



# 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, 1225 University of Oregon

Eugene, OR 97403-1225

Prepared by Mary Lou Van Rysselberghe

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### IN THIS ISSUE of your newsletter:

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- Article: Effects of Music, Maternal Voice, Intrauterine Sounds and White Noise on the Oxygen Saturation Levels of Premature Infants by Randall S. Moore, Igor M. Gladstone, and Jayne M. Standley
- Mail-in ballot for the next Chair(s)-elect of SRIG
- CODA from Susan Tarnowski

Your research with young children and music continues to interest other SRIG members. Future issues of the newsletter, and a forth-coming home page on the World Wide Web will serve well to feature news from you. A new Chair-elect/editor will be elected in April when we meet in Kansas City. I look forward to seeing many of you there! Meanwhile, your letters, notices, articles and book reviews are most welcome.

Please send them to: Mary Lou Van Rysselberghe, School of Music, 1225 University of Oregon, Eugene, OR 97403-1225. Contact by phone (541) 346-3769, FAX (541) 346-5669, or e-mail: mlvr@oregon.uoregon.edu. I will read them with interest and gladly forward them on to our new editor for consideration in future issues.

### NOTE FROM THE CO-CHAIR

*Diane Persellin*

We have an exciting meeting planned for the Early Childhood Music SRIG at the Kansas City conference. Our session, *Recent Developments in Early Childhood Music Research*, will be held on Thursday afternoon at 4:30, April 18th, and will begin with a brief business meeting in order to complete the election of the new chair(s)-elect of our SRIG. We have strong candidates who are running for chair-elect, so you will want to read about the election in this newsletter on its back page.

Immediately following our business meeting, four papers will be presented. Liz Rose, Appalachian State University, and John Flohr, Texas Woman's University, will present their research, "Young Children's Ability to Perform Steady Beat". A standardized testing procedure for administering a rhythmic movement analysis test will be presented and data will be reported on 3- and 4-year-olds' ability to pat, clap, walk, march and play sticks to a steady beat.

*continued next page*

### Effects of Music, Maternal Voice, Intrauterine Sounds, and White Noise on the Oxygen Saturation Levels of Premature Infants

*Randall S. Moore, Ph.D., University of Oregon*  
*Igor Gladstone, M.D., Sacred Heart Hospital, Eugene, OR*  
*Jayne M. Standley, Ph.D., RMT, Florida State University*

The purpose of this two-part research was to isolate the effects of sound and silence on the level of oxygen saturation in the bloodstream of prematurely born infants in Newborn Intensive Care Units (NICU). To see how various sounds affect the SaO<sub>2</sub> (oxygen saturation level) of ill neonates in hospital, we played four different sounds via audio tape using small headphones. Tapes were: the mother reading a standard poetry text ("mom"), lullabies sung by a female vocalist ("song"), white noise ("noise"), and sounds made to simulate the intrauterine environment ("uter"). Each tape was adjusted to 75 dB + 5 for listening in the NICU.

In part A of the study, 22 neonates, 24 to 34 weeks post-conceptual, listened to 20 minutes of each taped treatment consecutively. Clinical observers were blinded as to tape content and order. Measurements of oxygen saturation levels were recorded during treatments as well as 10 minutes prior and post listening as baselines for comparison. Results indicated significantly higher levels of oxygen in the babies during all four treatments than baseline conditions.

In part B, 10 neonates, 30 to 32 weeks after conception, listened to 10 minutes of each randomly ordered treatment as well as another blank or silent tape. Similar results occurred. There were no differences among tapes except that mean SaO<sub>2</sub> was significantly higher for the four non-silent tapes (mean = 94.7%, SD = + 2.75) compared to silence (mean = 92.5%, SD = + 2.9) using a 2-way ANOVA for repeated measures ( $p = .01$ , Newman-Keuls  $p = .05$ ). We found no differences in heart rate, respirations and episodes of SaO<sub>2</sub> < 88% (destats) caused by treatments.

Implications for the therapeutic use of auditory stimuli in Newborn Intensive Care Units are encouraging and support other research findings. We speculate that immaturity accounts for lack of differences among sounds tested.



