

## Alberta Kodaly Association 1984 Conference

Our second annual conference was again a great success thanks to the hard work and "savoir-faire" of Laurier Bisson's conference committee.

The conference was held at Edmonton's Westin Hotel where the elegant ambiance served to remind us of the importance of striving for quality in music teaching as well as in the other aspects of our lives. Only the best!

The quality was indeed maintained throughout the conference, starting Friday night with Lois Choksy's session in which she dealt with 20th century trends in musical education. Her enlightening comparison between Kodaly's concepts and those of Orff and Dalcroze will help us to put in better perspective the philosophical positions of each.

Karen Taylor's session dealt directly with the question of quality. As the curriculum consultant for music in Prince George, B.C., Miss Taylor reminded us of the necessary importance of a well planned program which implements the best music as both the means and the end.

The opening night of the convention was topped off with a delightful reception during which both Gisele Rouleau, pianist and Laurier Bisson's Chantamis choir entertained us.

Dr. Roy's keynote address focussed on the importance of the ear in the proper expression of the musical language as well as in the total development of the child. Anyone who has heard Dr. Roy speak about "La Methode Thomas" will find

A series of concurrent sessions held in both French and English followed Dr. Roy's breakfast session.

Sister Therese Potvin, one of the A.K.A.'s advisory directors outlined the French immersion program in the lower elementary grades in her first session of the day. She returned to host a panel session along with Leonard Rousseau and Rachel Jean which dealt with ideas for teaching music in the upper elementary immersion grades.

Also interesting were the English sessions. Shirley Perry, Daisy Siu, Jan Taylor and Betty Wakefield gave their respective sessions, each touching on some important aspect of teaching according to the Kodaly concept.

At this year's annual general meeting, we were proud to confer A.K.A.'s first honorary life membership upon Dr. Richard Johnson, a man who has done so much to establish Canadian folk music in its rightful place, along with that of other great musics.

The general meeting was ably conducted, during the business luncheon, by Sharyn Favreau who resumed the afternoon sessions with her presentation of recommended books and teaching materials.

Bob Cazabon, Betty Pors, Carmen Tellier Bourret and Aline Brault gave us an inside look at what is currently being done in the classroom at the various levels with their demonstrations.

Later in the afternoon, Carolyn Steeves gave a professional improvement presentation after which we were also treated to two repertoire sessions. Patricia Hoag skillfully led us through some choice Canadian songs, while Laurier Bisson's children's choir performed some available French music.

Throughout the afternoon, Alliance Chorale Alberta was on hand with a display of their increasing selection of pedagogical material for music teachers. The A.C.A. now stocks materials recommended by the A.K.A.

Other than the general, positive atmosphere among participants at the conference, there was another indication of the conference's success; new members. One hundred and forty new members bear witness to the rising need for, and interest in our organization.