

# Kodály Educators of Iowa



December 2010

## From the President ~ Dance of the Snowflakes

*To be read along with an accompanying track of the Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy*



Snowflakes flying, sighing,

By the pound, all around,  
tumbling down, covering the  
ground.

Cov'ring brightly, whitely,

Streets and walks, chimney  
tops, city blocks, blanketing the town.

Coating bare trees like leaves,  
Reaching wide, flying by, touching sky, mak-  
ing not a sound.

Then the wind blows, stirring fresh snow,  
swirling higher...  
Then down!

Big fat flakes fall on each driveway...  
Plows clean up each road and highway...  
JUST one more push  
JUST one more shove  
I'M so glad I (✓) have boots (✓) and gloves!

Floating, falling, spreading, sprawling,  
frosting, fumbling, tossing, tumbling...

Snowflakes flying, sighing,  
By the pound, all around, tumbling down,  
covering the ground.

Cov'ring brightly, whitely

Streets and walks, chimney tops, city  
blocks, blanketing the town.

Coating bare trees like leaves,  
Reaching wide, flying by, touching sky, mak-  
ing not a sound.

Then the wind blows, stirring fresh snow,  
swirling higher...  
Then down!

By Kris VerSteegt

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## **Kudos to...**

The Ames Children's Choir was featured in a performance of Paul Winter's *Missa Gaia* (Earth Mass) along with Mary Swander, Poet Laureate of Iowa.

Judy Panning and Tom Sletto were featured clinicians at IMEA. Kris VerSteege, Michelle Droe, Sara McCue and LeAnn Houlette presented a session on behalf of KEI. President-elect Martha Kroese wrote "On behalf of IMEA, thank you and the rest of the KEI presenters for the session you led at the Iowa Music Educators Association conference. The KEI sessions are always well done, and are always very popular with attenders." Way to go, KEI!

Sonia Johnson and her family welcomed Ian Xavier, born October 27. Dad Chris and big brothers Eli and Hezekiah were very excited to welcome another Johnson boy!

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## **Winter Sharing**

Plan now to attend our winter workshop on January 22 at Grand Avenue Baptist Church in Ames (same location as last year). Two great topics are sure to keep the winter blues away and warm you up with new ideas to take home. ***Program This!*** will feature creative ideas for programming presented by three KEI members to give parents and administrators a true glimpse into the music classroom. For ***Substitute This!***, attendees are asked to bring ideas to share for materials, handouts, games and videos to use for sub plans. Come join us and bring a friend! Lunch is provided, and the cost is \$10 for teachers and \$5 for students. (Snow date Feb 5.)

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## **Simpson Workshop**

Join Sonna Longden for ***No Child Left on His or Her Behind*** on January 15. This workshop will focus on world dances. Cost is \$30.

## **First Iowa Orff Events**

Mark your calendars for FIO's chapter sharing on January 15. Their spring workshop will feature Artie Almeida on April 9.

## **Greater Des Moines AOSA Workshop**

The Des Moines Orff Chapter presents ***Movement with Meaning*** with Aaron Hansen on February 26 from 9am-1pm at Samuelson Elementary (3929 Bel Aire Road, DSM). Aaron Hansen is a K-6 music teacher in the Waverly-Shellrock school district. He has both bachelors and masters degrees from UNI and did his Orff levels and master class at the University of St. Thomas. He has presented workshops in Iowa, and his Orff ensembles have appeared at national conferences. This workshop will focus on using movement activities and traditional folk dance. Participants will also learn how to combine creative movement with works from the Orff Schulwerk Volumes. The workshop will demonstrate ideas to get your students moving with meaning! Cost is \$20 for Orff members, \$25 for non-members and \$5 for students. ***RSVP to pre-register: michael.jones@dmps.k12.ia.us***

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## **OAKE National Convention 2011**

The Midwest region is proud to host the next national convention in Minneapolis, MN on March 17-19. Come join hundreds of Kodály educators for ***Acorns to Oaks: Nurturing Musical Growth***. What a great opportunity to be challenged and refreshed, to network and to see nationally recognized experts present amazing sessions in our own backyard! Look for some Iowa connections and be sure to check out concerts by the Ames Children's Choir and Heartland Youth Choir, as well as sessions presented by Esther D'AGrossa and Sylvia Munsen.

## **IMEA Spring Weekend Workshop**

Mark your calendars for another great spring workshop sponsored by IMEA. Check out Jeff Kriske and Randy DeLelles on Saturday May 14 in Des Moines. The Friday night session is yet to be determined. Those who attend both sessions can get credit. Cost of the workshop is \$15.



## **Happy Birthday to You - Composers of the Month**

Composers born in December: 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 January: Giovanni Pergolesi (1710), Muzio Clementi (1752), Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756), Ernst Hoffman (1776), Franz Schubert (1797), Maurice Durufle (1902), Norman Dello Joio (1913), John Tavener (1944)



## **This worked for me - Holiday Activities**

Sing picture books of Christmas carols and holiday favorites at the end of classes during the month of December.

Play seasonal songs over the school PA system in the morning before classes begin. Choose selections from *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, *A Dave Brubeck Christmas*, *The Chieftains Bells of Dublin* or *The Nutcracker*.

Give each member of the school staff a red circle and ask them to write their names and their favorite seasonal songs. Attach the paper ornaments to a green paper tree by the music room door. Or make different colored circles and decorate the hallway or a bulletin board with the ornaments. Students love checking out their teachers' favorite songs!

Ask winter concert audiences to bring a canned or non-perishable food item to be donated to a local food pantry. Or collect winter clothing items for a local clothes closet.

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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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