

Kodály Educators of Iowa



December 2008

Notes from the President - *Music is magic!*



T'was the day the instruments were
played in the room

Not a student was stirring, in the air
there did loom

A sense of excitement! This was the day

The teacher for them the metallophone would play.

He waited and waited in his quiet, wordless way

And wondered to himself what sounds it would play.

In silence he watched as she lifted mallets high

The time would come soon when they'd get to try

And then it came, that glorious sound

He raised his hand up, his voice he had found

"Music is magic!" said Caleb with joy

Such incredible wisdom from one little boy.

He taught me a lesson, to him I'm in debt

I think of his voice when I start to forget.

We all work so hard, our jobs are not small.

We must remember the power of it all.

Music is magic, shout it loud and clear!

Music is magic every day of the year.



KEI at IMEA

Congratulations to IMEA for this year's wonderful conference! A special thanks to Dianne Aboud, IMEA Elementary General Music Chair, for all of

her hard work in organizing presenters. Kudos to Tom Sletto, Mary Newton and Dr. Sylvia Munsen for their wonderful sessions. Thanks to Shelley Droe, Sonia Johnson, Cynthia Marten and Kris VerSteege for their fun folk dance presentation and to Molly Loftin for creating the handouts. We also had the chance to welcome Kirk Olson to his first IMEA conference. At least 12 KEI members were in attendance at the conference, which is 80% of the chapter!

First Iowa Orff Workshop

FIO will host a chapter sharing on January 17 at UNI. Presenters will include Tim Purdum and Aaron Hansen. Visit www.firstiowaorff.org for more information.



Simpson Workshop

On January 17, Dr. Susan Brumfield will present *Hot Peas and Barley-O and Over the Garden Wall: Children's Songs and Games from Scotland and England*. Cost is \$30 for teachers, \$10 for students. Dr. Brumfield is Associate Professor of Music Education at Texas Tech and is an internationally recognized Kodály educator.

KEI Upcoming Events

Join us on February 7 for *Best in Class* as KEI members present mini sessions featuring their tried and true favorite activities and materials for use in early, middle and upper elementary grades. Thanks to Mary Schmelzer for hosting us at Central Elementary in Alleman (note: this is a **new location**). Cost is \$10 for all who attend, and lunch is included. In addition to the three presentations, there will be a time for all participants to share. Please bring your favorite song for use with the melodic or rhythmic concept of your choice. Registration and directions will be coming soon to the website, so check out www.kodalyiowa.org for more information. This event is open to all music teachers, not just chapter members, so invite your friends and colleagues. We look forward to a great day of learning from each other!

Our spring workshop will be held at Drake University on March 7. Barb Sletto will present the morning session, *Kodály Techniques in the Choral Setting*. Tom Sletto will share *Materials and Techniques for the Elementary Classroom* in the afternoon. Cost will be \$20 for non-members, \$15 for members, \$5 for ISU students and free for Drake students. Box lunches will be available for purchase if you register on-line.

Drake University is offering *Kodály Levels I and II* from July 27-August 7, 2009. Faculty will include Tom and Barb Sletto and Tom Michalek.

OAKE Elections

One of the privileges of membership in OAKE is the right to vote and to hold office within the organization. Ballots have been sent out for this year's elections, so check out the candidates' bios on-line at www.oake.org under downloads and vote in the appropriate categories.

National OAKE Conference - Celebrating 35 Years!

The 2009 convention will be held in Washington DC March 12-14. Come join music educators from across the country for *Kodály in the Capital: A Musical Legacy*.

This worked for me - Holiday Activities

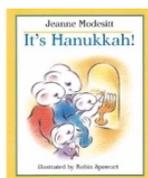
Sing picture books of Christmas carols and holiday favorites at the end of classes during the month of December.



Play seasonal songs over the school PA system in the morning before classes begin. Choose selections from *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, *A Dave Brubeck Christmas*, *The Chieftains Bells of Dublin* or *The Nutcracker*.

Give each member of the school staff a red circle and ask them to write their names and their favorite seasonal songs. Attach the paper ornaments to a green paper tree by the music room door. Or make different colored circles and decorate the hallway or a bulletin board with the ornaments. Students love checking out their teachers' favorite songs!

Ask winter concert audiences to bring a canned or non-perishable food item to be donated to a local food pantry. Or collect winter clothing items for a local clothes closet.

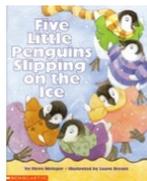


Winter Books for Young Children

Jeanne Modesitt's *It's Hanukkah!* uses rhyming text and simple illustrations to show your youngest students many of the traditional Hanukkah activities. Teach the dreidl game (directions are included in the book), a Hebrew folk song or an Israeli folk dance to give them an additional taste of the holiday. Ask your Jewish students to share their family traditions with the class.



There was a cold lady who swallowed some snow by Lucille Colandro is a cumulative story in the tradition of the old lady who swallowed a fly. K and first grade students will enjoy singing the silly song as they guess why she swallows the objects. "I don't know why she swallowed some snow. Perhaps you'll know."



Five Little Penguins Slipping on the Ice by Steve Metzger is the story of five clumsy penguins enjoying winter activities. It is told in the style of *Five Little Monkeys* and gives opportunity for vocal exploration and finger play. Some editions come with a recording of the poem set to music.



Bear Snores On by Karma Wilson is the first in a series of many stories about Bear. In this debut book, Bear is sleeping in his cave while his friends have a party. Rhyming, repetitive text and opportunities for vocal and timbre exploration will make this book a hit with young students. "In a cave in the woods, in his deep, dark lair, through the long, cold winter sleeps a great brown bear." Supplement the bear theme with songs or stories like "Grizzly Bear Sleeping in his Cave", "No Bears Out Tonight", "The Bear Went Over the Mountain" or "We're Going on a Bear Hunt".

KEI is an affiliate of the Organization of American Kodály Educators

www.oake.org

www.kodalyiowa.org

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