

THE ENCOUNTER

The Journal of the Kodály Educators of Texas,
an Affiliate Chapter of the Organization of American Kodály Educators



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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Jason Mincy
KET President



I can't believe we are already done with the first several weeks of school! It feels so great to be back in the classroom and making music with my students... it's also important for me to continue to think about my classroom methods and try to use more abstract ways of assessing our concepts... here are a few ideas for you to use in your classroom.

1) Give the students small pieces of paper with either rhythmic patterns or solfege patterns. Students are not allowed to share their patterns with other students in the classroom. When the teacher says go, the students begin walking around the room and either singing their solfege pattern or chanting their rhythmic patterns and finding their partners.

2) Oftentimes, middle school students are unmotivated to use hand signs and need frequent reminders to use them. One day when I was visiting my middle school feeder program, I thought, maybe it is because they are unsure of what they are... so we took a Rock-Paper-Scissors game and turned it into a who can show their solfege sign the fastest. Students partner up in one area of the classroom. The teacher calls out, "Your solfege sign is..." and the first student to show it moves to level 2. The student who lost then partners up with someone else who is still at level one.

At level 2, the students partner up and continue the game. If they lose at level 2 they go back to level 1. The winner moves to level 3.

At level 3, the students partner up but if they lose this level they go back to level 1.

I tell you, the middle school students loved this game and so did my high school students. I also turned it into an elimination game where students would sit down if they lost but it just depends on what level you are teaching.

I hope each of you has an amazing year and has an opportunity to attend one of your phenomenal workshops!

Join Us for Workshops and Sip & Chats

Please register for these wonderful learning opportunities at <https://kodalytexas.com/workshops-2>.



**MARY JANE
PHILLIPS**

AUGUST 24
9:00AM-12:00PM

Harlingen High School
1201 Marshall Ave.
Harlingen, TX 78550

Choir Hacks



Jessica Grant

EXPLORE THE MIDWAY, THE KODÁLY WAY:
STATE FAIRS AND CARNIVAL FUN

Sept. 28 | 9AM-12PM

Canyon Creek Elementary
2100 Copper Ridge Dr
Richardson, TX 75080



**SIP & CHATS
WEBINARS**

November 14
DR. GEORGIA NEWLIN

October 17
DR. EDITH COPLEY

September 19
DR. CORDARA HARPER

Spring 2025
RUTH DWYER

KodalyTexas.com

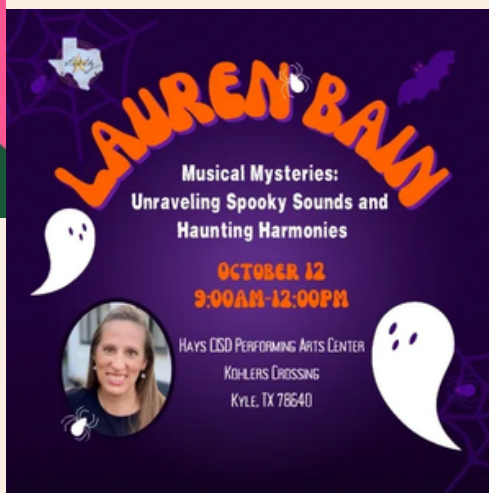


**KRISTIN
VOGT**

Only the Best....the Best of
Both Worlds: Combining
Orff and Kodály

September 28
9:00AM-1:00PM

Creekview Elementary
8877 W. New Harmony Trail
Tomball, TX 77375



LAUREN BALL

Musical Mysteries:
Unraveling Spooky Sounds and
Haunting Harmonies

OCTOBER 12
9:00AM-12:00PM

HAYS CSD PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
KOHLENS CROSSING
KYLE, TX 78640



**CHRISTOPHER
MUNCE**

FILLING IN THE GAPS:
KODÁLY IN THE SECONDARY
CHORAL CLASSROOM

October 12
1:00pm-4:00pm

Magnolia High School
14350 FM 1488
Magnolia, TX 77354

FOLK SONG HISTORY

with Kathy Kuddes

- Request a Folk Song to Learn About
- Kathy will Research its History
- We will Post Her Findings in *The Encounter!*



Share Your Work and Inspire Other Educators in *The Encounter*

Articles are accepted on a rolling basis. For consideration for our Back-to-School edition, please email your submission to Dillon Downey at ddowney2@dentonisd.org by **Decemeber 9, 2024!**

Want to Learn More About a Folk Song?

