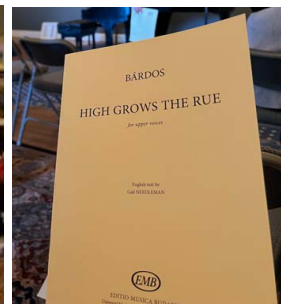


Reflection ~ Ildi Thész Salgado



Ildi Thész Salgado works with the Clayton Valley Charter High School Women's Ensemble on "Golden-Winged Angel" from the new publication of selected choral works by Lajos Bárdos in English translation by Gail Needleman.

Bárdos Lajos: High Grows the Rue (Magos a rutafa), now available for purchase through [EMB Music](#).

Photo: Gemma Arguelles

On November 4th, friends and supporters of the Kodály Foundation for Music Education (KFME) gathered at the Piedmont Center for the Arts for an afternoon of music, sharing, and fellowship.

Susie Bodnar opened the program by relaying a heartfelt greeting from Foundation chair Dr. Thomas Kite who was unable to attend the event as he is currently visiting Hungary. The audience was delighted to hear a special message included from Madame Sarolta Kodály, wife of Zoltán Kodály.

Next, Kodály Center alumna and friend of the Foundation, pianist Jeanette Tietze took the stage delivering a stunning performance. She chose works by Robert Schumann, Joseph Haydn, and Kodály's contemporary, Béla Bartók. The closing piece was especially moving, reflecting on the current state of our world: *Variations on L'Homme Armé (Fear the Armed Man)* by American composer Ellis B. Kohs. The audience was touched by Jeanette's sensitive and emotional performance.

Anne Laskey, former director of the Kodály Center and treasurer of KFME announced the Gail Needleman Scholarship in memory of the late professor and researcher with whom Anne worked closely. Together, Anne and Gail worked on collecting, transcribing, and organizing songs for the internationally renowned [American Folk Song Collection](#), an invaluable free online resource for music teachers.

Another one of Gail's last projects included the translation of selected choral works by Hungarian composer Lajos Bárdos. Initiated by Gilbert de Greeve and Judit Hartyányi, then-president and vice-president of the International Kodály Society, and with the assistance of Tamás Daróci Bárdos on behalf of the Bárdos heirs, the goal of the project was to produce singable English translations and background notes for conductors of a number of Bárdos' choral works, as a way to make them more accessible to the English-speaking world.

Because of her untimely passing, Gail was unable to finish this task, however, two of her close colleagues, Judit Hartyányi and Ildikó Thész Salgado stepped in to champion the final work of correcting, editing, and corresponding with the publisher *Editio Musica Budapest*. Thanks to their assistance, the following works have now been published with Gail's English translation: *Wonder of Wonders*, *Starflower*, *High Grows the Rue*, *Distant Dream*, and *Choral Pieces for Equal Voices*.

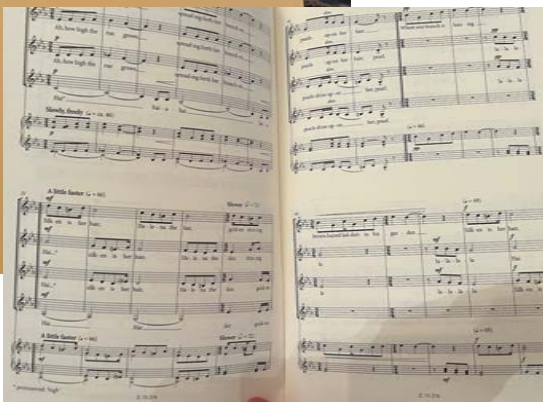
Reflection continued...

The audience was treated to an introduction and overview of Gail's translation of *High Grows the Rue* by Ildi, who also led everyone in singing excerpts of the piece. Participants were thrilled to hold in their hands the beautifully designed octavo with Gail Needleman's name as translator.

The performance section of the afternoon was rounded out by a delightful teaching demonstration by the Clayton Valley Charter High School Women's Ensemble under the direction of another Kodály Center alumna, Elizabeth Wagman Emigh. Ms. Emigh presented choral warm-ups and exercises showcasing the high school singers' advanced skills in intonation, part-work, and overall musicianship.

The ensemble had also prepared *Golden Winged Angel*, a piece from the aforementioned *Choral Pieces for Equal Voices* by Bárdos for a rehearsal demonstration led by Ildi Thész Salgado. The audience listened as Ildi guided the singers in tuning the Dorian scale, shaping melody lines, and overall artistic expression of this lovely Christmas song with Gail's wonderfully delicate translation. The ensemble wrapped up the program with a joyful and uplifting selection of choral works, such as *Bring Me Little Water, Sylvie*.

