

# Kodály Educators of Iowa



December 2009

## An MKMEA Conference Overview - Mary Schmelzer



The Midwest Division presented another wonderful conference – this time in Milwaukee. Four things still stand out to me almost two months later.

### ***1. Sister Lorna's Keynote Address***

Sister Lorna has such a passion for children and music education – it's always inspirational to hear her speak. She talked about the steps that were taken to form the Midwest Kodály Music Educators Association, leading up to its first conference 35 years ago. She mentioned that we have 13 states in our division and approximately 500 members today. Sister Lorna also talked about the vision for tomorrow. Throughout, she displayed her clever wit. It reminded me how lucky we are to have her coming to Iowa to present a full day's workshop for our chapter!

### ***2. The Honor Choir Concert***

Over 100 students worked with Ruth Dwyer to present an awesome concert on Saturday night. The sound was healthy and beautiful!

### ***3. Dr. Jill Trinka's Dulcimer Session***

There were many good sessions to choose from, so it wasn't easy committing to a double-session on playing the lap dulcimer. However, it turned out to be one of my favorite parts of the weekend. The lap dulcimer is very accessible – we beginners were sounding good in no time at all!

### ***4. Differentiated Keyboard Unit***

One of the struggles of doing a little work on piano keyboards with my sixth graders has always been finding literature to fit all levels of ability. I have taken the approach of providing totally different songs/pieces for the various levels (no staff, RH only on treble staff, LH only on bass staff, etc.). Diana Abt's approach is to have all students play the same folk songs, but to vary the difficulty. For example, the easiest option is melody only (no staff). Later, the melody appears on the staff. The progression continues as bass notes are added, then simplified, full, arpeggiated, and broken chords (some with the option of no staff but all on the staff, too). I'm looking forward to trying out many of her ideas next semester.

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## KEI at IMEA

Congratulations to Shelley Droe, Sonia Johnson and Mary Schmelzer for their presentation of **Keep it Joyful!** at the IMEA conference. Participants left with many great ideas that they could use right away in their classrooms. More than 30 people attended, and thanks to Molly Loftin and Mary Schmelzer for preparing the handouts. Special thanks to Mary for her joyful piano music and to Kevin Droe for helping with technology issues. It was great to see so many KEI members there, including Dianne Aboud, Emily Chatfield, Mary Newton, Sara McCue, Tom Sletto and LeAnn Houlette. Looking forward to seeing you in January!

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### KEI Best in Class January 23

**Dr. Sylvia Munsen** will present ***Planning the Music Experience*** from 9-noon. This session will focus on materials appropriate for K-3 to help students experience and develop independent musicianship skills, as well as to help teachers to plan lessons, identify basic folk song forms, implement strategies for success and learn to teach vertically and horizontally. Dr. Munsen is Associate Professor and Chair of Music Education at ISU and is founder and conductor of the Ames Children's Choirs.



**Mary Newton** will present ***Brrr! Winter Songs and Activities for K-2*** from 1-3pm. Mary will also lead us in a make and take that you will be able to use with your students. Mary has taught for 30 years, including 19 in the Grinnell school district. She is in her 12 year of teaching K-2 music at Bailey Park Elementary in Grinnell. Join us for this great workshop on January 23 in the Ames area (location tba). Lunch is included in the \$10 registration. Please register at [www.kodalyiowa.org](http://www.kodalyiowa.org)

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## Simpson January Workshop

On January 30 join Peter and Mary Alice Amidon for ***Creating a Dynamic Learning Community with Traditional Dance, Song and Storytelling***. The Amidons, founding members of the New England Dancing Masters, are master teachers of dance and singing games. Cost is \$30.

## First Iowa Orff Spring Workshop

If you are unable to attend the Simpson workshop, you can see the Amidons on April 17 at UNI as they present ***Creating a Dynamic Learning Community with Traditional Dance, Song and Storytelling***. Cost is \$40.

## KEI Spring Workshop

Our final event of the school year will be held March 6 at UNI. Help us welcome Sr. Lorna Zemke from Silver Lake College in Manitowac, WI, as she presents ***Incorporating America's True Art-Form (Jazz) into Our Kodály Curriculum***. Sr. Lorna will help you introduce jazz in your classroom in a kid-friendly way that goes hand in hand with the musical ideals of Kodály. Sr. Lorna, D.M.A., is an experienced music educator, Kodály specialist and Director of the Early Childhood Music Program at Silver Lake. We are so excited to have her with us for the day, and we are very grateful to IMEA for helping us in sponsoring the workshop!

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## OAKE 2010 National Convention

Make plans now to join hundreds of Kodály educators in Dallas, Texas on March 18-20 for ***The Arts are Key: Deep in the Heart of Kodály.***

## IMEA Spring Workshop

On Friday, May 14, Tom Sletto will present ***Movement with Meaning*** from 6-9pm. On Saturday, May 15, Dr. Artie Almeida will present ***Recipe for Success***. The workshop will be held at Drake. AEA and Drake credit will be available for those attending both sessions. Thanks to IMEA, West Music, Des Moines Public Schools, Heritage Music and Drake University for sponsoring this great event!

## Kodály at Drake Summer 2010

Drake will offer ***Levels I, II and III*** from July 12-23. Faculty will include Barbara and Tom Sletto and Thomas Michalek. Registration fee is \$550 and four credits are available. New this summer is ***Choral Conducting Using Solfege*** with Mary Goetze from July 6-9. Registration fee is \$260 and two credits are available. No previous Kodály levels experience is required to take the conducting class. Contact Aimee Beckmann-Collier at [aimee.beckmann-collier@drake.edu](mailto:aimee.beckmann-collier@drake.edu) for more information.

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## 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)

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## Kudos to...

...Tom Sletto for his assessment session at IMEA, and to Mary Schmelzer for her panel participation. Congratulations to Sylvia Munsen and the Ames Children's Choirs as they celebrate their 15th year. Visit [www.ameschildrenschoirs.com](http://www.ameschildrenschoirs.com) to check out their most recent recording, ***All Things Pass***.

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## Membership Reminder

Remember to keep your membership current so that you continue to take advantage of the great OAKE and KEI benefits such as voting privileges, conference and workshop discounts and the Envoy publication.

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KEI is an affiliate of the Organization of American Kodály Educators  
[www.oake.org](http://www.oake.org)    [www.kodalyiowa.org](http://www.kodalyiowa.org)

Michelle Droe, President • LeAnn Houlette, Vice-President • Molly Loftin, Secretary • Sonia Johnson, Treasurer • Mary Schmelzer, Membership • Marsha Fries, Member-At-Large • Sara McCue, Member-at-Large