We are deeply grateful to Kathy Kuddes for offering her time to a new series about the history of folk songs! Please quickly submit requests for songs you would like to learn about using the form at <https://forms.gle/Kii64W2syp6USAsW7> (also linked in the QR code to the left).

FOLK SONG HISTORY WITH KATHY KUDDER:

SHANGHAI CHICKEN

by Kathy Kuddes
KET Member



Here is the third installment of my folk song research column. Thank you to those who have suggested songs for further research. I have several more in the works, but we'll start the school year off with a favorite, the "Shanghai Chicken."

The Roud Folk Song Index assigns the number 5247 to songs with both "Shanghai Chicken" and "Shanghai Rooster" in the title or in the text as well as several versions of "Pop Goes the Weasel." This article will focus on the tune shown below, which most music teachers use during the study of low so and the eighth/dotted quarter rhythm pattern.

The earliest publication (shown above) of this tune appears in the Scarborough *On the Trail of Negro Folk-Songs* in 1925. The collector claims to have learned it from an African American cook in Waco at some point in the decade or so prior to the publication of her collection. This appears to be the origin of all of the versions found in various pedagogical textbooks and song collections. Scarborough included it in her chapter dedicated to "Songs About Animals."

SHANGHAI CHICKEN

Shang - hai chick - en an' he grow so tall, Hoo - day!

Hoo-day! Take dat egg a month to fall, Hoo-day! Hoo-day!

Shanghai chicken an' he grow so tall,
Hooday! Hooday!
Take dat egg a month to fall,
Hooday! Hooday!

Questions have arisen around the appropriateness of this little tune, largely because Peter Erdei and Katalin Komlos identified it as a "minstrel" song in their widely used collection, *150 American Folk Songs*. Upon further research, this appears to have been an erroneous label, as they list the Scarborough source in their index. Teachers may want to check out Susan Brumfield's *First, We Sing! Songbook One* for some additional (originally improvised) verses that

Kuddes, cont.

provide for extended student engagement or encourage your students to create their own in the playful, ironic character of the first verse. She also includes a great egg passing game created by Kodály educator Kristen Van Ollefen.

Among the Roud Index sources, another song sharing the same title or sometimes listed as “Few Days” turns up. While some variants share the first line of text from the Scarborough song, that is the extent of the relationship. These sources point to recordings made for the Library of Congress during the Works Progress Administration of Elizabeth Ashton Garrett Purcell of Greenwood, Virginia (1934) and Anne Corbin Ball of Richmond, Virginia (1938). Sadly, these recordings are not available electronically to confirm text or tune.

Furthermore, “Few Days” was a song from the Christy’s Minstrels repertoire published in 1854 with this second tune and similar text, excepting the reference to our Shanghai Chicken. The providence of this song is unclear at this moment. However, it was popular enough that lyrics were written by the members of the San Francisco Temperance Legion in support of their cause in 1867 and sung to this tune.

This second tune was published by John & Nancy Langstaff in their 1970 collection then titled “Jim Along, Josie.” The 1986 second edition was published under the title “Sally Go Round the Sun” and the “Josie Song” that had been the title inspiration initially was removed, but the Shanghai Chicken remained. This text and tune also began to appear in various editions of the Silver Burdett Music classroom series in 1978 and was reprinted in several subsequent editions of classroom textbooks by that publishing company.

Roud assigned the same index number to songs related to the “Shanghai Rooster.” The first of these appear to be bluegrass tunes based on one written by Lee Allen, half of the Allen Brothers Duo from Sewanee, Tennessee. The earliest recording appears to be of Dusty Rhodes on a 78 RPM released by Brunswick Records in 1928. The Allen Brothers recorded it in 1930 under the name “Shanghai Rooster Blues.” It was further recorded under the original title by the Ledford String Band (1972) and as “What Makes Him Do it?” by J.E. Mainer & the Mountaineers (1935).

The Rooster represents the strong and viral man demanding loyalty and submission from his “hen.”

Three additional sources contain songs titled “Shanghai Rooster” or “The Farm in the West” with yet another tune and text in which the Rooster dies and the owner recounts his toughness (“His fur was like a toothbrush, his comb was like an axe”) and the hens are all in mourning in the barnyard.