To conclude the afternoon, attendees were treated to a wine and cake reception where we shared memories, celebrated the Foundation's achievements, and reconnected with each other. The full program can be viewed [here](#).



A sneak peak! From the new publication of selected choral works by Lajos Bárdos in English translation by Gail Needleman.

Bárdos Lajos: *High Grows the Rue (Magos a rutafa)* now available for purchase through [EMB Music](#)

Photo: Susie Bodnar



Jeanette Tietze (Piano)
Photo: Gemma Arguelles



Jeanette Tietze (Piano, Kodály Center alumna),
Ildi Thész Salgado (Vice-President, [KFME Board](#))
Dr. Christoph Tietze (Director of Music, Saint Mary's
Cathedral, San Francisco).

Photo: Gemma Arguelles

Reflection continued...

[Elizabeth Wagman Emigh](#), conductor of the [Clayton Valley Charter High School Women's Ensemble](#), shared that many aspects of her life came together for this occasion. Ms. Emigh grew up in Piedmont, her elementary music teacher, present in the audience, was Mary Ann Benson (retired music teacher, Piedmont Schools, and past demonstration teacher for the Kodály Center).

Ms. Emigh is also a conductor for [Piedmont East Bay Children's Choir](#) (PEBCC). PEBCC rehearses each week in the Piedmont Center for the Performing Arts. Ms. Emigh studied at the Kodály Center at Holy Names, and shared that she was excited to see some of her teachers in the audience.

KFME would like to thank the performers for their contribution to this wonderful afternoon, as well as our friends and donors for sharing our mission.



Anne Laskey ([KFME Board](#)), Professor Emerita, past Director, Kodály Center at Holy Names); and [Elizabeth Wagman Emigh](#) (Conductor, Clayton Valley Charter High School Women's Ensemble).

Photo: Gemma Arguelles



Mary Ann Benson (retired music teacher of Piedmont Schools; Kodály Center alumna), and Sue Malick (President, [Board of Directors, Piedmont Center for the Arts](#))

Photo: Gemma Arguelles



Clayton Valley Charter High School Women's Ensemble with [Elizabeth Wagman Emigh](#), conductor.

Photo: Susie Bodnar



Susie Bodnar ([Board Member, KFME](#))

Photo: Susie Bodnar



[Elizabeth Wagman Emigh](#) (Conductor, [Clayton Valley Charter High School Women's Ensemble](#)), [Cheryl Keller](#) (Professor Emerita, Holy Names), [Gemma Argelles](#) (Choral Conductor, Young Women's Choral Projects of San Francisco - YWCP), and [Katie Jenks](#) (Vice President, [NCAKE](#); Music Teacher, Oakland Unified School District; Chorus Conductor, YWCP). Photo: Gemma Arguelles

Reflection ~ Susie Bodnar

I still remember it as if it was yesterday. I'm about 7 years old. My mom and I are sitting in a classroom in the Egressy Beni Music School in Miskolc, Hungary, my hometown. It all seems so unfamiliar and scary, I'm not happy to be there, but mom tells me this will be a place of great fun, filled with music and singing, so I give it a chance. In walks Ági néni (Mrs Ági), smiles at me, caresses my face and starts singing and even playing the recorder.

I was at ease right away and never looked back! Ági néni was my first solfa teacher. She made me love music school so much that I went there twice a week for 6 years. I studied piano as my instrument, and solfa as a precursor to my music education. Zoltán Kodály's legacy of *Music literacy is a universal right and not a secret language for a select few* is deeply rooted in me and in our Hungarian education I was so fortunate to receive. Unlike in most countries, music education in Hungary is free. Hungarian children can choose to go to a special music school after normal elementary/high school classes - all still part of the Hungarian public education system. I never thought much about how lucky I was until I traveled the world and saw the difference.

Fast forward 30+ years, I am sitting at the Piedmont Center for the Arts, and can't help but do the hand signals of "do-re-mi" along with the amazing Clayton Valley Charter High School Women's Ensemble, and conductor Elizabeth Wagman Emigh, as they demonstrate some warm ups and exercises. Old memories of Ági néni's singing, music classes and childhood recitals come rushing back and I have tears in my eyes. It was an absolute joy to listen to this concert and demonstration.

I am so proud to represent the Kodály Foundation for Music Education as a board member and avid supporter of the cause.

My professional life has taken me to the world of supply chain and logistics at *Apple Inc.* I love my profession and when people ask me why, I tell them that supply chain is like a choir. Every function (planning, manufacturing, warehousing, transportation, etc.) is a different singer in the choir. Alone, we don't sound as great as together, and we always have to listen to others around us to achieve harmony.

We thank you for your support
Kodály Foundation for Music Education

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