

EPHATHA

NEWSLETTER FOR THE ALBERTA KODÁLY ASSOCIATION



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

DANICA HOFFART

Hello AKA members! I hope this newsletter finds you all well-rested from the summer as you gear up for the school year. Personally, I am having a very different end-of-summer than usual. Personally, I am having a very different Autumn than usual. Having given birth at the beginning of September, this is the first September in 26 years that I did not go back to school either as a student or teacher. Of course, I will still be learning plenty. This year, however, the topic will be 'how to be a good mom to a newborn and a toddler.'

The upcoming year looks like an exciting one for the AKA. We have some excellent clinicians lined up to present at Music Conference Alberta, which will take place November 1-3, 2007 in Red Deer. Jan Taylor-Bilenki, Susan Drayson, and Catherine Glaser-Climie, who are all seasoned clinicians and past-presidents of the AKA, will undoubtedly present sessions that are not only practical for music educators but also inspiring. This conference should be particularly stimulating as it features sessions sponsored by the Alberta Choral Federation, Alberta Band Association, and Alberta Music Education Foundation, as well as the AKA.

Then, mark your calendars for February 2, 2008 at Mt. Royal College in Calgary. The AKA will present its annual Singposium all-day workshop featuring an Alberta gem, Kodály teacher Anita Perlau.

Quite a lot is new with the AKA Board. We have some new faces that have joined the board, others who have returned, and several who have taken on new roles. Heather Walton has taken over as Secretary from Caroline Neeland-Oberg who has decided to focus more time on her family. Anne Rodger has taken over as Treasurer from Steve Bell, who remains on the board and has taken over the Scholarship and Funding portfolio. Betty Radford has 'come on board' as the new Vice-President, following the departure of newly-married Leane Mercier who has moved to England with her husband.

Jan Dammann deserves a special mention as she moves from the President role to that of Past-President. Jan has been a passionate leader of this team for the past three years, and I'm grateful for her continued enthusiasm and contributions in this advisory role.

We have some dedicated board members who have continued in their various positions: Alana Moran (Registrar), Greer Reinhart (Bylaws), Andreas Berko (Editor of Ephata, Website and all-around tech guru), Troy Lamoureux and Jamie Popowich (members-at-large), as well as our advisors, János Horváth, Dr. Ardelle Ries, Dr. Eila Peterson, and Dr. Ed Wasiak. *(continued next page...)*

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (continued)

Two board members who have been particularly busy lately are Susan Drayson and Jody Stark. Susan did a fantastic job coordinating Calgary's Singposium 2007 in January, and is already working on next year's event. Beyond her work as Executive Director for Concordia University's Singspiration Program, and being a mother of three, Jody Stark holds the portfolio of Clinician Coordinator, ensuring that quality Kodály presenters are provided to various Teachers' Conventions and events, and linking our organization to the larger teaching community. These two past-presidents are a valued asset to the AKA board, adding years of experience and commitment to the group.

I am also pleased to welcome two new faces to the board, Goli Jalilian and Azadeh Eshghzadeh Zanjani, both members-at-large. With this dynamic group of teacher-musicians, I am looking forward to the next couple of years as AKA President.

Have a great school year and we'll see you in November and then again in February!

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Music Conference Alberta November 1-3, 2007 Red Deer, Alberta

Music Conference Alberta is a proud collaboration of the Alberta Choral Federation and several of its sister organizations like the Alberta Band Association (ABA), the Alberta Kodály Association (AKA) and the Alberta Music Education Foundation (AMEF).

MCA is an opportunity for conductors, choristers, studio teachers, music teachers, and other music enthusiasts to attend sessions and workshops on a wide variety of topics related to music education. In addition, conference delegates can attend concerts, master classes and social events designed to renew and inspire.

New this year: AKA members will be able to attend the conference as AKA delegates, and will not have to purchase a membership to one of the other organizations in order to attend!

For more information on the Conference, check out the Alberta Choral Federation website at: www.albertachoralfederation.ca.

Watch for the following AKA-sponsored sessions that all take place on Saturday, November 3rd at the MCA:

*Susan Drayson:
Division II—Singing and
Simultaneity*

Challenge the musical skills of your Division II students as well as your own! Using canons, partner songs, ostinati, and traditional songs and singing games, these tried-and-true activities include "The Rhythm Round-up", "Rhythm Telephone", "Composer's Sandwich", "2-Handed Haydn" and many others.

