



Early Childhood Music Newsletter

Early Childhood Music Special Research Interest Group

In collaboration with The Music Education Research Council of the Music Educators National Conference

Issued at the School of Music, University of Oregon

Eugene, OR 97403-1225

Newsletter No. 18

Prepared by Mary Lou Van Rysselberghe

June, 1994

IN THIS ISSUE of your newsletter:

- Notes from the National Co-Chairs, **Dianne Persellin** and **Danette Littleton**, and **Susan Tarnowski**, retiring Chair
- A tribute to **Reiko Hata**
- Highlights from the MENC conference in Cincinnati
- Preview of ISME presentations in Columbia, Missouri, and Tampa, Florida

Your research with young children and music is of definite interest to us, whether or not it is currently being planned or actually under way. We are eager to know its nature, and to share a description with others across the country who may be involved in related studies. Letters, articles, book reviews, and comments are most welcome in future issues. Please send them to: Mary Lou Van Rysselberghe, School of Music, 1225 University of Oregon, Eugene, OR 97403-1225 by December 31, 1994, for consideration in our Winter Newsletter. You may wish to use the Research Collaborative form included in this issue. Contact by phone (503) 346-3769 or FAX (503) 346-5669.

NOTES FROM THE CHAIRS:

Diane Persellin

I heard many seasoned conference participants say that the 1994 MENC national conference in Cincinnati was among the best ever. Attendance and enthusiasm were both way up. It was often difficult to choose which session to attend.

The Early Childhood Music SRIG business meeting and research session met Friday afternoon in order to allow participants to attend the Music and Young Children special conference on Saturday. Susan Tarnowski, SRIG chair from the University of Wisconsin at Eau Claire, chaired the meeting.

Congratulations to Mary Lou Van Rysselberghe from the University of Oregon for being elected Chair-elect of the Early Childhood Music SRIG. Mary Lou has just completed a term as northwest division chair of the SRIG. We appreciate Joanne Rutkowski and Lois Schleuter's willingness to run for this position. They have both served as division chairs for the SRIG and have agreed to continue to do so. Mary Lou will be preparing the newsletter the next two years, so send her your news on your research. Danette Littleton and I now share the leadership of the SRIG. Danette will be coordinating division chairs and I will be serving as the liaison between our SRIG and MENC.

Another important item of interest in the SRIG business meeting was the approval of new by-laws. Outgoing SRIG Chair Susan Tarnowski, did an excellent job writing these by-laws and is to be commended for her time and effort. Susan provided our SRIG

with fine leadership these past two years.

Following the SRIG business meeting, Susan then introduced three presenters of research studies dealing with roles that we as adults play as we work with young children's music education. Susan presented a research paper, "The Effects of Teacher-Child Interaction Style on the Musical Play Behaviors of Preschoolers." The results of four adult-child interaction modes on the musical and play behaviors occurring during the childrens' free-play time with puppets were shared.

Linda Page Neelly from the Eastman School of Music presented a fascinating qualitative study, "Using Journals in Early Childhood Teacher Education." Journal entries of graduate early childhood education majors were examined. Their attitudes and beliefs about the importance of music in the curriculum, personal musical disposition, and self-perceptions of musical skill were discussed.

I presented the third paper, "Preferred Learning Modalities of Preschool Teachers and Preschoolers' Music Learning." In this study, the effects of visual, auditory, kinesthetic and multi-modality instruction were measured on the melodic and rhythmic as well as pitch-matching abilities of four- and five-year-old children.

Following the session, participants continued to informally discuss the implications of these studies involving young children, their musical growth, and the adults who work with them. It is not too early to begin thinking about presenting your research at the next SRIG meeting at the 1996 MENC conference in Las Vegas. (Yes, Las Vegas!) See the call for proposals elsewhere in this newsletter. The proposal isn't due until April 1, 1995, so you have plenty of time! Best wishes for an enjoyable and rejuvenating summer.

A TRIBUTE TO REIKO HATA

by *Danette Littleton*

*The Temple bell dies away.
The scent of flowers in the evening
Is still tolling the bell.*

—Basho



Reiko Hata's joyful and kind, playful and gracious, imaginative and intelligent spirit remains in the hearts and minds of all those she knew. And there were many who knew her as friend, colleague, and respected leader in music and early childhood throughout the world. I am deeply saddened to tell you she passed away suddenly this spring.

Reiko was Professor of Music and Early Childhood at the

Graduate School, Seiwa College, Nishinomiya, Japan, where she studied and graduated as a young teacher. Her lifelong interests in music and children led her to study and complete a master's degree at the University of Oregon. She returned to the USA many times as teacher and clinician at national music education conferences, including the Early Childhood Creative Arts conferences in Los Angeles, 1990. There, her presentation, "Traditional Japanese Folk Songs as a Means of Children's Expression," delighted us with singing games and drawings she knew from her own early childhood. She wrote:

When I was little, many Japanese families lived with three generations together in the same house. I sang old songs taught me by my grandmother and played traditional games with her. She also told me many folk tales.

