

“DOUBLE – UP WORKSHOP”

With LYNN KLEINER (Music Rhapsody – Los Angeles) and

SUSIE DAVIES-SPLITTER & PHIL SPLITTER (Welcome to Music - Melbourne)

MLC Burwood

19th September, 2009

Lynn, Susie and Phil presented a day of exciting, inspiring ideas. This was a wonderful treat at the end of Term 3.

Susie and Phil’s workshop was as exciting as ever with a new “Fuzzy” song, and some favourites such as “Rockin’ Rhythm” and “Fireman’s BBQ”. They presented ideas from their new book & CD “Your Stage” (written in conjunction with Mary Brake), which is a bumper book that includes new songs with ideas for working with children with special needs as well as the regular classroom.

Their workshop was full of Susie’s brilliant Orff teaching sprinkled with Phil’s quirky sense of humour. Susie always starts with such a simple musical idea and develops it to its fullest with a series of sequential steps that leaves the participant pondering “why didn’t I think of that?”. As we have come to expect from Susie, her workshop placed emphasis on improvisation from the simplest level for (pre-schoolers) to more complex but achievable ideas in the primary school classroom.

Susie and Phil have developed a new set of picture books and soft toys for some of their favourite “Song Stories”. (www.welcometomusic.net). The use of the picture books and soft toys can help to set the scene for the song and performance, and have proved to be a “hit” with my classes of 5 – 8 year olds. Susie will be presenting workshops in January in Adelaide.

Lynn was brilliant! I had the privilege to work with Lynn at ECCPA a few years ago, and have been a fan of her work ever since. All of her ideas are successful in the Early Childhood and Primary classroom. While it is one good aspect to teach from her books – to be taught by her was an amazing experience of wonder.

Lynn has so many and varied ideas. She has developed 3 or 4 ways of teaching just one classical excerpt, and her books include over 40 classical pieces. She presented her ideas with an element of surprise for the participants – we were always wondering what was going to happen next. We zoomed under flying parachutes, hid behind tambourines and then used the tambourines for serving tea (Lieutenant Kije). We were bugs buried in the sand (Creatures of the Garden) and dinghies in a storm (Overture to William Tell).

“Larry the Lobster” and “Jungle Beat” were two new songs taught with small beginnings leading into beautiful Orff arrangements. Lynn’s hand-made props were beautiful, while her puppets and felt cut-outs were so appealing. Check out her website for these products (www.musicrhapsody.com). Her books also contain many patterns for props that can be easily made.

It is so exciting that Lynn is one of the key presenters at the ANCOS Conference in January in Adelaide. She is an enthusiastic presenter who will take everyone (no matter the age group with which you work) on an awe-inspiring Orff journey.

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