



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

January, 2017

The Encounter

FEBRUARY 2017 MEMBER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

Thursday, February 9, 2017 at 10:00am in CC217

Candidates for Open Board Positions

President-Elect: Lauren Bain

Treasurer: Sarah Martinez

North Texas Rep: Megan Johnson

Central Texas Rep: Meredith Riggs

Special guest choir performance— Hill Country Children’s Chorus

Folk dancing, singing, training scholarship information, updated workshop information, door prizes, and more!

TMEA HEADLINERS

The TMEA headliners are Mícheál Houlahan and Philip Tacka — be sure to check out their sessions!

More information about TMEA on page 3!



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

| | |
|--------------------------------|----|
| President’s Report | 2 |
| TMEA Update | 3 |
| Region Realignment | 5 |
| OAKE National Conference | 5 |
| Region News | 6 |
| Scholarships | 8 |
| OAKE Training Programs | 10 |
| Book Review | 11 |
| Tech Time | 12 |
| Final Thoughts | 13 |

NEW FEATURES!

Click the Table of Contents to go directly to the page!

Click any page number to return to this page.

Click on any orange text throughout this issue to be taken directly to the appropriate website.



Rebecca Juárez

KET President

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

As we start the second half of the school year, many of us are reviewing rules and procedures in our classrooms. My campus has been reading a book entitled, "Kids Deserve It" by Todd Nesloney and Adam Welcome. It is a short and inspiring read! The book discusses building relationships with students and getting outside your comfort zone to engage and empower your students. I was really impacted and inspired by the authors' zest for learning, so how do we apply these things in our music classrooms? Step outside of your comfort zone for kids!

Build relationships! I know we only see the kids a short amount of time each week, but FIND ways to build rapport with "that student". Don't make excuses, make time. What do they like? Talk to them about Pokémon, football, or whatever their interests are. Give them a smile when they walk through the door and wish them luck at their basketball game next week. You get the idea! Build relationships.

Do you have a school/teacher Twitter account? Why not? As a teacher, we need to be current for our students! KET will have its first Twitter "educhat" this month, join and learn/discuss Kodály methodology with us. Twitter is a great way to showcase your classroom and musical ideas (post pictures and videos of what your students are doing!) and learn from others (find and follow other great music teachers and professional organizations like KET).

Follow KET and the KET board on Twitter:

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| KET | @Kodalytx_edu |
| Rebecca Juárez, President | @huebnermusic |
| Kristin Moore, President-Elect | @brinkermusic |
| Melanie Braddy, Vice-President | @Kodalymusictr |
| Sarah Martinez, Treasurer | @hernandezchoir |
| Jason Mincy, Secretary | @jamincy77 |
| Megan Johnson, North | @KETNorthRep |
| Meredith Riggs, Central | @Mrsriggsmusic |
| Paul Cimini, South | @cimini_paul |

Here's the bottom line: Step out of your comfort zone and do your best for kids- they deserve it!



A LOOK AT TMEA

Suggested list of Kodály-inspired sessions at TMEA (Times and locations subject to change. Check the Conference Program or Guidebook app for updates)

Thursday

- * 10:00-11:00 AM CC217
KET Membership Meeting
- * 10:00-11:00 CC Hemisfair Ballroom 2
“Singing and Moving with Dalcroze, Gordon, Kodály, and Orff
Julie Scott, David Frego, Brent Gault, Herbert Marshall, Judy Bond
- * 10:00-11:00 AM CC Hemisfair Ballroom 3
“Engaging and FUNdamental Rehearsal Activities for Your Choir
Mícheál Houlahan and Philip Tacka, TMEA Featured Clinicians
(featuring the Montessori School of San Antonio with Rebecca Morgan and Ellie Parks)
- * 2:30-3:30 CC Hemisfair Ballroom 3
“Engaging and Tuneful Activities for the Early Childhood Classroom”
Mícheál Houlahan and Philip Tacka, TMEA Featured Clinicians
- * 4:00-5:00 CC Hemisfair Ballroom 1
“Teaching Dance and Singing Games with K-2”
Peter Amidon and Mary Alice Amidon, New England Dancing Masters
- * 5:15-6:00 CC Hemisfair Ballroom 1
Elementary Division Business Meeting
- * 6:30-7:30 CC Hemisfair Ballroom 1
“Movement Session: Bluebonnet Scottish Country Dancers”
John Roby, Bluebonnet Scottish Country Dancers

