



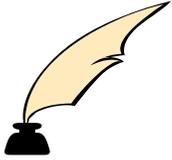
The

Voice

of Music EdVentures, Inc.

Newsletter Vol. 17 No. 1

January 2008



## Musings from Mary

It has been an interesting fall in Seattle and I am already looking forward to the terrific plans for our conference in Portland in March. The committee has arranged for an exciting conference and if you've never been to Portland, you will love the city. The theme for the conference this year is *Bringing Voices Together*, which conjures up many images for me.

This fall I found myself back in the classroom and back on stage. I was in a local production of *The Foreigner*, by Larry Shue. The play is a wonderful comedy and it was my first time on the other side of the stage for many years. Not only was this a wonderful experience as an actor, but as a teacher, I had the chance to be directed by one of my former students. The reversal of roles was an incredible opportunity and I am so grateful I had this experience.

As I reflect on my personal experience, I believe much of what we do as arts educators is critical in providing our students opportunities to express themselves as well as listen to the "voice" of others. In my work with students in music and drama, I find the imaginative process that takes place provides them with a playground to explore the "voice" of others in a unique and meaningful way. An obvious skill required in

theatre is to explore and create a character based on the words and text of the playwright as well as maintain that character throughout the telling of the story. There is a certain freedom and restriction in the process and one that is developed in relationship to the other interpretations of other characters. The complexity and unique qualities present the actors, director and audience with a performance that is never the same.

So much of what we do in SongWorks uses many of the same skills. In our work, there is an invitation to the students to engage in the story and the music in a way that allows for interpretation in a creative and expressive manner. In my experience, the emotional connection students make with respect to their experience in music and drama class plays a significant role in what they remember. By engaging their imagination in the learning process, the student's investment in the work is magnified and remains in their memory with ready access for reflection.

I am hoping that you will consider attending the conference *Bringing Voices Together* in Portland, Oregon, February 28<sup>th</sup> through March 1. Our keynote speaker, Dr. Jody Kerchner, Director of Music Education at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music, will be offering two sessions. One of her sessions is titled *Leading with Empathy: Giving and Sharing "Voice."* The theme of empathy with respect to a school community has

become increasingly important, and I am looking forward to hearing her perspective. As our communities become more diverse and our children are in schools with students from so many different cultures, it is critical that they are given tools to understand and respect each other as well as learn from each other. Many of us have discovered the "universal language" of music. Our wonderful teachers from Japan have demonstrated how they are able to use our practices in MEI as they teach their students English. We have also benefited from the songs from Japan that they have shared with us during many of our conferences. If you have not had a chance to attend a session with these wonderful Japanese teachers, I hope you are able to attend their presentation in Portland.

In addition to the conference, we will have Update, which is the original format for Music EdVentures gatherings and an opportunity for sharing new study techniques and song adventures. This will be held on Thursday, February 28<sup>th</sup> and all are invited to attend.

In conclusion, I invite you to add your "voice" to our organization. I hope to see you in Portland in 2008!

Happy Holidays!  
*Mary Springer, MEI President*

## About Music EdVentures, Inc.

### Music EdVentures, Inc.

#### *Officers*

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Mary Opland Springer WA 2006-2008

##### Past President

Tony Williamson OR 2006-2008

##### President-elect

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Membership Janice Crawley

The Voice of  
Music EdVentures, Inc.  
Vol.17. No.1 January 2008  
Editor

Rebekah Butter Grathwol

##### **Editorial Committee**

Heather Hicks, Pam Vellutini,  
Peggy Bennett, Betty Hoffmann,  
Marty Stover, Fleurette Sweeney,  
Judy Suvak, Marilyn Winter, Kari  
Wendroth

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**Send news items to:**  
[bekabuttercup@yahoo.com](mailto:bekabuttercup@yahoo.com)

Items must arrive by  
May 1, 2008

### OUR PURPOSE

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.

