

BCKSC 2009 Branch Report

Greetings from the BCKSC! We had another eventful year. Our membership stands at 31. On our district pro-d day in February, KSC president Connie Foss More presented a workshop entitled "Kodaly for Conductors and Young Choristers". The session explored typical student development in melodic and rhythmic literacy, with related examples of Kodaly-style activities for elementary and middle school group singing. Teachers learned to utilize solfa and rhythm-duration syllables in choral settings in order to achieve knowledgeable artistry on the part of the singers. Similar to last year, the BCKSC liased with the LSA (local specialist association) in order to advertise to a larger group of teachers. Music education students from UVic attended as well as district specialists. We could not charge for the event since the LSA provided the venue. We hope to offer a morning workshop with Darlene Ngo and a choral sharing session in the afternoon this coming February.

In April, Denise Gagne came to Victoria and generously gave a workshop to several island teachers. We included membership in the cost of the workshop so gained several new members. We also attracted people to the executive. The BCKSC now has a website up and running, thanks to Gilles Toupin in Campbell River and a newsletter that is posted on the website, thanks to Rebecca Lanon who is now teaching in West Vancouver. We aim to offer a workshop of similar standard this coming April.

This year the BCKSC once again worked closely with the BCMEA to provide a complete Kodaly strand at the BCMEA conference, *Giocoso 2009*. In past years the BCMEA has paid for a Kodaly master clinician upon the recommendation of the BCKSC. This year we decided to take a different tack and bring in several different local clinicians in order to provide more variety in the Kodaly strand. It seems that is perhaps more what delegates are looking for. Sessions were generally very well attended, although Saturday's were less so due to fewer people attending the conference on the weekend. The following overview shows the scope and variety of sessions that were offered.

Inez St. Dennis, music specialist, sessional music education instructor at UVic and district support teacher for music, offered two session on singing games - the first for primary and the second covered special games she "saves" for intermediate grades.

Dr. Sheila Sim, music education professor at the University of Victoria, offered a session on improvisation and composition. She presented simple ways in which singing, recorder, Orff instruments and found sounds can all be used to improvise and compose. The pentatonic scale is very useful when improvising as everything will sound good! Provide a structure, like Rondo form (ABACADA), where improvisation opportunities are "sandwiched" between a known melody that all students can sing or play. Soundscapes are a great way to introduce composition where inventive as well as conventional notation can be used.

Darlene Ngo, elementary music teacher and choral director in Campbell River, BC, as well as Treasurer/Registrar of the BCKSC, gave a session entitled “In Tune Singing Through Play”. She offered playful ideas that can be used in primary and intermediate music classes and choir to develop in tune singing, blend, diction and ensemble skills.

Cathy Pedersen, music specialist and choral director in Surrey BC offered a session on basic choral conducting techniques to ensure clear communication with choristers. She used suitable repertoire to practice basic beat patterns, setting tempo, dynamics and giving clear cut-offs and entries. Cathy holds Level III Kodaly certification.

We are looking forward to another successful year. It continues to be a challenge to attract members when no Kodaly training is offered in the western provinces.

Respectfully submitted by Inge Illman, BCKSC President