## NOMINATIONS FOR THE 1996-1998 SRIG CHAIR(S)-ELECT

**Lois Schleuter**  
316 Oliver Drive East  
Bloomington, IN 47408

Lois Schleuter holds degrees from the University of Iowa, State University of New York at Buffalo and Kent State University, and is presently a member of the music education faculty at the University of Toledo in Toledo, Ohio. She worked with early childhood children in school settings for 18 years, and has 17 years of college or university teaching which included methods classes addressing early childhood. Her early childhood research interests and publications include musical aptitude, achievement, and psychomotor development in music. Lois's articles have appeared in *The Journal of Research in Music Education*, *Contributions to Music Education*, *Bulletin of the Council for Research in Music Education*, *Update*, *General Music Journal*, and numerous state journals. She is also active as a clinician, and has served as Central Division Representative for the Early Childhood Music SRIG for the past four years.

**Rachel Nardo**  
1176 Corson Street  
Pasadena, CA 91106

Rachel Nardo received her B.A. in Music at California State University, Northridge, and a Masters in Music Education at the University of Illinois. She is completing her doctorate this spring at the University of Southern California. Rachel currently serves as Southwest Division Chair for our SRIG. She is trained in Dalcroze and certified in Orff, Levels I & II, and Kodaly, Level I. Her experience includes serving as associate professor of music in early childhood, music education, and technology at Pasadena Area Community College, and as assistant professor and lecturer at University of Southern California and California State University, Northridge and Los Angeles. Rachel has demonstrated leadership as a charter member of the California Task Force for Music in Early Childhood and as organizing chair of the CMEA Early Childhood Day and the Consortium for Music in Early Childhood. She is also a contributor to the current MENC publication, *Strategies for Teaching Prekindergarten Music*. Her research interests include music education of non-musician teachers, learning styles, play behavior in a technical environment, and model music programs in Early Childhood Education.

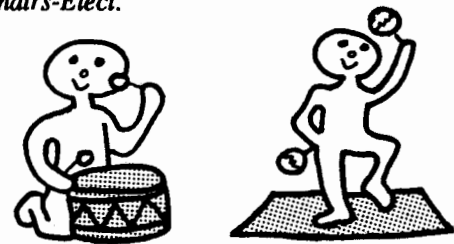
"Members of the Early Childhood SRIG have benefited from sharing information on a range of research topics in recent years. The interest in early music learning will continue to gain national attention if we promote more quality research and the sharing of information. A key aspect of this process is the building of information networks. We not only need to reach each other, we need also to facilitate access to ECE music research for day care givers, preschool teachers, parents and politicians. Our future mission should include the formation of state-by-state consortia to promote the goals of early childhood music education and research." —RN

**Lori Custodero**  
761 Millcroft Court  
Simi Valley, CA 93065

Lori Custodero is a doctoral candidate in music education at the University of Southern California. She was awarded an AOSA Research Grant for her study utilizing Mihalyi Csikszentmihalyi's concept of flow experience in assessing preschool children's responses in a music classroom setting. Her research interests include investigating new qualitative methods of addressing and evaluating musical behaviors of young children in a variety of environments; her review of the Irvine study on music and early childhood appeared in the last SRIG newsletter. Lori is currently serving as National Coordinator of Gibson Kids, a newly designed approach focusing on improvisation and composition for inner-city children, where she is involved with the design of curriculum and professional development programs for teachers.

"I am appreciative of the success the Early Childhood SRIG has achieved in both serving as a communication tool for researchers and practitioners and in keeping the significance of early childhood experiences in the forefront of the educational perspective. Facilitating collaboration between members as well as within the greater community of those interested in young children and music is of great importance, perhaps now more than ever before. I would welcome the opportunity to contribute time and energy to the SRIG as Co Chair-Elect with my colleague, Rachel Nardo." —LC

\* Note: If elected, Rachel and Lori would agree to serve as Co-Chairs-Elect.



### BALLOT for SRIG CHAIR(S)-ELECT 1996-1998

- Lois Schleuter
- Rachel Nardo & Lori Custodero  
(co-chairs)

Please mail your ballot to:  
Diane Persellin,  
Trinity University, Music Dept.,  
715 Stadium Drive,  
San Antonio TX 78212.