*Catherine Glaser-Climie:
If You Can Read It, You
Can Sing It!*

This session provides practical suggestions for teaching music literacy in the elementary choir rehearsal from one of Alberta's premiere choral conductors.

*Jan Taylor-Bilenki:
K-3 Music Potpourri*

A variety of music program ideas and teaching strategies will be offered during this action-packed session. Game songs and assessment in music will also be included.

Music Belongs to Everyone "Celebrating 35 years of Kodály in Canada" January 25-26, 2008 Waterloo, Ontario

The Kodály Society of Ontario, in cooperation with The Kodály Society of Canada and Wilfrid Laurier University, invites Kodály educators and enthusiasts from across Canada to join in celebration of the 35th anniversary of KSC.

A raffle for two free registrations will be held for all CURRENT MEMBERS of KSC from outside of Ontario.

www.kodalysofcanada.ca

3rd Annual Singposium Saturday, February 2, 2008 Calgary, Alberta

Anita Perlau, from the Early Childhood Music Program at the Mount Royal College (Calgary), will give an all-day workshop for the Alberta Kodály Association. Topics will include Early Childhood and Division I techniques and Materials. A demonstration class will also be a part of this workshop.

To register, use the enclosed form or visit www.albertakodaly.ca.



The
ALBERTA
CHORAL
FEDERATION

KODALY TRAVELS TO SASKATOON!

SUSAN DRAYSON

“As one door closes another door opens”...

As many of you may know, the University of Calgary saw its final class of the Calgary Kodály Summer Program at the conclusion of Summer 2006. It really was the end of an era that was inaugurated by Lois Choksy some 26 years prior. This program was known locally, nationally, and internationally for its 3-tiered, intensive summer training course in the philosophy and practices of the Kodály Methodology of Music

Education. Studying with highly-skilled pedagogues from both Hungary and North America, students acquired the skills, knowledge, and materials necessary for the building of their own quality music programs.



Singing games and dances.

Kodály Level I training at the University of Alberta. She was looking for an opportunity for her early childhood staff to receive similar training. With no current programs in place for them to attend locally, Nicole invited me to Saskatoon to offer a 4-day Kodály “crash course”. The ensuing program, though on a much condensed scale to the Calgary summer program, offered studies in Musicianship, Methodology, Folk Music, and Choral Conducting. From modes to 333 Exercises, from Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear to Old Brass Wagon, from isopodic to heterometric, and from the “Spinal Stretch” to the “Down 5 – Up 5”. All concluded, of course, with the singing of ‘Harmonia Mundi’!

The Alberta Kodály Association’s Clinician Directory lists a number of experienced, trained clinicians in various areas of Music Education. For further information regarding the directory and upcoming AKA workshops, conferences, etc. please consult the AKA website:

www.albertakodaly.ca



Susan Drayson!

As voiced by several of you, there are concerns that such programs are now no longer available. Be assured that new venues are being investigated to house future summer training programs. One such opportunity arose this summer when an inquiry was made by Nicole Elliott, Co-ordinator of the Community Music Program, operated through the University of Saskatchewan.

Nicole is formally trained in Suzuki piano, and acquired



Susan offers instruction on felt boards

WORKSHOP REVIEW:

Singposium 2007: 20/20 Vision with Heather Morris

by **SUSAN DRAYSON**

From Cowboys to Canons!, from 6/8 to Salsa! Heather Morris presented a full and diverse palate of songs, games, and activities to motivate and enlighten students and teachers alike!

Though Heather hails from Ontario, her frequent past visits as a board representative and clinician of KSC, and more recently teaching methodology at the Calgary Kodály Summer Program, are making her a familiar name in Calgary music circles. Heather generously shares her wealth of knowledge and experience that she acquired over her very successful years as an elementary level Kodály music specialist in Waterloo, Ontario. In her retirement she continues to facilitate workshops and teaches music-teacher-training courses at Wilfrid Laurier University and Nippising Teachers' College. We were indeed very fortunate to have Heather travel to Calgary to be our guest clinician at Singposium 2007.

The following are some highlights from Heather's workshop. Now have fun putting these into practice in your music class!

