

**KFME was honored to be a sponsor for this special Golden Anniversary Symposium of the International Kodály Society.**

At the recent [26th IKS Symposium](#), the [International Kodály Society](#) (IKS) community celebrated the 50th anniversary of the first international meeting of Kodály educators. The symposium was held July 31-August 4, 2023 at the Colburn School in downtown Los Angeles. The opening ceremony featured an address by Dr. Jerry Jaccard, IKS president and Holy Names alumnus. Photos from the first international Kodály symposium held at Holy Names College in 1973 were also shared, and symposium delegates enjoyed an engaging performance by [Chanticleer](#).

The [daily symposium program](#) included morning group singing and a keynote address in the main hall, followed by workshops, papers and panels offered by presenters from around the world. Symposium delegates joined daily rehearsals of the IKS Participant Choir directed by Fernando Malvar-Ruiz, conductor of the [Los Angeles Children's Chorus](#). Both choirs performed on the final day of the symposium.

Daily concerts were a highlight! The [Takács Quartet](#) performed string quartets by Haydn, Bartók and Beethoven. The quartet also presented a wonderful introduction to these pieces in an afternoon talk/demonstration. [Cascada de Flores](#), a Mexican ensemble founded by Arwen Lawrence (a Kodály Center alumna) and Jorge Liceaga, also performed in concert with Florante and Charmaine Aguilar, a Filipino duo from Los Angeles.

Of special note: 10 of the 37 workshops presented were given by graduates of Holy Names. Anne Laskey, professor emerita and HNU alumna, gave a keynote address, and HNU faculty presented sessions also. Judith Johnson (Australia), HNU alumna and past faculty of the Kodály Center, received the International Katalin Forrai award for excellence in early childhood education. The presence of so many Holy Names alumni and faculty was a special opportunity to connect in person, to reminisce, and to reflect on the remarkable reach and impact of the Kodály Center and its community over 50+ years.

We congratulate and thank the symposium organizing committee, which included graduates and faculty of the Holy Names Kodály Center: Minami Cohen (Symposium Co-chair), Dr. Miriam Factora, János Horváth, Ildikó Salgado, Robert Lee and Maree Hennessy.

To learn more about KFME projects supporting Kodály education, visit <https://kodalyfoundation.org/>

Click [here](#) to see class photos of HNU alumni at the IKS 2023 Symposium (Photography: Gemma Arguelles, Judith Chan, Robert Lee)

Click [here](#) to see photos from the IKS 2023 Symposium (Photography: Robert Lee and Salvadore Rios)