In 1992, she organized the International Society for Music Education's 5th Early Childhood Music Education Seminar, held in Tokyo. Reiko was a member of the ISME Early Childhood Commission from its beginning at the Seattle conference. Her commitment to teaching, enthusiasm for learning, and devotion to children will be remembered by her students, colleagues, and friends at home and around the world.

In July, Reiko's work on a collaborative study we conducted together will be presented at the 1994 Seminar at Columbia, Missouri, and the World Congress at Tampa. I spent the month of October, 1993 with her at Seiwa College, where we studied 4-year-olds and their musical improvisations. Inspired by the results of our work, Reiko and I planned to continue our collaborations for many years to come. It is too soon to say her work is done.

*The scent of flowers in the evening
Is still tolling the bell.*

SRIG Leadership

Co-Chair: Diane Persellin
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San Antonio, TX 78212
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School of Music
1225 University of Oregon
Eugene, OR 97403-1225
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SRIG Division Chairs

Good news! Three Division Chairs are filled by enthusiastic SRIG supporters:

Southwest: Rachel Nardo
Pasadena Area Comm. College
1570 E. Colorado Blvd.
Pasadena, CA 91106-2003

Central: Lois Schleuter
316 Oliver Drive
Bloomington, IN 47401

Northeast: Joanne Rutkowski
266 Chambers Bldg.
Penn State University
University Park, PA 16802



Consider this your invitation to contact the Division Chairperson in your area—now and during the fall semester—with the following information:

- 1) Your research studies, research interests, and intentions.
- 2) News of meetings and proceedings in your district, state, or region.
- 3) News of special early childhood projects and programs.
- 4) Announcements of seminars, workshops, and calls for research papers and posters.
- 5) Articles, books, research findings.

We are currently seeking Division Chairs in the Southeast and Northwest USA and among our members in counties outside the United States. All SRIG voices are welcome; all SRIG voices are needed. Please let us hear from you.

RESEARCH PRESENTED AT MENC CONVENTION IN CINCINNATI

The following research papers were presented at the poster sessions at the MENC Biennial Inservice Conference held in Cincinnati, April 6-9, 1994. Addresses of the presenters are provided.

Diane C. Persellin (Trinity University, San Antonio, Texas) "Vocal Accuracy of Young Children When Moderated by Learning Modalities and Maturation"

Joyce Gromko (Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio): "Children's Invented Notations as Measures of Musical Understanding"

Randall S. Moore (School of Music, University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon): "Effects of Parental and Public School Environment on Singing Accuracy of Kindergartners and First Graders"

Eugenia Costa-Glomi (McGill University, Montreal, Quebec, Canada): "Effect of Timbre and Register Modifications of Musical Stimuli on Young Children's Identification of Chord Changes"

SNEAK PREVIEW

ISME offers us the opportunity to share at an international level what we know about children's musical development and effective ways of working with them, their parents, and teachers. In July its Early Childhood Commission will gather in Columbia, Missouri, and later in Tampa, Florida, for its sixth seminar under the direction of Chair Wendy Sims. The following sessions promise to be of considerable interest to those of us attending. If you have not already registered, consider contacting Wendy immediately at 138 Fine Arts Center, University of Missouri-Columbia, Columbia, MO 65211; Phone (314) 882-3238; FAX (314) 882-3404. We would like to have you join us!

**THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR
MUSIC EDUCATION EARLY CHILDHOOD
COMMISSION SEMINAR:**

**"Vital Connections: Young Children,
Adults, and Music"**

July 11-15, 1994

University of Missouri-Columbia

PAPERS TO BE PRESENTED:

- June Boyce-Tillman** (England): "Doing What Comes Naturally; Generating a Music Curriculum for Young Children"
- Lily Chen** (Hong Kong): "Effect of Pitch Relationship Between Text and Melody in Young Children's Singing"
- Kenneth K. Guilmartin & Lili Levinowitz** (USA): "A Model for Enhancing Music Development Through the Inclusion of Informed Parents and Other Primary Caregivers in Early Childhood Music Classes"
- Michelle Hairston & Linda High** (USA): "Using Jack Tales and Folk Music from Our American Appalachian Heritage to Involve the Young Learner, Including Those with Special Needs" (An Integrated Arts Approach Employing Folk Music, Folktales, and Puppets) *An evening workshop
- Danette Littleton** (USA): "Cross-Cultural Perspectives on Preschool Children's Spontaneous Music Behaviors"
- Oliver McMahon** (Australia): "Action Research—Getting Involved"
- Atsuko Omi** (Japan): "Classroom Music for Non-Music Major Students in Kindergarten Teacher Training: Fostering a Positive Attitude for Enjoyment of Music with Young Children"
- Eleonora Rybakova & Nikolai Kravtsov** (Russia): "Sound Mosaic: Young Children's Musical Development Program"
- Carol Scott-Kassner** (USA): "Music in Early Childhood: The Search for Effective Models of Adult Participation and Interaction"
- Maria Seellinger** (Germany): "Training of Early Childhood Music Educators at the Musical University in Heidelberg Mannheim/Germany"
- Josette Silveria Mello Feres** (Brazil): "Music As Mediator Element in the Mother-Baby Relationship"
- Katharine Smithrim** (Canada): "Preschool Children's Responses to Music on Television"
- Mary Stouffer** (Canada): "Emotional Growth Through Musical Play"
- Susan M. Tarnowski** (USA): "Musical Play of Preschoolers and the Effects of Teacher-Child Interaction Style on Those Behaviors"
- Berit Udden** (Sweden): "Developing the Educational Connections in the Swedish Preschool: How do We Integrate the Theories with Musical Practice? A Model for In-Service Training in Daycare Centras Purposing Everyday Music with Young Children"
- Margre van Gestel** (The Netherlands): "Learning to Observe in Order to Join the Musical Activities Better to the Total Development of the Young Child"
- Peta J. White, Desmond C. Sergeant, & Graham E Welch** (England): "Some Observations on the Singing Development of Five-Year-Olds"
- Sheila C. Woodward** (South Africa): "The Window of Opportunity"

