

# News and Notes

June 2010

The purpose of Music Ed Ventures is to search for and practice ways of making music and interacting with people that preserve and celebrate the dignity of both. As a guiding principle, this purpose will focus our work on:

1. Practices that foster interactive, facilitative learning environments.
2. Strategies that empower the learner within the context of music experience and study.
3. Networks that encourage collaboration between diverse disciplines, professionals, and interest groups.

**Are you interested in hosting a workshop or class in your area? Send requests to the email address shown above, to be routed to the appropriate presenters/coordinators.**

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## From Our President Marilyn Winter, Butte, Montana

*Dear Fellow Educators,*

In my last president's letter, I stated that there is no greater satisfaction in life than to impart new understanding to another inhabitant of this earth. This is something that many of you do SO WELL.

In retrospect I realize how much of one's life it takes to be a teacher. It takes not only one's intelligence, but all of his or her emotional energy, a high percentage of one's awake hours, and a great deal of physical stamina. In other words, teaching consumes a teacher's whole life. However, as we have stated before, all this IS worth the effort.

So now!!!!!! SUMMER! In many ways summer is a "life line" for teachers AND students. After nine months of all consuming activity, it is an opportunity to regroup, renew, revitalize, and in general get ready for another year of teaching.

As summer approaches, I hope you will give yourself a gift of time to RE-CREATE, rest and regenerate.

Congratulations! to those who are retiring. It is a wonderful way to live life. I wish much luck to you all.

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!

MARILYN

**This is a great time to send in your terrific fall ideas for the August and September newsletters.**

*News and Notes* is the monthly communication of Music Ed Ventures, Inc. (MEI). Regular features will keep members and friends up to date on coming events and the latest teaching techniques, tips and strategies. Submissions are due on the 15th of the month prior to publication and may be submitted months in advance, indicating the month in which they are to be published. The committee reserves the right to select material to be published according to length and appropriateness. Articles should be 200-325 words. Visuals should be scanned and submitted as PDF or jpeg files. Submissions may be sent to [PamBridgehouse@hughes.net](mailto:PamBridgehouse@hughes.net) and may be edited to accommodate space limitations.

# Flight of the Bumblebee

## *Collaboration in writing*

Select your favorite rendition of *Flight of the Bumblebee*.

Student instructions:

*“Lie back on the floor, close your eyes and listen to this piece of music. If you know the name of this piece, keep it a secret “. Play the piece for your students.*

*“Select one word to describe what you were thinking as you listened to this music.”*  
List these words on the board.

*“I will tell you that this piece of music is about a living thing. Close your eyes and listen again. See if you can determine what living thing this music is about.”* Students listen.

*“What do you think this piece of music is about?”* As the students respond, tell them, *“It could be.”* Take ideas from as many students as time permits.

Give clues to discover what the living thing is: (pause briefly between clues for contemplation and responses.)

- This “being” is in the animal kingdom. What is it?*
- It is considered to be an insect. Think of the music. What could it be?*
- This insect is a flying insect. Let the music guide your suggestions.*
- It is a very busy insect.*
- It carries pollen from plant to plant.*
- It is striped yellow and black.*

*What is the name of this insect? A bumblebee!*

*The title of this piece of music is Flight of the Bumblebee.*

*Can you think of other words we might use to describe a bumblebee?* Teacher lists the words on the board.

*As we said, the name of the piece is Flight of the Bumblebee. The bee is going on a journey. Close your eyes and listen once again. As you listen, pretend that you are a bumblebee on a journey.* Children lie down and listen with their eyes closed.

*Turn and tell a neighbor what you experienced on your journey.*

*Did anyone hear an unusual story from your neighbor?*

With a partner, write and illustrate a story entitled, *Flight of the Bumblebee*

*COMMENT:* The richness that comes through collaboration is quite amazing.

## Summer Activities...

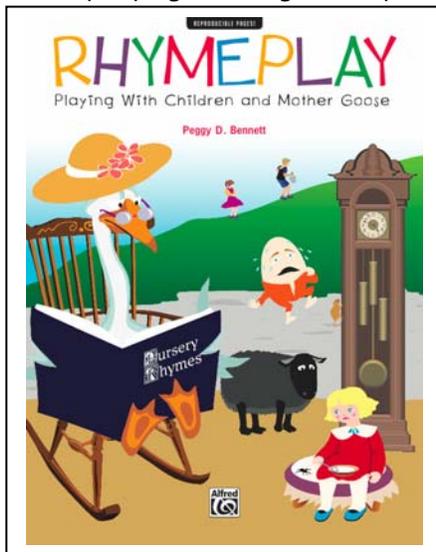
**Tony Williamson** will be teaching a 3 day *Music in the Classroom* workshop for the Montessori Education Institute of the Pacific Northwest, June 23-25th in Seattle, Washington.

**Dr. Fleurette Sweeney** will be part of a team leading a week-long summer camp for children on the autistic spectrum. See the flyer in this newsletter

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## Announcing a New Book by Peggy D. Bennett

Charming the senses of young children is key to the spirit of *RhymePlay*. The simplicity and musical lilt of Mother Goose rhymes engage and enchant children as they play with language, dexterity and imagination. Accompanying the delightful rhymes are wonderfully photographed fingerplay movements, ready for immediate use. Reproducible Picture Cards enhance the lessons, making it easy to prepare and have students actively engaged in the lesson.



Designed for the early childhood classroom, *RhymePlay* includes a wealth of energizing and imaginative activities, focusing on building children’s organizational, expressive, and memory skills.

“Storymaking” and “Playlets” allow children to develop expressiveness and understanding as they actively explore the imaginary world of the rhymes. “ReadingPlay” exercises lead children toward literacy. Each of the charming finger plays and activities in *RhymePlay* will captivate and enchant children while developing their senses, minds, and social skills. [back cover]

*RhymePlay* is written for parents, teachers, and early childhood caregivers.

Bennett, Peggy D. (2010). *RhymePlay: Playing with Children and Mother Goose*. Van Nuys, CA: Alfred Publishing. ISBN 10: 0-7390-6146-1 ISBN-13: 978-0-7390-6146-6

Cost: \$24.95

Order: Available February 1, from your favorite music store, Alfred.com, Amazon.com

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