



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

August, 2017

# The Encounter



Mark your calendars to attend TMEA 2018 and the KET Annual Membership Meeting.

## TMEA Highlights:

- \*Vote on Bylaws Revisions
  - \*Officer and Region Rep Elections
- [More info on page 3!](#)



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### FEATURES!

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## PRESIDENT'S CORNER



*Kristin Vogt Moore*

**KET President**

Hello wonderful Kodály Educators of Texas! My name is Kristin Vogt Moore and I am honored to be serving as your president for the next 2 years. I am beginning my 15<sup>th</sup> year of teaching elementary music (1 in Frisco ISD and 14<sup>th</sup> and counting in Plano ISD). I have 2 sons who will be going into 7<sup>th</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grades and I can hardly believe that.

I don't know about you, but this year my room will not be Pinterest/TPT ready. And you know what, that's ok. What matters is our love for our kids, love of quality active music making every single day with every single child.

So whether this is your 1<sup>st</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 30+ year, remember why we're here. Not for administrative politics or any other stuff that we deal with, but for those kiddos who look forward to our class where they can be themselves, not be afraid to take risks, and conquer challenges with their peers.

We're here for you and have some amazing workshops lined up for this school year. Please don't hesitate to reach out to us for what you need. You can also find us on Facebook, Twitter and on our website. Here's to kicking off another great school year with all of our young musicians!

Cheers,  
Kristin

Follow KET and the KET board on Twitter:

KET	@Kodalytx_edu
Kristin Vogt Moore, President	@brinkermusic
Lauren Bain, President-Elect	@mrsbainsings
Melanie Braddy, Vice-President	@Kodalymusictrch
Rebecca Juárez, Past-President	@huebnermusic
Sarah Martinez, Treasurer	@hernandezchoir
Jason Mincy, Secretary	@jamincy77
Megan Johnson, North Rep.	@KETNorthRep
Becky Knox, Central Rep.	@rebeccaknox
Paul Cimini, South Rep.	@cimini_paul

## TMEA 2018

At our Annual Membership Meeting during TMEA, members will be ratifying bylaw revisions made by the board and electing several officers and Region Representatives.

If you are interested in running for one of the open positions, please contact Vice-President Lauren Bain: [lfbain@gmail.com](mailto:lfbain@gmail.com).

The following positions are up for election in 2018, and will serve a 2-year term:

Secretary  
Vice President  
South Texas Representative  
West Texas Representative



*Are you interested in contributing to KET as a Region Rep or as one of our Officers?*

## NATIONAL CONFERENCE

The 42nd Annual OAKE National Conference will be held this year in Oklahoma City on March 22-25, 2018. Southern Division, of which KET is a part, is hosting the conference and will be needing YOUR help!

Please watch for emails from the conference committee asking for your help in many areas. It will take many hands to make this conference successful!

This year's theme is:

**“This Land is Your Land: Music Made for You and Me”**

Join us to celebrate our great musical heritage!



### OAKE NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Information will be available at this website as it becomes available:

[www.oake.org/conferences/](http://www.oake.org/conferences/)



## NORTH REGION

The North Region will be holding a workshop on October 14 featuring Alice Hammel.

Dr. Hammel specializes in teaching music to children with special needs and is the author of several publications.

Time and location will be announced soon!

## *Region News*



## CENTRAL REGION

The Central Region has a new Region Representative, appointed by the KET President to complete the term. Becky Knox is KET's current Social Media person and the new Central Texas Representative. She teaches in Round Rock ISD and has been Kodály -certified since 2011.

Central Texas will present a workshop featuring Sandy Knudson on October 14th, from 9-1, in at the Montessori School of San Antonio located at: 17722 Rogers Ranch Parkway, San Antonio, TX 78258

The spring workshop will be in the Austin area and will be announced as details are finalized.

## SOUTH REGION

The South Region is excited to present several workshops with amazing clinicians in the Houston-area this year:

September 30—Kristin Vogt Moore

9-1, Bert F. Winston, Jr. Band Complex, U of H.

