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NEWSLETTER
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SPECIAL POINT
OF INTEREST:

CHORAL CON-
DUCTING WITH
DR. DWIGHT
BIGLER

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SPRING 2013

Choral conducting with Dr. Dwight Bigler



Dr. Dwight Bigler

This summer, we will welcome Dr. Bigler as the Choir Director for our Colorado Kodály Institute. Dr. Bigler will also serve as our Conducting Professor for week 2 at the Institute!

Interview: Dr. Bigler, Choral Conducting.

Originally from Blackfoot, Idaho, Dwight Bigler is currently the Director of Choral Activities at Virginia Tech. He received his MM in choral conducting and BM degree in piano performance from Brigham Young University. Dr. Bigler's choral experience includes work as assistant conductor and pianist of the Dale Warland Singers, artistic director of the Austin Singers, and director of the UT-Austin Men's Chorus and BYU Women's Chorus. In addition, he was music director for the UT Butler Opera Center in spring 2008, chorus master for three years, and has conducted productions with the Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin.

Why did you choose to study Choral Conducting for your Master's Degree?

I was a pianist and oboist, originally, and had planned to become an orchestral conductor. Then during my senior year of college, the choir conductor asked me if I would be the pianist for the BYU Singers – I would also have to be a singing member of the ensemble. So I auditioned for him and made it into the group (continued on the next page).

"The characteristics of a good musician can be summarized as follows: a well-trained ear, intelligence, heart, and hand."

Zoltán Kodály



Kodály for Kids 2013!

Do you have Kodály-trained students in your music program who might like to participate in Kodály for Kids days? We would love to hear about them! Students eligible must be entering Grades K-5. They must be recommended by a teacher.

Dates:

- July 22 (Gr.4&5)
- July 23 (Gr.2&3)
- July 24 (Gr.K&1)

Cost of \$35.00 per child includes 4 hours of instruction, instrument craft, snack, and T-shirt to remember the occasion. Space is limited!

To apply, please have the interested student fill out an application form and submit recommendation form by May 20th to: Bryan Kettlewell at: bryan.kettlewell@gmail.com



Choral Conducting with Dr. Dwight Bigler (con't.)



I enjoyed his conducting so much that I started taking private conducting lessons with him. When it came time to do a Master's degree, I decided to continue my lessons in the choral conducting Master's degree at BYU. It seemed to me that orchestral conductors weren't always comfortable conducting choirs, and vice versa. I wanted to be competent in both, so I did my Master's in choral conducting. I found out I loved it and decided to stay in it!

For how many years have you been teaching Choral Conducting? Which kind of students did you teach, and what abilities and knowledge did they come and end with?

I have taught conducting lessons for four years at Virginia Tech University, teaching undergraduate and graduate students, all of whom come with a variety of background experience. For beginning students, the main focus is to develop coordination of gestures between the hands, arms, and body, within the context of traditional conducting patterns. For advanced students who already have a certain level of coordination, the focus is refining those gestures to clarify and expand one's gestural vocabulary. The goal for all groups is to increase the clarity of communication in one's conducting gestures.

Taking into consideration your background & experience, what can you tell about your students and their development in classroom music teaching by taking Choral Conducting lessons?

As part of my conducting lessons, I always include a component of score analysis, score marking, and rehearsal preparation. We discuss how to break down a piece into teachable segments – identifying the difficult issues inherent in each piece and strategically planning an approach to teach the piece. This directly connects to the conductor's classroom music teaching.

“Real art is one of the most powerful forces in the rise of mankind, and he who renders it accessible to as many people as possible is a benefactor of humanity.”

Zoltán Kodály

Colorado Kodály Institute 2013

Dates: July 15—27 at the University Center for the Arts*

*= no instruction on July 20—21. Student check-in will begin at 7:30 a.m. on Monday, July 15 in the UCA Lobby.

Hours: 8 a.m.—4:45 p.m. daily

Solo Student Recital: Thursday, July 18, 5:30 p.m., Organ Recital Hall

Choir Concert & Certificate Ceremony: Friday, July 26, 6 p.m., Griffin Concert Hall. Free and open to public.

Kodály for Kids Days: July 22—24

Exit Exams for Level 3 M.M. students:

July 13, 8 a.m.—12 p.m. (written)

July 29, 8 a.m.—12 p.m. (oral)

Other Events:

**Rocky Mountain Orff Chapter
Improvisation: Carpe Diem!**

Clinicians: Barbara Pierpoint & Judy Sapegin

May 11, 2013

Colorado Academy, 3800 South Pierce St., Denver, 80235

Learn pieces for singing, body percussion, unpitched percussion and Orff instruments, all of which will serve as models for improvisation. Come prepared to imagine, create and improvise!

The Dalcroze Academy at CSU

July 29—August 9, 2013

Pursue your Dalcroze Certificate or just come to learn a few different techniques!

Directed by: Dr. Jeremy Dittus, Diplôme Supérieur, (Geneva, Switzerland) and Director of the Dalcroze School of the Rockies.

Faculty: Dr. Dittus, Mary Dobrea, Hélène Nicolet.

Course: can be taken for 3 graduate credits or non-credit. One-week and one-day registration also available.

