

Kodály Educators of Iowa

January 2008

Notes from the President

As I begin the New Year and try to stick to my resolutions, I am trying to remind myself to be happy about all the great things that happen rather than beat myself up over the things that don't go so well. At the risk of sounding corny, I want my glass to be ½ full rather than ½ empty but so often, I only see what I wish I had accomplished. I recently talked to my dad about this and he said, "My glass is half full even when it's half empty!" I like to think of that as being thankful for what I've accomplished yet still being aware of the work that is ahead. There are great things happening everyday to each of us and there will ALWAYS be more to do. Be aware of what is going well each day and be thankful for the opportunity we all have to enhance children's lives through the wonderful world of music!

KEI sure has a lot to be happy about in 2008! This fall we presented two Kodály information sessions at Iowa State and UNI. Both sessions were aimed toward college students, and I think we opened some eyes and got the word out to future educators about how great the Kodály Method is.

We were also able to host a session at the IMEA Convention again this year, and had a great turnout! The following members presented a wonderful workshop on listening lessons for music literacy: Sonia Johnson, Kris Versteegt, Grant Hobin, and Shelley Droe. The best thing about it was learning from each other. I know I took home quite a few great ideas! There was a good turn out and the session was well received. If you'd like to receive a fabulous handout, I have some extras and would be glad to mail you one.

Another big milestone is our new baby, the KEI website. If you haven't visited yet, please do so! It's great to have and we'd love to receive your feedback on what else to add so it can be a helpful resource for you. The site has all kinds of information and even has a page where you can register for our next workshop. Make sure you check it out at www.kodalyiowa.org and let us know what you think!

One more thing to be proud of is having our first Iowa student since the founding of KEI be selected for the National OAKE Conference Choir. It will be nice to have Anjah representing the work of the Kodály teachers in Iowa, even if I am her mother 😊

I'm looking forward to the OAKE Convention and will be sharing some of the great things from it in the next newsletter. Cheers to you as you begin 2008. Let's keep our glasses full!!

Shelley Droe

Congratulations to...

The Ames Children's Choirs Concert Choir was selected to be one of the main stage performing ensembles at the North Central ACDA convention in Fargo, ND in March!



Anjah Droe, daughter of KEI president Shelley Droe, was chosen to sing in the National OAKE Conference Choir in Denver!

KEI is on the Web!

Thanks to Shelley Droe, KEI now has a website! Visit us at www.kodalyiowa.org for the latest newsletter, workshop information, helpful links and more. A link to our site can also be found on the OAKE page. You can even register for upcoming workshops. Check it out!



KEI Spring Workshop

Mark your calendars for February 23 at ISU for our second workshop event of the year. Mary Price will present *Orff and Kodály, the Perfect Blend*. The workshop will be from 9am-3pm, and a soup-and-salad lunch will be provided. Session fees are \$25 for non-members, \$20 for members, \$5 for non-ISU students and free for ISU students. Registration is quick and easy at the KEI website, and fees are payable at the door. There will be a mini West book store. Mary holds Level III Kodály certification from Wichita State and has completed two levels of Orff. She teaches special topics at Wichita State's summer Kodály program. Spread the word about this great workshop!

Simpson Winter Workshop

On January 26, Simpson's Department of Music will present *Giving a Sequence to the Orff Approach* with Julie Scott. The workshop is from 9am-noon and 1-3pm, and the cost is \$30. Julie Scott is a certified Orff-Schulwerk instructor who has taught elementary music in Texas schools for 17 years. Currently, she is Coordinator of Elementary Music for the Richardson, Texas Independent School District. In addition, she is an adjunct faculty member at the University of North Texas, serving as Director of the Center for Contemporary Studies in Music Education. Ms Scott has served on the National Board of Trustees of the American Orff-Schulwerk Association (AOSA) and returned to the Board as Vice-President/President-Elect in July 2007.



First Iowa Orff Spring Workshop

On April 19, FIO will host Denise Gagne at UNI. The workshop is from 9am-3pm, and cost is \$40. Denise Gagne is a well-known clinician (you may have seen her at IMEA), and she has published many collections for children including the Actions Songs, Movement Songs, Alphabet Songs and Singing Games books. She received her Kodály training from the University of Calgary with Lois Choksy. The workshop title is not listed at this time, but visit www.firstiowaorff.org for more details.

OAKE 2008 in Colorado

The Western division invites you to attend the 2008 national convention in Denver March 27-29. Come join them and be a part of "**Kodály in Colorado: Music with Altitude!**"



This worked for me - Valentine's Day ideas

Use *Sweethearts* candies to dictate or compose melodic patterns on the staff. When finished, the students can eat the hearts.

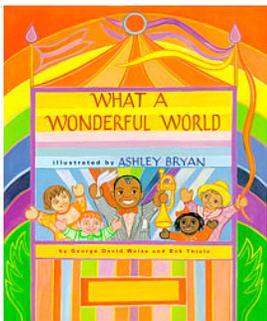
Play a song over the school PA system before the morning bell. You might choose *What a Wonderful World*, *Mail Myself to You*, *That's What Friends Are For* or other Valentine-themed songs.

Sing the song *Love Somebody* as students pass a heart-shaped beanbag or empty heart-shaped candy box around the circle to the beat. The student who ends up with the heart can whisper the name of someone s/he loves to the bag/box.

