

EPHATHA

NEWSLETTER FOR THE ALBERTA KODÁLY ASSOCIATION



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President's Message - Spring 2011

Fall Greetings AKA Members!

I hope that you have had a good fall filled with much music-making.

BUSINESS: *The AKA needs YOU!!!*

We are desperately in need of someone to fill the role of AKA PRESIDENT as of January 21, 2012, as I will be stepping down. In order to ensure our continued success, we need people like you not only as members but on our board as well. If you are interested in joining the board in any capacity, please feel free to contact Betty Radford, Past-President at betty.radford@hotmail.com. Thank you in advance for your interest.

CONGRATULATIONS:

Congratulations to Dr. Ardelle Ries and Jody Stark for a successful accredited **Kodály Level I Course** offered from July 4-15, 2011 at the University of Alberta with 26 registered students. The AKA wishes you both continued success with this course in the future.

The AKA would also like to congratulate Meghan Rayment and Melanie Smith Doderai, recipients of the AKA 2011 Scholarship for Study in an Accredited Kodály Program.

UPCOMING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES:

Below is a list of professional development opportunities geared towards music educators:

- a) **Music Conference Alberta** will be happening November 3-5, 2011 at the Capri Centre in Red Deer, AB. Music Conference Alberta is a provincial conference sponsored by six provincial organizations: the [Alberta Choral Federation](#) (the main organizer of this yearly event), the [Alberta Band Association](#), the [Alberta Music Education Foundation](#), the [Alberta Kodály Association](#), the [Alberta Guild of English Handbell Ringers](#), and [Concordia's Worship & Music Symposium](#). The AKA welcomes the opportunity to work together with these organizations as we all support music professional development for teachers in the province. The Alberta Kodály Association will sponsor two clinicians at this conference: Dr. Ardelle Ries – “However Small Your Voice” and Lorraine Kneier – “Music – A Window to the Soul; Experiencing Classical Music through Informed Listening.”
- b) The AKA is excited to announce our “**Singposium 2012: Artistry in the Music Class: Essential, Achievable and Enduring**” featuring Elaine Quilichini and Viva Choir on **Saturday, January 21, 2012 at Alberta College Conservatory of Music in Edmonton, AB**. The morning will present materials and methodologies for use in the day to day music class. Folk songs, art songs, canons and singing games will be presented incorporating Kodály techniques. Particular emphasis will be placed on the importance of awakening the artist in every child. Viva is a choir of girls in grades 4-6 who meet once a week for 1 1/2 hours to rehearse and develop their skills as singers and musicians. In the afternoon, Ms. Quilichini will lead a rehearsal with Viva, incorporating various aspects of Kodály's philosophy. Special emphasis will be placed on the effect of healthy vocal development on intonation and musicality. Lunch will be provided. Please check our website www.albertakodaly.ca for details. On-line registration and membership is also available on this website.

We look forward to seeing you at these events as you awaken the artist within you!!

Jorgianne Talbot, President
Alberta Kodály Association

Alberta Music Conference
Red Deer November 4-5, 2011

Once again the AKA is very proud to be sponsoring two sessions at the Alberta Music Conference. Our thanks to Jan Dammann and Jan Taylor-Bilenki for their sessions at the 2010 AMC.

This year, Dr. Ardelle Ries and Lorraine Kneier will be presenting from the AKA.

However Small Your Voice

Friday, November 4th 1:00pm Ardelle Ries

Zoltan Kodály's philosophy for music education is based on a belief that the singing voice is the foundation of musical culture and the primary instrument for music education. In a time when singing is often described as a spectator sport, an activity no longer commonly practiced in the home, or a pursuit only for a minority of gifted, privileged, and talented individuals, the thought of singing as the principal activity in the classroom seems next to impossible. Through vocal exploration and age-appropriate vocal exercises for children, in addition to practical strategies that address singing challenges in the classroom—from pitch-matching to part-singing, from folk song to Lady Gaga—this session will address our responsibility as music educators to promote singing in the school, in the home, and beyond.

Dr. Ardelle Ries is an Associate Professor of Music in the University of Alberta Augustana Faculty, Ardelle directs The Augustana Choir and Mankor: Augustana's Men's Choir.



3-5 NOVEMBER 2011

CAPRI CENTRE, RED DEER

Music Conference Alberta is Alberta's premier conference for music educators.

Music – A Window to the Soul; Experiencing Classical Music through Informed Listening

Saturday, November 5th 11:00am
Lorraine Kneier

The session is designed for teachers looking for a resource for music listening or for anyone who wants an introduction into the world of classical music. The presentation will include information about the lives of the composers, discussion of the melodic, rhythmic, and formal elements of each piece in terms of the musical style of the period, and musical encounters with the chosen works, using listening guides that are supported by the musical score.

