

# The Encounter



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

April 2016

## In This Issue...

President's Column .....	2	Book Review .....	6
Tech Time .....	3	Plickers .....	8
New Board Members .....	4	Summer Training Programs .....	10
OAKE 2017 .....	5	Final Thoughts .....	11

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**Amy Abbott**

will be presenting a workshop for the West Texas  
region in Lubbock on November 12, 2016.

# President's Column



March was an exciting month with spring break and OAKE in Long Beach, CA! This was a GREAT year for KET at OAKE! We currently have the LARGEST chapter in OAKE and hold the LARGEST training program endorsed by OAKE- the SMU/Plano ISD program! Congratulations, Texas! The OAKE Lifetime Achievement Award went to Philip Tacka and Micheál Houlahan, authors of *Kodály*

*Today*, and instructors in the Texas State training program and the Austin ISD training program. The Research Award went to former-Texan, Dr. Christina Svec, former KET Treasurer! We had several KET members presenting at OAKE as well. Meredith Riggs, our KET Central Texas Representative, and Loren Tarnow, both from Austin, TX, presented a session on rigor in urban schools. Dr. Susan Brumfield brought the West Texas Children's Chorus and premiered several of her new choral arrangements with them. I had the opportunity to meet with other chapter presidents and the executive board and brainstorm ideas for workshops and ways to help our chapter grow. While we are the largest chapter, we still have room for growth! Are there Kodály-inspired teachers in your school district who may not be members of OAKE/KET? Encourage them to join and become involved!

*Rebecca Juárez*  
KET President

# TECH TIME

## Technology Tips for Kodály Teachers

by Alisha Gabriel



Sharing some of our favorite, tried and true websites is a great advocacy tool for ourselves and for parents. For example, what websites do we use in class, links we post on our school websites, or favorite music education sites we read to further our craft? here could be three or more categories: Links for Students, Links for Teachers, and Links for Parents. The parent section should focus on advocacy.

First, start with the links for students and parents on your school music website. Here is my personal site for an example:

<https://goemusic.wordpress.com/home/useful-links/>

I put Finale Notepad under links for parents because I don't want students downloading it at home without talking to their parents, but you might put it under Links for Teachers. Other favorite websites for teachers include:

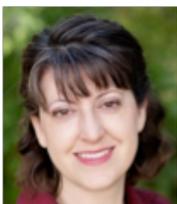
[www.musicalaabbott.com](http://www.musicalaabbott.com)

<http://tanyaelementarymusic.blogspot.com/>

<http://kodalycorner.blogspot.com/>

<http://www.mrsmiraclesmusicroom.com/>

<http://www.kodalyinspiredclassroom.com/>



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.

# Meet our newly elected and re-elected board members!



**Jason Mincey**  
**Secretary**



**Melanie Wolfgang**  
**Vice President**



**Paul Cimini**  
**South Rep**



**Mandy Pitts**  
**West Rep**



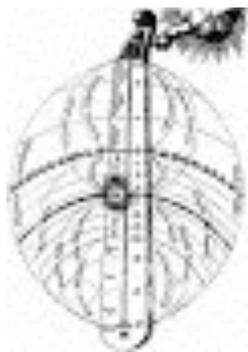
**The deadline to submit proposals for the 2017 OAKE National Conference is May 1.**

**Visit [www.oake.org/conferences/sessions-and-presenters](http://www.oake.org/conferences/sessions-and-presenters) for more information!**

# Measure For Measure: A Book Review

by Meredith Riggs

Measure for Measure (not Shakespeare)



The full title is *Measure for Measure: A Musical History of Science* by Thomas Levenson, and this is a mathy music person's dream guide to scientific history. The author was inspired to write the book after spending some time in the basement of Boston's Old North Church watching someone tune a harpsichord. Temperament is such a hard thing to understand unless you really see and hear it happen first hand. We know that Pythagoreans (not necessarily the man himself) used an instrument called a monochord with a movable bridge that led them to discover the ratios of sound. This is one of the first laws of nature that was ever recorded. The monochord then became the Music of the Spheres as recorded by Aristotle. Levenson then goes on in detail about different examples of overtones and perfect mathematical harmonies with references to art and early instruments.

Leaving the Greeks behind, we move into the middle ages where the Romans under the leadership of Gregory (Gregorian chant) begin to keep record of the simple melodies used in services. Then comes Guido di Arezzo to develop a system of writing sound and define the modes at about the same time polyphony emerges. The author goes into great detail about the development of the organ as an instrument. You'll be amazed at how many different keyboards and building techniques were experimented with to get around the fact that there cannot be perfect tuning in every key without some adjustments. They tried very hard to preserve perfection, but eventually they realized it wasn't going to work. There are many illustrations and diagrams included, some of which you may have never seen before.

