
KODÁLY EDUCATORS OF IOWA

August/September 2014

President's Message ~ Carly Huhn

Welcome back! I hope you have had a restful summer and are excited to begin a new school year (some of you are already back in school!). My summer involved attending a Professional Learning Community conference in Minnesota, a vacation to Alaska, and continued graduate classes at the University of St. Thomas. I think I slept about five nights in Iowa! But I am glad to be back and getting into the swing of things. As you are preparing monthly and daily lesson plans, keep in mind the central tenets of the Kodály philosophy:



- 1.) **Music is for everyone.** It is a privilege to instill a lifelong love for music in each student that enters our room. Sometimes it can be easy to become overwhelmed with meetings, committees, etc. but always remember our first priority is our students.
- 2.) **Only the best literature is good enough for our students.** Take careful consideration when deciding which songs would be best to incorporate with melodic and rhythmic concepts. Make sure you know your song repertoire before presenting to the students.
- 3.) **Music education should begin as soon as possible.** We are all in different teaching situations, but wherever you are (elementary, middle, general classroom, instrumental, choral, children's choir, church, home, etc.) decide to further music education. I was sitting at a sharing session for an African mission's trip today and leaned over to my friend and started singing a folk song from Zimbabwe! :)
- 4.) **The eye, the ear, the hand, and the heart must all be trained together.** Music is a special gift we give to our students. We want to share this with as many as possible in meaningful ways. Always consider how you can enhance each learning opportunity in the classroom.

These four guiding principles will be very evident in Tom Michalek's session **Pixie Dust? No, Yearly Planning: Organization Can Work Magic!** on Saturday, October 4th at Drake University. We are also welcoming West Music to our workshop as well! In addition, KEI will be sharing at the IMEA Convention in Ames November 22. Our topic will be **Rub-a-dub-dub, where's my sub tub?** This session will provide specific examples and ideas for use in sub lesson plans including songs, games, children's books, worksheets and even the occasional video. We will also host a chapter sharing session on January 31 in Ames. Finally, everyone is invited to attend OAKE's National Convention, **Harmonia Mundi: We Gather Here Together**, held in Minneapolis, MN March 19-21.

Have a great school year, and see you in October!

Events in IOWA!

8/23 - Diana Larsen at FIO/UNI

9/6 - Andrew Ellingsen at
GDSMO/Drake

9/20 - Sr. Lorna Zemke at Simpson

10/4 - Tom Michalek at KEI/Drake

11/20-22 - IMEA in Ames

1/17 - Jill Trinka at Simpson

1/31 - KEI chapter sharing

3/9-21 - OAKE in Minneapolis

4/11 - Paul Weller at FIO/UNI

Drake Levels summer 2016, tba

Congratulations!

Kris VerSteege received her Masters of Science in Education: Teacher Effectiveness and Professional Development with a concentration in Curriculum Leadership from Drake!

Mary Schmelzer completed Level III Orff at St. Thomas in St. Paul, MN!

Carly Huhn completed all of the coursework for her Masters in Arts in Music Education with a Kodály emphasis from St. Thomas!

KEI Fall Workshop

KEI welcomes Tom Michalek as he presents ***Pixie Dust? NO, Yearly Planning: Organization Can Work Magic!*** on October 4 from 9am-3pm at Drake. A sound Kodály-based lesson can and should feel “magical.” Children are engaged and on-task, singing, moving, reading and writing music, creating music, listening to music, playing instruments... However, this does not actually occur “magically” or by chance, but is usually the result of solid organization. This active session will focus on keys to effective lessons, including organizational tips, planning techniques and management strategies. Some areas to be discussed include classroom set-up and behavior expectations, management ideas for instruments, quick ways to redirect students and a lesson plan format for optimum music making.

This is an ACTIVE workshop. Participants will experience many music activities, singing games and dances that occur in various parts of the lesson plan format presented. Whether you are a veteran Kodály teacher or are just getting your feet wet, this workshop is for you!

Special thanks to Tom Sletto and the Drake Music Department for hosting the workshop. Please note that lunch will not be provided, but there are many local options from which to choose. Cost is \$20 for KEI/OAKE members, \$30 for non-members and \$5 for students. *(free for Drake students)*

Tom Michalek teaches elementary music in Hastings Public Schools in Nebraska. He also teaches Kodály levels at University of Nebraska and Drake University. He is a member of OAKE, ACDA, and AOSA.

Andrew Ellingsen Workshop 9/6

Join Greater DSM Orff for a workshop featuring Andrew Ellingsen as he presents ***INSPIRE with What You've Got!*** This workshop will feature strategies that can be used with or without a lot of classroom instruments. A great introduction for the novice teacher or a wonderful refresher for experienced teachers. Come for a joyful morning of music making to greet the new school year! The workshop will be held at Drake from 9am-1pm. Cost is \$40 for AOSA members, \$45 for non-members and \$20 for students.

*Carly Huhn, President *Amy Schoene, President-Elect*LeAnn Houlette, Vice-President*Molly Loftin, Secretary*Sonia Johnson, Treasurer*Lee Randall, Webmaster*Mary Schmelzer, Membership* Kelly Janson, Sara McCue, Members at Large**