A life long interest in music has led Lorraine Kneier to a varied career as music teacher, administrator of music and fine arts education programs, curriculum writer, choir director, adjudicator, and workshop leader.

Kodály at U of A

July 3 – 13, 2012

Amanda Montgomery, Level I pedagogy and materials

Jody Stark, Level II pedagogy and materials

Ardelle Ries, Level I & II musicianship and ensemble

Music literacy strategies, sequencing, materials, and musicianship training for music educators.

University of Alberta Summer Music Academy

jlstark@ualberta.ca | lries@ualberta.ca | amanda.mongomery@ualberta.ca

Check out other course options on our website!

www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/elementaryed

Reflection

Kodaly Level I

Ruby Thielman

Before I came to the Kodaly Level I class, I knew that I was in for a challenging musical experience and I was right. Even though the class was a lot of work, it was so very beneficial. By dividing the day into the sections mentioned below, it gave me the opportunity to expand my professional musicianship and also to look at the curriculum and future classroom musical experiences in a new way.

Ensemble

The thing that I took away from the ensemble experience was how important it is to feel the music in order to sing beautifully. I was reminded of the need to sing thoughtfully by shaping the sounds, and also for the need for on-going professional development in this area to continue to refresh and develop these singing skills.

Musicianship

This was the challenging aspect of the mornings for me, since I am not completely fluent in solfege. I realized the importance of on-going development in this area and this is something I have made a commitment to do on a regular basis. The ability to become fluent in various scales and modes as a means to increased musical literacy was eye-opening and made complete sense to me. Since the class, I have found myself singing through our church hymnbook to sol-fa and have been reviewing the exercises that we went through in class. I see the need to really improve in this area to make the most of Level II down the road.

Conducting

Understanding the importance of "good" music literature to teach students and how best to approach the music was a great reminder and reinforcement activity for me. It is very easy to slip into much that is more "popular" without thinking about it since that music is quite accessible. Even if one decides to go that route, I realized that this should be a conscious choice and with clear and specific goals in mind. It became clear how necessary it is to fully prepare and understand the music by analyzing it thoroughly ahead of time, so that the teaching of the music is much more meaningful and productive. It also pointed out again the need for personal on-going vocal professional development to be able to best demonstrate and teach the students.

Pedagogy

I learned so much in this area. The best thing for me was to review the teaching sequence for each of the grades, and having that demonstrated in a step-by-step manner. The lesson plans made sense, and I had an "ah-ha" moment about how to make the melody and rhythm aspects conscious for the students. The folk song assignment, although very time-consuming, provided me with a framework for analyzing the music and placing it into the curricular sequence of a certain grade much more confidently than I would have been able to do before. The concluding assignment, which provided the framework for planning the yearly curriculum for a specific grade, really drew my attention back to the curriculum and how best to incorporate the songs and activities to teach the concepts. My friend who had taken her Levels in Calgary told me that this course would help me to better arrange the curriculum sequentially and she was right. The whole experience will help me to re-organize my planning and allow me to fit other paraxial experiences into a structure that builds from one concept to another more systematically than what I have been doing.

Materials

It was very beneficial for me to see a variety of props used to teach the literacy concepts of the curriculum. I appreciated the time provided to make some of these items. The variety of activities was a great way to bring home the "make conscious" moments.

Overall, I was so grateful that this course went ahead this year. It was very timely for me, especially starting a new job and feeling a little nervous about that. I feel much more confident about organizing my year and feel that I have been given the gift of great tools to better do that job. It was a treat to be in a class with such a variety of committed, supportive, and fun people. I will definitely keep in touch with a number of them and will be able to use them as sounding boards and curricular "advisers". And, of course, I want to say again what a gift it was to have Jody Stark and Ardelle Ries teaching this class. They both did an amazing job! and we, in Edmonton, are so "lucky" to have them right here. I feel really privileged to have been in the class and to have benefitted from their extensive knowledge and expertise. I am looking forward to Level II !

ARTISTRY IN THE MUSIC CLASS



Saturday, January 21, 2012

**GRANT MacEWAN-ALBERTA COLLEGE CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC,
Edmonton, Alberta**

ELAINE QUILICHINI AND VIVA CHOIR



Check www.albertakodaly.ca for details

NOTES:

Singposium 2012

Mark your calendar to come to Edmonton Saturday, January 12th!

Membership

Just a reminder that membership renewal time is just around the corner. Register for Singposium 2012 and it will be renewed with your registration. Otherwise, please be sure to visit www.albertakodaly.ca to renew!

Board

Some board member positions are open and will be chosen at Singposium. Please take a moment to consider board position such as Ephatha or President.

Thank you to all our contributors that make Ephatha happen!

www.albertakodaly.ca