
KODÁLY EDUCATORS OF IOWA

May/June 2016



Singing Research and Summer Travels - *Christina Svec*

Kodály once mentioned that only the best was good enough for our children regarding music education practices. I'm thrilled to continue researching those best practices at an international level. I'm also excited that we have teachers and music organizations who are equally excited in digging for those answers. Both Iowa State University and The Society for Education, Music, and Psychology Research (SEMPRE) have granted funds to provide some financial support as I travel to Europe and research singing in childhood!

Where this all started...

The role of a content validity panel is to look at your research methodology for holes or missing information as well as to ask questions - have you designed your study to measure what you're hoping to measure? Dr. Graham Welch was one of three members on my content validity panel for my dissertation. I asked him for his input after having read some of his research regarding singing voice development with children. He is a seminal researcher in the field, and I knew that his input would be invaluable to me.

After reading the specific pieces that I sent to him, he mentioned how interesting my study would be in comparison to what he has found in his studies. Maybe I could explore his data at some point in the future. I took him up on the challenge after my dissertation.

This summer, I will be spending three weeks exploring his data at University College London to use in several studies with which I'm currently involved regarding singing voice development in children and adolescents. One study in particular, *Singing Development of Children and Adolescents, 5-18 Years Old: A Meta-analysis of Longitudinal Research*, will look at some of his data as well as data collected elsewhere to address results within the area of singing ability and instruction. My hope is to answer research questions regarding the effects of instruction on singing voice development through this age span and provide, or support, pedagogical practices to elementary and secondary choral music educators. This particular study will then be presented at the 32nd World Conference of International Society for Music Education (ISME) in Glasgow, Scotland at the end of July. I'll also be presenting results from another study at ISME regarding statistical practices of music education researchers. Both studies will be written up and submitted for publication at some point during the Fall 2016 semester.

Please let me know if you'd like to collaborate and be involved with singing research on your own campuses. I'll be conducting some research with children over the next few years, and the greater the involvement, the stronger the research!

Related information about Dr. Graham Welch

<http://bit.ly/1TWWD82> Psychological Aspects of Singing Development in Children

<http://bit.ly/rqUHov7> Music Education works! a blog collecting, summarizing and sharing evidence of the impact of music education

Upcoming Events!

5/13-14/16 - **Jay Broeker**, visit <http://bit.ly/1ndfvdM> to register

7/25-7/28/16 - **ICDA Summer Symposium**, Central College

10/28-30/16 - **MKMEA**, DSM

Kudos

The Dalcroze workshop had 25 in attendance, including 5 students. Thanks to Shelley Droe, IMEA and ICDA for their assistance with this project, and to Kevin Droe for securing the space at UNI.

Barb Sletto and the Heartland Youth Concert Choir will tour Slovakia and Hungary this summer.

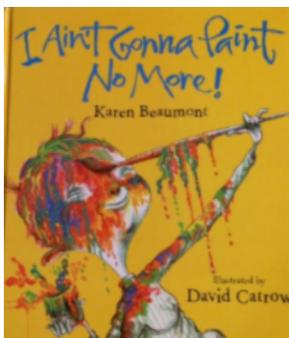
Beginning July 1st, Christina Svec will be the new conductor of the Ames Children's Choirs Concert Choir.

Did You Know...

MKMEA honor choir info is online! Visit mkmea.com and nominate students to join this select choir! Applications due May 20.

Carly Scheiffer is teaching two professional development music classes this summer for Grant Woods AEA. Visit <http://bit.ly/1XIM7CP> and <http://bit.ly/1T28pAG> for more info.

If you would like more experience with Dalcroze Eurhythmics, Luther is offering a 3-day course with Dr. Kathy Thomsen June 13-15. Visit <http://bit.ly/1SpJBkt> to learn more and register.



Try This!

If you are looking for a new book to use with your younger students, try ***I Ain't Gonna Paint No More***. It is perfect for early readers because of the rhyming words, color recognition and body part vocabulary. The book is based on the folk tune "It Ain't Gonna Rain No More" so you can sing the story. As you sing, encourage

children to paint the various body parts mentioned, perhaps providing small paint brushes. (*Source: wejoysing blog*)

Dalcroze Workshop Take-aways

- Establish a signal for FREEZE and for HOME.
- When doing movement activities with student leaders, ask the leaders to set the tempo because children's tempos will usually be different than an adult's tempo.
- Recorded examples included Prince of Denmark's March (performed by Wynton Marsalis), Concerto Gross Op. 6 No. 7, 2nd mvmt Allegro (Handel), Hedwig's Theme from Harry Potter (John Williams), Sorcerer's Stone - the first 2'30" (John Williams)
- Canon in 4 - "Step my pattern, one measure behind the music." Play a pattern from the piano, every other measure is half notes. Students step the pattern starting after the first measure. Eventually increase the difficulty level.
- "I have my plan, but I don't teach my plan, I try to teach the people in front of me." *Dr. Kathy Thomsen*

MKMEA DSM Volunteers Needed!

