

Post Fellowship Reporting - Project Summary

Report Title: Scottish Strings Name: Jean C. White

Other Team Alison Streich, Aaron Balano

Members:

Program: Oakland Program

Trip Dates: 11/30/-0001 - 11/30/-0001 **Location Visited:** Scotland

Post Fellowship Reporting Template: PFR Template 02

Project Summary: Music teachers go through a certain amount of suspense each spring as we wonder whether our program will be funded yet again. From the moment I heard that Scotland has K-age 14 music and art education in all its schools, and has had for more than sixty years I was intrigued at the effect this would have had on the average Scot. Because my mother is a Scot I knew that music is part of the fabric of Scottish families. Reunions with my aunts and cousins were always occasions for songs, and when I would ask often I was told, "Oh we learned them in school." Yet what we learned transcended music education alone and has great implications for our whole school district, and indeed for everyone involved in education in the US. Interviewing educators, teachers, social workers and people in shops and in the streets from all walks of life we heard again and again the phrase "a well rounded individual". The goal of Scottish education is to give each child an opportunity to study all disciplines and as they get older allow them to focus on their special interests. Scotland is remarkable for producing many innovators and inventors, and I believe this approach to education is largely responsible.

My cousin Chris Bryne, a high-school head master in the West of Scotland arranged an interview for me with Alan Armstrong, Director of Education Improvement for Learning and Teaching Scotland, and when I told him how intrigued I was that Scotland had mandated music instruction he stopped me. He said Scotlish policy is to train its teachers well and allow them and their schools to meet benchmarks as they saw fit. " Our aim," he said "is to reprofessionalize the teachers—give them back their freedom." I found this a very exciting and inspiring policy.

Career Impact: The songs, rhymes and melodies I learned in Scotland and as a result of traveling there will be a new multicultural dimension to my own curriculum. Finally, I was struck by how similar the recreated Highland crofts we visited in the Museum of Highland Life were like the traditional Mayan homes I have visited in Mexico, Guatemala and Belize, and realize that, as a half-Scot, I am coming from a similar ancestral place to many of my students of Central American origin.

The commitment of Scotland to music education and the deep belief of its citizens to the validity of music strengthen my commitment to music education. Our trip to Scotland has made me realize I am part of an international group of music educators and I am inspired to renew my efforts to make my music teaching the best it can be.

Finally, the gift of this grant makes me feel like a valued professiona

Classroom/Community Impact: From my report to them in words and pictures and from books and artifacts I brought back from my trip to Scotland my students will realize that this faraway dot on the globe is a real place. They too will realize that music is a universal human attribute to be developed. By learning Scottish children's' songs and dances they will learn how similar and yet different our cultures are. My community of colleagues is interested in the Scottish approach to education, especially the concept of education the whole individual-- and many are planning their own missions of educational exploration.

Open Response: Orff arrangement of "Corn Rigs and Barley Rigs", a Scottish jig.

Curriculum that includes Scottish children's songs.

Interschool concert of Scottish songs and dances.

Article or report based on my interview with Alan Armstrong.

Quote: (From Jean White) "I can't believe in Scotland nothing is mandated".

Photos:



At Flndhorn



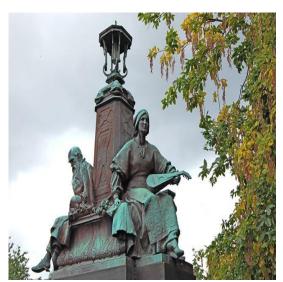
Alan Armstrong, of Teaching and Learning Scotland



Alision and a highland cow



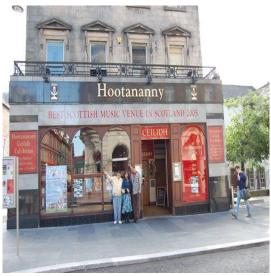
The Museum of Highland Life



Glasgow



Interview with Jean Smith



Aaron and Alison in Inverness



Alison playing at the Plockton Inn