

# SONGWORKS

Educators Association

## August 2022

Dear SongWorks Colleagues,

I hope the summer so far has provided much needed respite after another challenging school year. I am still riding high from our springtime gathering in Dallas. It was a tremendous feat to return to an in-person conference after two years while still managing challenges related to the Covid-19 pandemic. Whether you were there on site or tuned in via zoom, your participation and open-mindedness made the experience invigorating and enriching.

Our 2022 Conference theme, "From Our Roots We Continue To Grow," was embodied as we acknowledged the foundational roots of our SongWorks mentors and branched out in new directions of technology and repertoire. As we closed out the conference singing Windy Weather with Bombalalom , we heard reflective and inspiring words from Dr. Doug Bartholomew, co-author of SongWorks I and II and Professor Emeritus of Music Education and Theory at Montana State University. I hope you'll read them below.

Thank you to everyone who played a part in organizing, presenting, and participating in this important SongWorks Educators Association event. Plans are already in the works for an in-person 2023 Conference. Look for details soon. I can't wait to see you there.

Nan Fitzpatrick

SWEA President 2022-2023



Nan Fitzpatrick  
2022-2023 President  
nan@songworkseducators.com

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# From Doug Bartholomew

Delivered in Dallas, TX

April 2, 2022



"I imagine you can guess why I am a part of this organization. The is, of course, the sense of fun and play, and how that sense informs our approach to teaching, learning, and music. But it is also the dignity and respect that we show our students, and that we practice with each other in our conferences and in our professional roles in schools. Once begun, this perspective becomes habitual. It becomes a part of who we are; it's why I keep coming back.

Practice makes perfect!

This principle may be the tap root of our tree, the SongWorks practice. Our tree grows with intentional nurturing. We invite you to continue with us, singing and playing, listening, and moving, all the time feeding this grand, flowering tree, full of surprise and potential.

We provide the rain, sun, and fertilizer for our growth:

By sharing perspectives and experiences that lead to refinements in our collective understanding and practice.

By returning for another conference and/or participating in the certification process

And when after several conference, by considering becoming a valued member of the leadership team

If you're ready, look for ways to connect with us and to add to the nurturing of our tree."



# SongWorks Annual Conference

Every Spring, SongWorks educators from around the world gather to experience educational exchange, joy, and camaraderie.

We are delighted to announce that the next annual SongWorks Conference will be held in



Check [our website](#) soon for registration information

If you are interested in submitting a session proposal, please see the details below.

This year's conference theme is "Playful Teaching, Vibrant Learning." What session might you share to invite us into the playfulness and vibrancy in your classroom? We want to know about it! See details below for more information.

[Download the Presentation Proposal Guidelines \(PDF\)](#)

1. **Confirm** your [SWEA membership](#) is up to date to be considered for a conference presentation. Contact Alice Nordquist ([registrar@songworkseducators.com](mailto:registrar@songworkseducators.com)) if you are unsure of your membership status.
2. **Review** the [Proposal Selection Factors on our website](#) as you create your proposal.
3. **Submit** a separate form for each session you are proposing.
4. **Submit** your proposal(s) here: [Proposal Form](#) by **September 30, 2022**.
5. **Contact** Conference Chair Jake Harkins ([jake@songworkseducators.com](mailto:jake@songworkseducators.com)) if you have questions or want to discuss your thoughts.

# SWEA Leadership Opportunities

After 5 years as dedicated SongWorks Newsletter Editor Ruthanne Parker is retiring from the position. Thank you for all your dedication and hard work, Ruthie!

Are you interested in the position?

Being the newsletter editor involves curating content for a quarterly newsletter to be sent to subscribers. You will be supported by a team of proofreaders and Taylor can continue to format the content in Publisher.

Please email SWEA President [Nan Fitzpatrick](#) if interested!

Hey SongWorks Educators!

Are you passionate about our work and interested in taking on a major leadership role?

The SWEA Presidential Team is searching for applicants to join the team as President-Elect Apprentice in 2022.

As a Presidential Team member, you'll be involved in official business including conference planning, board meetings, member communications and outreach, and shaping new initiatives.

If you are interested in leading our organization into the future, please fill out the application below:

[2022 SWEA President-Elect Apprentice Application](#)

We look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,

The 2021-2022 Presidential Team  
Aimee Newman, Immediate Past-President  
Nan Fitzpatrick, President  
Jake Harkins, President-Elect



# Reflections from certified SongWorks teachers



I learned to ask what students noticed and if they recognized anything from the new song that reminded them of a previous song. This allowed the students to take more **ownership** of what they were learning. They also began to **listen** more carefully.

Having a song in their mind seems to help my strings **students play more musically**.

My students are more confident in their playing and take more **ownership** of how our music is performed.

**Rebecca Hahn** (orchestra teacher)

I have gained a deeper appreciation and understanding of the **mindset shift** that takes place when approaching lessons and students from a foundation of the SongWorks principles and practices—teaching students, not just concepts, and that students are **whole people**.

My mentors helped me focus on the **quality** of the time I spent with students instead of the **quantity**.

Giving more **ownership** to the students has been a shift for me but a rewarding one.

**Katie Herzberg** (music specialist)



**Level III** Registration opens **August 15th, 2022!** Prerequisites: Level 1: SongWorks in Action & Level 2: SongWorks for Musicality. Cost is **\$500**. Space will be limited!

If you'd like to purchase 3 graduate credits from Seattle Pacific University, contact [Betty Phillips](#).



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The mentorship, assignments, and reflective practices provided within the Level III SongWorks course **grounded me** and helped get me through the year.

The most empowering and impactful piece of the practicum was regularly connecting with a team of mentor teachers. Having that kind of support system helped me feel **less alone** in my profession and reminded me why I do what I do.