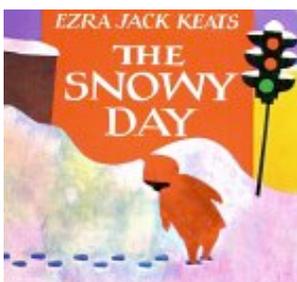
Sing the song *I Got a Letter This Mornin'* as students pass a Valentine envelope around the circle to the beat. The student that ends up with the envelope takes out a slip of paper and reads it to the class. For Kindergarten, use simple sight words or letters of the alphabet. For other grades, use rhythm or melodic patterns or music-themed questions. (This song is also great for whole notes and syncopation.)

Remember those jump-rope songs and games that you played as a kid? Take some time at the end of class to enjoy some of these classic playground games, such as *Cinderella Dressed in Yellow*, *Bubble Gum in a Dish* and *Early in the Morning at 8 O'Clock*. These rhymes naturally reinforce the steady beat, and students will enjoy cheering the jumpers on. Ask the class to teach you one of their jump rope games. This is the folk music tradition in action! You may also find that your PE teacher is doing Jump Rope for Heart this month.

Suffering from the winter blues? Enjoy these tried and true winners!

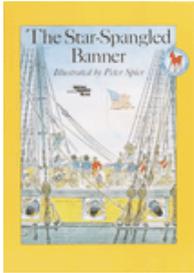


From the famous opening measures, adults and children alike love the classic *What a Wonderful World* made famous by Louis Armstrong. You can also enjoy the song in book form as illustrated by Ashley Bryan. Sing the book to students, let them sing along, then listen to a recording of the great Satchmo himself as you flip through the pages. Use it in February for Valentine's Day, to celebrate jazz musicians or just for fun!



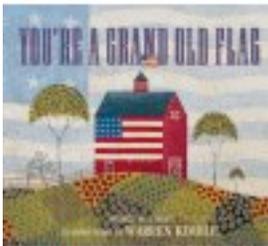
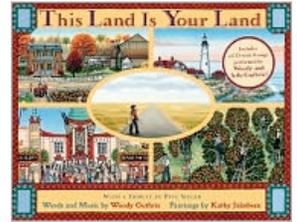
Kindergarten students will love this snowy adventure by Ezra Jack Keats, great for exploring movement and sound. Use classroom percussion instruments to illustrate the crunch of feet in the snow, as well as many other sounds in the story. Scarves can represent snowflakes. Pair it with a piece of classical music like "The Aquarium" from *Carnival of the Animals* to take a snowy walk around the music room. Consider discussing a collaboration with the art teacher to create a visual representation.

Patriotic Song Books for President's Day!



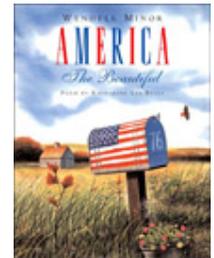
As seen on Reading Rainbow, Peter Spier's *The Star-Spangled Banner* includes a brief history of the anthem, a reproduction of the original manuscript, the music and many photographs.

The Woody Guthrie favorite *This Land is Your Land* showcases the diverse land of our country, as illustrated by Kathy Jakobsen. This book includes many verses beyond the ones usually sung.



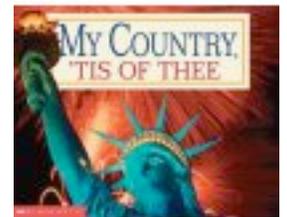
In Warren Kimble's treatment of the George M. Cohan song *You're a Grand Old Flag*, readers can sing along as they try to find the stars and stripes hidden in the folk art paintings. Flag facts are also included.

Wendell Minor's watercolor images illustrate *America the Beautiful*. This version contains more than one verse and also gives bios on Katharine Bates and Samuel Ward.



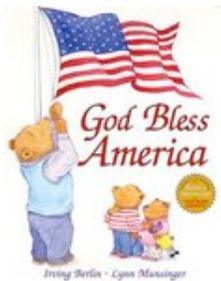
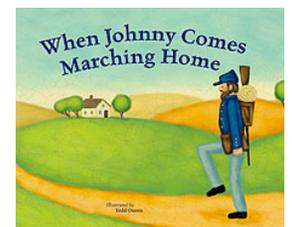
This illustrated book by Stephen Kellogg contains several verses of *Yankee Doodle*, along with explanations of the song and its interesting phrases (call it macaroni, yankee, doodle).

Stunning photographs of America and her people accompany Samuel Francis Smith's lyrics of *My Country, 'Tis of Thee*.



Lynn Munsinger's treatment of the Irving Berlin classic *God Bless America* is perfect for younger children. This book is currently out of print but can be purchased from book sellers on Amazon.com. Some copies include a cd of the song sung by Barbara Streisand.

A soldier's return is shown in Todd Ouren's illustration of *When Johnny Comes Marching Home Again*. The book also includes facts about the song.



KEI is an affiliate of the Organization of American Kodály Educators

www.oake.org



Michelle Droe, President • Grant Hobin, Vice-President • Molly Loftin, Secretary • Marsha Fries, Treasurer • Sonia Johnson, Past-President • Mary Phelps, Member-At-Large • Cynthia Marten, Member-At-Large