Friday

- * 10:00-11:00 Grand Hyatt Lone Star DEF
“Kodály Practices in the Secondary Rehearsal”
Jason Dove
- * 10:00-11:00 CC Hemisfair Ballroom 1
“Great Traditional Dances for Grades 3-5”
Peter Amidon and Mary Alice Amidon, New England Dancing Masters

FEATURED CLINICIANS

TMEA Featured Clinicians for Kodály are:



Mícheál Houlahan



Philip Tacka



A LOOK AT TMEA

FEATURED CLINICIANS

TMEA Featured Clinicians for Kodály are:



Mícheál Houlahan



Philip Tacka

Friday (cont.)

- * 10:00-11:00 CC Hemisfair Ballroom 3
“Sticking It to the Beat: Singing with Bars and Unpitched Percussion”
Mícheál Houlahan and Philip Tacka, TMEA Featured Clinicians (featuring Rebecca Juarez, KET President and students from Huebner Elementary)
- * 11:30-12:30 CC Hemisfair Ballroom 3
“Circle to the Left: Folk Dances & Play Parties of Texas”
Kathy Kuddes
- * 1:00-2:00 CC Hemisfair Ballroom 1
“Tuneful, Beatful, and Artful Movement for Upper Elementary”
John Feierabend
- * 4:00-5:00 CC Hemisfair Ballroom 3
“Tuneful Singing Games for the Upper Elementary Music Classroom”
Mícheál Houlahan and Philip Tacka, TMEA Featured Clinicians
- * 5:15-6 Locations TBA
TMEA Region Meetings
- * 6:30-7:30 CC Hemisfair Ballroom 1
“Movement Session: Evening Community Dance”
Peter Amidon and Mary Alice Amidon, New England Dancing Masters

Saturday

- * 9:30-10:30 CC217 CD
“Engaging and Tuneful Activities for the Early Childhood Classroom”
Mícheál Houlahan and Philip Tacka, TMEA Featured Clinicians
- * 11:00-12:00 CC217 CD
“First, We Sing! Songs and Games for Kodály-Inspired Teaching”
Susan Brumfield
- * 12:30-1:30 CC217 CD
“Tuneful Singing Games for the First- and Second- Grade Elementary Music Classroom”
Mícheál Houlahan and Philip Tacka, TMEA Featured Clinicians

REGION REALIGNMENT

Do you know how far it is from El Paso to Lubbock? It's far. If you cut through New Mexico, the distance is 350 miles. The West portion of KET is huge, so to better provide for our teachers in these areas we will be making a change.

The West will now be NW (TMEA Regions 1 & 16) and SW (TMEA Regions 6 & 22). While still covering a big area, this split will hopefully help those teachers in West Texas by allowing them to attend more workshops and feel more connected to other teachers closer to them.



“Do you know how far it is from El Paso to Lubbock?”

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

OAKE National Conference will be held March 23—26, 2017 at the Philadelphia Marriott Downtown. OAKE has a block of rooms available at a conference rate which expires at 5pm (EST) on February 24, 2017, or when the block is sold out.

Sessions will include:

- Mini-Conference with Joan Litman
- Keynote by Ysaye Barnwell
- Opening Concert with The Young People's Chorus of New York City
- National Conference Choirs Concert
- Are You Listening, Kindergarten? Session with KET Member Lauren Bain
- Beyond the “333’s” - Kodály’s “Pentatonic Music” Series session with KET Member Kathy Kuddes
- “Let Them Ring: Voices and Bars in Song” with KET President Rebecca Juárez

... and so many more!

OAKE NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Conference registration opened October 16, 2016.

Information on housing, registration, and transportation is available at:

www.oake.org/conferences/





NORTH REGION

Spring Workshop Information Coming Soon!

Visit us at our TMEA booth

and

Attend the KET Business Meeting

Thursday at 10AM in CC217

Attend a workshop within your region this spring!



