



STOP

San Joaquin Valley Chapter

REED

American Guild of Organists

Executive Board
2011-2012

February 2012

<p>Dean: Catherine Walker CAGO 559-658-7376 home 559-906-3068 cell</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">This month Board Member Helga Medd Shares her Passion for the Arts and Education</p> <p><i>"21st Century Brain Research Information"</i> has thrown us into radical educational reforms about thinking, learning, and remembering. Now there is much discussion about how academic institutions are preparing students in this century. The national and global culture is changing and there is much discussion what role the arts should play (if any) in the child's ability to think.</p> <p>A child's play is their work. Children learn holistically, but education has usually held an adult approach to their learning. However, till 2 years of age, a child absorbs information by right brain 'fight or flight'. Thinking becomes apparent at about 1 ½ years. Whatever neurons are not mirrored during the early years are forever lost so <i>developing early neural pathways is most important.</i></p> <p>Despite that many consider the arts a frill, extra-curricular, and nonintellectual, <u>they make the study of science invention possible!</u> Engineers and scientists need more than language and math logic to be creative. Students must recognize and invent patterns just like composers or poets, make models like sculptures, and manipulate tools and 'play' their high-tech instruments like musical performers.</p> <p>Is the goal of education to inspire children to think, question, apply self discipline, to interact well with those with whom they work, and be able through critical judgmental thinking to find a course of action that includes their and another's well being? <i>Or is the goal to turn out young adults who are competent enough to enter the work force, be obedient (or rebellious), have little or no interpersonal or intrapersonal skills?</i></p> <p>Businesses say single rigid ways to understand a solution will not suffice when acquired through merely rote, ritualized or conventional learning. This is what many educators call the 'basic skills' that are currently standard tested! It is very clear that the more important ability is to be able to select what is the most important information of the massive information given by computers and other technology. Our future will depend not only on the accumulation of technical expertise, <i>but in the capacity for creative thinking.</i> Business schools and company bosses say this is the age to mobilize ideas, talents and creative organizations or 'you will be eaten alive'. We can no longer depend on parents, schools, or religious institutions to teach all the skills and abilities necessary, in the manner they have tried to do in the past. (continued on the next page)</p>
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Here is where Orff Schulwerk music enters with HELP! Carl Orff studied children and created a process he says is **“A music for children that could be played, sung, and danced by them, and also be invented by them.”** Orff weaves together speech, poetry, movement, dance, singing, drama, improvisation, and playing instruments by building music from simple elements like echo and repeated patterns. Playing together in a non-competing atmosphere fosters joy, play and exploration so children become sensitive listeners and considerate participants. Students become skilled in collaboration and individual creative expression which are the needs listed in our present culture: ability to motivate oneself, persist and tolerate frustration; ability to control impulses by delaying gratification; ability to empathize; ability to hope and see alternative possibilities, and determine how well skills are used like intellect, technical facilities and information. Students can learn from and acknowledge their mistakes and continue to work for better skills and emotional capacities. *(This sounds like learning music to me!)*

Emotional intelligence provides a basis of balance for creative thinking and problem solving which is necessary for intellectual reasoning. Both creative thinking and emotional intelligence can be taught and learned. **Neither one is presently considered in the standard IQ tests.**

Teacher training CAN and WILL happen through credit workshops given outside the usual learning centers. It will be important to incorporate much educational scaffolding for educators to help them change their ways of thinking. So it is important for organizations like the AGO to be encouraging and mentoring individuals. This means institutions will change because we are all ‘in the same music boat’ and “We are not victims but also co-creators in doing what is right.” (Vaclav Havel)

For me now, the words ‘teach’ and ‘fun’ are archaic. Learning music is a joyful shared journey to discover the many wonders of sound, story and form. *It is really about learning to think and letting out safely what is inside!*

*Helga Medd
SJV/AGO Board Member
Fresno, CA
January 14, 2012*

POSITIVE REPORTS OF THE RECENT POEx

(One of the activities offered by SJV/AGO to make music learning a “joyful, shared journey!”)

Thanks very much to Laurell Huber, Helga Medd and Jacquie Johnson with their helpers Tyler Baker, Tyrell McKenzie, Ethan Peterson and Luke Shrestha. The January POExperience hosted 42 piano students at CSUF, to enjoy the pipes and pedals of the Martin Ott organ. This is an important event to expose piano students to the organ and you can tell by the smiles on the students’ faces when they hear beautiful sounds that the experience was an exciting one!

Our February Social is this Friday, February 3 at 6:30 pm.

Don’t forget to bring a dish to share!

In case you don’t have the directions here they are again:

From Herndon Ave. turn north on West Ave. From West Ave, turn left on Minarets Ave. Minarets will eventually merge with Birch Ave. The Johnson home is on the right at 2288 W. Birch.

OPEN CONSOLE AT WARNORS THEATRE

Saturday, March 24, 2012

10:00 am to 12:30 pm

Richard Cencibaugh will be our “Master Teacher” to insure that we all enjoy ourselves at the Morton Theatre Organ!

All ages are invited to come and play, with music or without.