## You are Invited!

Music EdVentures Inc. presents...

### *Conference 2008: Bringing Voices Together* *February 29- March 1*

*Update: February 28, 2008*

#### **Red Lion Hotel- Convention Center**

1021 NE Grand Avenue

Portland, OR 97232

Tel: 503-235-2100

Keynote Speaker: **Dr Jody Kerchner**

Director of Music Education at Oberlin Conservatory of Music will be giving two presentations titled, **Mapping for Meaning** and **Leading with Empathy: Giving and Sharing "Voice"**

### **NEW EDITOR FOR THE VOICE NEEDED:**

I want to extend my gratitude, on behalf of MEI to Beka Butter for doing our newsletter. We have found that our newsletter is an important part of our communication as well as an excellent format for sharing ideas. Beka has done a wonderful job and we are grateful to her for her time and commitment to the organization. At this time, we are looking for someone to take on this role. If you are interested, please contact me at [mrearl@verizon.net](mailto:mrearl@verizon.net).

Thank you, Mary Opland Springer

# An Invitation to Portland!

I would personally like to invite you all to the beautiful city of Portland for *Bringing Voices Together* Thursday, February 28 is scheduled for Update and February 29 & March 1 for the conference. Tony Williamson, Pam Vellutini, and I have been working away since last spring and feel it will be an inspiring conference. You will find the word *voice* used in many ways during the conference. We are thinking of it not only in the sense of vocal music, but also as different points of view.

Dr. Jody Kerchner, our keynote speaker is an Associate Professor and the Director of Music Education at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music in Ohio where she is the secondary school music and choral music education specialist. She will speak on *Mapping for Meaning* and later in the conference she will share thoughts on *Leading with Empathy: Giving and Sharing "Voice"*. Dr. Kerchner is a friend and colleague of Dr. Peggy Bennett who has enthusiastically recommended her as a keynote speaker for our conference.

Other presentations that will be given are as follows:

**Dr. Peggy Bennett**, *Ahhh: What Young Children Teach Us*

**Dr. Doug Bartholomew**, *Repetition and Change: A Study of Ravel's Piano Trio*

**Dr. Anna Langness**, *Meter in Six*

**Judy Suvak and Kathi Meinhardt**, *Music and Management*

**Dr. Fleurette Sweeney**, *Oral Based Literacy*

**Yoshie Kaneko**, *SongWorks with Japanese Kids*

**Kathy Smith**, *Singing for Life*

Other presenters include Annette Coffin and Mary Springer, Betty Phillips, a Minnesota presentation and others.

We will hear the Heart of the Valley Children's Choir under the direction of Carol Nelson.

Please bring photos to display of your music activities, school or just how the world looks from your neck of the woods. If you have a new baby or grandchild to introduce, we'd love to see them too! We have such a varied membership I think you would be amazed to just see what your colleagues experience in their home setting.

I hope to see you in Portland!

**Deborah Eikenbary**

## News of EdVentures

### United States

**Kari Wendroth** resumed her life in Litchfield, Minnesota following two years teaching at the American International School of Budapest. She again teaches K-5 music to nearly 800 students and recently directed the musical, "Anything Goes" at the high school level. On a personal note, Kari and Justin added to their family of two: a golden-doodle puppy born September 16th. Their home is busy training little "Clyde" but it has

been a lot of fun. Kari adds, "He is adorable and full of love and sloppy kisses!"

**Molly Feigal** of Minnesota shares, "It has been an exciting year for me so far. I have a school day that is loaded heavily with Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade classes, AND I am expecting my first child in April! I have been trying to figure out how to lead class when I am feeling a lot less mobile and energetic than usual! Many of the games I use this year for my younger students are carefully chosen for maximum student ownership. Ideally, they can play them without me! Not every game works well for this, but when I say, "play without me" I really mean it! I sit on the outside of the circle and observe. "I'll be watching for respect and politeness" is the cue that I give them. We practice solving any problems that come up without my intervention. When they look at me to solve something, I keep guiding them back to figuring it out together; "Don't tell me what you think is not fair, tell the class." "Class, how are you going to figure it out?" It is an interesting look at the social dynamic of each group of students. Occasionally it will break down into chaos, but I have usually put a time limit on the game anyway, so there is a pre-set stopping point when I can step in.