CENTRAL REGION

New Spanish Folk Song Materials & Beginning Choir Methods

WHO: Mirna Cabrera

WHEN: April 8, 2017 9am-1pm

WHERE: Montessori School of San Antonio

CONTACT: Meredith Riggs

meredithriggs@gmail.com

Mirna Cabrera will present her existing and upcoming Hispanic folk song collections and how to use those songs to teach musicianship and literacy. She will also share her favorite folk song octavos and give advice on teaching vocal partwork.

SOUTH REGION

Spring Workshop Information Coming Soon!

Visit us at our TMEA booth
and
Attend the KET Business Meeting
Thursday at 10AM in CC217



Attend a workshop within your region this spring!

WEST REGION

This fall, the West Texas region enjoyed a workshop with Amy Abbott on November 12th. Mrs. Abbott treated teachers from El Paso, Amarillo, Midland/Odessa, and Lubbock to a fun day of learning, filled with fresh ideas for teaching music literacy to children of all ages.

This spring, the region will enjoy a Make-N-Take meeting and opportunity for fellowship. The date for this event will be determined and announced soon, so be on the lookout!





JENÖ ÁDÁM SCHOLARSHIP

The Jenő Ádám Scholarship provides partial funding to OAKE members with Level I certification toward further 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. Individuals may apply for more than one scholarship from OAKE, but will only be eligible for one award any given year, as determined by the Scholarship Committee.

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

Deadline: February 1

Want to further your training? Scholarship opportunities are available!

KET 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, 2017.

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.

The recipient must also submit a reflection paragraph of their training to the Vice President for publication in the quarterly Encounter.

For questions, please contact Kristin Moore, President-Elect, at kristin.moore@pisd.edu.

Application: www.Kodalytexas.com

Deadline: April 1, 2017

OAKE NATIONAL CHOIR TEACHER SCHOLARSHIP

OAKE Southern Division Members who have a student participating in an OAKE National Choir are eligible so apply for a \$300 scholarship for expenses at the 2017 OAKE National Conference. One scholarship will be awarded. Please see [page 9](#) for an application.

Deadline: January 31, 2017

**2017 National Choir Teacher Scholarship Application
Southern Division ONLY**

Name of Teacher: _____

OAKE Chapter Affiliation: _____ Member Expiration Date: _____

How many years have you been an OAKE member? _____

How many students have you sponsored over the years? _____

Name of Student(s) in Choir: _____

Mailing Address of Teacher: _____

Without getting too personal, what would this scholarship mean to you? _____

Signature of Music Teacher _____

Instructions: After completing the application, please mail by **January 31, 2017**, to:

**Southern Division OAKE Scholarship Committee
C/O Amy Chaffin
3749 Jonesboro Rd.
Hampton, GA 30228**

A decision will be made and you will be notified by February 24, 2017.

OAKE ENDORSED SUMMER PROGRAMS

Midwestern State University

Wichita Falls, TX
Programs Dates: TBA
Contact: Dr. Susan Harvey
susan.harvey@mwsu.edu

Plano Kodály Teacher Training Program

Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX
Program Dates: July 5-21, 2017
Contact: Kathy Kuddes, Dr. Julie Scott
kathy.kuddes@pisd.edu, scottj@smu.edu

Southeast Texas Kodály Certification Program

Houston, TX
Program Dates: June 12-29, 2017
Contact: Colleen Riddle
criddle@aldineisd.org



Want to begin or further your Kodály training?

Texas State University

San Marcos, TX
Program Dates: TBA
Contact: Lisa Roebuck or Patty Moreno
Lisa_Roebuck@roundrockisd.org
patricia.h.moreno@austinisd.org

Kodály Institute of Houston

University of Houston
Program Dates: TBA
Contact: Cara Spinks
msmpcs@central.uh.edu

Kodály Institute of Southwest Louisiana and Southwest Texas at Lamar University

Beaumont, TX
Program Dates: TBA
Contact: Charlotte Mizener
clmizener@lamar.edu

Our website is being updated as more training programs finalize their information. Check back regularly for programs near you!