Contact: Dr. Bonnie Jacobi for more information (bonnie.jacobi@colostate.edu)

3rd Annual CKI Student Solo Recital

Interested in stretching your performance muscle? Contact Dr. Jacobi by May 31 to sign up! Accompanist provided if your music is sent to Dr. Jacobi by May 31.



Bonnie Jacobi, Director—Dr. Jacobi is Assistant Professor of Music Education at Colorado State University. For nineteen years, she has taught music to children throughout Fla., Mass., N.J., and Texas. She has directed eleven high profile children's choirs and in 2008 founded the Meadows Community Youth Chorus in Dallas for elementary-aged children without school music programs. Dr. Jacobi holds a Doctorate of Musical Arts in Music Education from the University of Houston, a Master of Music in Piano Performance from the University of Texas at Austin, and a Bachelor of Arts in Music from Mount Holyoke College. She earned her Kodály Certification from Indiana University and McNeese State University and holds training from Carnegie-Mellon University's International Dalcroze Institute, The Juilliard School's Abramson-Dalcroze Institute, and the TCU/Van Cliburn Piano Institute in Fort Worth, Texas. Prior to her arrival at Colorado State, Dr. Jacobi taught on the faculties of Southern Methodist University and the University of Houston.



Tanya LeJeune - Level I—Ms. LeJeune is in her seventeenth year of teaching general music in Jefferson County Public Schools in Westminster, Colo.. She holds a Master's of Music Education with Kodály emphasis degree from Colorado State University and is past president of ROCKE. Ms. LeJeune has presented music education workshops and in-services for OAKE, CMEA, Jefferson County Public Schools, Adams County 50, Adams County 14, AOSA Rocky Mountain Chapter, Broomfield Preschool, Colorado Christian College, and Metro State University. She current serves as member at large on the board of the Organization of American Kodály Educators.



Amy Abbott - Level II—Ms. Abbott is in her 15th year of teaching elementary music, spending the past 12 years in the St. Vrain Valley School district. She received her undergraduate degree in music education from the University of Colorado at Boulder and her M.M. in Education with a Kodály emphasis from Colorado State University. She has Kodály certifications from Portland State University, where she studied with Jill Trinko, Susan Brumfield, Vicki Loebell & Sean Dëibler and from CSU, where she studied with Sue Litehold-Bowcock and Ann Eisen. She has presented sessions at the Colorado Music Educators State Conference, Oregon Arts Alliance State Conference, ROCKE (Regional Organization of Colorado Kodály Educators) Chapter Shares and St. Vrain Music Teacher Professional Development Days. Additionally she has served on the ROCKE board for over 7 years and this sprins was honored with a Jared Polis Foundation Teacher Award.



Karla Cherwinski - Level III—Mrs. Cherwinski has taught general music for nineteen years and currently teaches at Indian Trail Elementary in Canal Winchester, Ohio. Mrs. Cherwinski is the immediate Past President of the Mid West Kodály Educators of America (MKMEA) and has served on the Organization of American Kodály Educators (OAKE) board of directors as Member at Large and Regional Representative, as well as serving on the board of the Tri-City Kodály Educators (TRIKE) as president and secretary. Mrs. Cherwinski holds her Kodály Certification from the Kodály Institute at Capital University and has studied at the Zoltán Kodály Pedagogical Institute of Music in Kecskemét, Hungary. She also holds a M.M. in Music Education from The Ohio State University and a Bachelor of Music degree from Capital University. She is a strong advocate for integrating SMARTBoard technology into the music classroom and serves as a Technology Support Assistant within her school. Mrs. Cherwinski has presented at technology conferences, music conferences, as well as local Kodály workshops throughout the Midwest, and has taught at Colorado State since 2005.



Katie Virágh - Solfège/Musicianship—Ms. Viragh performs as a member of the Hartford Symphony and is Adjunct Professor of Theory/Ear Training at The Hartt School within the University of Hartford. Ms. Viragh trained at the Béla Bartók Conservatory of Music and the Liszt Academy of Music in Budapest, Hungary. As a violinist, she was a member of the Hungarian National Opera when she was invited to join the Orchestra Symphonica Tenerife in Canary Island, Spain. Since 1990, she has been a resident of United States and formerly performed as a member of the Boston Philharmonic Orchestra. She is also a founder of the Viragh Trio. In addition to teaching at Colorado State, Ms. Viragh teaches in Kodály programs at Nebraska Wesleyan University, Nebraska State University, Wichita State University, and New England Conservatory.



Ryan Olsen—Dr. Olsen has been active in all levels of music education in Kansas, Missouri, Arizona, and Texas. A native of Kansas City, Dr. Olsen holds a D.M.A. in Choral Conducting with a cognate in Music Education from Arizona State University, where he helped found the Early Music Chamber Choir. A native of Kansas City, Dr. Olsen received his M.A. in Music with an emphasis in Music Education from the Conservatory of Music and Dance at the University of Missouri-Kansas City and his Bachelor of Music Education from the Conservatory of Music and Dance at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. While in Kansas City he taught middle school and high school choral music, music appreciation, music theory, and served as music director in various musical theater productions around Kansas City, including a production at the International Fringe Festival in Edinburgh, Scotland. Prior to moving to Colo., Dr. Olsen served on the music faculty at Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio, Texas.