## Measure For Measure...continued

The book then goes on a little detour through the development of optics and the creation of microscopes and telescopes that leads us to Johannes Kepler. Kepler wrote *Harmonia Mundi*, in which he documents his discovery that the planets do indeed move in accordance with the ratios of sound and do in fact create sound themselves. We then get to learn about Newton's experiments with sound and color and their parallels to Bach's work at about the same time. There is a mystical turn here with Newton's obsession with alchemy that takes you through some fascinating history. There are sections on stringed instruments, more with politics of polyphony, and modern musical concerns. The author seamlessly leads you in and out and back and forth through time, always coming back to the central musical idea. Anyone with interest in science and history as well as an obvious love of music will learn something new and enjoy doing so.



**Meredith Riggs**  
**Hart Elementary School**  
**Austin ISD, Austin, Tx**



# Plickers:

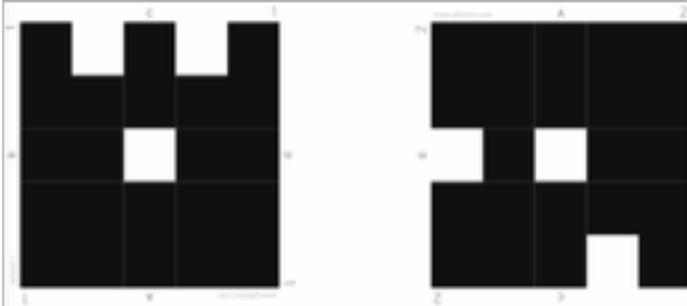
## Classroom Clickers without the Clicking 2.0

Technology Tips for Kodaly Teachers  
by Holly Kofod

Student response systems were all the rage about ten years ago. They looked like TV remote controls and were designed so that students could respond to a multiple choice quiz or oral question by pressing a button to indicate the answer. Teachers could automatically assess students' learning in the classroom.

An up-to-date version of a clicker is available as a free tool called Plickers. Now, if you are imagining a high-tech handset with an HD touchscreen, Wi Fi and a built-in camera, you would be wrong. Plickers use paper. Yes, you heard that right, paper! Oh, and your students don't need any electronic devices to take part in your assessment.

Plickers is an innovative assessment tool for the classroom that lets teachers ask questions and poll their class with the aid of one device and a collection of visual code cards. It is perfect for the one iPad classroom, or just about any classroom where the teacher owns a smartphone. Version 2.0 has just been launched and it is an effective assessment tool for the classroom!



So, how does it work? Each student is given a card with a unique visual code. The code has 4 sides, each lettered A, B, C, and D. The student holds the card so that the letter they choose to answer the question with is at the top of their card. The teacher uses the iOS or Android app (Plickers) on their smartphone to slowly scan the room. The app recognizes the cards, records who the teacher assigned them to, and captures the answer that the student chose. The app will only record each student's answer once, so you need not worry about a second scan skewing your data.

It's a genius idea. You don't need to be 1:1, you don't need an expensive set of classroom clickers, and you don't need to share devices among your students. All you need is some paper, and an app. The results appear live and in real time on the teacher's device, or they can be projected on a large screen for the whole class to see via the Plicker's website if required.

# Plickers...continued

I use it for vocabulary, reading (patterns rhythmic, melodic and improvisation choices), listening, etc. Anything that you can make into a multiple choice assessment activity can be done with plickers. I took worksheets from *Kodály Today* and Lamar Robertson's workbooks as well as some of my own creations and created my Plickers' library of questions.

Does it work 100% every time? Not always. If you laminate the cards, (which I do not recommend) you may have some issues recognizing the code due to the glare from indoor lighting. I have mine on card stock and made 3 sets for this school year, as I was not going to laminate them to avoid the glare issue and can simply replace cards as needed. So far, I've not used the third set at all. Furthermore, some student cards may not all be visible at once because they are hidden behind another student's arm or head or something else, but if you project the results on a large screen, students can see if their answer has been recorded and lower their card to make room for the others.