**Halle Bromberg** (music specialist)

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The greatest transformation as a teacher was how I grew in my **management of student behavior**. The video reflections served as a mirror in knowing what was truly going on with my teaching.

I grew in providing students with an **engaging learning environment** in which they felt **safe** enough to freely **demonstrate** their understanding and skills through various types of participation.

**Mary Roeder** (music specialist)

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The SongWorks Principles strengthen the **building** of a lesson plan, the delivery of it, and the **assessment** of how well it was implemented.

As a planning tool, I became better at asking, “Where can students take **responsibility for the learning?**”

- pose **open-ended questions** (right answer game)
- have students **demonstrate/model/share** thinking

**Nan Fitzpatrick** (music specialist)

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Read more of these educators' reflections [on our website!](#)

SONGWORKS EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION

# LEVEL 3 CERTIFICATION

**September 2022 - May 2023**

Online Teaching Practicum

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Registration Opens August 15

Tuition: \$500 / Graduate Credits Available

Learn more & register at:  
[songworkseducators.com](https://songworkseducators.com)



# Emerging Pioneers

From Halifax to Dallas:  
Celebrating the Fleurette Sweeney Fellowship For Emerging Pioneers in Education

The Fleurette Sweeney Fellowship was initiated in 2010 to honor Music EdVentures founding member and teacher extraordinaire Fleurette Sweeney. In her words, the impetus behind this initiative is “the well being of children brought about by supporting, caring, and excellently- prepared teachers.” This year’s recipient is Debanhi Garcia. Debanhi earned her Bachelor’s in Music Education from the University of North Texas. Debanhi is in her third year of teaching and currently teaches K-5 music at John R. Good Elementary in Irving ISD in Texas. She has enjoyed establishing an after school ukulele ensemble, piano ensemble, and choir at her school. Debanhi completed the SongWorks Level 1 Certification Course during the summer of 2019.



She is pictured here having breakfast via zoom with Fleurette, representing the roots and new blooms of the SongWorks Educators Association.

Look for Debanhi’s reflection on the  
SWEA 2022 Conference in a coming  
edition of the SWEA newsletter!



## Free SongWorks Workshop

Let's sing, play, and learn together before in-service starts!

**August 25th**

**9:00 - 11:00 AM**

**Bessie Coleman Elementary**

**Corvallis, OR**

**2 PDUs available**

- Do you have a beginning of the year song you love to use but need fresh ideas for presenting it?

Send it along! I'll see what SongWorks strategies we can add for the 25th!

- Need some name game songs?
- How about new ideas for studying a masterwork?

**Bring a friend!**

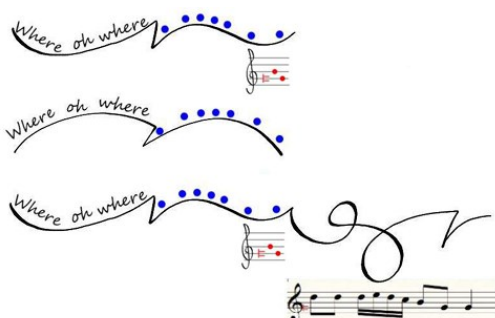
**Questions? Contact Betty Phillips at  
[betty@songworkseducators.com](mailto:betty@songworkseducators.com)**

# From Previous Newsletters

Check out the High-Stepping Horses story and game from [August 2014](#)



Learn more about blended notation with the Paw Paw Patch in our newsletter from [July 2018](#)



Here's an Our Old Sow game from [July 2013](#)



**Is there a lesson, song, or musical revelation you're excited about?**

Post it to SongWorks social media. Find us on Instagram and Facebook.

#SongWorks

**We're Social!**

Follow us on Facebook [@SongWorksEducators](#) Instagram [@songworksed](#)  
and Twitter [@SongWorksEd](#)

The Purpose of SongWorks Educators Association 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.

## SWEA Board of Directors

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**President:** Nan Wilkins-Fitzpatrick, CA

**President-Elect:** Jake Harkins, VA

**Past- President:** Aimee Newman, CO

**President- Elect Apprentice:** TBD

**Secretary:** Max Mellman, NJ

**Treasurer:** Anna Langness, CO

**Registrar:** Alice Nordquist, MD

**Director- USA:** Natalie Neugent, TX

**Director - Japan:** Yoshie Kaneko, Japan

**Director - Canada:** Bethany Beaudry, MB

**Director - USA:** Mary Roeder, CO

**Director - USA:** Beth Cain, AZ

## SWEA

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**Support the mission of SWEA with membership dues or donations!**

\$45 Regular \$75 Sustaining

\$100 Patron \$20 Student

Join or donate online at:

[www.songworkseducatorsassociation.com](http://www.songworkseducatorsassociation.com)

Would you like to submit something to be considered for the SWEA Newsletter or Happenings?

Email [ruthanne.fisher@gmail.com](mailto:ruthanne.fisher@gmail.com)

## SWEA Committees

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**Website Chair:** Pam Vellutini, OR

**Newsletter Chair:** Ruthanne Parker, PA

**Newsletter formatter:** Taylor Crevola, OR

**Academic Coordinator:** Taryn Raschdorf, VA

**Grants Administrator:** Emilee Knell, UT

**Emerging Pioneers Advisor:** Anna Shelow, OH

**Visiting Scholars Chair:** Peggy Bennett, MT

The password for the secure Members Access area of the SWEA website was updated on July 12, 2021 and emailed to current members. If you are ready to renew your membership, please visit our [Membership page](#). If you are uncertain about the date of your last dues payment, or if you have any other questions about your membership, please contact Registrar Alice Nordquist: [registrar@songworkseducators.com](mailto:registrar@songworkseducators.com). Thank you for your support of the SongWorks Educators Association!