

Kodály Educators of Iowa

October 2011

From the President ~ Kris VerSteegt



On my way to rehearsal tonight, I saw two pennies on the ground. I didn't pick them up. I left them where they lay, recognizing that someone else likely needed whatever luck each might hold far more than I did. I know how lucky--or rather *how blessed*--I am.

I have a wonderful family. We laugh a lot and we seldom cry. We face challenges, of course, but we work at overcoming them together. We really care about each other, and we realize we are stronger as a team than when we're each trying to do our own thing. My house is filled with music and laughter and so much joy that it almost can't hold it. My only regret is that we have so little time together.

I have wonderful students. We laugh a lot and we seldom cry. We face challenges, of course, but we work at overcoming them together. We really care about each other, and we realize we are stronger as a team than when we're each trying to do our own thing. My classroom is filled with music and laughter and so much joy that it often spills out into the hallway and onto the playground and into the hearts and minds of my students. My only regret is that we have so little time together.

Every single day I leave my family to come to my students to sing, and dance, and play, to be silly, and creative, and filled with joy. And while I never have enough time with either, I wouldn't have it any other way. Each of us as music educators face challenges of low contact time, meetings with no direct (and sometimes no indirect) tie to our classrooms, district initiatives like "non-fiction read alouds" and "explicit literacy lessons," developing standards portfolios, etc. It is so easy to let these things aggravate us and bring us frustration! But at the beginning, middle, and end of the day we get to help children make **music**. *Hundreds* of children. I'm not sure a person can get luckier than that.

That's my two cents.

MKMEA

Kodály in Columbs: Piecing It All Together will be held in Columbus, OH on October 21-23. Visit http://www.mkmea2011.com/MKMEA_2011/Home.html for more information.



Fall Workshop Offerings

KEI and FIO will cosponsor Jill Trinka and *Play Parties and Folk Music* on October 22 at UNI. Cost is \$20, and please bring a food item to share for lunch. Pre-register and get carpool information by e-mailing kris.versteegt@ankenyschools.org.

Kodály at IMEA

Join hundreds of Iowa music educators at the IMEA convention on November 18 and 19 in Ames. Many great sessions will be presented covering a wide range of topics. For a complete listing of sessions and times, visit <http://www.iamea.org/> Following is a list of some presenters to note:

Lillie Feierabend will present the following sessions on Friday and Saturday: *Who's afraid of (teaching) the Nutcracker*, *Intentional Movement in the Music Classroom*, *Books that Sing/Books that Move*, and *Vocal Development for Young Children*.

On Saturday, Tom Michalek will present *Smooth Sailing on Lake Kodály: Organization, Student Focus and Sanity!* and *Planning Past Tomorrow: Staying Ahead in the General Music Planning Game!*

Kris VerSteegt will present two sessions on Saturday, *Folk Dancing* and *Using Manipulatives to teach the Fundamentals*.

Kodály Educators of Iowa board members will present a session, *Easy as 1, 2, 3! Simple, Practical and Fun Assessment Tools* on Saturday at 3:00 pm.

Happy Birthday to You - Composers of the Month



Composers born in October: 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 November: Jean-Baptiste Lully (1632), Francois Couperin (1668), Leopold Mozart (1719), Carl von Weber (1786), Fanny Mendelssohn (1805), John Philip Sousa (1854), Paul Hindemith (1895), Aaron Copland (1900), Benjamin Britten (1913)

Welcome, New Members!



Andrew Ellingsen graduated from Luther College with a degree in music education and from the University of St. Thomas with an MA in music education (Kodály and Orff-Schulwerk). Andrew is new to Iowa, teaching K-2 in Decorah. Previously he taught general music and directed choirs in Minneapolis-St. Paul. Andrew is the current president of MKMEA. He loves folk dancing and will be presenting a movement session at the OAKE convention in Phoenix. Visit Andrew's classroom website at

http://www3.decorah.k12.ia.us/~andrew.ellingsen/Mr._Andrew_Ellingsen/Welcome.html



Nicole Farley graduated from Roland-Story High School and now teaches elementary general music in her home district. She graduated from UNI and previously taught high school choral music in Webster City, followed by a year of teaching elementary music at Woodstock International School in the foothills of the Himalayas in India. She took Level 1 at Drake this summer and is enjoying using her new materials in the classroom with her students.



Sarah Magner graduated from Viterbo College and teaches in Decorah. Though she has not taken formal levels, Sarah enjoys attending workshops, classes and studying on her own. When she is not in the classroom, one might find her playing electric bass and providing back-up vocals for an all-female bluegrass/folk band, *Done Doin' Laundry*.

Congratulations to...

Sara McCue and family welcomed the addition of Johanna Verlyn, born September 28. She weighed 8 pounds 9 ounces and was 21.5 inches long. Best wishes to the McCue family!

Food for Thought...from *The Selected Writings of Zoltan Kodály*

Let us take our children seriously! Everything else follows from this...only the best is good enough for a child. (1941)

And I would advise my young colleagues, the composers of symphonies, to drop in sometimes at the kindergarten, too. It is there that it is decided whether there will be anybody to understand their works in twenty years' time. (1957)

It is much more important who the singing master at Kisvarda (small village) is than who the director of the Opera House is because a poor director will fail. (Often even a good one.) But a bad teacher may kill the love of music for thirty years from thirty classes of pupils. (1929)



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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