

# Kodály Educators of Iowa

April 2011

## From the President ~ Kris VerSteegt



I It was a wonderful Spring Break. Not only was it a badly needed opportunity to take a break from concert preparation, but it also provided me the chance to attend the OAKE National Conference without the need of a single professional day (remember when we got those?) or personal day. Of course with so many options for each session, every attendee has a different experience. Here are a few highlights from mine:

I was absolutely dumbstruck by the beautiful tone emanating from the solo violin of a 13-year-old boy in Ames Children's Choirs. This was second only to the beautiful tone of the choir itself. So many times I thought of Dr. Munsen holding up a finger and saying "one voice." Their unison singing is absolutely unparalleled in my opinion. What an outstanding sound they have! Her demo lesson the next day left me even more awestruck by the artful musicianship they put into even simple warm-ups.

I caught a performance by Heartland Youth Choir as well. Their energy is amazing. Their faces are so animated you can't help but get caught up in their emotion. My favorite had to be Sam Pottle's Jabberwocky. The students were simply ignited.

My greatest aesthetic experience had to be during Sanna Longden's workshop. We did this beautifully simple dance to Jim Carr's arrangement of Hzarat Bibi Maryam that left me speechless (not an easy task). An octavo and/or mp3 file are available from him, for your free will donation. Contact Jim at [guitarcarr@yahoo.com](mailto:guitarcarr@yahoo.com).

I also went to two of Sue Leithold-Bowcock's sessions and enjoyed them so much I asked her to come a present for KEI. Look for her in Spring 2012!

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## Kudos to...

...the more than 20 folks from Iowa who attended the OAKE convention in Minneapolis - what a great way to represent KEI and music educators in Iowa! Congratulations to Dr. Sylvia Munsen and the Ames Children's Choir and to Barbara Sletto and the Heartland Youth Choir for their outstanding performances and sessions.

Dr. Sylvia Munsen and the Ames Children's Choirs hosted the Midwest Children's Choirs Festival in Ames on April 1st. Rollo Dilworth composed and conducted the premiere performance of the commissioned piece *Hush, Somebody's Callin' My Name*.

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## Drake Receives Official Endorsement

The Drake Kodály levels program is now **officially endorsed** by OAKE! Congratulations to Barbara and Tom Sletto and Tom Michalek for all their work in putting the courses together. The certification process is extensive, including compiling a 30-page document for peer review by a national committee who then must formally propose the endorsement. What an honor for us to have this program in our state!

## Levels at Drake

Mark your calendars for this summer's levels, July 18-29. Courses will be taught by Tom and Barb Sletto and Tom Michalek. The choral component, *Choral Rehearsing with Intentionality*, will be taught by Ruth Dwyer from July 11-15. Visit [http://www.drake.edu/artsci/Music\\_Dept/smi/2011smi\\_flier.pdf](http://www.drake.edu/artsci/Music_Dept/smi/2011smi_flier.pdf) for more details.

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## IMEA Spring Weekend Workshop May 13-14

Mark your calendars for another great spring workshop sponsored by IMEA. The Friday night session will feature Kris VerSteegt and ***Using Manipulatives to Keep the Fundamentals Fresh and Fun*** from 5-8pm. Check out Jeff Kriske and Randy DeLelles with ***Orff Schulwerk: You Gotta Love It!*** from 8:30am-4pm on Saturday. Those who attend both sessions can get credit. Cost is \$20, and the workshop will be held at Meredith Middle School, 4827 Madison Ave in Des Moines. Visit [www.iamea.org](http://www.iamea.org) to register.

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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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## 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 this scholarship opportunity. The ***Jean Sinor Scholarship*** is sponsored by MKMEA for study at OAKE-endorsed Kodály certification programs, and application deadline is May 1st.

## 2012 Convention

OAKE invites you to attend *A Grand Vision: Heritage, Hope and Harmony* in Phoenix, Arizona March 15-17, 2012.

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## Just For Fun!

Check out the Go Fish cd *Party Like A Preschooler* for fun new versions of old favorites like Five Little Monkeys, Pop Goes the Weasel and Wheels on the Bus, to name a few. Great for movement activities or just plain listening for fun!

## Food For Thought

“That the economic crisis is the cause of everything? Everything will be set right as soon as the economy is in order? I do not think so. Penury may hamper development but wealth does not always promote it either. Money does not produce ideas. Anyhow, there would be sufficient money here if only it were always spent on what is needed. However, the most valuable things cannot be bought with money. The greatest trouble is not the emptiness of the purse but the emptiness of the soul. And of this we have got more than our share.” *Zoltan Kodaly, as quoted by Kelley Brill in the MKMEA Bulletin Spring 2011.*

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KEI is an affiliate of the Organization of American Kodály Educators  
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