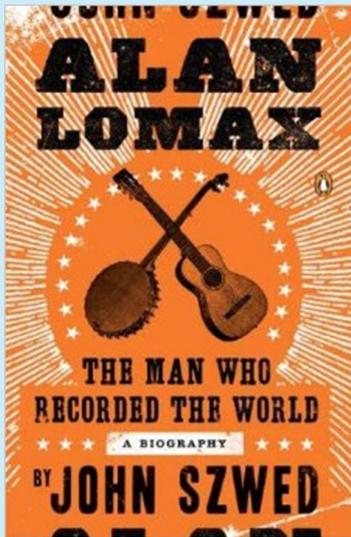
www.Kodalytexas.com

www.oake.org



Meredith Riggs

KET Central Region
Rep



“ALAN LOMAX: THE MAN WHO RECORDED THE WORLD” BY JOHN SZWED

I've always known that Alan Lomax existed, that he and his father John were responsible for “discovering” some of the most influential blues musicians of all time. But that was about it, until a few years ago. I was trying to learn more about the origins and purposes of the songs I use in my teaching, and delve a little deeper into variants and cultural context. The Association for Cultural Equity (www.culturalequity.org) has been a great resource for that research. ACE is where the “Global Jukebox” and all of the work the Lomaxes did is being archived online. They're adding new recordings and videos as they're restored, and I've found some amazing things to share with my students. I wanted to learn more about how he managed to document all of these amazing performances in a time of Jim Crow, War, and the Civil Right Movement. I tried to read a book written by Lomax himself, but I felt like I was missing some details, and his writing style takes some getting used to. So, I put that book down and grabbed this biography I was going to read next. It was much easier to read, and has given be a better context for listening to recordings and reading Lomax himself.

The biography is very chronological. It starts with a brief bio of his father John Lomax, the UT professor and cowboy song collector. It then delves into Alan's early life and very interesting education. Alan was very eager to accompany his father on song collecting trips where John taught Alan how to dress and speak with different audiences. They also worked together on proposals for donors and government officials, and how to organize the results of those projects for publishing. There are many accounts of their collecting adventures in an aptly titled chapter “Road Scholars”. There are also some really wonderful anecdotes involving a trip they took with Zora Neale Hurston, and other interactions with notable figures of the depression era. Szwed gives much time to the Lomax's relationship with Lead Belly— for better and for worse.

Alan eventually set off on his own trips while his father was cataloging their collections at the Library of Congress. Through New Deal WPA, they worked with Charles and Ruth Seeger on many projects documenting the folk music of America. Alan worked with Charles Seeger on a musical play about American life that led to Alan creating more radio pro-

gramming of folk music. The radio programs he put together were educational for all Americans and exposure for the musicians performing. Many of those musicians were offered recording contracts as a result of the exposure Lomax gave them. Alan served in the military during WWII in many non-combat capacities due to some health issues. After the war he was put on the “blacklist” and remained suspected of communist sympathies till the end of the cold war despite being cleared repeatedly.

After the war, Alan put together many record anthologies and performances. He went into a cycle where he used the royalties he received from recordings to fund future projects. He went to the British Isles to record songs, and by partnering with the BBC ended up producing many radio shows and some television programming starting in 1951. He showcased American Blues musicians including Sister Rosetta Tharpe, who became a huge sensation there. After doing research in Scotland, Lomax developed some theories about folk music and the worldwide human experience that took him on a tour of Europe. In the political climate of the early 50's this was no easy task. He worked with psychologists, cultural anthropologists, and folklorists to develop a more scientific approach to folk song analysis. He eventually began to work with dance and movement experts to develop a system to categorize both the movement and music aspects of performance, since the two are virtually inseparable in folk music.

In and among all of this great work is a very fascinating personal life that I'll leave out since we want to focus on music and not personal scandal. Alan Lomax led an amazing and incredibly full life and left us with an enormous collection of human history. Now that I know more about the man, I can read *The Land Where the Blues Began* and not feel completely lost.

TECH TIME

Several Years ago, I decided I had had enough of lesson plan books that did not fit my needs as a music teacher. I spent a year with a template that I created in Microsoft Word, but even that was not flexible enough for the crazy schedule of an elementary music teacher. So during the fall of 2011, I searched and searched the internet for an online tool that would help streamline lesson planning.

