

EPHATHA

NEWSLETTER FOR THE ALBERTA KODÁLY ASSOCIATION



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President's Message - Fall 2009

The month of November is probably the busiest month of the year for Music teachers. For those teaching elementary school, it means preparing progress reports for all students, parent meetings, Remembrance Day assemblies, and preparing music and concerts for the Christmas season. There never seems to be enough hours in November to accomplish the many tasks that need attention.

The Alberta Kodaly Association is involved in two major events at this time. The first was Music Conference Alberta in Red Deer on October 30 and 31. The Alberta Kodaly Association sponsored three clinicians at the conference; Susan Drayson, "Big Ideas for Little Folks", Jody Stark, "Musical Understanding Through Listening", and Betty Radford, "Reporting Assessment in the Elementary Music Classroom".

Singposium 2010 is happening in Edmonton on January 30 at Concordia University College. Dr. Sandra Mathias will present a day-long workshop on singing in the classroom. Dr Mathias will demonstrate how singing leads to musical literacy and the joy of making music together. Please check our website www.albertakodaly.ca for details. On-line registration and membership is available on our website.

Alberta Education is in the process of revising the current Music curriculum. They are moving to a Fine Arts Curriculum which will include Music, Art, Drama and Dance. There is a draft of proposed changes on <http://education.alberta.ca/teachers/program/finearts.aspx>. Please read the documents, particularly the program updates, listed there. Make sure that your voice is heard regarding your thoughts on the direction of Music Education in this province. Alberta Education is looking for input up until January 31, 2010. It is likely that any new curriculum will be in effect for twenty some years. During that time 100,000's even over one million students will be educated in this province. We, the AKA, are advocating for the best possible music education curriculum for these students. If you have concerns or comments in this regards please let us know.

I wish all of you the joy of music that the upcoming Christmas season brings. Do have a very Merry Christmas and a joyous New Year. I will forward to seeing you at our Singposium 2010.

Betty Radford, President
Alberta Kodaly Association

Sing, Sing Together!

Singing
Robert Louis Stevenson

Of speckled eggs the birdie sings
And nests among the trees;
The sailor sings of ropes and things
In ships upon the seas

The children sing in far Japan
The children sing in Spain
The organ with the organ man
Is singing in the rain.

Singing is a natural phenomenon. Kodály says that it is an excellent physical exercise! Robert Louis Stevenson expresses the singing is found in many different places, and is a part of many different things!

I look forward to being with you in January for a special workshop focused on singing. I will share 'tried and true' ideas to promote singing in the classroom while developing pitch matching skills, healthy voices, music literacy, and the sense of joy that singing together brings. Ideas shared will come from a foundation of the Kodály philosophy of music education. I look forward to sharing resources with you as we explore vocal development ideas for grades K-6.

Thoughts to ponder: As you prepare to attend this workshop, ask yourself -

- WHY should there be singing in the K-6 classroom?
- WHAT purpose can it serve?

I will be sharing ideas for song collection, selection, and cross-referencing. I will also share ideas for teaching songs, in a way that develops children's inner hearing and memory skills and empowers them to be actively thinking and listening.

I look forward to greeting you in January!
Sandy Mathias



&



Present



Road to Song

With

Dr. Sandra Mathias

Saturday, January 30th, 2010

Concordia University College
7128 Ada Boulevard, Edmonton, Alberta

Sing, Sing Together!

This full-day workshop will focus on 'tried and true' ideas to promote singing in the classroom while developing healthy voices, music literacy, and the sense of joy that singing together brings. Resources will be shared as well as vocal development ideas for grades K-6.

Conference registration includes conference workshops, AKA membership valid until Dec. 31, 2010 (\$40 value), and an ACC concert ticket.

Regular Registration \$100.00

Student Registration \$35.00

Online Registration Available at

www.albertakodaly.ca

**For the Love of Singing
A Life-Changing Musical Experience!**

The week of August 10-15 was a busy one in the hallways of Concordia University College of Alberta. 74 kids from grades 4-12, 4 amazing conductors, and 19 music educators from all over Western Canada came together for *Singspiration/Inspiration for Teachers*, Concordia's annual choral camp and teacher education program. This August marked the camp's 10th anniversary, and although the program has expanded to include many components over the years, the basic philosophy remains the same. "*Singspiration* is about process, not product. We take a group of young people with varying musical backgrounds, put them together with a world-class conductor, and by the end of the week they come out not only better musicians, but better people," states *Singspiration's* Artistic Director, Dr. John Hooper. "It can be a

life-changing experience for these young musicians." And for many, it is. Says one young participant,



"Singspiration made me love to sing again." A grade 11 boy adds, "the best part was meeting a whole bunch of new people and getting to sing in a great choir with an awesome conductor." *Singspiration* isn't just about singing: in addition to singing with the junior or the youth choir, campers also have the chance to experience making music with handbells during *Ringspiration*, a daily handbell component. Other activities for this year included drumming, guitars, art classes and orienteering and the tradition Wednesday afternoon at the local pool.

