

# The Encounter



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

October 20, 2011

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## President's Column



Whew! I don't know about your holidays, but mine were a whirlwind of programs, concerts, family, decorating, cooking, and beautiful music! I love the holiday

season for all of the things it represents, and for the time of sharing with my students, friends, and family. However, it does take a toll on my voice and my energy level. I hope yours was filled with many blessings and at least some time for a much needed rest!

As we move into the winter and spring semester, I find myself getting down to the "nitty gritty" of teaching. Although there are spring concerts and programs to plan, I know that these next couple of months are the time when my teaching is most productive and my students are the most receptive to new concepts. I am making use of the "gems" from our fall workshops, and looking forward to all of the new things to be presented at our winter workshops. Once again, our KET region

representatives have created a fantastic array of opportunities for all of us to renew and learn. Our Southern Division gathering at the end of the month will be a wonderful time of sharing, learning, and inspiration and I hope you are planning to attend.

And, TMEA is coming up in February! Our booth will be open, so be sure to come and visit us in the Musician's Showcase area close to where our booth was last year. Our general membership meeting will be held on Friday, February 10, 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. in room CC217. We will be discussing new offerings from our organization and there will be door prizes! Be sure to put it on your personal schedule!

Remember to find time to reinvigorate yourself and your teaching in the upcoming months, and continue all you do to inspire those future musicians. They will remember what you do.

Brenda Keen

# A NEW Online Resource

## A New Online Resource – FREE!

KET's former Central Texas Rep, Alisha Gabriel, has started a new blog and website at [www.alishagabriel.com](http://www.alishagabriel.com). She blogs about elementary music including visual aids, utilizing content with technology, and ideas for developing student skills through kinesthetic, aural, and visual activities. Under "Resources for Teachers," you'll find song examples in several categories including *Solfége and Rhythm Examples, Solfége Only Examples, Rhythms, Chord Borduns, and Worksheets*.



The files are free to download for classroom use. You may alter them as needed, including cropping images to use the portion most beneficial to your lessons. Alisha will only be posting folk songs and content in the public domain. If there's something specific you'd like to see included, please leave a comment, use the contact form on the website, or email [alishagabriel@aol.com](mailto:alishagabriel@aol.com).

Alisha said, "There are many wonderful teachers who don't utilize technology to the fullest. I hope that this will help music teachers to incorporate technology in their lessons and be a useful resource. My visual aids are almost all created in Finale, exported as an image, and then cropped to the right size. They can be used in SMART, Promethean, PowerPoint, etc. I decided to share what I've created so that others can benefit. Why re-create the wheel? I'd also like the blog to be a place where many people will share ideas that worked. Please add your comments! Additionally, if you have a great idea for a blog post, please contact me about being a guest blogger!"

*Alisha Gabriel received Kodály Certification through the Texas State University Training Program. She also received her bachelor's and master's degrees from Texas State and has been teaching elementary music for fourteen years.*

# Upcoming Workshops

## South Region

### **Exploring the Southwest and Mexico through Song and Movement**

presented by Gabriela Montoya-Stier

**DATE:** Saturday, January 21, 2012

**WHERE:** University of Houston Moores School of Music, 120 School of Music Building, Houston, Texas 77204

**TIME:** 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

**CREDIT:** 4 C.P.E. Hours

**FEE:** \$35 Early Registration Fee; \$50 after Jan. 13

**DETAILS:** This presentation focuses on Mexican children folk songs and singing games along with children's literature that have a Southwestern theme. The workshop will incorporate a Kodály approach to implementing the folk song selections into an elementary music curriculum.

**CONTACT:** For registration, please call (713-743-3398) or email [msmpcs@central.uh.edu](mailto:msmpcs@central.uh.edu).

## Central Region

### **“Sequencing for Success: Developing Artful Instruction for Musical Development”**

presented by Dr. Brent Gault

**DATE:** Saturday, January 28, 2012

**WHERE:** Mead Elementary, 3803 Midorizon Drive, San Antonio, Tx 78229

**TIME:** 9:00 a.m. - 12:00p.m.

**COST:** \$10 for TMEA or KET members; \$20 for non-members; free for college students

**DETAILS:** Dr. Brent Gault has taught elementary and early childhood music courses in Texas, Wisconsin, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, and Indiana. He specializes in elementary general music education, early childhood music education, and Kodály-inspired methodology. Gault also has training in both the Orff and Dalcroze approaches to music education.