Enter—planbook.com

Disclosure: I have no affiliation with planbook.com other than being a loyal user and fan.

There are so many features to love about this platform. First, it is web-based, which makes it easy to plan anywhere. The home screen comes up with a weekly view that you can customize to meet your exact needs.

Second, they have pretty much EVERY standard set possible available for every type of teacher. It is as easy as clicking to add the appropriate standards to your lessons. And if they don't have what you need, their customer service is second-to-none! They will add whatever you need if you just point them in the right direction!

Looking for a web-based way to keep track of your lesson plans and classes? Try planbook.com

Third, mobile apps for iOS and Android! And the best part is, you can work offline on the app and sync when you get wireless access again!

Sound intriguing? Here's a few other features:

- Add attachments—you can upload and add, or even add a link directly into your Google Drive!
- Google Integration—planbook.com integrates with Google so you can sync a calendar and link directly to files in your Google Drive.
- Bump/Extend/Delete Lessons—have a fire drill you didn't know about? Right clice, bump to move the entire lesson to the next day and delete it from the current. Just didn't get through everything? Extend the lesson from 1-10 days.
- One class for the day cancelled for an assembly? Click no class in the editor and the class vanishes from the day.
- Snow Day/School Holiday/Conference/PDH? Insert a no school day with your event name when oyu set up your planner and all your les-

sons will skip that day and move to the next available class meeting!

- STAAR testing? No proplem! Lock lessons to the day and make sure that no matter what happens before, the testing will be on the right day!
- Import lessons from one year to the next—Gone are the days of rewriting every lesson from scratch! Did you like your Kindergarten sequence from last year? Import it and you are ready to make minor changes and go (of course we don't teach 100% the same way each year, but the skeleton will often be very similar). Make changes as necessary and additions (extensions/interventions) as needed.

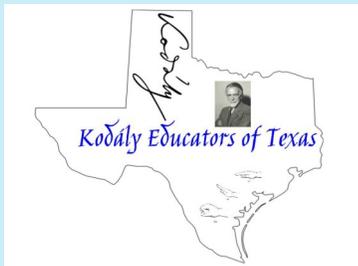
Do you co-teach? Planbook has you covered there too. You can share lessons with other teachers and import between planbooks.

The setup takes about 30-45 minutes, but saves hours each year.



Melanie Braddy

KET Vice-President



FINAL THOUGHTS

I'm mentoring our first-year Art Specialist this year. We spend a lot of time talking about balancing the first year of teaching and all that comes with that with having a life outside of school. She frequently asks me two questions: how do you handle everything that needs to be done, and how do you prioritize those tasks? This is something I think we ALL struggle with, whether in our first or thirty-first year of teaching, and something I decided to make a very conscious effort to work on this year. I'd like to offer a few tips as my final thoughts this issue:

1. Find a true to-do list format you like and stick with it. I make a list each day with three sections: to-do today, to-do this week, and to-do later. I remake that list every evening for the next day. Limit yourself to 3-5 daily items and give yourself a time limit.
2. Give yourself permission. Permission to leave at your contract time if you are tired, permission to NOT do anything school-related on a Saturday or Sunday. It's ok—I promise. Also, give yourself permission to not reinvent the wheel every year. I reuse (after minor tweaks) many of my

lessons. It's not lazy, it's not wrong. Take care of you.

3. Don't be afraid to say "No." I have to say, this is one I struggle with every. single. day. It seems there's always someone wanting/needing something from me. By giving myself permission to say "I'm so sorry, I just can't make that work right now," I've discovered that I am much better equipped to find a work-life balance.

There are so many other thoughts I could add, but these three have been critical in helping me balance my day-to-day classroom needs, mentoring, serving on your KET Board, my new marriage and home life, and preventing burnout.

See you all in San Antonio!

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Check our website for updated information concerning workshops, meetings, and the latest news! Go to www.Kodalytexas.com

"Like" us on Facebook! Search for "Kodály Educators of Texas" page and click 'like.'

"Follow" us on Twitter! Search for @Kodály_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 or our President Rebecca Juárez at rjuare3@neisd.net.