doug Goodkin**, FIO

10/7/17 - **Christina Svec**, ISU

10/27-29/17 - **MKMEA** - *Jazz it
up!* Kansas City, MO

11/16-18/17 - **IMEA**

1/20/2018 - **Tom Michalek**,
Simpson

KEI Winter sharing, Grand View,
date TBA

3/22-25/18 - **OAKE**, Oklahoma
City, OK

Kudos

John Zauche completed Level I
and **Patty Haman** completed
Level III at Drake. **Lauren
Fladland** completed Level I at
Silver Lake. Congrats!

Shelley Droe presented a
reading session at ICDA. Good
stuff!

Tom and **Barbara Sletto**, **Kris
VerSteegt** and **Sandy Miller**
taught a successful Kodály levels
program at Drake. Thank you for
your hard work!

KEI Fall Workshop ~ Dr. Christina Svec



Kick off the fall semester with KEI as we host Dr. Christina Svec at ISU on October 7. Dr. Svec will first present ***All Things Kindergarten*** and will include singing voice development, rhythm development and adapting folk dances. "These little music makers are beautifully musical. This workshop will provide lots of activities for encouraging that music through pitch/rhythm development." But I don't teach Kindergarten, you may say. What can I gain from attending this

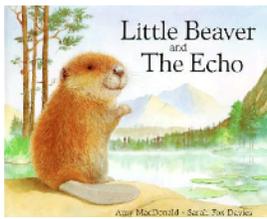
workshop? Great question! You won't want to miss the second portion of the morning, ***What if I Don't Teach Kindergarten?*** Dr. Svec will give direct application and adaptation of the workshop materials to suit grades beyond Kindergarten. The morning will feature something for all levels of elementary general music, you won't want to miss it!

Items to Note

- **New format, 9am-1pm** with a short mid-morning break
- **Electronic handout**, please bring a device to access it
- KEI board will meet **after** the workshop
- **West Music** will be there!
- **Cost:** \$20 KEI/GDSMO members, \$30 nonmembers, \$5 students, free for ISU students

Dr. Christina Svec is the Assistant Professor of Music Education at Iowa State University, specializing in elementary general and secondary choral music methods. She received her PhD and BME from the University of North Texas, a Master's from Michigan State University, three levels in Music Learning Theory (Gordon), and three Kodály levels. Prior to receiving her PhD, she taught elementary music, early childhood music and church choirs in and around McKinney, TX. In addition to her duties at ISU, Dr. Svec is also the Concert Choir Director with the Ames Children's Choirs and treasurer for the Early Childhood Music and Movement Association. She has presented at conferences locally, nationally, and internationally on the topics of singing voice development, improvisation, early childhood music methods, and research methodology. Recent publications can be found in *Update: Applications of Music Education* and *Psychology of Music*.

This worked for me ~ Kindergarten Ideas to Start the Year



Each day in my music classroom, children echo sirens, melodic motives, and short rhythms as part of the warmups. To introduce the concept of echoing to Kindergarteners, one of my go-to first day activities is reading the book *Little Beaver and the Echo* by Amy MacDonald. *Little Beaver and the Echo* tells the story of Little Beaver and his search for a friend he thinks he hears across the pond. It's perfect for the loneliness some students feel on the first days of school, and by the end of the first reading, Kindergarteners are joining on the

echoes. I love this book, and I hope you will too! (*Andrew Ellingsen, from the KEI newsletter archives, August 2013*)

In July, Lillie Feierabend was a featured presenter at the ICDA summer symposium. Her sessions were jam-packed with great ideas and techniques. Two things that jumped out at me involved vocal exploration. When using a pipe cleaner to make shapes for children to echo, she always ends with the “super duper world famous roller coaster” (a series of loops) so that her students clearly know that portion of the lesson is over giving them a built-in signal or transition. Also, she used the Pitch Exploration Pathways cards in a variety of ways. She didn't use them always showing the same orientation - she turned them upside downs or sideways to explore all of the shapes. After doing several that way, she then put two or three or four in a row so that children could experience longer phrases and practice reading. (*Sonia Johnson*)

Survey Says!

Thanks to those that answered the survey questions. An amazing variety is represented in our chapter. Did you know that we have members who have taught ranging from a few months to 35 years? KEI members have taught in every manner of music education from pre-K through college, public and private school, community choir, church choir and private lessons. Our members have taught early childhood, elementary general music, band, choir and orchestra, middle school general music, band, choir and orchestra, high school band and choir, as well as college level courses. What a wealth of knowledge and experience we bring to our chapter, and what great resources we can share with each other! If you haven't yet responded to the survey, it is still open and you may use the link in the survey email.

MKMEA 2017

Come on down to Kansas City October 27-29 for MKMEA 2017 and *Jazz it up* with friends and colleagues. Plan now to attend and jump-start your fall semester with this great conference!



OAKE 2018

Make plans to gather in Oklahoma City, OK for OAKE's 43rd annual convention. Join hundreds of music educators for *This Land is Your Land: Music Made for You and Me* March 22-25.

Food for thought...

If you haven't heard of the Paraguay LandFill Harmonic, check out their amazing story at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sJxxdQox7n0> "People realize that we shouldn't throw away trash carelessly. Well, we shouldn't throw away people, either." (*KEI newsletter archives, August 2013*)

What if every child had access to music education from a young age? This TEDx Talk highlights some powerful information. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ueqgenARzIE>

"You hold in your hands the [hope] for our nation to find its soul through singing." (*Mark Putnam, Central College President, ICDA 2017 Summer Symposium opening ceremonies*)

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KEI is member of the Midwest Kodály Music Educators of America and an affiliate chapter of the Organization of American Kodály Educators

mkmea.com <http://kodalyeducatorsiowa.weebly.com> oake.org