

The Encounter



Kodály Educators of Texas,
an affiliate chapter of the Organization of American Kodály Educators

January 2015

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February 2015 Member Meeting Highlights:

Thursday, February 12 at 10:00 a.m. in CC 217

Candidates for open board positions

North Representative: **Julie Duncan**

Central Representative: **Meredith Riggs**

President-Elect: **Kristin Moore**

Secretary: **Jason Mincy**

Treasurer: **Open**

Training scholarship information, updated workshop information,
door prizes and more!

President's Column



I hope to see you at the KET General Membership Meeting on Thursday. We are going to take a picture with the KET banner for the upcoming OAKE conference. OAKE is doing something new. In the past, on the first day of national convention, there has been a banner parade. This year OAKE is requesting a picture of the chapter and their banner. We want to show everyone at OAKE how big and awesome we are in Texas. Please plan to attend the meeting especially for the picture.

Information regarding upcoming summer trainings and workshops will be presented. We will also have many door prizes.

**Kodály Educators of Texas General Membership Meeting:
Thursday, February 12th
10:00 a.m.
CC217**

One final thought.

My students have returned from the holidays tired. I have noticed many students just observing music class instead of singing and being active participants. I've begun to encourage the students to be "active participants in their education not just an audience." I have seen improvement in participation. I'm not getting upset or threatening. I'm just reminding the student's their role. Their attitude toward participation has changed. It's not that I'm forcing them. It's their choice.

Katherine Johns
KET President

TECH TIME

Technology Tips for Kodály Teachers

by *Alisha Gabriel*



Have you found a YouTube video that you'd like to show your students? Does limited bandwidth cause constant interruptions from buffering? Try using Freemake Video Converter to save the file to your computer, thumb drive, or server.

1. Open Freemake Video Converter.
2. If you're trying to download a clip from YouTube, copy the URL from YouTube, then click back into the converter program. Click "Paste URL" from the top bar. It will automatically load the video you have open in YouTube.
3. Near the bottom, select the type of file conversion you need. For example, if you want your students to listen to a selection, but not watch a video, choose mp3 or wmv. Click the green arrows at the bottom to view more choices, then click the file icon.
4. A dialog box will open allowing you to select a folder for saving the file. Then click "Convert." Or, export directly to iTunes. A progress bar allows you to pause or cancel the conversion at any time.
5. When complete, close Freemake Video Converter and open the file from the saved location!

Note: Whenever feasible, I recommend purchasing the album or individual songs for use in the classroom. However, there are many wonderful performances posted to YouTube that are not for sale, but there for our enjoyment.

Tips: If you'd like to download the full video and include it in a SMART board presentation, choose "flv" to convert. For DVD's, load it into your drive, then select DVD at the top. Only select the tracks you need.

This program is especially useful if you are leaving a short video or listening example for a substitute. Simply place all necessary files in a designated substitute folder, possibly on a thumb drive, depending on your district's policies.



Alisha Gabriel teaches at Great Oaks Elementary in Round Rock ISD and received her Master's degree and Kodály Certification at Texas State University. She's a National Board Certified Teacher who enjoys presenting workshops that help teachers utilize technology while incorporating Kodály and Orff techniques to enrich their teaching.

Spring Workshops

Central Region

Austin Area Happy Hour

Date: Wednesday, February 25, 2015

Time: 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Location: Salty Sow, 1917 Manor Road, Austin, Tx

Contact: Meredith Riggs, meredithriggs@gmail.com

South Region

Play! It's Why the Song Exists

Traditional songs and games to enliven the classroom

presented by Kathy Kuddes

Date: Saturday, April 11, 2015

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Location: Del Mar College; Corpus Christi, Tx

Cost: \$20 non-OAKE members; \$10 OAKE members; students free

Contact: Gay deMontel, gaydemontel@gmail.com

Kodaly Educators of Texas Presents

OAKE Convention Preview

“The Magic of Kindergarten: Laying the Foundation,
Keeping the Joy”
with **Lauren Bain**

“Music for All: Cultivating Rigor in the Diverse Setting”
with **Meredith Riggs & Loren Tarnow**

“Building Global Musicians with Musical Transitions.”
with **Rebecca Juarez**

Date: Saturday, March 7, 2015

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Location: Crockett Elementary 401 Elm Ave Bryan TX 77801

Cost: \$20 non-OAKE members; \$10 OAKE members; students free

Contact: Meredith Riggs, meredithriggs@gmail.com, no RSVP necessary.