Teach your students about the cowboys of long-ago and not-so-long-ago, and the hardships and triumphs that they experienced driving cattle out on the "lone prairie". Sing such songs as "Old Chisholm Trail", "Get Along Little Dogies", and "Old Paint", all three of which were adapted into variants by Aaron Copland for his Billy the Kid Ballet Suite!

Prepare and Make Conscious 6/8 time through the singing game "Thread My Grandmother's Needle" or "En Roulant" or the well-known East coast song "I'se the B'y", by finding and showing the beats within the music, followed by the underlying, faster pulses per beat (3 in compound time-duple meter songs as opposed to 2 in simple time-duple meter songs).



Heather Morris



Ever get caught up by a Canon?:

Heather offered many tangible and creative solutions to approach canon singing that have proven very successful with singers of ranging ages.

Heather's suggestions include:

- Using the canon process to introduce canon singing
- Identifying the meter and conducting
- Focus on the rhythm reading and perform in canon
- Add a rhythm ostinato (with body, hands or percussion instruments)
- Learn traditional actions or make up new ones to perform in canon
- Focus on the melodic structure of the piece, solve and perform the solfa syllables, add a melodic ostinato to be sung or played
- Compose variations on a canon
- Listen to variations as written in Art Music (Mahler Symphony #1: mvt.2)

Needing some "Survival Tips" for maintaining a successful classroom environment as well as your sanity?! Here is some 'food for thought':

- Signals for directions such as listen, sit/stand, make a circle, etc.
- routine procedures for movement into a line, circle, game formation from desks or other sitting location *(i.e. movement throughout the learning Space)
- choosing a leader, or the 'it' person, or partners
- teaching the actions or steps of a game song one step/class so knowledge and skill builds on previous learning and not all at once

- identifying teams (e.g. yarn necklaces)
- behaviour consequences
- isolating steps that may be challenging for some (e.g. hand clapping patterns)

***20 Musical Puzzles:
A great way to sneak in extra music reading!***

- A student is the teacher and points to the modulator for other students to read
- Assign solfa syllables each to specific body parts for large body motions as a fun and more active alternative to hand signs
- 'You/Me Game' using hand signs, moveable note or modulator, have students read a short motif and depending on accuracy a point is either given to them or the teacher
- 'Short Form Game' after breaking a song into short motifs and learning them, teacher chooses a motif to sing to 'loo' for students to identify, then two or three or four are sung together but in mixed up order for the students to identify
- 'Concentrate on Specific Pitches' e.g. students sing only the d's out loud and show where they would be located on the staff lines, then continue with remaining notes



Workshop participants.

- Each groups says only one type of rhythm on a flashcard
- 'Spot the Mistake' Put a song on the board with an error in it. The class reads it to try to determine the error.
- 'Name that Tune' Put a short excerpt of a familiar song on the board. Students try to guess which song it is. This can also be done with hand signs, modulator, hand staff, and moveable note.
- 'Rhythm Cards' Each card represents a rhythm that is equivalent to one beat. The teacher claps a rhythm pattern and the students arrange the cards into the correct rhythm pattern, or compose their own rhythm and perform it for the teacher.

Announcing AKA's Newest "Member at Large"!

On September 1, 2007, Noah Michael Hoffart was born weighing eight pounds, six ounces to parents Danica, Kevin and big sister Grace.

Noah was an active participant at his first board meeting on September 29 at Red Deer College!

*Congratulations
to the Hoffart family!*



Contribute to the Ephatha!

Do you have something to share with other Kodály specialists? Please forward your stories, singing games, professional development opportunities and other items of interest to Andreas

Berko, info@albertakodaly.ca.



It's easy to join the Alberta Kodály Association. Just fill out the AKA Membership Form below and mail it in to our Registrar!

Date: _____
Last Name: _____
First Name: _____
Street Address: _____
City: _____ Province: _____
Postal Code: _____
Home Phone: (____) ____ - ____
Email: _____

Annual Membership Fees:
Please check one of the following.

- Regular Member (\$35.00 per year)
- Post-Secondary Student (free)
Graduating year: _____

Please send this registration form along with your cheque, payable to THE ALBERTA KODÁLY ASSOCIATION, to:

Alana Moran
AKA Registrar
#402, 12205 111 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
T5M 2N2



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