

Kodály Educators of Iowa

August 2012

From the President ~ Kris VerSteegt



Welcome back to another school year, KEI! I hope your summer that was at least a little restful and that your professional development was exhilarating. Every year, just like a little kid, I am so excited for school to start that I can barely sleep on First-Day Eve! This year, I am sure to be even more anxious as it will be a year of big changes for me. In Ankeny, we completed our first full curriculum review in two decades. As a result, I have new text books, the First Steps and Conversational Solfege curricula, and the complete Game Plan package to integrate into my teaching as I face huge changes and additions to Ankeny's literacy sequence. The review process was really eye-opening and often challenging, but I left in May feeling super excited to get started living the new curriculum.

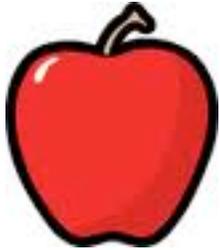
In order to keep myself busy, I began another project I had been wanting to undertake for sometime. As many of you know, I had a painted circle on the carpet at my old building. This summer, my colleagues and I installed painted circles on the carpets of eight of our elementary buildings, including mine and our brand new Prairie Trail. I can't wait to use it!! For under \$30 and less than 2 hours, you can have a painted circle too! If you are interested, visit <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ALUgju1BjBo> for complete instructions. A painted circle saves a lot of instructional time, lasts through years of carpet cleaning and eliminates the ever-shrinking circle problem. If you would like pictures to show your principal for his/her consideration, please email me at kris.versteegt@ankenyschools.org.

I imagine that each and every one of you are facing big changes as well. Perhaps you are in a different building or working with a new age group. Perhaps you're working for a new district or you have a new principal. Maybe you've taken on a choir or band assignment or even been transferred to an assignment outside of your comfort zone. Please feel free to turn to KEI when you need help navigating your changes! Post a message on facebook, or contact a board member directly. Try to attend MKMEA October 6-7 in Omaha. Come to our session at IMEA and our sharing January 26 at Grand Avenue Baptist in Ames. And you won't want to miss MKMEA president Andrew Ellingsen as he presents for us on April 20 in Ankeny. Best wishes to you all for the coming school year, and we hope to see you soon!

Upcoming Workshop Opportunities

Mark your calendars and plan to attend some excellent workshops around the state this year. On Saturday, September 22, Simpson presents Dr. John Feierabend with *First Steps in Music: Becoming Tuneful, Beatful and Artful*. On January 19, attend *Unlocking Learning Modalities: Keys to Active Music Making in Grades K-5* with Dr. Leigh Ann Garner. For more details, visit <http://simpson.edu/music/workshops-in-music-education/>.

First Iowa Orff will present the following workshops this year: August 26, Roger Sams: *Process and Possibility*; October 20, Jay Broeker: *Sing, Play, Move: Sequential Development of Enactive Understanding*; and April 13, Michael Chandler: *Putting It All Together: Effective and Efficient Teaching Using Orff Schulwerk*. Visit <http://firstiowaorff.org/brochure2012.pdf> for more details.



This Worked for Me ~ Back to School Essentials

Use a familiar folk dance students already know in the first day or two of music class. "Sasha" from New England Dance Masters or "Agadu" from Sanna Longdon #1 seem to loosen the students up and let them remember the joy of music and movement. Submitted by Carly Huhn, chuhn@linnmar.k12.ia.us

Starting out the year with their favorite song games from the end of the previous school year always works for me. It gets them singing and moving right away. After the first week, I do a patriotic unit. I use the theme of the Olympics as my starting point, beginning with movement to "Olympic Fanfare" (*Share the Music*, Gr. 2 CD 1) The movement is simple but fun: A section - marching, B section - jogging, C section - their own improvised legato movement. Then, I use "Olympic Fanfare and Theme" by John Williams for listening and analyzing. My audio selection comes from the album *By Request - The Best of John Williams & the Boston Pops*. I also have a version from the album *Stage to Screen* with the Band of the Royal Air Force regiment. Students discuss the differences and similarities between the orchestral and band versions. There is a website called www.classicalmusicforpleasure.com with a version of Leo Arnaud's "Bugler's Dream" and John Williams "Olympic Fanfare Medley" put together.

Some of the patriotic selections I use for the upper elementary grades include: *America; America, the Beautiful; Dixie; Battle Hymn of the Republic; Goober Peas; The Caissons; Marine's Hymn; Anchors Aweigh; This Land is Your Land; Yankee Doodle Boy; When Johnny Comes Marching Home; This Is My Country; and God Bless America*. I have most of these in a book called "Wee Sing America." (There is also a really nice descant for *This Land is Your Land* in *Share the Music*, Gr. 5.) For listening, my selections include: *This Land is Your Land* (*Sing America* CD as performed by the US Coast Guard Band); *Stars and Stripes Forever* (*Sing America* CD as performed by the Second Marine Aircraft Wing Band); and *Variations on an American Theme* (*Share the Music*, Gr. 4, CD 6). Submitted by LeAnn Houlette, [<lhoulette@united.k12.ia.us>](mailto:lhoulette@united.k12.ia.us)

Cross-lateral Movement in the Music Classroom

Why is cross-lateral (bilateral) movement so important? Kids who haven't mastered movement that crosses the midline (the invisible line dividing the body into left and right sides) often have trouble in areas such as reading and writing, gross and fine motor development and organization and decision making. The music room is a natural place to frequently incorporate cross-lateral movement. Passing beanbags or other objects around the circle to the steady beat encourages children to reach across their bodies as they pass to their neighbors. Gross motor movement like crawling, bear walking and skipping encourage students to use the left arm and right leg together and vice versa. Hand clapping games also cross the midline as students clap their own right hands to their partner's left hands, and vice versa. Developing these essential movement skills in a natural and nonthreatening manner will aid in a child's overall growth and development.

Congratulations to...

Nicole Farley and her husband Chris welcomed William Christopher into their family in May. Nicole will change districts this year, taking a part time position as accompanist and rehearsal assistant at Webster City High School. Welcome, William and congrats to the Farley family!

Carly Huhn has completed the first summer of her Master's program at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, MN. Way to go, Carly!

Happy Birthday to You - Composers of the Month

Composers born in August: Francis Scott Key (1780), Josef Strauss (1827), Claude Debussy (1862), Leonard Bernstein (1918)

Composers born in September: Ferdinand "Jelly Roll" Morton (1885), George Gershwin (1898), Dmitri Shostakovich (1906), John Cage (1912), Glenn Gould (1932)

MKMEA Convention 2012

MKMEA invites you to *Do-Si-Do to the Big O* October 5-7 in Omaha. The earlybird discount must be postmarked by August 31.

OAKE Convention 2013

OAKE invites you to attend *The Nature of Music - Kodály in New England* March 21-23 in Hartford, CT.

KEI Welcomes New Board Members

Carly Huhn teaches elementary music in Linn-Mar and joins the board as president-elect. Kelly Janson teaches elementary music in Des Moines and joins as member-at-large. Lee Randall teaches in Des Moines and joins the board as webmaster. Also, many thanks to Marsha Fries who served as member-at-large and treasurer and Shelley Droe who served as president and webmaster. Your work and support have helped us to continue as a strong organization. We appreciate everything you have done for us.

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

Kris VerSteegt, President • LeAnn Houlette, Vice-President • Carly Huhn, President-Elect • Molly Loftin, Secretary • Sonia Johnson, Treasurer • Mary Schmelzer, Membership Chair • Kelly Janson, Member-At-Large • Sara McCue, Member-at-Large • Lee Randall, Webmaster •