**Congratulations to our Past President, Brenda Keen! She
has been elected as our OAKE Southern Division
President-Elect.**



Edcamps are:

- free
- non-commercial and conducted with a vendor-free presence
- hosted by any organization interested in furthering the Edcamp mission
- made up of sessions that are determined on the day of the event
- events where anyone who attends can be a presenter
- reliant on the “law of two feet” that encourages participants to find a session that meets their need

When? May 2, 2015
Time? 9:00 AM-12:00 PM
Who? Elementary Music Educators
Cost? Free
Where? Plano ISD Sockwell Center
6301 Chapel Hill Boulevard,
Plano, TX 75093

[Click here to visit KET on Facebook!](#)

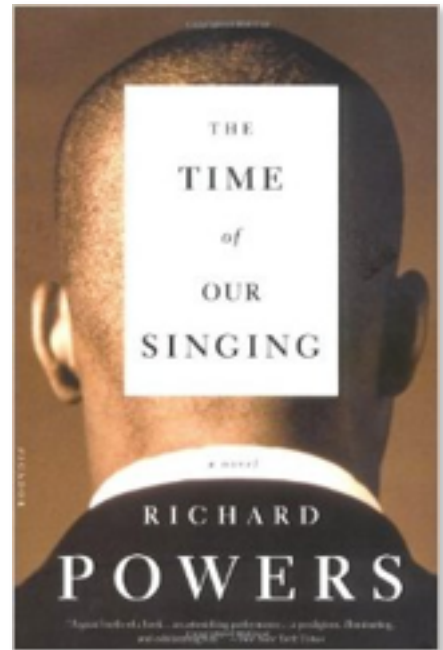
[Click here to register online.](#)

Please contact Kayla Gentry at KETNorthRep@gmail.com for any questions.

A Time of Our Singing: A Book Review

by Meredith Riggs

I grew up on a solid diet of music and books and no TV. My father and I spend most of our conversations talking about what we've read and listened to recently, and are always recommending things to each other. Our tastes are not always exactly in line, and occasionally horribly off, but this summer he gave me what may end up being my favorite book ever. *The Time of Our Singing* by award winning author Richard Powers is a perfect blend of history, science, love, and of course music. String theory and its relation to time is a subtle underlying theme that explains the layout of the book and the multiple story lines that weave in and out.



One of the love stories is the relationship between a Jewish German physicist and a middle class African American musician who are drawn together at Marian Anderson's Easter concert on the Washington Mall in 1939. They have a strong musical bond, and have three children together. As a family they play musical games where they blend quotes from pieces in unexpected ways. The descriptions of these games are so vivid and poetic that you can hear the music in your mind. The majority of the book is narrated by this couple's middle child Joseph. The oldest, Jonah, has the gift of an impeccable ear and a beautiful singing voice, while Joseph is a gifted pianist. Their parents home school the three children because of the obvious racial issues of the time. The children spend their younger years oblivious to the fact that they are something different, and aren't exposed to any sort of racism until they start auditioning for music schools.

Time of Our Singing...continued

After being painfully rejected from many places the two boys are accepted, leaving their youngest sister Ruth at home alone with their parents. This point is the beginning of a family rift that Joseph will struggle his entire life to mend. Jonah's focus on perfecting his musicianship leads him to explore all realms of classical and jazz. Joseph is less driven and becomes Jonah's preferred accompanist. The two of them battle racism on the concert circuit and in daily life. Powers manages to place the young men in some of history's most crucial civil rights moments, but they are always musicians first.

I love the way that music is always the primary focus and motivation of the majority of the characters. I don't want to say any more about the storyline, because I don't want to give any more away. Just know that it's beautiful and moving. I will gladly lend my copy of this book to anyone. It is a beautiful piece of literature that every musician should read.