November 4—TBD

February 3—TBD

March 3—Chapter Share—Folk Dances and Play Parties

All workshops are tentatively scheduled for the University of Houston.

For the March 3 workshop, please bring an favorite folk dance or play party to share with the chapter!



## Region News

## WEST REGION

The West Region Representative position is currently vacant.

If you are interested in serving KET as interim West Region Representative, please contact KET President, Kristin Vogt Moore: [kristin.moore@pisd.edu](mailto:kristin.moore@pisd.edu).

If you are interested in running for the position, with term beginning in 2018, please contact KET President-Elect, Lauren Bain: [lfbain@gmail.com](mailto:lfbain@gmail.com)



## KET SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

*Sean Rodriguez*

**Choir/Mariachi**

**John H. Wood Middle  
School**

**North East ISD**

I wasn't exactly sure what to expect when I decided to begin my Kodály certification process this summer. I knew I had heard great things about the program and the teaching philosophy. I knew that I had already incorporated some Kodály elements into my teaching. I didn't know that it would affect so many things about the way I'll be teaching from here on out. Within the first few days I could think of a couple past lessons where I had taught things pretty ineffectively, especially pertaining to inner hearing and two part singing. I'll be returning to my campus with more tools for my classroom, but also a better, and still improving, musician.

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## KET SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

Each year, KET awards scholarships for use toward training in the Kodály concept of music education.

Information and scholarship application for summer 2018 will be available in early 2018 on our website:

<http://www.kodalytexas.com/home.html>



## BOOK REVIEW

GROWING UP MINDFUL, BY CHRISTOPHER WILLARD

This summer has been long and hard for me as I've split my time helping to care for my father-in-law and my own parents. The upside to this has been heaps of reading. To be honest most of it has been cozy mysteries and other bits of distraction, but I also had a small stack on mindfulness for children. Mindfulness and the meditation that goes with it have been around forever, it had a bit of popularity amongst new agers a little while ago, but recently has become an important part of the social emotional development of children. Each book that I read had something special to offer, but Growing Up Mindful stood out as being the most accessible and as a result the most dog eared.

"Mindfulness, What exactly is it?" is a wonderful chapter title, and Willard does an excellent job of explaining mindfulness to someone who may not have even a clue about it. His favorite definition is "paying attention to the present moment with acceptance and nonjudgment" (p.28) He likes it "because the definition has three critical elements:

1. paying attention on purpose
2. present moment contact
3. acceptance and nonjudgment

These are all qualities we need to have as teachers and we need to cultivate in our students. We as adults have the opportunity to model for our students how to handle situations. On p51 Willard emphasizes that telling angry or anxious children to practice mindfulness is will not be successful unless we as adults model calming ourselves.

On page 89 there is a chapter about the connection of mind and body, and how that can be very scary for a lot of our students. Helping students be comfortable with their physical selves helps them better identify emotions. As music teachers we are tasked with building some of that body awareness, and if we do it with a little extra purpose we could help them in so many ways. There are many tools in the book designed for children and those who work with children. Most are very quick little reminders, but there are some scripts to help with more serious moments. Willard has adapted the language from some traditional meditations to fit the language of modern day young people. I tried using a few of the cards from his Growing Mindful Deck last year during warm-ups with great success during testing season. Now that I've done a bit more research I feel like I can integrate a few more things into the daily structure of my class, and also be ready to handle moments of crisis in a more mindful way. If your campus is starting to move this direction as mine is, I highly suggest reading this book to help you navigate and understand.

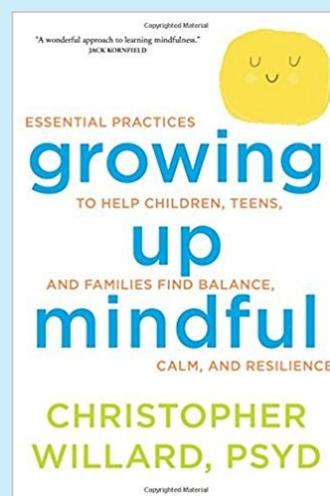
<http://drchristopherwillard.com/>



*Meredith Riggs*

**Blackshear Elementary  
Fine Arts Academy**

**Austin ISD**





*Sarah Martinez*

**Hernandez Middle  
School**

**Round Rock ISD**

## FROM ELEMENTARY MUSIC TO SECONDARY CHOIR

A few years ago I made the switch to teaching secondary choir after teaching elementary music for the first 7 years of my career. There were many parts of this transition that didn't require any change, including my teaching philosophy and one of my favorite quotes from Zoltan Kodály : "Only the best is good enough for a child." The Kodály concept works for teaching students of all ages and backgrounds.

