

*“With music, one’s whole future life is brightened. This is such a treasure in life that it helps us over many troubles and difficulties. Music is nourishment, a comforting elixir. Music multiplies all that is beautiful and of value in life.” – Zoltan Kodály*

As a new school year begins, I will have to sit out the first semester. I have never not started a new school year. It is a very strange and peculiar feeling to not clean up my room, rearrange chairs and tables, print all the discipline/behavior contracts that go home, sharpen new pencils, and write new lesson plans for all seven grades I teach. I will be back in my classroom in January, but I am sad to have to wait.

During my successful knee replacement recovery, I fell outside on the driveway and broke my tibia. Being told you will not be able to bear weight for ten weeks is a wake-up call in so many ways. I have found that having an imposed reflective period when you are unable to be at home and have to rely on friends and family for almost everything is in itself a blessing. And, of course, having time to listen to music I have wanted to revisit or with which I have wanted to acquaint myself, has been a renewing “nourishment, a comforting elixir.” How fortunate we are to be music educators who get to work in a medium that “multiplies all that is beautiful and of value in life.” I am blessed beyond measure.

The Louisiana Music Educators Annual Conference is in November – still a long time away, but much closer than January! By then, I will be able to walk again and be able to participate in all the clinics. I am so excited.

We have a great round up of clinicians and sessions planned. Dr. Susan Brumfield, from Texas Tech, will be the “star” attraction. She will present four sessions including one on Louisiana songs and games and a choral reading session.

The LMEA Executive Board agreed to fund a second clinician for our elementary teachers, and Dr. Andrew Paney from the University of Mississippi will present two sessions on practicing rhythmic elements and practicing melodic elements in the upper elementary grades.

Mr. Lamar Robertson will present a session on improvisation. Mr. Jarrod Richey from Geneva Academy will have two sessions on the forgotten fun of folk dancing. Many other wonderful educators will be

offering sessions on a variety of topics. A complete round-up of all sessions and clinicians will be in the November issue of The Louisiana Musician.

My thoughts and prayers are with all of you as you begin teaching in a week or so – or perhaps you have already! I hope to see many of you in November. Don't forget to speak with your principal and/or supervisor to take advantage of these professional development sessions. It will renew your teaching – and brighten your whole life – more than you know!

**MICHELE M WHITE, ELEMENTARY DIVISION CHAIR**