The other challenge my students have faced in leading their own games is starting the song. I model how to start the song, giving the pitch on "ready here we go" and a gesture of when to begin. We play with them starting the song with my help for a long time. Then I decide a simple way to

designate the “song starter” for each turn. For example, in “A Hunting We Will Go” the person walking around the circle also is the “song starter,” unless they are not comfortable with that job, and then they pick someone else to be the “song starter.” I have been amazed at how many of them use their singing voice to start the song instead of their speaking voice. Also surprising is that the class will frequently do their best to follow the starting pitch given by their friend, even if it is not in their perfect range.

One more tactic that has gotten me off of my feet this year is “Mirrors.” One person is the leader and the others follow, mirroring the leader’s movement. My only rules were “move slowly” and “always face your partner.” My kindergarteners are getting very good at this. They are now doing it in partnerships, instead of the whole class watching one leader. You should see my room, full of kindergarteners doing slow motion creative movement! While I sit myself down, put my tired feet up, and coach from the chair. Not my normal mode of operation, but it is getting me through the day!”

**Rebekah Butter Grathwol** made a huge decision this past summer and decided to stop teaching full-time in the public schools for the time being. She has connected with MacPhail Center for music in Minneapolis and is now teaching three music classes a week to four, five, and six year-olds. Beka says, “It is a joy to be focusing one hundred percent on music and teaching children”. In addition to her work at MacPhail, Beka

worked an internship at the Children’s Theatre in the costume shop and started a jewelry business that is becoming quite successful. Beka is enjoying a slower pace of life and also welcomed home a new puppy this fall.

In April 2007, **Dr. Peggy Bennett** participated in her third televised interview with *SUNY-Albany*. The two-hour programs are in talk-show format and broadcast live to early childhood caregivers across the state of New York. The 2005 and 2006 shows each won three international awards, including the coveted Telly award.

In May, Peggy traveled to Hollywood for the placing of Cole Porter's star on the Walk of Fame. Peggy and Cole share the same hometown of Peru, Indiana, and she traveled with his cousin for the ceremonies. Summer of 2007 brought the completion of Peggy's certification as a life coach. She trained in 2006 with Martha Beck of the Oprah show and *O Magazine*.

In September, Peggy was the keynote clinician for the Education Through Music program in New York City and in October, she presented a session on mapping with Jody Kerchner for the New Directions in Music Education conference at Michigan State University.

**Dr. Anna Langness** of Boulder, Colorado shares, the new opera, *Dead Man Walking*, is the latest big success to be premiered by major companies worldwide. The University of Colorado’s production of the opera this fall marked the first performance of the opera in the

Rocky Mountain Region as well as the first university to perform it. Anna Langness, music specialist at Bear Creek Elementary, was asked to provide the children’s chorus for the opera. She prepared twenty of her fourth and fifth grade singers for the chorus.

The CU performance was heralded as their biggest success in twenty-five years. The children’s involvement in the opera was critical to the story and the engagement of the audience, but also had to be handled with great care and sensitivity. It proved to be an extraordinary, once-in-a-lifetime experience for the children and their parents. The children adored working with the CU performers, Opera director William Gustafson, and CU Choral director, Sue Williamson. They also met opera composer Jake Hegge and subject of the opera, Sister Helen Prejean.

