

Kodály Educators of Iowa



November 2007

Notes from the President



KEI had 4 people representing Iowa at the Midwest conference on Oct. 5-7. I had such a wonderful time and know the others did too. (Mary Schmelzer, Sara McCue and Dr. Sylvia Munsen) Luckily, I was able to ride with another

KEI board member, Mary, and probably learned as much from our talks together as I did at the conference!

There are many things I want to bring back to our chapter that will help us to better impact the lives of all our students. One thing that comes to mind is to constantly create artistic moments for our students. This was addressed by Dr. Brent Gault, OAKE president, in his keynote address and was reiterated by many throughout the weekend. So often we pull the rhythm and melody apart and teach toward the musical literacy of our students without putting the artistry back in. Dr. Gault compared this to the classroom teacher's frequent focus on fluency. He quoted a study that has found fluency to be of greater importance than comprehension. Of course that doesn't mean they stop teaching comprehension strategies but the whole picture is of primary concern as opposed to the isolated parts. We need to work on literacy but the two components must be put back together to show what music is really all about. I know I'm guilty of "kill and drill" and often forget to turn my students' literary success into beautiful, artistic moments to be relished by all. I am happy to say I have tried some of these experiences with my students since I've come back from St. Louis, and the

result is amazing. They are expressive individuals who have just really eaten up the ideas I've recently shared with them. I hope I can share some of this with you at one of our next meetings!

Another great moment at the conference was listening to the Ames Children's Choir at their concert. I just love watching and listening to this group of young people as they create such beautiful music. I am so thrilled they get to experience the excellence Dr. Munsen expects of them and all the artful moments that discipline leads them to. Dr. Munsen also gave a fantastic session on leading children to this expressiveness that was very well received. She reiterated what Dr. Gault challenged us to do - always create artistry with our students.

My personal challenge, as I reflect on what I learned in Missouri, is to advance the level of quality materials I'm using with my students. I love the improvisation idea that was presented at our last sharing session using Wipe Out and I've used it with great success with my students. Yet I want to be careful to think of it as a "doughnut" (thanks Mary!) and will use this super activity again but with different types of musical gems I want my students to experience.

Here's to being an "artful" teacher!

Shelley Droe



KEI at IMEA

Congratulations to KEI members Shelley Droe, Grant Hobin, Sonia Johnson, and Kris VerSteege for presenting a very successful session at IMEA. *Do You Hear What I Hear? Listening Lessons for Music Literacy* was well received, drawing more than 50 people. Lessons ranged from Handel's Messiah to Dave Brubeck to excerpts from musical theater, just to name a few. KEI members Mary Newton, Molly Loftin and Marsha Fries were also in attendance. Thanks to Molly for creating the fabulous handouts! If you were unable to attend, contact the presenters for a copy of their lessons.

KEI Student Outreach

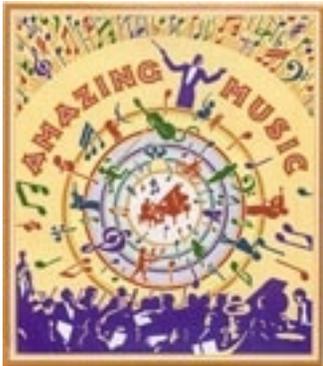
On November 1, KEI held an event for ISU music education majors. The evening focused on making connections with students and educating them about OAKE and KEI. Members provided dinner and shared with students about the Kodály philosophy and the value of joining a professional organization. Participants enjoyed playing singing games, and students received handouts. Thanks to Dr. Sylvia Munsen for coordinating with ISU students and to Kris VerSteege, Grant Hobin, Dr. Munsen and Mary Schmelzer for attending and sharing. Approximately 10 students participated. Shelley Droe facilitated a similar type of event with UNI's CMENC chapter on November 13, and approximately 15 students were in attendance. Plans are in the works to continue this type of event in the future.

KEI Spring Workshop

Mark your calendars for February 23, 2008 at ISU for our second workshop event of the year. Mary Price will present "Orff in the Kodály Classroom". The workshop will be from 9am-3pm, and lunch will be provided. Session fees are \$25 for non-members, \$20 for members, \$5 for non-ISU students and free for ISU students. 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!

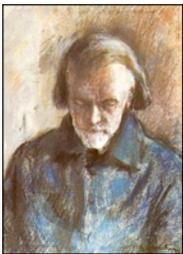
OAKE 2008 in Colorado

The Western division invites you to attend the 2008 national convention in Denver March 27-29. President Shelley Droe and her family will be attending, so contact her if you are thinking about going. Special congratulations to her daughter Anjah for being selected to participate in the OAKE Conference Honor Choir! Come join them and be a part of "Kodály in Colorado: Music with Altitude!"



Instruments of the Orchestra Video

Looking for a new video to highlight the instruments of the orchestra? Try the Dallas Symphony Orchestra's *Amazing Music Volume 3, Families of the Orchestra*. Conducted by Music Director Andrew Litton, this 27-minute live-action video is a great way to introduce students to the families or to refresh students' memories before attending a symphony concert. Musical selections include easily recognized tunes such as The Lion Sleeps Tonight and Take Me Out to the Ballgame, as well as gems by Tchaikovsky and Gershwin, just to name a few. Students and teachers alike will enjoy this video. You can view this product on-line at <http://www.musicmotion.com/product.htm?pid=406068> and at <http://www.dsokids.com/2001/dso.asp?PageID=139> for more information.



An Overview of the Kodály Philosophy

“Kodály’s teaching philosophy may be stated in five basic tenets: 1. True music literacy is the right of every human being; 2. To be internalized, music learning must begin with the child’s own natural instrument - the voice; 3. The education of the musical ear can be successful only if begun early; 4. The musical mother tongue is the folk song. Skills and concepts should be taught through the musical mother tongue; 5. Only quality music is used to teach.” *Anne Marie Lane, taken from the KASC Fall 2007 Newsletter*

KEI is an affiliate of the Organization of American Kodály Educators
www.oake.org

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