Inspiration for Teachers

While the kids are in rehearsal, there is a group of dedicated music educators sitting on the edges

taking notes and watching the conductors work.

While the kids are in art or other non-music sessions, these teacher participants are attending music education sessions to better themselves professionally. Some of these *Inspiration for Teachers* participants attend for credit, and some come just for a day or part of the week. In the evenings, many of them stay to attend an adult choir or handbell ensemble, and several sign up for private vocal instruction throughout the week. *Inspiration for Teachers* is a natural extension of *Singspiration*. The choral camp impacts the lives of 70+ youth each year, but these music educators are involved with thousands of kids over their careers, which is why the Concordia School of Music opted to include a teacher component. This is some of the finest teacher education available: designed around participants having the chance to observe master teachers at work and to interact with these clinicians, music educators take from this experience what they need. It is flexible and custom made.

Kodaly clinicians are often featured at *Inspiration for Teachers*, and many of the choral conductors over the years have been Kodaly-trained. Elaine Quilichini and Catherine Glazer-Climie have both conducted the junior choir, and Jan Taylor Bilenki, Anita Perlau, and this author have been featured on the Wednesday morning teacher workshop day.

Singspiration and *Inspiration for Teachers* is held each August at Concordia in Edmonton. Next summer's camp will be from August 9-15 with guest conductors Dr. Judy Pearson Hafso (Spokane), Dr. John Brough (Edmonton), and Kevin Ko (Hong Kong). Contact jody.stark@concordia.ab.ca for further details or check out music.concordia.ab.ca/singspiration. Send us your students and come enjoy a fabulous week of input!



Jody Stark
Executive Director of Singspiration
Concordia University College of Alberta

19th International Kodály Symposium:

On Values of Music
Music and Mankind
Music and Community
Music and Tradition

A Reflection – Jorgianne Talbot

I attended the 19th International Kodály Symposium under the auspices of the International Kodály Society held at the Karol Szymanowski Academy of Music in Katowice, Poland from August 10-17, 2009. The theme of this Symposium was “On Values of Music.” There were over 80 people in attendance representing countries such as: Poland, Hungary, Canada, United States of America, United Kingdom, China, Turkey, Japan, Belgium, Korea, France, Germany, Mexico, Taiwan, Greece, and Australia. Also, I would like to mention that there were five Canadians who attended this Symposium including Connie Foss-More, President of the Kodály Society of Canada who presented a workshop session.

It was great to meet and converse with Kodály music educators from around the world. We discussed the happenings in each of our countries outlining how the Kodály Philosophy of Music Education was practiced in each country. Although there were many cultures represented we all had one universal language and that was music. Every morning we sang together and also participated in a delegate choir. Music and the Kodály Philosophy of Music Education had brought us together for one week and many positive and memorable friendships were created.

There were a variety of lectures, workshops, concerts, and social activities. We ate lunch together and became a cohesive group. We were among “like-minded” people and the discussions were riveting. As specialists in the field of music we must strive to collaborate with other music specialists and this Symposium was the perfect venue for me to accomplish this. It was enlightening for me to see and hear what is happening in other countries with regards to music education and the Kodály Philosophy of music education. I observed many dedicated music specialists who hold one of Zoltán Kodály’s principles that “only the best is good enough for a child.” (Quotation taken from The Selected Writings of Zoltán Kodály Music in Kindergarten p.148)

Board Notes

The following are motions to be discussed at the upcoming AGM:

That we raise our membership fees from \$40 to \$50

That the bylaws be amended to reflect a January 1st - December 31st fiscal year and notice sent to membership prior to next AGM

And the following bylaw changes:

Section 2 a) remove vi) and vii) categories of Library and Retired membership

b) remove vi) and vii) categories of Library and Retired membership fees

Section 3 c) vi) 3) remove that "Registrar shall supply all members with current directory of membership"

g) remove "September, January and March or April" to read "The Board shall meet in Alberta three (3) times annually."

h) change number of members that will constitute a quorum from "seven" to "four"

Section 5 c) change membership period of validity from "date of receipt of dues" to "January 1 to December 31"

Section 7 a) fiscal year changed from February 1 to January 31 to "January 1 to December 31" to work best with our primary workshop

At the Spring board meeting, it was adopted to move to a calendar year registration. All memberships are valid from January 1st until December 31st. Memberships that would normally have expired this past August have been extended until December 31st.

