

KSNS President's Report for Alla Breve September, 2009

The Kodaly Society of Nova Scotia had a very successful year 2008-2009, providing one workshop by ourselves and another jointly with Orff Nova Scotia, for the professional development of our members and others interested.

On Saturday, October 4, 2008 we held our fall workshop "Music Made Together" at Fairview United Church Hall, from 8:30 – 1:30 pm. Our clinicians were Caron Daley and Marlene Nolet. Caron started the day with a choral reading, accompanist was Louise Grinstead. We read through a lovely collection of 10 songs for elementary choirs provided by Canadian Choral Center. After a break, Marlene spoke on her thesis topic, "Musical Independence".

On Saturday, February 7, 2009 we held our winter workshop "Heart 'n Soul" in conjunction with Orff Nova Scotia, in the MacKay Room at Buckley's Music, Quinpool Road, from 8:30 to 1:00 pm. We opened with a choral session directed by Malcolm Bradley, filled with reminders, tidbits, and wonderful songs. After the break, James Jackson led a session on "Improvisation and Composition in the Classroom". We ended the day with a sharing session, with members of the executives of both groups giving useful and practical tips for teachers.

We sincerely thank all the clinicians who, with their contagious enthusiasm and excellent preparation, challenged and enriched our musical understandings at these two workshops!

The KSNS Newsletter was published twice in 2008- 2009. The fall '08 issue (Vol. 16, No. 2) came out in time to advertise our fall '08 workshop. It featured choral tips and reviews, CD review, and favorite Kodaly-inspired resources and a picture of our executive. The spring '09 issue (Vol. 17, No. 1) featured choral reviews, reports on various choral events, and advertising for our fall '09 workshop. Thank you to Marlene Nolet for her capable direction/creation of these Newsletters!

The KSNS Executive met three times this school year:

On Sept 5, at the home of Faith Daley

On March 27 at the home of Marlene Nolet.

On June 19 at the home of Faith Daley.

For the NSMEA Conference "Bridging the Spectrum" (Oct. 23-25 '08 in Dartmouth), KSNS sponsored Leslie Cross from St. John's as a Kodaly clinician. Leslie did two well-attended sessions. Her topics were "Musicianship According to the Kodaly Concept" and "Kodaly Principles and the P – 6 Music Curriculum".

Two of our Executive members, Maureen Dunn and Faith Daley, who are also members of

the KSC Board, attended the Kodaly Society of Canada National Conference, “Singposium 2009: A Sound Progression”, at Concordia University College in Edmonton, Fri and Sat, January 30 – 31.

And now for some more up-to-the-minute news from KSNS. Our fall Kodaly workshop was Sept 26th, 2009, with clinician Carolyn (Neumann) VanderBurgh from Waterloo, Ontario. Carolyn started with creative warm-ups and a choral reading session, presenting Christmas pieces among other elementary selections. The rest of the day Caroline’s workshop was chock full of material which included: creating a canon, reinforcing melodic and rhythmic concepts, composition, classroom routines, singing song books, material for a substitute, singing games from South Africa and Scotland. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the day!

The Kodaly-sponsored clinician at NSMEA, October 22-24, in Wolfville, N.S., will be Ross Thompson, singer, composer, educator, actor and choral director, who is now living in Truro, N.S. He will present two sessions: “A Fezziwig Songbook” featuring his own Christmas songs and drama, and “Sounds of the Future: Building the Young Choir”.

We have a new executive to present, as of our Sept 26 AGM. This slate of officers will be in place for 2009-2011:

President	Louise Grinstead
Past-President	Faith Daley
Vice-President	Wendy Blanchard
Secretary	Pamela Burton
Treasurer	Maureen Dunn
Registrar	Adele Megann (Helen Higgins)
Newsletter	Marlene Nolet
Members at Large	Helen Higgins, Lois McVannel, Karen MacRae

I would like to thank all the members of the Executive for their constant support and helpful spirit over this past year. As I leave the position of President, after 3 years, I feel profoundly grateful for having had the opportunity to serve such a worthwhile and highly-needed organization. May we sing better and more joyfully for being part of it! And may the friendships developed around our common career give each of you affirmation and support!

Respectfully submitted,
Faith Daley, President

