

April 2, 2018

Oklahoma Alliance for Arts Education
P.O. Box 1275
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Dear Oklahoma Alliance for Arts Education Members,

Thank you so much for the opportunity to attend the Organization of American Kodály Educators (OAKE) conference in March. I am extremely grateful for this grant; the conference was incredible!

This was the first OAKE national conference I have attended, and it was everything I thought it would be and more! This was a great opportunity to learn from leaders in the elementary music field specializing in the Kodály approach. The presenter list for this conference was extraordinary- several legends in the Kodály field were present- including Lamar Robertson and Jill Trinko- and I was so grateful to be able to learn from them. I have read and studied their books, but seeing them both present in person was life-changing! I particularly enjoyed seeing some of the teachers whose blogs and Teachers Pay Teachers stores I follow- Aileen Miracle and Amy Abbott- it was amazing to see these teachers in action! I learned several new singing games and songs, and new, engaging ways to teach concepts. I even tried out a few of the games with my students last week! A particular game used to help practice steady beat and create classroom culture was a success, and I think I can share it with my classroom teachers. Part of the game includes spelling a word as you pass the beat around the circle, and my classroom teachers could use this game as a way to practice spelling words! I also particularly enjoyed the choral reading session with Susan Brumfield. She is an incredible conductor, arranger and music educator. She hand-picked octavos for us to read as a large ensemble. It was so lovely to sing beautiful, quality music with other music educators. I already have a few of the pieces planned for next year's concerts. Besides the amazing sessions, it was great to see music educator friends from around the state, and meet new teachers from around the country! It was inspiring to network and share ideas with other music teachers. I came back to my classroom after spring break re-energized and ready to share the joy of music with my students!

One of my favorite Zoltán Kodály quotes is "Let us take our children seriously! Everything else follows from this...only the best is good enough for a child." Our children deserve the best: the best music and the best of ourselves. Thank you for this opportunity for me to learn and help become the best music teacher I can be. I am inspired by what I learned at the OAKE conference, and this will positively influence my classroom and my students for years to come. Thank you again for your generosity.

Sincerely,

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