Meredith Riggs
Hart Elementary School
Austin ISD, Austin, Tx

2015 OAKE Conference





CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

First Name _____ Last Name _____
 Street Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone(_____) _____ Email (required) _____

Full Registration: Grants access to all sessions and events, includes Choir Concert ticket, Bus ticket, and President's Reception ticket.
One Day Registration: Choose from one of three days, access to all activities that day; Choir Concert and Bus ticket not included.
Secondary Choral Track: Sessions are open to all fully registered conference attendees. Those who are registered for the SCT only will have access to only the five SCT sessions on Friday March 20, 2015. Registration is open to Non Members only.
Mini-Conference: Fernando Malvar-Ruiz, 1 - 4 pm on March 19, 2015.
Guest Badge: Grants access to all activities, excluding conference sessions. Go to oake.org/conferences for more information

Full Conference Registration:

Professional OAKE Member

_____ \$260 Early Bird *Postmarked by 1/25/15*
 _____ \$350 Regular/On-Site *Postmarked by 2/16/15*
 _____ \$175 One Day **Choose day below*
 * _____ Friday _____ Saturday _____ Sunday

Retired or Student OAKE Member

_____ \$180 Early Bird *Postmarked by 1/25/15*
 _____ \$240 Regular/On-Site *Postmarked by 2/16/15*
 _____ \$120 One Day **Choose day below*
 * _____ Friday _____ Saturday _____ Sunday

Non OAKE Member

_____ \$400 Early Bird *Postmarked by 1/25/15*
 _____ \$500 Regular/On-Site *Postmarked by 2/16/15*
 _____ \$300 One Day **Choose day below*
 * _____ Friday _____ Saturday _____ Sunday

Become an OAKE member and attend at discounted prices!

Membership

Choose one: _____ New Member _____ Renewal
 _____ \$75 Professional* _____ \$40 Retired*
 _____ \$20 Student* _____ FREE Student
 * Includes Kodály Envoy subscription

Chapter _____

Secondary Choral Track Registration:

_____ \$100 Non Member Only

*Please see the description above.
 Does not include Choir Concert Ticket or Bus Ticket.*

Extra Additions: *please indicate number of tickets*

Mini-Conference 1 - 4 pm, Thursday 3/19/15

_____ \$75 OAKE Member
 _____ \$100 Non-Member

National Conference Choir Concert and Bus Tickets

7 pm, Saturday 3/21/15
 _____ \$25 Adult _____ \$5 Student/Child _____ \$12 Bus Ticket

Guest Badges

_____ \$75 Each *Please see the description above.*

Conference Materials *optional*

_____ \$20 Printed Session Notes *Pre-purchase by 2/16/15 only.*
 Spiral-bound booklet containing schedules, maps, & clinician handouts. All conference materials also available for free through Digital Guidebook and online for print prior to/during the conference.

For our planning, please indicate whether you will attend:

_____ Secondary Choral Reading Session 12:30 pm, Friday, March 19
 _____ Choral Reading Session 11 am, Sunday, March 22
 _____ I plan to attend both sessions.

I am interested in more information about:

_____ Administrator Program
 _____ Newcomer/Mentor Program
 _____ Graduate Credit
 _____ Secondary Choral Track

GRAND TOTAL SUBMITTED: \$ _____

PLEASE READ - IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Payment and Registration information: Purchase Orders for payment must be submitted at least one month prior to deadlines. Payment must be made by check (U.S. currency) or credit card. Students must enclose a photocopy or scan of their current college ID card, front and back, showing full-time undergraduate/graduate status.
Cancellation policy: Cancellations will be accepted, in writing only, until 5 pm (EST) FEBRUARY 16, 2015. Refunds will reflect a 30% cancellation fee. After February 16, 2015 no refunds will be issued. Please mail cancellations to the OAKE National Office.

Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____/_____
 Name on Card _____ CVV Code _____
 Card Type Visa MC Disc. Amex Signature _____

Mail or Fax to:

OAKE National Office, 10801 National Blvd, Suite 590, Los Angeles, CA 90064. Fax: (310) 441-3577

Summer Training Programs

There are plenty of high-quality training programs this summer! Below is a list of programs near you. As programs finalize their details, the dates and details of more programs will be made available.

Check the KET website (sites.google.com/site/kodalytx) and navigate to “Training Opportunities” then to “Certification Programs” to find the most updated information.