*This workshop is generously sponsored by TMEA, KET, San Antonio ISD, and Northside ISD.*

**CONTACT:** Corrie Box at [corrie@corriebox.com](mailto:corrie@corriebox.com) or Gabriela Montoya-Stier at [gabrielamontoyastier@gmail.com](mailto:gabrielamontoyastier@gmail.com)

# Jewish Music to Dance & Sing!

OAKE/KET North Texas Region present ...

## Naomi Katz Cohen

Learn to perform different styles of Israeli and Yiddish folk dances and songs! The history and significance of these Jewish art forms will convey various religious and ethnic aspects of Judaism. Dances will range from simple to more complex footwork. The songs will be in both Hebrew and Yiddish, both secular and sacred, and game songs included.

Naomi Katz Cohen is currently in her seventeenth year of teaching music. After eleven years teaching general and vocal music at The Chapin School in New York City, she is now the Music Director at the SAR Academy, a Modern Orthodox Coed Yeshiva in Riverdale, NY. In addition to teaching music, she is also a professional singer, having sung the roles of The Queen of the Night in Mozart's The Magic Flute, The Dew Fairy in Humperdinck's Hansel and Gretel, Oscar in Verdi's Un Ballo in Maschera, Musetta in Puccini's La Boheme, and Rachel Stitzer/Belle Fortune in the world premier opera A.F.R.A.I.D. in the 2005 NYC Fringe Festival.

You can fill out the registration form and return via email: [kim.nithiananda@pisd.edu](mailto:kim.nithiananda@pisd.edu) (bring payment with you)  
OR send form and payment via mail to: Kim Nithiananda/KET Rep, 2329 Sky Harbor Drive, Plano, TX 75025.

### Jewish Music to Sing & Dance! - Registration Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

**CHOOSE ONE:** (Forms returned before the session ensure the availability of music for the afternoon choral reading session!)

Current OAKE member \_\_\_\_\_ \$20 (includes music from choral reading session)

Non-OAKE member \_\_\_\_\_ \$25 (includes music from choral reading session)

College Student \_\_\_\_\_ \$5 (covers cost of choral reading music)

Saturday,  
February 4, 2012  
PISD Sockwell Center

8:30-11:30 AM  
*11:30-1:00 lunch on your own*  
1:00-3:00 PM - with choral  
reading session included!

# *Southern Division Gathering: Kodály Together Weekend*

**January 27<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> in San Antonio, TX**

**Featured Clinician: Brent Gault**

## **Schedule**

**January 27<sup>th</sup>** 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Informal Soirée at the home of Greg Zouzalik

**January 28<sup>th</sup>** **9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.** Sequencing for Success: Developing Artful Instruction for Musical Development, Brent Gault.  
**1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.**  
Track 1: Observation of Brent Gault during San Antonio ISD Kodály Certification Program Special Topics Course  
Track 2: Shopping and sightseeing at the Alamo/Riverwalk  
**5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.** Group dinner at Mamacita's  
**8:00 p.m.** (Optional) Jazz/Flamenco at Carmen's de la Calle Café  
[www.carmensdelacalle.com](http://www.carmensdelacalle.com)

## **Registration Cost**

Includes workshop fee, t-shirt, and Friday soirée - \$40

### **Two Options for Registration:**

1. Mail registration and check payment to: Lauren Bain, 224 Goliad Drive, New Braunfels, TX 78130
2. E-mail registration information to [lfbain@gmail.com](mailto:lfbain@gmail.com). Payment due on-site.