Dr. Langness’s school, Bear Creek Elementary and several other Boulder Valley Schools are implementing a new approach for work with "difficult students." It is based on Howard Glasser's work, "Transforming The Difficult Child: The Nurtured Heart Approach" and has proven to be a successful alternative to medication for special needs kids. This approach has seen excellent results in the most difficult of school situations. "Difficult children" learn to function and become productive participants in class without intense one-on-one support. Best news, all students of the class benefit from this approach. Several Boulder classroom and music teachers have already realized profound differences in their classes. It's a must-read for Music

EdVentures members as the approach resonates clearly with our philosophy of being with students. It is "The Inner Wealth Initiative -- The Nurtured Heart Approach for Educators" written by Tom Grove and Howard Glasser with Melissa Lynn Block. For information visit [www.difficultchild.com](http://www.difficultchild.com).

Dr. Anna Langness is a presenter in the Boulder Valley Music Professional Learning Seminars being offered through the district for elementary music teachers. She will present sessions on teaching compound meters, singing the national anthem, and various study techniques of SongWorks.

**Pam Vellutini** of Ashland, Oregon is enjoying her first year of retirement from teaching in the public schools. Her career spanned twenty-six years as a music teacher in Oregon and Germany. Pam continues her private practice teaching Taiko (Japanese Drumming) to children and adults as well as Afro-Cuban drum classes and guitar classes. She is also inservicing classroom teachers in SongWorks.

**Tony Williamson** of Portland Oregon shares a game that came out of the spirited mouth of a first grade student that likes to get more attention than his music teacher. The child raised his hand and said, "Mr. Williamson, I'm a frog!" His accomplices (classmates) thought it was the funniest thing they had ever heard. A song was born!

The Song:  
He's a frog, what are you?  
He's a frog, what are you?

He's a frog, what are you?  
Skip to my Lou my Darling!

Pick me, pick me, pick me please.  
Pick me, pick me, pick me please.  
Pick me, pick me, pick me please,  
Skip to my Lou my Darling.

The Game:  
"It" sits in a chair and says what he/she wants to be.  
The kids sing the song to "it".  
"It" picks someone new.

Instead of singing "pick me" the children can sing the rhythm or solfeggio syllables.

## Japan

**Yuriko Ishikawa** reports, "On August 20-24 we seven ladies, (**Aiko Iwashige, Yoshiko Kawashima, Yoshie Kaneko, Toshiko Hayashida, Eiko Oyoko, Atsuko Sasaki and Yuriko Ishikawa**) participated in the Summer Institute sponsored by the *Living Language Institute Foundation* in Vancouver, British Columbia. We stayed in the Coast Vancouver Airport Hotel and commuted to the workshop by bus. We were so happy to be learning from Dr. Fleurette Sweeney every day.

On September 16, Yuriko Ishikawa had a study meeting with English EdVenture members and visitors regarding the 2008 two-day summer workshop which will take place in Nagasaki. The Nagasaki members are very excited to host a summer workshop for the first time.

On November 18, Miyoko Takahashi visited the Osaka Branch of English EdVentures

and shared her experiences with the members and visitors there.

Next summer, we are planning to have the English EdVentures summer workshops in Tokyo, Osaka and Nagasaki. Dr. Anna Langness and Judy Fjell will visit Japan and be teaching the children... and us! With great anticipation of 2008, we finished the last meeting of 2007 in Tokyo on November 30.

## Canada

**Sandy Murray** of British Columbia writes, "I'm trying to save paper. Some of the songs we sing in choir do not have choral scores. In the past I've typed out the lyrics and each choir member kept them in a duotang notebook. Because our choir grew to sixty-five Grade four and five students this year, I shuddered when I thought of all the paper and photocopying that would be required. Now I could solve this paper problem by simply making a chart with all of the verses painstakingly written in beautiful primary printing, but that's too much work! So I just write a few key words from each verse and sometimes include a little ideograph (drawing) or a bit of a map. The students really have to use their brain power to learn the words this way."





