

# CONSIDERING THE AKC? YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED! (FROM HUNGARY!)

In 2015, KMEIA WA is providing music educators the opportunity to complete training courses for the Australian Kodály Certificate in Music Education. The WA Branch will offer **Level 1 and 2** (of 3) in both the **Primary Music Education** and **Secondary Music Education** streams. Delivered by an outstanding team of internationally recognized lecturers, this is truly a special opportunity for Western Australian music educators.



## ***What is Kodály teaching and how is it different from “normal” music teaching?***

Despite having studied the Kodály Concept for the last 7 years, I would not describe myself as a “Kodály teacher”. I am like everyone else, simply a music teacher. My goals are the same, teaching music through singing, playing instruments, movement, listening, reading, writing, improvisation and composition. So, what is it then that makes Kodály different?

The significance of this approach is realized through examination of Kodály’s educational philosophy, something that had a most profound impact on my teaching. Underpinning this philosophy is the belief that “music should belong to everyone”<sup>2</sup>. Kodály himself advocated singing as a means to make music education accessible to all, particularly for those who usually would not be able to afford the luxury of expensive instruments. We hear often of schools facing staffing, budgeting and

There has been much interest and enthusiasm about the development of the Kodály teacher training programs in Western Australia. Some music educators have themselves benefited from the Kodály Concept in their own schooling, meaning they can approach the AKC training courses with a clearer expectation of what they will actually learn. Other teachers, despite being interested in the training have questions and reservations about what Kodály actually is. I was one of these people, so it is my hope that the following will help to answer some of the questions and misconceptions surrounding what Kodály teaching and training actually involves.

## ***Who was Kodály?***

Zoltán Kodály (1882-1967) was a Hungarian musician, educator, linguist, ethnomusicologist, composer and philosopher. Throughout his professional life he became more and more focused on improving the quality of music education in Hungary. Together with his former students and colleagues, Kodály put his philosophical ideas into practice, resulting in significant reforms of Hungarian music education across all levels, from early-childhood to tertiary.



resource constraints. Never before have we needed to make music education as accessible and successful despite these significant limitations on resources.

The Kodály Concept is based on singing. Singing is unique in that it can be taught relatively easily at all levels whilst allowing for focused, concentrated and internalized conscious understanding of musical concepts. Put simply, it is singing that gives the heart and mind direct access to understanding and knowing music more fully. This subsequently allows for more successful and effective instrumental training for those who choose to pursue it. Kodály said, "to teach a child an instrument without first giving him preparatory training and without developing singing, reading and dictating to the highest level along with the playing is to build upon sand."<sup>3</sup>

### **What is the benefit of completing the AKC training?**

I believe that Kodály inspired music education in Australia represents best practice teaching. When Hungarian music education was being reformed in the middle of the last century, Kodály and his colleagues researched, collected and built upon the ideas of the most successful music educators of their time, particularly focusing on the work of Curwen, Chev , Dalcroze, Jode and Orff (amongst others). The culmination of this work is evident in the tools, training and materials that have been developed to support Hungarian Music Education. The AKC Course today is the adaptation of this work, which has been further refined by outstanding Australian

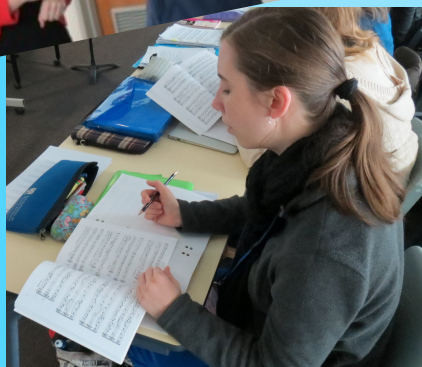
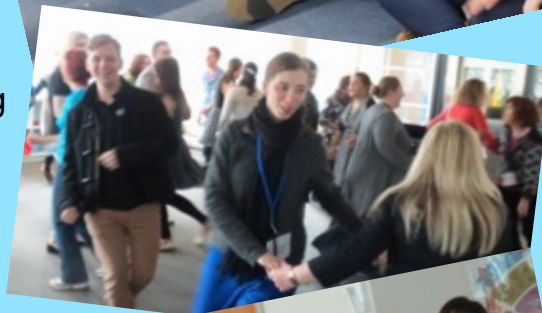
music educators to ensure relevance for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. This is a complete and holistic approach that will allow you to maximize student engagement, knowledge, understanding and achievement in music.

The training is rigorous, but thoroughly rewarding. The lecturers are supportive, whilst encouraging you to reach your maximum potential. If like me you have training in other music education approaches such as Orff-Schulwerk, Dalcroze or Suzuki, undertaking the AKC will provide further opportunities for you to refine, reflect and improve your craft. I have nothing but admiration for those who so selflessly donate their time freely to better themselves for the students they teach.

May I take this opportunity and encourage you to enroll in this unique training program. It is a decision you will not regret.

- Jason Boron  
Course Co-Coordinator  
AKC Course Perth, 2015

*Jason Boron has taught classroom music, directed choirs and instrumental ensembles in a range of schools. He is a past Chairperson of the Australian Society for Music Education WA Chapter, past President and co-founder of the Kod ly Music Education Institute of Australia (KMEIA) Western Australian Branch and past Committee member for the Western Australian Orff-Schulwerk Association (WAOSA). Jason has worked as a consultant, pre-service teacher mentor and workshop presenter. In 2013 he led the introduction of a Music Every-Day program at Presbyterian Ladies' College, the first for any Western Australia school. Jason is currently undertaking postgraduate study at the Kod ly Institute of the Liszt Ferenc Academy of Music, Hungary and serves on the Music Education Advisory Group for Music Australia.*





# AUSTRALIAN KODÁLY CERTIFICATE COURSE 2015

Presbyterian Ladies'  
College, Perth

13 - 17 April  
28 Sep - 2 Oct



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