



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.

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News and Notes

September 2009

From Our President Deb Eikenbary, Indiana

Hello, dear Friends!

Last week I realized that we are half way around to another wonderful get together in Portland! Do plan to attend. The sessions are always an inspiration and aside from that, it's a great opportunity to visit Portland, a city that amazes me each time I visit.

With that in mind, however, I am feeling the need to talk business this month. We as an organization need to establish a policy on video taping/ skypeing, or recording of our sessions in any way. Some of the board members and I have had talks about this, but we need to prepare to write it into our by-laws. I am seeking input from you, the membership. In this day and age, we cannot assume that we will have the blessing of parents to record the children in observation sessions. Also, the presenters need to have the right to control the use of their work and where and when their likenesses are viewed. With that said, I would invite you to respond with your opinions to me or to Pam for publication in this newsletter. The board will need to make a plan on your behalf at the next annual meeting and I would truly value the input of the membership previous to that action.

Have fun as you begin all those wonderful autumn activities with you families and with your students! 5 Little Pumpkins (what an opportunity for drama) Macbeth, and Windy Weather with the leaves all piling up around the tree are soon to be a part of my students' lives – and how they do love the imagery!

All the Best,

Deb

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 and may be edited to accommodate space limitations.

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

Plan now to attend Conference 2010

***March 5 & 6 in Portland, Oregon
(Update for returning members on March 4)***

Connections Between Educational Philosophies with Dr. Peggy Bennett
Healthy Voices with Dr. Anna Langness
Potpourri of Puzzles for Reading
Four Faces of a Song
Dancing, Song Games, and Singing in the Education of Children
plus
Teaching English with Music by our friends from Japan

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.

The MHR Collection at UNL

Peggy D. Bennett

Some of you were present at the MEI Membership Meeting in March 2009, when I mentioned that I was speaking with the Oberlin Conservatory librarian. For several years now, folks have sent me their “archives” from ETM days: books, photos, video tapes, course materials, and so on. So, I have been storing them in my Montana home.

In speaking with Fleurette, I also realized that, as she said, “We are the holders of the history of Education Through Music.” What was to become of all these documents and memories of our formative years? At one time, I believed that I should write “the story,” and would rely on these materials to craft and document that story. But, other interests have now taken me away from that path. Again, what would become of all these historical relics of the development of work that was so important to us?

After some consideration, the Oberlin librarian decided that we just have no more room for an additional collection. She also recommended that I donate the collection to a university that offered both masters and doctoral programs, so that the materials could be accessible for those with research interests.

I took several months to ponder the question of “where should this material go?” Then, one day in my office, I realized that the University of Nebraska-Lincoln was the logical choice. UNL is not only Mary Helen’s alma mater (she received her Bachelor of Music in Education in 1944), UNL also awarded her an honorary Doctor of Music degree on May 13, 1978. This honor was spearheaded by long-time ETM teacher and supporter, Dorothy Kozak, who was a professor of music education at UNL for many years.

The UNL library is eager to accept our materials and artifacts as the Mary Helen Richards Collection, and I have been busy this summer, reading through my files, sorting materials, and copying personal letters and documents to keep for my own files. I am definitely a saver of information! And, it has been quite interesting to reminisce and recall the good times, as well as those difficult years when “leaving” Education Through Music and the Richards Institute was necessary. So much of the details and communications, I had forgotten. I certainly have been reminded in the past few weeks!

If you have any personal materials you would like to donate, please contact me and I will let you know if there is any duplication of materials already sent. My goal is to have boxes shipped to the library by mid-August. I will certainly let you know when the “collection” is announced.

As I spent many hours and days and weeks reading, organizing, collating, listing, and transcribing, I felt the sense of importance for investing this time so that our history would be preserved. I do hope that belief comes true and that there will be those who want to know and understand what all of us worked for, for so many years of our careers.