University of Houston/Kodály Initiative of Houston

Location: University of Houston; Houston, Texas

Contact: msmpcs@central.uh.edu

Midwestern State University

Location: Midwestern State University; Wichita Falls, Tx

Dates: June 22-July 3, 2015

Contact: Dr. Susan Harvey, susan.harvey@mwsu.edu

Plano ISD Kodály Teacher Training Program at SMU

Location: Southern Methodist University; Dallas, Texas

Dates: July 6-22, 2015

Contact: Julie Scott, scottj@smu.edu

Southeast Texas Kodály Certification Program

Location: Houston, Tx

Contact: Colleen Riddle, criddle@aldine.k12.tx.us

Texas State University Certification Program

Location: Texas State University; San Marcos, Texas

Contact: Lisa Roebuck, lisa_roebuck@roundrockisd.org;

Patricia Moreno, patricia.h.moreno@austinisd.org

Our website is being updated as more training programs finalize their information. Please check it regularly for programs near you!

Scholarship Information

Jenő Ádám Scholarship

The Jenő Ádám Scholarship provides partial funding to OAKE members toward study at OAKE-endorsed Kodály certification programs in the United States and Hungary. The Jenő Ádám Scholarship does not examine financial need as criteria for awards. Please encourage your level 1 and 2 students from last summer to apply. They could benefit greatly from this award. Individuals may apply for more than one scholarship from OAKE, but will only be eligible for one award in any given year, as determined by the Scholarship Committee.

Application: www.oake.org/scholarships-and-grants

Deadline: February 1



Kodály Educators of Texas Scholarship

The Kodály Educators of Texas, an affiliate chapter of the Organization of American Kodály Educators awards scholarships toward TEXAS Kodály Teacher Training levels courses (Level I, II, or III). The recipients will be announced by May 1, 2015. The Kodály Educators of Texas will not pay the course directly; rather, the recipient will be reimbursed by KET. The recipient may also not receive any additional scholarship(s) from KET during the same year. For questions, please contact Rebecca Lakes Juarez, President-Elect, at rebecca.lakes@gmail.com or (210)-347-5543.

Application: <https://sites.google.com/site/kodalytx/workshops/ket-training-scholarship>

Deadline: April 1

A Look at TMEA

A suggested list of Kodály-inspired sessions at TMEA...

Thursday, February 12

10:00 a.m - 11:00 p.m. CC 206

"Reaching for New Heights Through the Fine Arts TEKS, Grades K-5"
by Gabriela Montoya Stier and Lauren Bain

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m. CC 217

KET GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Come join us! We will be voting on several officer positions: President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer (?), North Representative, and Central Representative. There will be door prizes and information on training programs, as well as information on upcoming scholarships.

11:30 a.m - 12:30 p.m. CC Ballroom C2

"Lessons from a New Grandparent About the Innate Musical Needs of Young Children"
by Rochelle Mann, TMEA Featured Clinician

1:00 p.m - 2:00 p.m. CC Ballroom C2

"Beginning Through Advanced Literacy Activities for Older Students (Grades 4-6)"
by Rochelle Mann, TMEA Featured Clinician

5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. CC Ballroom C1

Elementary Division Business Meeting

A Look at TMEA...continued

Friday, February 13

10:00 a.m - 11:00 a.m. CC Ballroom C2

"Bach, Books, Blues, and the Beach Boys: Active Listening and Creativity in the Classroom (Grade K-5)"

by Rochelle Mann, TMEA Featured Clinician

10:00 a.m - 11:00 a.m. CC Ballroom C3

"Managing for an Effective, Efficient, and Fun Classroom!"

by Charlotte Mizener,

2:30 p.m - 3:30 p.m. CC Ballroom C2

"Moving Right Along: Developing Musical Independence and Part-Singing Through Movement (Grades K-5)"

by Rochelle Mann, TMEA Featured Clinician

Saturday, February 14

8:00 a.m - 9:00 a.m. CC Ballroom C2

"Autism: An Insight into Their World" by Gabriela Montoya-Stier

9:30 a.m - 10:30 a.m. CC Ballroom C2

"Everything Old Is New Again: Revisiting Classic Songs and Singing Games for All Elementary Levels (Grades K-5)"

by Rochelle Mann, TMEA Featured Clinician

12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. CC Ballroom C2

"Moving Right Along: Developing Musical Independence and Part-Singing Through Movement (Grades K-5)" (Repeat)

by Rochelle Mann, TMEA Featured Clinician

KET was approached by a TMEA Vocal Division President candidate to print a letter asking for support in his election. KET is not endorsing any particular candidate but would like to provide an open forum for candidates interested in addressing our membership.

