



The purpose of Music EdVentures 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.**

**Officers:**

**President:** Deb Eikenbary, Indiana  
**President Elect:** Marilyn Winter, MT  
**Past President:** Mary Springer, WA  
**Secretary:** Karalyn Koskela, MN  
**Treasurer:** Paige Macklin, MN  
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**Membership Coordinator:**  
Paige Macklin, MN

## *News and Notes*

*February 2009*

*Conference 2009 information & registration forms on page 5!*

### **From Our President** Deb Eikenbary, Indiana

Greetings from the snow covered Midwest!

We are up to 6 or 7 inches of the white stuff now and regular life has slowed to a crawl. As a result, school is out for the second day in a row and I am driving as little as possible. While cross country skiing yesterday with my daughter, I had a chance to “wax philosophical”, so if you’ll indulge me I’ll share the thoughts that occurred to me as we circled the innermost field of our farm. Having the urge to ski next to my companion instead of following, I had to remind myself more than once that there are times that following in the tracks of the one ahead of you makes the going so much easier. We took turns breaking the path and setting the pace. It occurred to me how true that is in our profession as teachers involved in the arts. When we take advantage of the knowledge gained by those who have traveled this path before us – or who are concurrently going a similar direction, how much stronger we are and so much the better for it. It is then that we can put our own touches on a familiar game or approach to a teaching technique, share it with our colleagues, and all gain from it in our efforts to make a positive impact on our students.

Last week I attended my state convention, which was a combined gathering of the North Central Division of the MENC [Music Educators National Conference] and the Indiana Music Educators Association. What wonderful sessions there were and what a joy it was to connect with my colleagues from all over the state. It served as a reminder to me of the enrichment I receive each time I am privileged to attend a gathering of my Music EdVentures, Inc friends. Please consider giving yourself the gift of time away from your daily duties to reflect and connect.

*(continued on the next page)*

*News and Notes* is the monthly communication of Music EdVentures, 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.

## **Philosophy, History, Tradition: The Why, What, and How of MEI**

Featuring wisdom, and history that are foundational to MEI

Visit some of the links on the web page to find out more  
about the philosophy, history and tradition  
of excellent teaching by MEI educators.

Watch this space for future contributions from our founders and mentors.

### **From Our President** *(continued from page 1)*

This is a note to our members who reside in the U.S.A.-- MENC is sponsoring a rally in Washington D.C. in June of 2009 to show our support of music education. I am personally seriously considering attending. Also there are petitions circulating that would show President Obama our support for the concept of creating a Secretary of the Arts in the U.S.

Regardless of your country of origin, I would ask that you consider what you are able to do in your area to keep the importance of music in the education of our students in the forefront of people's minds. In this time of economic challenges we must be proactive in making certain that we continue to re-enforce the importance of the arts in everyone's quality of life.

I hope to see you all in Portland. It will be a grand time!

Deb

[eikenbarv@hcremc.net](mailto:eikenbarv@hcremc.net)

**Is your membership up to date?** Regular - \$35   Sustaining - \$50   Patron - \$100   Student - \$10

Send check payable to MEI (US funds) to: Paige Macklin

Please include your name, address, phone and email address.

23021 Woodland Rd.

Lakeville, MN 55044

## ***Conference / Update 2009***

### ***"Creating Foundations Through Music"***

***Keynote Speaker***

***Dr. Peggy D. Bennett***

***March 5(Update), 6 & 7(Conference), 2009***

**Red Lion Hotel Convention Center  
1021 NE Grand Ave. (off I-5 at exit 302A)  
Portland, Oregon 97232**

**Reservations 800-343-1822   Ask for Music EdVentures rate: \$92. + tax (about 12.5%)**

***Make your reservations today!***

***Please reserve your room before February 5***

## *NEWS from Anna Langness, Bear Creek School, Boulder CO*



Photo by Scott Quintard, used by permission

Bear Creek's fourth and fifth grade choir, SPOTLIGHTS, performed at the 2009 Colorado Music Educators Conference at The Broadmoor International Center in Colorado Springs. Five elementary groups are selected to perform each year. This was the third appearance of Bear Creek's choir at CMEA.

The choir program has benefited greatly from each honor. With each opportunity (and challenge) to perform beyond the school concert setting, the choir achieved and maintained a higher level of performance. The experiences made an indelible memory for many young singers. Many have continued participation music groups and have achieved their goal to perform at CMEA again. An impressive number are pursuing a music career.

Anna Langness won a classroom mini-grant from the Impact on Education foundation. Her grant, **Ukulele ia ka lima li'ili'i** (Ukulele for Little Hands) bought 20 new Mahala ukuleles. In her application she stated, "Playing ukuleles can help improve young students' understanding of form, harmony, and beat while satisfying their desire to play string instrument. Success at this age can do much to instill a love for personal music-making and lifelong music involvement."

For more information about this project contact Anna at [alangness@comcast.net](mailto:alangness@comcast.net)



*More from Bear Creek. . .*



Singer, Songwriter, Ukulele enthusiast, **Judy Fjell**, presents Bear Creek’s first **UKEFEST** on February 9, 2009. Judy will present an entertaining and informative assembly for grades K-3, then conduct ukulele workshops in each 2<sup>nd</sup> grade music class.

*Word Play . . .*

The Kindergarteners who come after school to TLC Child Development Center at Trinity Lutheran Church, Mount Angel, Oregon, were singing “Shoo Fly” for the first time with their teacher, Pam Bridgehouse. When she sang the section “I feel, I feel, I feel, I feel like a morning star,” some of them heard the words as “I feel, I feel, I feel, I feel like taking a shower.” That led to about 20 minutes of inventing verses such as, I feel like driving a car, I feel like playing the guitar, I feel like washing my hair, I feel like drying my hair, and lots of laughter over absurd phrases they made up, like “I feel like driving my eyeballs.” The students had the opportunity to play with language, enjoy singing, and practice one of the state curriculum goals in language arts, detecting absurdities, most of their own invention.



*Presents*

***Conference / Update 2009***

***"Creating Foundations Through Music"***

*Keynote Speaker*

*Dr. Peggy D. Bennett*

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**Reservations 800-343-1822 Ask for Music EdVentures rate: \$92. + tax (about 12.5%)**

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**Two Day conference fee**

Members \$130 \_\_\_\_\_  
Non-Members \$165 \_\_\_\_\_  
Retirees \$ 80 \_\_\_\_\_  
Students no charge

**One Day Conference fee**

Members \$ 80 \_\_\_\_\_  
Non Members \$105 \_\_\_\_\_  
Retirees \$ 60 \_\_\_\_\_  
Students no charge  
Saturday banquet \$35 \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership: Regular \$35 \_\_ Sustaining \$50 \_\_ Patron - \$100 \_\_ Student - \$10 \_\_**

**Lunches included in registration fee**

(includes gratuity and tax)

**TOTAL ENCLOSED \_\_\_\_\_**

**Name \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_**

**Mail completed form with payment to:**

**Paige Macklin  
23021 Woodland Road  
Lakeville, MN 55044**