## **Lodging**

Option 1: La Quinta Inn at the Medical Center: \$89

Option 2: Lodging with local Kodály teachers: FREE (Space for 10-12 people)

## **Questions?**

Lauren Bain, KET Vice President [lfbain@gmail.com](mailto:lfbain@gmail.com)

Corrie Box [corrie@corriebox.com](mailto:corrie@corriebox.com)

Gaby Montoya-Steir [gabrielamontoyasteir@gmail.com](mailto:gabrielamontoyasteir@gmail.com)

# OAKE Southern Division Gathering

## Registration Form

January 27th - 28th, 2012      San Antonio, Texas

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ School/District: \_\_\_\_\_

T-Shirt Size: **S   M   L   XL   XXL**      OAKE member: yes no      Chapter Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Housing Options:**

- I will be reserving my own hotel room in San Antonio.
- I would like to stay with a local KET member.
- I live in the area and would like to be a housing host and/or provide transportation. Please contact me with further information.

### **Event Registration:**

For reservation purposes, please check the following events you plan to attend:

- Friday, Jan 27th at 7:00 p.m. Informal Soirée
- Saturday, Jan 28th Workshop with Brent Gault at Mead Elementary School
- Saturday Track 1:** Observation of Brent Gault teaching a special topics course for the SAISD Kodály Certification Program. 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- Saturday Track 2:** Visit to the Riverwalk to see the Alamo and go shopping.
- Division Gathering Dinner at a local Mexican Restaurant
- Live Flamenco/Jazz at a local tappas bar, Carmen's de la Calle Cafe; Saturday, Jan 28th at 8:30 p.m.

**Payment:** \$40 for workshop, T-shirt, and the Friday Evening Informal Soirée

Please make checks payable to **KET** and mail along with this registration form to:

Lauren Bain  
224 Goliad Drive  
New Braunfels, TX 78130

# A Veteran's Perspective of OAKE



I attended my first OAKE conference when it was in San Antonio, Texas after finishing my level III certification. I actually believed I couldn't be a part of KET or OAKE until I finished all my levels, like it was some kind of private club or something. I had so much fun that first conference; I wished I had discovered it sooner.

- No levels are necessary to attend the conference. In fact, they have sessions designed for people new to the concept.
- I made so many like minded friends from across the state and the nation.
- The sessions were fantastic. I pictured a national Kodály conference to be dry and stuffy, sitting around singing with hand signs. It wasn't like that. I attended session after session on positive and innovative ways to teach using the Kodály concept.

## What to expect?

It all begins Thursday with a special session. The session is usually a two hour presentation from a phenomenal Kodály instructor anywhere in the U.S. You can attend the special session or get settled into your hotel room. Usually the home city has interesting places to see and eat that is walking distance from the hotel. Everything is located in one hotel. I highly recommend staying in the hotel that everything is taking place in. Then you don't have to worry about transportation back and forth. Last year was the first year there were sessions on Thursday afternoon. Check the schedule before you book your flight.

Thursday night is the opening session. Each state president processes in with the chapter banner, followed by a key note speaker, and a choir concert from an invited group.

Friday is a whole day of sessions and concerts. There is a general business meeting and Southern Division meeting. It gives you a chance to meet people closer to your home.

Saturday has part of the day spent in sessions, but the remainder of the day is the national choirs which are always mind blowing. I recommend you plan to stay Saturday night and leave Sunday morning. I suggest that you plan for an early flight in case you get stuck in Chicago like I did one year. The OAKE organizers recommend a shuttle line to and from the airport.

Katherine Johns  
KET President Elect  
Floresville, Texas

## **2012 OAKE Convention**

**Are you going?**

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

**ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN KODÁLY EDUCATORS**

**2012 National Conference**



**March 15-17, 2012  
Phoenix, AZ**



# CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

Mail or fax this form to:  
OAKE National Office  
1612-29th Avenue South  
Moorhead, MN 56560  
Fax - 218.227.6254



Member ID Number (If unknown, leave blank) \_\_\_\_\_

Name - Please Print Clearly \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Registering for Graduate Credit

Attending Newcomer Program

Mentoring a Newcomer

## Early Bird Discount Fees - POSTMARKED BY JANUARY 20, 2012

\_\_\_\_\_ \$200.00 OAKE Member  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$55.00 OAKE Student Membership - **MUST INCLUDE ID\***  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$155.00 OAKE Member Spouse  
Name of Member Spouse \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$120.00 OAKE Retired Member  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$335.00 Non-Member