MUSIC EDVENTURES, INC. PRESENTS

# BRINGING VOICES TOGETHER

A CONFERENCE FOR MUSIC AND CLASSROOM TEACHERS

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 29 - SATURDAY, MARCH 1

## PORTLAND, OREGON

RED LION HOTEL - CONVENTION CENTER

### UPDATE THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28

*What is "UPDATE?" Conference participants are invited for an extra day to meet and share lessons with other educators who enthusiastically use the Songworks approach in their teaching!*

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER: JODY KERCHNER** (OBERLIN COLLEGE)

"MAPPING FOR MEANING" "LEADING WITH EMPATHY: GIVING AND SHARING VOICE"

**PEGGY BENNETT, ANNA LANGNESS, DOUG BARTHOLOMEW,**

**ENGLISH EDVENTURES TEACHERS FROM JAPAN** (ESL SPECIALISTS)

**HEART OF THE VALLEY CHILDREN'S CHOIR** (CORVALLIS, OR)

**CAROL NELSON, DIRECTOR** (CLINICS AND PERFORMANCES)

Conference information: Deb Eikenbary (812)350-6599 eikenbary@bcremc.net or visit [www.musicedventures.org](http://www.musicedventures.org)

### **BRINGING VOICES TOGETHER MEI CONFERENCE REGISTRATION Feb. 29 - Mar. 1, 2008**

Send registration & check payable to MEI (US funds) to: Paige Macklin 23021 Woodland Rd. Lakeville, MN 55044

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ St/Prov \_\_\_\_\_ Zip/Post \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**I'M ENCLOSING PAYMENT FOR THE FOLLOWING:**

**TWO DAY FEE** \_\_\_\_\_ Members - \$105 Non-members - \$130 Retirees - \$70 Students - No Charge

**ONE DAY FEE** \_\_\_\_\_ Members - \$70 Non-members - \$95 Retirees - \$50 Students - No Charge

**SAT. BANQUET** \_\_\_\_\_ \$30 (includes tax and gratuity) **WILL YOU BE ATTENDING UPDATE?** \_\_\_\_\_

**MEI MEMBERSHIP** \_\_\_\_\_ Regular - \$25 Sustaining - \$50 Patron - \$100 Students - \$10

**TOTAL** \_\_\_\_\_ (Check # \_\_\_\_\_) Deduct \$5.00 from total if posted before February 1, 2008

Red Lion Hotel 1021 NE Grand Avenue (just off I-5 at Exit 302A) Portland, Oregon 97232  
Reservations: 1-800-343-1822 Ask for The Music EdVentures rate - \$89. plus tax (about 12.5%).  
Call early, Rooms must be reserved by February 2, 2008 (occupancy up to 4)  
Portland's Max Light Rail, adjacent to the hotel, provides direct transportation to and from the airport for a minimal fee.

**Members, if you are interested in presenting an informal 20 minute session at Update, please contact:**  
Mary Springer mrearl@verizon.net

Music EdVentures Inc. Presents

# SongWorks: Bringing Voices Together

Update – February 28, 2008      Conference - February 29-March 1, 2008

## Red Lion Hotel Convention Center    Portland, Oregon

Hotel information: Red Lion Hotel Convention Center, 1021 NE Grand Avenue (just off I-5 at Exit 302A), Portland Oregon 97232. For room reservation call 1-800-343-1822 and ask for the Music EdVentures rate, which is \$89, plus tax. Rooms must be reserved by February 2, 2008. There are limited rooms so be sure to call early. There is no shuttle from the airport to the hotel, but Portland's Max Light Rail, adjacent to the hotel, has direct transportation to and from the airport for a minimal fee.

### TENTATIVE SCHEDULE All Times are Subject to Change

#### Thursday February 28, 2008 UPDATE

Times and Presenters to be announced.  
Please be prepared to have some fun.