## —DIVISION NEWS—

### Central Division

Lois Schleuter  
Dept. of Music  
University of Toledo  
Toledo, OH 43606-3390  
E-mail: lschleu@uofto2.utoledo.edu

### Northwest Division

Mary Lou Van Rysselberghe  
School of Music  
1225 University of Oregon  
Eugene, OR 97403  
E-mail: mlvr@oregon.uoregon.edu

Interesting research with premature infants is taking place in Oregon, Florida, and Louisiana. Please see feature article by Randall Moore, Igor Gladstone, and Jayne Standley presented earlier in this newsletter.

### Southwest Division

Rachel Nardo  
Pasadena Area Community College  
1570 E. Colorado Blvd.  
Pasadena, CA 91106-2003

Californians are looking forward to having Barbara Andress as our Early Childhood keynote speaker and general session clinician when CMEA convenes in February. We will meet on Saturday, February 24 in Santa Clara, CA. Barbara is generously sponsored by Peripole, Inc.

The California Survey of Music in Early Childhood is complete; the results will be presented in the SRIG Research session in Kansas City. An interesting aspect of the report will focus on how this survey can be replicated to assess implementation of the National Standards for Music at the preschool level.

Preschoolers need creative software, too! Two of the most innovative CD-ROM products available for children aged 4-8 (and older) are *Making Music* by Morton Subotnick (Voyager Co. 800-446-2001), and *Kid Pix Studio* by Broderbund of Novato, CA. *Making Music* allows the child to create, manipulate, and play music graphically, as if using a paintbrush with colored lines. The width of lines represent duration, height of the line represents loudness, vertical position represents pitch, and color represents timbre. This program is packed with other creative features including a melody and rhythm maker using animal icons, building blocks songs wherein songs can be constructed, rearranged, and deconstructed, and mix and match games — to name a few. It requires no prior musical knowledge, only a willingness to experiment and play. Three- and four-year-olds will need help getting started. *Kid Pix Studio* is also creative, but oriented to multimedia production. This program allows the child to paint a picture that sings, dances, and twirls. It includes animated stamps, backgrounds, movie clips, slide shows, transitions, digital puppets, drawing tools, typing tools, sound effects and music. The producer can also record

sounds into a movie or slide show. Both of these products are \$40 or less and available for Mac or PCs. (Reviewed by Rachel Nardo.)

### Northeast Division

Joanne Rutkowski  
The Pennsylvania State University  
School of Music  
University Park, PA 16802-1901

The following papers, possibly of interest to early childhood music educators/researchers, will be presented at the PMEA State Conference Research Sessions to be held in Valley Forge, PA on Friday, April 12, 1996:

- *Singing and music aptitude: A comparison of tonal pattern performance in major and harmonic minor tonalities and stabilized music aptitude*; Beth Bolton, Temple University
- *Musical and visual encounters: An investigation of the aesthetic experience*; Robyn Gangi, Columbia University
- *The influence of early parental involvement on performance achievement of university piano majors*; Yu-fen Carol Liu, Pennsylvania State University
- *The relationship between young children's music achievements and their developmental music aptitudes*; Cheng-Ying, Temple University
- *Helping to transform the school culture: Integrating the arts in the core curriculum*; Lenore Pogonowski, Teachers College/Columbia University
- *The effect of a music composition program with an emphasis on feeling on the quality of musical structure and expression of second grade composition*; Paul Fehrenbach, Pennsylvania State University, DuBois Campus
- *Music in Native American societies, with special reference to Cherokee traditional music and the problem of acculturation*; Sandee Schaddock, Pennsylvania State University
- *The effect of rock music on drawings and attitudes by first grade, education university, and graduate music students*; Sherman D. VanderArk, The University of Akron
- *Native American music*; Donna Dee Hardy, Shippensburg University
- *The music education of home schooled students in the state of New York*; Brent Young, Pennsylvania State University



## ANNOUNCEMENTS OF COMING EVENTS

**February 24, 1996**—California Music Educators Assoc. Conference in Santa Clara, CA. Keynote Speaker/Clinician: Barbara Andress

**March 1-2, 1996**—*Workshop: Music and Young Children*. University of Florida in Gainesville, FL. Clinician: Diane Persellin, Trinity University. Contact Dr. Charles Hoffer at 914-392-0461 for more information.

**April 12, 1996**—PMEA State Conference Research Sessions in Valley Forge, PA. (See NE Division News, Joanne Rutkowski)

**April 17-20, 1996**—MENC National Biennial In-Service Conference in Kansas City, Missouri. (See Diane Persellin's Note from the Chair for more details.)