## Regular Registration Fees - POSTMARKED BY FEBRUARY 6, 2012

\_\_\_\_\_ \$270.00 OAKE Member  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$75.00 OAKE Student Member - **MUST INCLUDE ID\***  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$175.00 Member Spouse  
Name of Member Spouse \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$140.00 OAKE Retired Member  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$395.00 Non-Member

## One Day Fee

\_\_\_\_\_ Friday \_\_\_\_\_ Saturday  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$170.00 OAKE Member  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$200.00 Non-Member  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$40.00 OAKE Student Member - **MUST INCLUDE ID\***

Payment must be made by **check** (U.S. currency) payable to OAKE or by **Visa, MasterCard, Discover or American Express**. Credit card information can be filled in below.

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_ CVV Security Code \_\_\_\_\_

Address of Cardholder (If different from person registering) \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Cancellation Policy:** Cancellations will be accepted, in writing only, until **FEBRUARY 10, 2012**. Refunds will reflect a 30% cancellation fee. After February 10, 2012, **NO REFUNDS WILL BE ISSUED**. Mail cancellations to OAKE National Office.

\*Student must enclose a copy of their current college ID card, front and back, showing full-time graduate or undergraduate status.

# From Our Members...



Each newsletter contains a question that was posed to the members. Here is the question and their responses!

## How do you maintain good vocal health during the school year? What advice can you give non-vocalists and new teachers?

I warm up every morning in my car while I driving to work. Mostly humming to the radio. I found a tea call "throat coat" that soothes my throat when it's tired. The biggest thing that I have learned is to not sing so loudly. When I started teaching, if my classes weren't singing, I would sing louder to try and encourage them. Now I do the opposite. I sing softer overall, when demonstrating or accompanying a class. Sometimes I might hear myself getting louder, and I back off. Also, drinking tones of water. No sodas. If I need something with some flavor, like at lunch time, I pop in a crystal light.

*-Katherine Johns, Floresville South Elementary, FISD*

Here's my top 10 that I try to live and teach by:

1. Drink a lot of water.
2. Wait for silence and stillness before giving directions (don't talk over singing, playing, movement or noise).
3. Give non-verbal cues for as many directions as possible (stand, sit, this group, play, stop...).
4. Drink more water.
5. Sing only to model for students. Once they know the melody let them sing it without you.
6. Let the students lead vocalizations for others to echo.
7. Use slide whistles, recorders or other instruments for vocalizations and echo patterns.
8. Drink more water.
9. Only give directions one time. If students "forget" what to do, ask another student to repeat or re-word the directions.
10. If your voice is strained or gone, DO NOT whisper. Use non-verbal directions/cues or (if you can do it) stay home. If it's an on-going condition, see a doctor.

*~Ann Baugh, Holy Trinity Catholic School, Grapevine*

1. Don't sing with the children. You can't hear them when you sing yourself.
2. Certainly don't sing if you use recorded accompaniment.
3. Speak in a higher register. Speaking in a lower register is more taxing on the voice.
4. Figure out non-verbal signals and cues for classroom routines.
5. Get the attention of the children before you speak. Avoid talking over them. Avoid repeating instructions.
6. I did the following on days when I had laryngitis. You could use the idea any time you want to give your voice a rest. I made a contest of speaking and not speaking. You might prepare cue cards ahead of time: "Find page X in your book." "Monitors, please pass out the felt staffs." "Find partners to play \_\_\_\_\_ (whatever the game is)." For groups with lower-level reading skills, you might need to speak the instructions very softly, or make picture cue cards. Any time a child or the class followed non-verbal instructions without talking themselves, the class earned a point. I gave points for any little thing that students did appropriately. Any time I had to stop to correct them or bring their attention back, I got a point. I tried to let them win. The prize was to play an additional favorite game at the next class period.