Dear TMEA Elementary Division Members,

My name is Derrick Brookins and I am the Director of Choir for the Plano Senior High School in Plano, TX. I am running for the elected position of the TMEA Vocal Vice President and seeking your vote.

As a member of TMEA, you are eligible to vote in the vocal division category. This year will be the first time to introduce electronic voting to the membership. You no longer have to be present in order to vote. Please look for specific instructions on how to do this via your smart phone, personal computer, etc. in the January copy of the Southwestern Musician.

I am a firm believer that music education helps children of all ages learn creatively about the world around them. Music at the elementary school level is a vital aspect of a successful school curriculum and an important foundational component of music education as a whole. When students have experience in music education starting in elementary and continuing through the high school level, it contributes to their future success. Students who participate in a Texas music program from elementary school to high school are positively affected for the rest of their lives.

If you share in this same philosophy, then I ask for your vote. While I am a high school choral director, I have always known that the work done at the elementary level is the backbone of what we do as choral directors. Attached to this letter is additional information about me and my service to the TMEA, should you like to read more.

I ask for your vote to serve as the next TMEA Vocal Vice President. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Derrick D. Brookins
Director of Choir
Plano Senior High School

To view his full candidate information and biography, please go to: <http://www.tmea.org/conventions/2015/about/executive-board-candidates>.

Final Thoughts

by Lauren Bain, *KET Vice-President*



My husband, Andrew, is not a musician but certainly enjoys music. He had a brief stint in piano lessons as a child and played trumpet for one semester in middle school. Through our relationship, he has come to understand the talent, dedication, and effort that goes into not only performing music, but teaching it. Goodness knows how much he's endured while listening to me talk about lesson plans, pedagogy, manipulatives, the Kodály philosophy, and the like.

Recently he discovered TED talks and stumbled across one by Eric Whitacre discussing his process of developing the virtual choir for his composition *Lux Aurumque*. Andrew was blown away. This is a man who loves country music, the Bible, craft beer, red meat, cars, working with his hands, being outdoors, and hunting. His reaction to a choral masterpiece was to close his eyes in awe and sigh.

This video sparked conversations between us about many aspects of music. Andrew is very inquisitive and desires to understand *why*. Some of the questions he posed to me were: “What’s the difference between a half step and whole step? Why are half steps important? Are there any other pitches between them? Why solfege? Who decided on that? What do you mean by harmonic progression? You mean there are rules about where chords can go? I know if something sounds good or bad, but I don’t know why. Do you mean there’s a specific reason in terms of music theory?”

Our conversations only strengthen my resolve to educate people. Not just my students, but my friends, co-workers, and family members. A friend of mine, who lived in Nashville for 10 years and toured with his band, gave me a puzzled look when I talked about singing from the diaphragm. He had been singing and performing for years, yet did not know how to sing with support. Therefore, it is important to show others the depth and value of music. Discuss good quality versus bad quality performances; talk about the craftsmanship behind beautiful music; play excellent recordings; share your passion for quality music with others. Be kind and gracious but lead your discussions beyond “it sounds pretty and makes me feel good.”

“Real art is one of the most powerful forces in the rise of mankind, and he who renders it accessible to as many people as possible is a benefactor of humanity.” ~*Zoltan Kodály*

Lauren Bain

Additional Information

Check our website for updated information concerning workshops, meetings, and the latest news! Go to sites.google.com/site/kodalytx.

“Like” us on Facebook! Search for “Kodály Educators of Texas” [page](#) and press “like.” You can also join our discussion group; search for “Kodály Educators of Texas” [group](#) and ask to join.

Questions or comments? Email us at kodalyedoftx@gmail.com or our President Katherine Johns at kjohns@fisd.us.