#### Friday February 29, 2008 CONFERENCE

7:30-8:40 Registration/ Book Sale

8:45-9:00 **Welcome**

*Mary Opland Springer*  
*Deborah Eikenbary*

9:00-10:15

- 1 **Meter in Six** *Dr Anna Langness*
- 2 **From the Classroom** *Betty Phillips*

10:15-10:30 Break/ Registration/ Book Sale

10:30-12:00 **Dr. Jody Kerchner**

**Conference Guest Presenter**  
"Mapping for Meaning"

12:00-1:15 Lunch

1:15-2:30 **Ahhhh: What Young**

**Children Teach Us** *Dr. Peggy Bennett,*  
*Rebecca Redman, Ruthanne Fisher, Kimiko*  
*Glynn*

2:30-2:45 Break/ Registration/ Book Sale

2:45-4:00

- 1 **SongWorks with Japanese Children** *Yoshie Kaneko and Toshiko Yayashida*
- 2 **Repetition And Change: A Study of Ravel's Piano Trio**  
*Dr. Douglas Bartholomew*

4:00-4:15 Break/ Registration/ Book Sale

4:15-5:15 **Oral Based Literacy** *Dr.*

*Fleurette Sweeney*

5:25-5:45 **Cadenza** *Judy Fjell*

#### Saturday March 1, 2008 CONFERENCE

8:00-8:40 **Good Morning**

*Mary Opland Springer*  
*Deborah Eikenbary*

9:00-10:15

- 1 **Music and Classroom Management** *Cathy Meinhardt and Judy Suvak*
- 2 **Singing for Life** *Kathi Smith*

10:15-10:30 **Singing for Life** *Kathi Smith*

10:15-10:30 Break/ Registration/ Book Sale

10:30-11:45

- 1 **Heart of the Valley Children's Choir Demonstration** *Carol Nelson*
- 2 **Music in the Classroom** *TBA*

11:45-12:45 Lunch

12:45-1:30 **Heart of the Valley Children's Choir Concert** *Carol Nelson*

1:30-1:45 Break/ Registration/ Book Sale

1:45-3:00 **Dr. Jody Kerchner**

**Conference Guest Presenter**  
"Leading with Empathy: Giving and Sharing  
"Voice"

3:00-3:15 Break/ Registration/ Book Sale

3:15-4:30 **Drama and Music** *Annette Coffin and Mary Opland Springer*

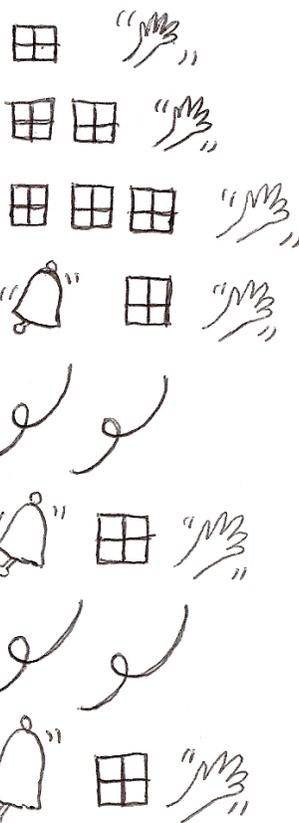
6:15-10:00 Social time and Banquet

### WHAT IS UPDATE?

Update is the original format for Music EdVentures gatherings and the precursor of annual conferences.

During Update, members share new study techniques and song adventures (song-games, masterworks, dances) honing their leadership and presenter skills. There has been continued interest in keeping the Update format so it was decided that Update coincide with the conference and take place on the Thursday before the conference. If you are a returning member and are interested in giving a twenty-minute, somewhat informal session, please contact Mary Springer at [mrearl@verizon.net](mailto:mrearl@verizon.net).

### What Song is This?



**Save the date!**

***Conference 2008***  
**Bringing Voices Together**

***February 29-March 1***

***Update - February 28, 2008***  
**Portland, Oregon**

Paige Macklin  
23021 Woodland Road  
Lakeville, MN 55044