The full membership of ISME will meet the following week in Tampa, Florida, and three interesting sessions will be sponsored there by the Early Childhood Commission. Take note:

**ISME EARLY CHILDHOOD COMMISSION
SESSIONS: 1994 WORLD CONFERENCE**

July 18-12, 1994

Tampa, Florida

SESSION 1:

Connecting Music, Play, and Stories

- Danette Littleton** (USA): "Cross-Cultural Perspectives on Preschool Children's Spontaneous Music Behaviors"
- Susan M. Tarnowski** (USA): "Musical Play of Preschoolers and the Effects of Teacher-Child Interaction Style on Those Behaviors"
- Stuart Manins** (New Zealand): "Music and Language Developed Through Stories"

SESSION 2:

Connecting Research, Observation, and Children's Musical Responses

- Sheila C. Woodward** (South Africa): "The Window of Opportunity"
- Lily Chen** (Hong Kong): "Effect of Pitch Relationship Between Text and Melody in Young Children's Singing"
- Robert Duke** (USA): "Observing Children's Responses to Music"

SESSION 3:

Connecting With Colleagues

- Angellne Lee** (Malaysia): "Music in the Creative Teaching Strategy Program"
- Marijke Albers** (The Netherlands): "Music on the Lap—Work of The Dutch Foundation Toddlers and Music"

Discussion: Early Childhood Music Around the World

**ANNOUNCEMENTS OF
COMING EVENTS**

- July 11-15, 1994:** Early Childhood Commission Seminar in conjunction with the International Society of Music Education in Columbia, Missouri
- July 18-23, 1994:** ISME Conference. Tampa, Florida
- November, 1994:** Orff Conference: Research poster session
- March 23-26, 1995:** Organization of American Kodaly Educators conference. Minneapolis, MN. Call for research papers is July 1, 1994: Marcelyn Smale, Music Dept. PAC 238, St. Cloud State University, St. Cloud, MN 56301-4498.
- April 1, 1995:** Call for proposals for MENC Conference
- May, 1995:** Third colloquium for Teachers of Elementary Music Methods: Mountain Lake, VA. Watch for announcement.
- April, 1996:** MENC conference in Las Vegas

CODA

by Susan Tarnowski

I am pleased to summarize my feelings concerning the work of the Early Childhood Music SRIG during the last two years. I see the primary role of the SRIG as one of communication. Since the majority of interactions between music education professionals occur only every two years at MENC conferences, my vision of the SRIG was, and is, to maintain a network of like-minded researchers and practitioners and to encourage the sharing of ideas, the exchange of research questions, and the collaboration of groups of individuals. I believe that these collaborations as well as alliances between practitioners and researchers are in the best interest of the profession and of the children whom we ultimately serve.

During the past two years, the SRIG has received structure, as in the by-laws approved during the Cincinnati meeting; communication, as evidenced in the submitted research interest questions and resulting replication studies currently underway; consistency, as shown through the excellent newsletters now sent to approximately 180 individuals or centers. I commend the past work

of the Co-Chairs Elect, Diane Perselling and Dannette Littleton, and wish them and new Chair-Elect for the SRIG, Mary Lou Van Rysselberghe, the best of luck during the next SRIG term.



**CALL FOR PROPOSALS
for MENC Conference Session
Early Childhood Music SRIG**

The Early Childhood Music Special Research Interest Group invites all researchers working with young children and music to submit a proposal to present their research at the April, 1996 MENC Conference in Las Vegas. Topics may include any aspect of research dealing with the music education of preschoolers. The statement of purpose, method, and results should be included. Collaborative investigations are encouraged. Interested researchers should send or FAX a one-page proposal to Diane Persellin, Trinity University, Music Department, 715 Stadium Drive, San Antonio, TX 78212-7200. FAX: (210) 736-8512.

Deadline: April 1, 1995.

EARLY CHILDHOOD RESEARCH COLLABORATIVE

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Bitnet or internet address (if available) _____

Research topic(s) or area(s) of interest _____

Please return to **Mary Lou Van Rysselberghe** before December 31, 1994 (Winter Newsletter) or May 31, 1995 (Summer Newsletter).

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