Finally, there is “Don’t Bet Your Money on the Shanghai” written by well-known American composer, Stephen Foster in 1861 for a minstrel show with text referring to the habit of betting on cock fights. Of all of these tunes and texts, the Scarborough is the one best suited to the music classroom, both in terms of appropriate textual imagery and music literacy applications.

So that leads us to a short discussion of animal husbandry and the usage of the term “Shanghai Chicken.” There is a good bit of controversy regarding how the term came into use, but it is most often applied to the Brahma breed of chicken. According to Wikipedia, the first such birds were imported from the port of Shanghai in China in the 1840’s, most likely leading to the use of the name to designate this particular type of chicken.

These birds were prized for their size and were popular with breeders due to the amount of meat they produced. Roosters could weigh up to 18 pounds. From the 1850’s until about the 1930’s they were the primary breed of meat chicken in the United States. The American Poultry Association now considers them a “heritage breed” but the Livestock Conservancy lists them as a “recovering” breed due to recent popularity among backyard chicken raisers.

A “Shanghai” chicken from
<https://www.knowyourchickens.com/brahma-chicken/>
Thanks for taking
this journey with me!

If you have a song
you would like for
me to consider for a
future column, fill
out the form listed
above.



Kuddes, cont.

Sources:

"Shanghai Chicken" – Primary Tune

- Scarborough, Dorothy. On the Trail of Negro Folk-Songs. (1925) Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press. p.194-5
- Erdei, Peter & Komlos, Katalin. 150 American Folk Songs to sing, read, and play. (1980) New York, NY: Boosey & Hawkes. P.16. · American Folksong Collection: <https://kodalycollection.org/song.cfm?id=979>
- Foss, Michael. The Children's Song Book. (1979) Secaucus, NJ: Chartwell Books, Inc p.48
- Brumfield, Susan. First, We Sing! Songbook One. (2012) Milwaukee, WI: Hal Leonard Corp. p.38-9

"Shanghai Chicken" or "Few Days"

- Davis, Arthur Kyle Jr. Folk-Songs of Virginia: A Descriptive Index and Classification. (1949) Durham, NC: Duke University Press. p.261
- Langstaff, Nancy & John. Jim Along, Josie. (1970) New York, NY: Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich. P.21 (Reprinted 1986 under new title Sally Go Round the Moon)
- Silver Burdett Music, Book 2. (1978) Morristown, NJ: Silver Burdett Co. p.173 (transcribed and adapted from LOC Recording AFS 2738 - sung by Anne Corbin Ball in Richmond, VA 1938 - recorded by Herbert Halpert)
- Library of Congress Digitized Catalog Card - <https://www.loc.gov/item/afc9999005.7959/>
- Library of Congress Sheet Music Collection - <https://www.loc.gov/item/2023808721/>
- Library of Congress California Gold Collection - <https://www.loc.gov/item/2017701120/>

"Shanghai Rooster" – Bluegrass

- Wikipedia - [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Allen_Brothers_\(American_duo\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Allen_Brothers_(American_duo))
- Discography of American Historical Recordings (UC Santa Barbara) -
- J.E. Mainer & the Mountaineers. Daddy John Love. (1935) Victor/Bluebird tr. https://adp.library.ucsb.edu/index.php/matrix/detail/200022890/BS-99111-What_makes_him_do_it

"Shanghai Rooster" or "The Farm in the West"

- Neely, Charles. Tales and Songs of Southern Illinois. (1938) Carbondale, IL: Southern Illinois University Press. pp. 187-188, "The Farm in the West" (1 text)
- Peters, Harry B. Folk Songs Out of Wisconsin (1977) Madison, WI: State Historical Society of Wisconsin. p. 271,
- Newman, Katherine D. Never Without a Song: The Years and Songs of Heanie Devlin, 1865-1952. (1995) Urbana, IL: University of Illinois Press. p. 203-4

"Don't Bet Your Money on de Shanghai" – Stephen Foster

- Foster, Stephen. The Melodies of Stephen Foster. (1909) Pittsburgh, PA: T.M. Walker. p.51-2.
- Random Thoughts on History (2009) - <http://randomthoughtsonhistory.blogspot.com/2009/06/dont-bet-your-money-on-shanghai.html>

Chicken Breeds

- Know Your Chickens - <https://www.knowyourchickens.com/brahma-chicken/>
- Wikipedia - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brahma_chicken