

President's AGM Report for 2011  
Connie Foss More

This is the final time that I will address you as your President. Today you will elect new officers and board members to serve you, and I will become the official Past President. I look forward to having more time for some long-term projects that will hopefully strengthen our position in this country, especially among those who are working outside the public & independent school systems, such as pre-school teachers and university professors, as well as choral conductors, composers, and the many Kodaly enthusiasts who teach all ages and formats after school and on weekends in their homes, at recreation centres, or via conservatories. The "big picture" includes us all!

We have some good news on the teacher-education front. Both of our KSC-certified courses were offered this summer – at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo ON with chief instructor Heather Morris, and at the University of Alberta in Edmonton with chief instructors Ardelle Ries and Jody Stark. The U of A credit course was new this year, and they had to turn students away due to its popularity! We also received many impressive applications for the Irene Baird Fast Memorial Scholarship provided via the KSC. Please check your KSC website for announcements regarding 2012 summer courses, and be sure to encourage newcomers to consider enrolment.

Teacher education continues in other ways, too, and KSC clinician grants are being used this academic year in two places: by the Kodaly Society of Nova Scotia to hire Board members for today's workshops, and by the BC Music Educators Association to hire Darlene Ngo & Kelly Foster Griffin for sessions at the Oct. 2011 provincial conference.

Darlene Ngo represented us all this past July at the International Kodaly Society Meetings & Symposium in Brisbane, Australia. Congratulations go to KSC member Dr. Ardelle Ries, who became a Board Member of the International Kodaly Society at that meeting. Plans were made for the next two IKS Symposia, 2013 in Kecskemet, Hungary and 2015 in Beijing, China. Plans were also made for two more publications: a second songbook and a new compositions book. Do an IKS web search for lots of details about our international organization.

Please encourage the creation of new Kodaly-inspired teaching positions; we are happy to post job vacancies on our website. You can also encourage local education providers to hire Kodaly clinicians, and the revision of our Clinician & Consultant Directory can assist with that idea, along with applying for a \$300 KSC grant to support clinicians.

As you will hear, our branches provide regular and local opportunities to interact and learn at workshops & via newsletters. I encourage you to take advantage of leadership openings at all levels, since you will gain new skills and amazing friends at the same time as providing a needed service. It is not necessary to wait for someone to ask you to help; nothing would please us more than to have you offer some of your time and energy for such a good cause.

I owe gratitude to all of our Board members for their support and activities, and I'd like each one who is present to stand and remain standing as I mention your name. I particularly want to thank

those whose terms of office will end this weekend. Past President Velvet Sulymka has now served diligently on the Board for so long that it's hard to imagine proceeding without her, but she's done her job of passing the torch well (I hope!). Membership Coordinator Faith Daley embodies the energetic retired teacher who continues to "give back" in so many ways at both the provincial and national level. Bolstered by the provincial registrars, she has ensured that you receive each issue of "Alla Breve", either on paper or increasingly via the internet. Two of our branches are changing their leadership, too, and I thank Carolyn Neumann VanderBurgh for continuing on the national Board after a long stint as President of KSO. Jorgianne Talbot, who I met in Poland at the 2009 IKS Symposium, has just been replaced as President of AKA.

Speaking of AKA, one of their Advisors is our "Alla Breve" editor Dr. Eila Peterson, and I want to acknowledge her not as someone who is leaving (thank heavens!), but rather as someone wise and knowledgeable who continues to provide the "glue" that binds us across the country. As a former KSC journal editor myself, I know the comprehensive nature of the work and applaud her ongoing dedication.

Other continuing Board members Barbara Barter, Darlene Ngo, Susan Drayson (now representing Ontario), Jan Taylor-Bilenki and Louise Grinstead have become friends as well as valued colleagues. I look forward to developing a similar relationship with our newer Board members Greg Andrews and Martha Healy, plus any who are lucky enough to be elected here today.

It has been my sincere pleasure to lead such a wonderful team for the past four years!