**April 20, 1996**—*Music & Young Children*. Special one-day conference offered in conjunction with MENC's National Biennial In-Service Conference in Kansas City, MO (See article above.)

**July 15-19, 1996**—ISME Commission Early Childhood Music Education Seminar in Winchester, England. (See article below.)

**July 21-27, 1996**—ISME General Conference in Amsterdam, Holland.

**August 2-6, 1996**. Early Childhood Music Association 1996 International Convention in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Keynote Speaker: Grace Nash. Contact Lorna Singer at 316-285-6006 for more information.

### ISME 1996

The 1996 SEMINAR: *Universal and Particular Elements of Early Childhood Music Education* will take place July 15-19, 1996, at King Alfred's College of Higher Education, in Winchester, England. The aim of this seminar is to share and disseminate the newest ideas regarding research and pedagogical practices in early childhood music education. Papers and presentations will be given related to the following topics:

- Research related to musical characteristics, musical responses or musical development of the young child
- Research related to the role of adults in children's musical environment
- Research and/or models related to the training of early childhood music educators
- Models of exemplary pedagogical practice or research methods with young children

We urge you to consider a trip to England this summer to participate in this exciting seminar. The following week we will sponsor ISME sessions in Amsterdam, Holland. If you are interested in sharing in these international experiences with other early childhood music educators, please contact Mary Lou Van Rysselberghe, School of Music, 1225 University of Oregon, Eugene, OR 97403-1225. We welcome you to join us!

## CODA

Susan M. Tarnowski

Associate Professor of Music Education  
Assistant Dean, College of Arts & Sciences  
University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire  
715-836-2312

Email: TARNOWSM@UWEC.EDU

Two preschoolers, Annelise and Katie, were together to celebrate Annelise's second birthday. They "ooohed" and "aaahed" and jumped with excitement as the presents were torn open. Although all gifts were appreciated equally, even the clothes, there seemed to be a preponderance of "noisy toys:" a kazoo, a kazoo with primary-colored keys that produced different sounds, a real harmonica, a xylophone-type instrument played by striking keys similar to a piano, and a tape player with microphone that would allow the child to sing along with the songs on the tape. Each present was given an initial 30-second try and discarded in favor of a new gift.

After the gift-opening frenzy had subsided and the cake had been devoured, the adults sat back to chat and the girls began to play. Annelise first chose the xylophone-type instrument and played each tone in a step-wise descending scale, repeating this pattern over and over, upwards of 20 times. She returned to this activity several times later in the day. Katie discovered that the microphone on the tape player not only amplified her voice but altered its quality, and continued to speak and sing into it for a very long time. Eventually, both children taught each other to do what they had learned to do, and that teaching and learning was accompanied by gales of laughter.

These play episodes contained so many of the elements of excellent opportunities to learn that we as music educators and researchers look for in our practice: an environment rich in sound-making materials, the sense of safety which allows the taking of risks that leads to experimentation and discovery, unstructured time so that the children determined the pace of learning, and the joy involved as children share and pass on their learnings to others.

Does this imply that there is no place for adult-initiated play or adult-participant play? Consider the following event: neither girl had shown any interest in the harmonica. One of the grandfathers picked it up and, more for his own enjoyment than a desire to interest the children, began to play "Oh, Suzanna". Both girls stopped their play immediately, ran to him and stood silently by him as he played. At the finish, they jumped and clapped and begged him to play again. Soon after, each child had her own turn with the instrument. How would the children have known the possibilities of the instrument without an adult?

These types of scenarios are continually played out in homes and preschool centers. May they serve to remind us again of the importance of play in the life of the child. May they also reinforce the need for us to observe the natural learning styles of children, participate in their play, and create developmentally appropriate activities and materials in our own practice.



## NOTE FROM THE CO-CHAIR, *cont.*

Karen E. Philbrick, Mary E. Mallory, and Helga F. Medd from California State University, Fresno, will present "The Effect of Music Training on Spatial Task Performance of Young Children". This study, involving 3- to 5-year-olds, replicates part of the study conducted by Frances Rauscher and colleagues of the University of California at Irvine.