Here's a look at what else to expect with the latest version:

- **Create full questions and answer choices** – take advantage of your keyboard to write questions on the web and add them to your Library
- **Plan questions for multiple classes** – easily manage and reuse questions across classes from your Library – I LOVE this!!
- **Teach with Live View** – Display questions and answer choices and share real-time results while scanning student responses
- **Keep things organized** – Edit, archive, and delete; search and filter – they've got more options for you to manage your stuff
- **Work offline (or online!)** – Plickers will keep your data in-sync across the mobile app and website

So, if you haven't tried Plickers yet, and have been looking for something new or interesting in the way of assessment tools for the classroom, then give it a go. This hi- tech, low-tech approach is a unique and interesting way to poll your class and gain Informal assessment data quickly.



Holly Kofod teaches at Dr. Goodall H. Wooten Elementary in Austin I.S.D. and received her Kodály Certification from Texas State University. She is a member of the CEDFA cadre, the Campus Innovation Coach and enjoys presenting workshops that help teachers integrate technology to enrich their teaching.

# Summer Training Programs

Check the KET website [www.kodalytexas.com](http://www.kodalytexas.com) for more information!

## **Austin ISD Certification Program**

**Location:** Austin, Texas

**Dates:** June 6 - 17, 2016 (plus 4 Saturdays during the school year)\

**Contact:** Patricia Moreno, [patricia.h.moreno@austinisd.org](mailto:patricia.h.moreno@austinisd.org)

## **The Kodály Institute of Southwest Louisiana and Southeast Texas**

**Location:** Lamar University; Beaumont, Tx

**Dates:** June 12 - July 1, 2016

**Contact:** Dr. Charlotte Mizener, [charlotte.mizener@lamar.edu](mailto:charlotte.mizener@lamar.edu)

## **Kodály Teacher Institute**

**Location:** Midwestern State University; Wichita Falls, Tx

**Dates:** June 20 - July 1, 2016

**Contact:** Dr. Susan Harvey, [susan.harvey@mwsu.edu](mailto:susan.harvey@mwsu.edu)

## **Southeast Texas Kodály Certification Program**

**Location:** Houston, Tx

**Date:** June 13 - 30 (Monday - Thursday), 2016

**Contact:** Colleen Riddle, [criddle@aldine.k12.tx.us](mailto:criddle@aldine.k12.tx.us)

## **Southern Methodist University Certification Program**

**Location:** Southern Methodist University; Dallas, Texas

**Dates:** July 5 - 21, 2016

**Contact:** Julie Scott, [scottj@mail.smu.edu](mailto:scottj@mail.smu.edu)

## **Texas State University Certification Program**

**Location:** Texas State University; San Marcos, Texas

**Dates:** July 11 - 27, 2016

**Contact:** Lisa Roebuck, [lisa\\_roebuck@roundrockisd.org](mailto:lisa_roebuck@roundrockisd.org);

Patricia Moreno, [patricia.h.moreno@austinisd.org](mailto:patricia.h.moreno@austinisd.org)

## **Kodály Institute of Houston**

**Location:** University of Houston, Moores School of Music; Houston, Texas

**Date:** July 18 - August 5 (break for TCDA)

**Contact:** Cara Spinks, [mshmpcs@central.uh.edu](mailto:mshmpcs@central.uh.edu)

# Final Thoughts

by Lauren Bain, *KET Vice-President*



Writing this article is bittersweet for me, as it is my last newsletter to edit and write for KET. I am stepping down as Vice President this summer to make way for our new VP, Melanie Wolfgang. I am very excited to see her step into this position and join a wonderful group of Kodály people. She has a lot to offer the board and I look forward to her contributions in the future newsletters.

My last five years as VP have been amazing, eye-opening, and a great learning opportunity for me. Originally I did not see myself getting involved in KET, but my dear friend, Corrie Box, relentlessly encouraged me to join. I am so glad she did!

In the past five years, I have served under three great presidents and numerous other dedicated board members. These people are devoted teachers, committed to high-quality music education, and great advocates for Kodály's vision. Under their leadership, we have grown in membership, streamlined our communication through our website and Facebook page, offered scholarships for levels training, created an award for KET members who have contributed invaluable work to Texas, revamped our general membership meeting, and continued to promote the values of Kodály's philosophy in the state of Texas. It has been a honor to work with them.

Serving on the KET Executive Board has taught me the value of involvement in a music education organization. If you have not considered it, I want to be your "Corrie Box" and encourage you to do so. Thank you for the privilege of serving such a phenomenal organization!

*Lauren Bain*

---

## Additional Information

Check our website for updated information concerning workshops, meetings, and the latest news! Go to [www.kodalytexas.com](http://www.kodalytexas.com).

"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](mailto:kodalyedoftx@gmail.com) or our President Rebecca Juarez at [rjuarez3@neisd.net](mailto:rjuarez3@neisd.net).