**Music Conference Alberta
October 30 – 31, 2009, Red Deer,
Alberta**

Musicians and Music Educators gathered in Red Deer for the annual Music Conference Alberta. The Alberta Kodály Association sponsored three clinicians at the conference; Susan Drayson, “Big Ideas for Little Folks”; Jody Stark, “Musical Understanding Through Listening”; and Betty Radford, “Reporting Assessment in the Elementary Music Classroom”.

Susan Drayson offered a fast-paced collage of 'tried-and-true' repertoire and activities for the youngest students. Participants experienced many activities that teach young children music literacy while having a lot of fun and instilling a love of music - all at the same time. All of those present felt the joy that little ones experience being buzzing bees and waltzing elephants. Susan modeled many activities that can be directly taken to a pre-school/early childhood program.

Jody Stark’s session, “Musical Understanding Through Listening”, caught the attention of a broad spectrum of educators. She challenged Music educators to enter the world of music that young people are plugged into. We, as music educators, can tap into the personal world of music listening with pre-teens and teens and still teach them musical skills, concepts and understanding. Using listening to teach music theory and other concepts is not only possible, but can be very enjoyable for the teacher and student. Jody invited teachers to explore strategies, resources and suggested song examples for listening with meaning, as well as some basic principles and suggested concepts that lend themselves to

this approach. This session was particularly applicable to those who teach upper elementary to college.

Betty Radford tackled that often difficult task of “Reporting Assessment in the Elementary Music Classroom”. Betty started with reviewing curriculum outcomes in the Alberta Education Programs of Studies. Samples of progress comments were presented that related directly to the curriculum.

Participants had the opportunity to develop rubrics based on the curriculum. By being involved in a variety of activities, participants had an opportunity to go through the nuts and bolts of organizing the music classroom and assessing student growth in music. Authentic assessment practices were discussed. Both new and experienced teachers found many helpful ideas in this session.

Review by Betty Radford

Have you done some research lately?

Been to any interesting conferences?

Have you come across some great new teaching materials to share with your colleagues?

Are you having some challenges preparing, presenting and practicing a particular concept?

Let Ephatha know!

Contact C.D. with your thoughts or questions for Ephatha!

cdsaint82@hotmail.com



Road to Song

With

Dr. Sandra Mathias

Saturday, January 30th, 2010

Concordia University College
7128 Ada Boulevard, Edmonton, Alberta

Sing, Sing Together!

8:30-9:00 – Registration

9:00-9:30 – Common Singing

9:30-10:45 – Workshop with
Dr. Sandra Mathias

1:00-2:15 – Workshop continued...

2:15-2:25 – Coffee break

2:25-3:30 – Workshop continued...

7:00pm – **Alberta Children's Choir Concert at**

First 11:00-12:15 – Workshop continued...

St. (ticket **12:15-1:00** – Provided Lunch & AGM
registration)

Presbyterian Church 10025-105
included with conference

Online Registration Available at www.albertakodaly.ca

WORKSHOP REGISTRATION (if you prefer not to register online)

NAME: _____ PHONE (HM): _____ (WK): _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ POSTAL CODE: _____

SCHOOL: _____ EMAIL: _____

Regular Registration \$100.00

Student Registration \$35.00

Registration includes conference workshops, AKA membership valid until Dec. 31, 2010 (\$40 value), and an ACC concert ticket.

Total enclosed: _____ (Cheques payable to the Alberta Kodály Association)

For registration inquiries contact: cdsaint82@hotmail.com

Mail Registration to:
JORGIANNE TALBOT
242 Ormsby Road East
Edmonton, AB T5T 5X6

TO REGISTER WITH THE ALBERTA KODÁLY ASSOCIATION GO TO:
www.albertakodaly.ca