Many hands make light work, and there will be many opportunities for chapter members to volunteer to serve during MKMEA. That could include introducing a presenter for a session, serving as room monitor for a session, videotaping sessions and assisting with honor choir rehearsals. The conference committee has already put in many hours of work. As we approach the fall, look for information about volunteer opportunities. The best way to help is to spread the word, attend this fabulous convention and bring students to take part in the amazing honor choir experience!



Long Beach OAKE Reflections - Carly Scheiffer, Lauren Fladland

This past March I was able to attend the national OAKE conference held in Long Beach, CA. If you ever have an opportunity to attend a national conference I would highly recommend going! I learned SO much as a result of attending.

On Friday I attended four sessions including musical literacy activities, folk songs from Tanzania, assessment, and writing activities. Saturday I attended four more sessions on art music in the Kodály classroom, community folk dancing, engaging singers in a choral rehearsal, and early childhood music. In addition, throughout the three-day conference I was able to hear three excellent community children's choirs as well as a children's choir choral reading session. Sunday morning I attended the Sunday Spotlight Session featuring Dr. Susan Brumfield. The time spent networking and collaborating was wonderful as well.

Perhaps the greatest lessons learned were from Sandy Knudsen's session entitled "Engaging Singers in the Choral Rehearsal." All of her suggestions were helpful and ones that I can implement in my own elementary school choir's rehearsals. She discussed going beyond learning notes and rhythms and beginning to make music as an ensemble. She advocated for a higher level of achievement that can be provided by the conductor so that singers want to "learn at high levels!" I am excited to see how this transfers when we present our spring concert in May.

There were so many ideas shared at this conference that could be incorporated into any music classroom. The dominant question, "How do we know students have learned?" was clearly evident in many sessions, particularly the one I attended on assessment as the presenter discussed practical summative and formative assessments, how they are graded, and how the information is communicated to parents.

In conclusion, you will not be disappointed with all the learning gleaned from a national OAKE conference. American Kodály educators are rich in knowledge and very willing to share information. Next year the location is Philadelphia, PA - hope to see you there! *Carly Scheiffer*

I had a great time attending OAKE in LA this March. As with most conferences it was refreshing and exactly what I needed to re-energize me for the end of the year. I was very moved by both of Susan Brumfield's sessions and hearing her treble voiced students that ranged in age from elementary to college level singing together was definitely inspiring to me as a teacher of treble voiced singers from 6th to 8th grade.

Additionally three of my 8th grade girls had the opportunity to sing in the Youth Choir. This is the second year I have had students sing in the National Youth Choir and I was once again impressed with the difficulty of the music those students are able to perform at such a high level. My students that sang in the Youth Choir are still talking about what a great time they had and the new friends that they met. The news has also spread to my 6th and 7th grade singers who are looking forward to auditioning next year to travel to Pennsylvania! *Lauren Fladland*



New Member Welcome!

Erica Seeley teaches K-5 general music and 5th grade chorus at Walnut Hills Elementary in Waukee. She received her Bachelor of Music Education and Vocal Performance degrees from Drake University. She completed her Master of Music Degree with an emphasis in Opera Performance from the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, Minnesota. She received her Kodály I and II certifications from Drake University. She lives in Urbandale with her husband Neil, and their four children, Norah, Kieran, Ethan and Graham.



OAKE 2017

OAKE invites you to join hundreds of Kodály-inspired educators in historic Philadelphia, PA March 23-26 2017 for the 43rd annual national conference, ***Let Freedom Ring: Fostering Musical Independence!***

Food for Thought

“While singing in itself is good, the real reward comes to those who sing, and feel, and think with others. That is what harmony means.” *Zoltán Kodály, Bicinia Hungarica, 1941*

Amy Schoene, President *Patty Haman, President-Elect*LeAnn Houlette, Vice- President*Molly Loftin, Secretary*Sonia Johnson, Treasurer* Kelly Janson, Sara McCue, Members at Large*Carly Scheiffer,Past President

KEI is an affiliate of the Organization of American Kodály Educators

oake.org kodalyeducatorsiowa.weebly.com

Look for us on Facebook at Kodály Educators of Iowa and MKMEA Conference