Rachel Nardo, Pasadena City College, will present her study, "California Survey of Music in Early Childhood" in which she surveyed 500 preschools and infant daycare centers. Rachel studied the 1) curriculum and scheduling, 2) staffing, 3) materials and equipment, 4) content, goals and objectives, 5) assessment and 6) a vision for future musical growth.

Danette Littleton, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, will present "Cross-Cultural Perspectives on Preschool Children's Spontaneous Music Behaviors in Japan and USA." She will share the results of her work on 4- and 5-year-old children in Japan and the United States relating to spontaneous music behaviors, social behaviors and gender differences.

This promises to be an excellent session!

In addition to our SRIG session on Thursday, two research poster sessions are scheduled. The first will be Friday at 9:30 and the next at 12:30. On Saturday, a special one-day conference, *Music and Young Children*, will be held from 8:30 until 4:40. You won't want to miss Susan Kenney's keynote presentation, the many fine workshops, the Lullaby Concert for Preschoolers, the Sample Fair, or the closing reception. It promises to be a wonderful day of music activities for use with young children. Further details follow in this newsletter. As a MENC member, your registration badge will admit you to this special one-day event. We would love to hear from you ahead of time so we can anticipate numbers.

Danette Littleton and I complete our terms as co-chairs

of the Early Childhood Research SRIG in April. We've enjoyed collaborating on the newsletter for the first two years as "co-chairs-elect" and then "sharing the chairing" for the last two. It has also been fun to see the enthusiasm of SRIG members working collaboratively.

As of this writing, we are in the process of setting up our Early Childhood Research SRIG home page on the World Wide Web. By the time you receive this newsletter, you should be able to visit our home page when you're surfing the net. You'll find us on Netscape on MENC's home page under "Research". Watch for information from MENC regarding the new home page and how to use it. MENC's professional staff members are assisting me in getting this up and running. It is our goal to make our Early Childhood Research SRIG home page interactive in order for us to post and also to discuss research in progress.

This home page will not take the place of our newsletter. It would, however, serve as an additional component in our efforts toward focusing attention on the needs for research, encouraging researchers to conduct well-designed studies, encouraging individual and collaborative efforts, and sharing information about early childhood research. These are exciting times to be involved with early childhood music education and research!

In closing, we would like to thank Mary Lou Van Rysselberghe for her fine work on the newsletters these past two years. We wish her well as she becomes the new chair of the SRIG. The School of Music at the University of Oregon has underwritten the last four issues of our newsletter and we are grateful for this support. Our regional representatives should also be acknowledged: Rachel Nardo from the Southwest Division, Joanne Rutkowski from the Northeast Division, and Lois Schleuter from the Central Division. We also appreciate comments that we have received from so many of you regarding the SRIG and the newsletter.

See you in Kansas City! —Diane



## Music Educators National Conference presents **Music and Young Children**

A special one-day conference will be held in Kansas City, Missouri, at the Westin Crown Center from 8:30 am. to 4:30 pm on April 20, 1996. Early childhood teachers, care providers, and music educators of children ages 2 - 7 will be presented with practical and developmentally appropriate music ideas and materials. A goal of this conference is to promote the theme that musical experiences at the core of a young child's day can provide great joy and educational growth.

Susan Kenney, leading early childhood music educator from Brigham Young University, will set the tone for the day with her keynote presentation, "Of Slippery Slides and Songs: Music as a Playground for Learning." Fourteen workshop sessions in two time slots will include topics such as "Books with a Beat," "African-American Songs and Chants for Young Children," "Finding the Song in Every Child," and "World Music for the Wee Ones." Presenters are some of the nation's leading early child-

hood and early childhood music educators including Kathy Fuger from UMKC.

### Highlights:

- "Lullaby Concert for Preschoolers" featuring the 80-piece Stillwater High School Orchestra from Stillwater, Minnesota performing lullabies in their pajamas
- Sample Fair providing care providers with packets of 10 music games and manipulatives
- Closing reception featuring live music by "Miss Jackie," noted early childhood songwriter, singer and author from Kansas City

Registration is \$35 and includes the Sample Fair packet. Those attending the MENC Biennial Conference will be admitted free provided that they have preregistered by April 1 for this event. Credit for approved training clock hours will be available for Missouri and Kansas care providers. For more information or registration materials, call MENC at 1-800-336-3768 during business hours.