*~Dr. Charlotte Mizener, Lamar University*

# A LOOK AT TMEA

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

### Thursday, February 9

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

“Moving Toward Musical Understanding for Grades 3-5” by Brent Gault

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. CC Ballroom C3

“Bringing the World to Your Classroom: Resources that Offer Authentic Voice and Cultural Context” by Nyssa Brown

11:30 a.m. - 11:55 a.m. CC 217

Concert: Leon Heights Honor Choir directed by Debra Johnson, KET Central Region Rep

2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. CC Ballroom C1

“Listen Up! Active Music Listening Lessons for Early Elementary” by Brent Gault

3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. CC 217

CEDFA Summit XII - Assessment: Response/Evaluation TEKS and 21st Century Skills,  
by Kathy Kuddes

3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. CC Ballroom C2

“Techniques to Facilitate Singing in Harmony in the Elementary General Music Class”  
by James Reifinger

5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. CC 217

“Kodály Concepts for the Bilingual Kinder Classroom” by Gabriela Montoya-Stier

6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. CC Ballroom C2

Elementary Division Business Meeting

6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. CC Ballroom C1

Evening Dance Party for All led by Andy Davis and Mary Cay Brass of the New England  
Dancing Masters

# A LOOK AT TMEA **CONTINUED**

## **Friday, February 10**

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. CC 217 **KET GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING!** Come join us! We will be voting on several officer positions: Secretary, Vice-President, West Texas Representative, and South Texas Representative. There will be door prizes and information on training programs, as well as information on upcoming scholarships.

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. CC Ballroom C3

"African American Singing Games for the Elementary Music Classroom" by Nyssa Brown

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

"Aural, Visual, and Kinesthetic Strategies for Music Development: Rhythm, Melody, and Harmony" by Brent Gault

3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. CC ballroom C1

"Moving Toward Musical Understanding for Grades K-2" by Brent Gault

## **Saturday, February 11**

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. CC 214

"Aural, Visual, and Kinesthetic Strategies for Music Development: Form, Phrasing, and Meter" by Brent Gault

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. CC 217

"Teaching Traditional Dance PK - 6" by Andy Davis and Mary Cay Brass, New England Dancing Masters

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. CC 214

"Listen Up! Active Music Listening Lessons for Upper Elementary" by Brent Gault

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. CC 217

"Music Transitions: A Great Way to Get a More Musical Classroom" by Kristina Caffey and Loren Tarnow

12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. CC 214

"The Kodály Volumes: Resources for Teaching" by Kathy Kuddes

# Final Thoughts

by Lauren Bain, *KET Vice-President*



Winter comes at a wonderful time of the year for me. I personally love cold weather, warm clothes, the food, atmosphere - all of it! Perhaps I enjoy winter because I've just had a two week vacation for Christmas and I'm ready to teach again. January is the month I start rejuvenated for the year. I hope your start to 2012 will be just as exciting.

The Southern Division Gathering is just around the corner! If you have not heard of it yet, check this newsletter for details. It will be January 27-28 in San Antonio. The goal of this Gathering is connect with other Kodály educators across the Southern Division of OAKE. So many of you are great teachers, have creative ideas and approaches to the

pedagogy, and have harvested wisdom from many years of teaching. We all can benefit from each other's expertise and wealth of knowledge. Making connections with other teachers is important as we grow and develop our teaching. Many of my closest teaching friendships were formed through events and workshops like these. We hope you are able to join us.

If I don't see you at the Southern Division, I hope we'll connect at TMEA in February. We will have our membership booth in the Musician's Showcase as Brenda mentioned earlier in her column. I met many members and teachers, and encouraged several others to join at that booth. Our membership meeting is early on Friday morning so please stop by! We'd love to put a face to your name.

*Lauren Bain*

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## Additional Information

Check our website for updated information concerning workshops, meetings, and the latest news! Go to [www.ket.oake.org](http://www.ket.oake.org) and click on the "KET Website" link in the middle of the page to be redirected to the new site.

"Like" us on Facebook! Search for "Kodály Educators of Texas" and press "like." You can read updates and keep track of other KET members through this outlet.

Questions or comments? Email us at [kodalyedoftx@gmail.com](mailto:kodalyedoftx@gmail.com) or our President Brenda Keen at [brenda.keen@pisd.edu](mailto:brenda.keen@pisd.edu).