

# Kodály Educators of Iowa



April 2009

## Notes from the President - National Convention Report



Thanks to the support of KEI and the Parent Group at my school, I was able to attend the OAKE National Convention in Washington DC a few weeks ago. Iowa had one student represented (Brady Whitehill-Cedar

Falls) in the National Honor Choir that was a featured part of the conference. They were spectacular and are always a highlight for me at the conference. Besides, the Youth Honor Choir was directed by my idol, Dan LeJeune. Brady enjoyed her trip and was amazed at how much work was involved. She sang 5 pieces in foreign languages! Three were in Kenyan, one in Latin, and another in Hungarian, not to mention the 4-5 other pieces in English. It all paid off though with a really musical program that ended with Sylvia Munson's arrangement of America The Beautiful. That really brought the house down! As a member of OAKE, I hope you will consider having your students audition for this honor choir next year. It is a really big commitment but one that pays off in so many ways. Next year's convention will be in Dallas and I'm sure it will be fantastic!

I brought back many different things to try with my students, and one I thought I could share with you came from Lilly Feierabend. Pass out imaginary elves to your kindergartners and ask them to be very gently with them. Set them on different parts of your body and walk around the room carefully so they don't fall off. Play a beautiful piece of music and watch them manage their

space and walk in many different ways. Start with the elf on your shoulder, then your head, then ask the students for their own creative ideas. Lilly demonstrated this with a group of kindergartners she'd never met before. It's one of the best demo classes I've ever seen. She was wonderful with all those children and this is just one idea you could easily incorporate with K-2.

Stay tuned to KEI's website over the summer. We hope to announce the workshops for the year fairly soon. Sister Lorna Zemke will come in the spring to present on Kodály and jazz. Mary Schmelzer and I saw her presentation in Wichita on this topic and are excited to hear more. We know you'll enjoy her! The fall workshop is just now being finalized and we should have our workshops offering credit to help you stay on top of things for your teaching certificates and pay scales.

I hope your jobs are safe and secure during this economic turmoil. If the officers of KEI can ever be of help, please email or call. I look forward to seeing many of you at the Kodály levels being offered at Drake. Enjoy the end of the year!

Shelley Droeg



## Great Spring Workshop!

The March 7 workshop at Drake was a great day, with about 20 in attendance. That included 5 college students and 5 new OAKE members! A special thanks to Tom and Barbara Sletto for graciously donating their clinician fees for this workshop. All in attendance enjoyed *My Favorite Things - Materials for Elementary Music* and *Kodály in the Choral Setting*. For those members not able to attend, the workshop DVD will soon be available to view for a \$2 rental fee.

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## First Iowa Orff Workshop

FIO will host Jo Ella Hug, AOSA president, on April 18 at UNI.

## KEI Upcoming Events

Drake University is offering *Kodály Levels I and II* from July 27-August 7. Faculty will include Tom and Barb Sletto and Tom Michalek. KEI members will be planning some fun activities for the course participants, so watch for more info coming at a later date.

## MKMEA

Come celebrate Oktoberfest in Milwaukee on October 16-18, 2009. *Brewing up Kodály* features Sr. Lorna Zemke as keynote speaker, and Dr. Ruth Dwyer will conduct the conference honor choir. Don't miss this opportunity to jumpstart your fall!

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## Show me the money! Scholarship Opportunities

If you are planning on taking graduate courses or pursuing a master's degree in the future, check out these scholarships opportunities. Some deadlines may have expired for this year, but keep them in mind for next year. The **Jeno Adams Scholarship** is sponsored by OAKE for study at OAKE-endorsed Kodály certification programs. The **Jean Sinor Scholarship** is sponsored by MKMEA for study at OAKE-endorsed Kodály certification programs. **The Cox Scholarships** are sponsored by ICDA to assist with pursuit of a graduate degree, deadline May 1st. <http://www.iowachoral.org/general/scholarship/index.html>

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## Happy Birthday to You - Composers of the Month

Composers born in April: Duke Ellington (1899), Randall Thompson (1899) Sergei Prokofiev (1891), Sergei Rachmaninov (1873), Domenico Gabrieli (1651)

Composers born in May: Erik Satie (1866), Gabriel Faure (1845), Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840), Richard Wagner (1813), Alessandro Scarlatti (1660), Claudio Monteverdi (1567)

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## Spotlight on New Members

Kelly Janson teaches K-5th grade at Jackson Elementary in Des Moines. She also teaches junior/senior high voice students in her private voice studio. Kelly graduated from Luther College in 2004. She lives in the Beavertdale area with her husband, Chris and their three cats. In her free time, she enjoys reading, fixing up their fixer-upper and spending time with friends and family. Kelly is very excited to be a part of the Kodály family and is excited to take Level I at Drake this summer.

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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)

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