The biggest change I've had to adjust to is the way I plan to teach concepts and repertoire. As an elementary teacher, I could map out a sequence of concepts and then search my folk song collection and other sources for appropriate songs to teach those concepts. The order of new musical elements and most of the song materials could remain the same year-to-year.

As a secondary choir teacher, I don't have control over the region choir music selected at the middle school level or the [TMEA All-State literature](#) selected for high school students. I have limited choices about what my students can prepare for [Solo & Ensemble](#) and what my choirs can perform at [UIL Concert and Sight Reading](#), but even those songs can't be repeated year-to-year. Therefore, even though I still maintain a list of concepts that I want to teach throughout the year, the order of those concepts is often driven by what can be applied to the music they are learning.

I love the fact that this causes me to learn new music and make connections I would have otherwise not thought of. As I was looking at Rossini's "La Danza" on the TMEA All-State list, it reminded me of "Cicerenella" - an Italian folk song I've often danced to with the [Austin International Folk Dancers](#). I'm excited to use this folk dance connec-

tion to help my students better understand the cultural norms and feel of this tarantella tune.

Studying Gjeilo's "Ave Generosa" from this year's All-State list brought about several other easy connections that could be made. The ancient text by Hildegard von Bingen might have given good cause for the use of Germanic Latin pronunciation, but the modern harmonies and TMEA's practice tracks justify the use of Italianate Latin.

This will be an important connection about [language acquisition](#) in my IB school, and also helpful for students who might search on [YouTube](#) and hear other pronunciations. Despite what state testing might imply, sometimes there is more than one "right answer."

Musically, the beginning of "Ave Generosa" is definitely modal, but the 6th scale degree changes back and forth. Therefore, it could be thought of as aeolian with the occasional raised 6th or dorian with the occasional lowered 6th. Since many of my students are unfamiliar with dorian, I'll want to get the dorian sound in their ears through folk songs. Arrangements of "Scarborough Fair" are on the UIL Prescribed Music List, so teaching this folk song could help me establish tonality and also set up possible repertoire choices for later in the school year. "Virgin Mary, Meek and Mild" is also in dorian and the text was written about the same historical figure as "Ave Generosa," so this could help solidify both of these for students.

I'm looking forward to what this new school year will bring with my new students and our new repertoire! It is an honor to be part of the music education of our future leaders, and I'm thankful for those who have taught me and encouraged me to teach others.

## FINAL THOUGHTS

Starting over—something many of us are familiar with in some way or another, but fall is the time when many of us are starting over at a new school and/or district.

Such is my situation this fall. I moved from Plano to Katy this summer and have a new teaching position, with all that entails.

Changing schools can be a very stressful time, or an extremely rewarding one. It's a great time to try that new layout you've been thinking about, or that new routine that your former students just wouldn't dig.

You may also find yourself with a teaching partner rather than being on an island, as I've found myself this year.

My advice to you is to walk in with a completely open mind, take this opportunity to try new things, and most of all, enjoy the new experiences you will have getting to know an entirely new group of wonderful children and coworkers.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for both TMEA in San Antonio and OAKE National in Oklahoma City, and please attend the wonderful workshops our Reps have planned!



*Melanie Braddy*

**KET Vice-President**

## 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 click ‘like.’

“Follow” us on Twitter! Search for @Kodaly\_edu\_tx and click ‘follow.’

You can also join our Facebook 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 Kristin Vogt Moore at [Kristin.Moore@pisd.edu](mailto:Kristin.Moore@pisd.edu).

