

Kodály Educators of Iowa

December 2011

From the President ~ Kris VerSteegt



"Well, it's December already. How did that happen?" That seems to be the general sentiment from all adults in my building.

For me, it has been a gradual thing. Each day my principal sends out his daily bulletin, and as I have watched the days tick by the wayside (today's was Daily Bulletin #78) I have reached a state of near panic. "We are almost half done with the year! Have I taught half my curriculum? More importantly, have my kids *learned* half my curriculum?" I feel like I am working harder than ever, but unless I know that what I am doing is making a difference *in the learning* of my students, I can't be sure that I am working smarter.

Thus, it seems like a great time to be thinking about assessment. Authentic assessments that allow my students to perform music at their level are best. But, there is increasing pressure to provide data which can be tracked longitudinally, and that often comes down to paper and pencil assessments. Couldn't those assessments allow opportunities for performance, too? And if so, how might assessments like those be administered to 750 kids you see once a week?

Meanwhile... It's DECEMBER!!! AHHHHHHHH! Well, as Thomas Fuller said, "The darkest hour is just before the dawn." Soon, December will be over and then it will be January, and with January comes KEI's sharing session at Grand Avenue Baptist in Ames. Our morning session (9a-12n) will provide you with countless ideas on authentic and data driven assessments that are both formative and summative. You can use these to guide your instruction as it is happening, test for mastery, and if adopted district-wide open the floodgates for rich discussions about what we can do to help those kids who are either way ahead or way behind their peers.

Please consider joining us on the 28th. You don't have to be a member to come or to share, so please bring your friends too. The afternoon's focus will be on singing games so the more the merrier!

And speaking of merry...
Merry Christmas!



Simpson Winter Workshop

Simpson welcomes Jay Broeker on January 21 for ***Sing, Play, Move: A Sequential Development of Enactive Musical Understanding***. Mr. Broeker teaches K-5 general music at the Blake School in Hopkins, MN. He also teaches in summer courses at the University of Kentucky and the University of St. Thomas. Cost of the workshop is \$30.

KEI Winter Sharing

Come join us at Grand Avenue Baptist Church in Ames on January 28 from 9am-3pm for two great sessions of sharing. ***Authentic Assessment*** will provide ideas using many types of assessments including games, performance, paper and pencil, etc for K-5. ***Singing Games from the 150's*** will showcase songs and games from "the orange book" *150 American Folk Songs* by Peter Erdei. You do not need to bring the book or (even own it) to take part. As always, lunch is provided and cost is \$10 for teachers, \$5 for students. Plan now to attend and bring a friend. A surefire way to give yourself a shot in the arm to beat the winter classroom blues.



Spring Workshop

KEI is proud to welcome Sue Leithold-Bowcock on April 21 as she presents ***Match Games: Supporting the Uncertain Singer*** and ***Multicultural Games and Dances***. Ms. Leithold-Bowcock teaches music in Owatonna, MN. She also teaches levels at the Colorado Kodály Institute. This workshop will be held in Ankeny from 9am-1pm.

Other Upcoming Opportunities

Greater Des Moines Orff will present Dale Ludwig and "***Orff 101: I have all these instruments, now what do I do?***" on February 11 from 9am-1pm at Meredith Middle School. This presentation will feature Orff arrangements and process, as well as a look at the volumes. Sure to get you excited about the new year! \$25 for non-members, \$20 for members.

FIO will host Jeff Kriske and Randy DeLelles on April 14 for ***Orff Schulwerk: Under Construction***.

Great Des Moines Orff presents Kelly Janson and Penny Zaugg with ***Implementing Interactive Technology in the Music Room*** on April 27 at Jackson Elementary in Des Moines. Dinner is at 6pm, and the presentation will start at 7pm.

Happy Birthday to You - Composers of the Month



Composers born in December: Domenico Scarlatti (1685), Franz Liszt (1811), Giuseppe Verdi (1813), Camille Saint-Saens (1835), George Bizet (1838), Heinrich Schutz (1585), Alexander Gretchaninov (1864), Paul Dukas (1865), Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872), Charles Ives (1874)

Composers born in January: Giovanni Pergolesi (1710), Muzio Clementi (1752), Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756), Ernst Hoffman (1776), Franz Schubert (1797), Maurice Durufle (1902), Norman Dello Joio (1913), John Taverner (1944)

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.

Kudos to...

Kris VerSteegt and KEI board members presented sessions at IMEA. Kris' sessions were, as usual, full of great ideas for all. And even though the KEI session was the last one of the day, 30 people stayed to attend. Way to go, KEI!

MKMEA Bulletin Changes

In an effort to save printing and mailing costs, MKMEA will mail two bulletins per year, and the other two will be electronic. Summer and Winter editions will be electronic, and Fall and Spring issues will be hard copies in the mail.

OAKE Proposed Vision and Mission Statements

Two years ago, the OAKE Planning and Development Committee began an extensive review and reflection of the organization's purpose and its aim for the future. In September, the OAKE Board of Directors met and passed a motion to bring the committee's Vision and Mission Statement drafts to the general membership for adoption at the General Membership meeting in Phoenix. They are as follows:

Vision Statement: *Our vision is the realization of a world where the power of music as a unifying, humanizing and healing force is an integral part of the lives of the American people.*

Mission Statement: *Inspired by the vision of Zoltán Kodály, the mission of the Organization of American Kodály Educators is to support music education of the highest quality, promote universal music literacy, and cultivate a lifelong appreciation of the music in and preserve the musical heritage of the people of the United States of America through education, artistic performance, advocacy and research.*



2012 Convention

OAKE invites you to attend *A Grand Vision: Heritage, Hope and Harmony* in Phoenix, Arizona March 15-17, 2012. Early bird registration must be postmarked by January 20 to take advantage of the discount.

KEI is an affiliate of the Organization of American Kodály Educators

www.oake.org

<https://sites.google.com/site/kodalyiowa/>

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