

# The Conductors' Podium

Illinois State Newsletter of the American Choral Directors Association



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## THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER Dr. Robert E. Snyder

As you know from previous information that was mailed to you, Friday and Saturday, October 22nd and 23rd are most important dates for all of us. Many of our state members have been inquiring as to when we will have our own state convention. The answer is NOW. Please make every effort to attend and to bring a friend who should belong to ACDA, or a student who is considering going into some aspect of our choral art. It is difficult for us to contact all of the junior high and church choir directors. So I would request that you inform these people of the convention and what is on the program and join us at the beautiful Hyatt Regency O'Hare for Friday evening and Saturday, October 22nd and 23rd. Make it a fall vacation if you're from downstate.

ACDA Bicentennial celebration at Interlochen was a fine success. Not only did the 200 members of the chorus have a tremendous experience working with Lukas Foss, but they, plus all of the choral directors present, were able to listen and/or sing under such notables as Charles Hamm, Salli Terri, Robert DeCormier, Gregg Smith, Iva Dee Hyatt, Charles Hirt, Frank Pooler and others.

Interlochen was a bustling place. It is fantastic to see and hear the amount of fine music that is going on there all summer long. The final program on Saturday evening began with the singing of two pieces by all who were in attendance for the week, with the bicentennial chorus on stage and the rest of us choral directors in the middle section of the large Kresge Auditorium. It was a thrill to participate in Dudley Buck's "Hymn to Music". The piece that was commissioned by Mr. Foss was a well-crafted work that took considerable doing to put together. It was rhythmically challenging and had a few novel moments where police-type handheld loudspeakers were used by the soloists to speak parts of the text.

I was sorry that more of our Illinois members did not take advantage of this week. Those present gained a great deal. We were represented by six singers in the chorus. I

would hope that a similar conclave be held every two or three summers.

## A REPORT ON INTERLOCHEN Phil Mark

The summer is now over and all of us are back in our various places of employment doing our thing, so to speak. Hopefully, we all had a fruitful summer of rejuvenation so that we can share our experiences with our students.

One of the truly fine experiences I had this summer was the week at the National Music Camp at Interlochen, Michigan. The American Choral Directors Association had full use of all facilities at the camp from July 19-24 and brought together several hundred choral directors and singers from all 50 states and foreign countries as well. Fine choirs gave enlightening performances every evening. The American Music Sessions were very informative and helped to give us a new respect for our American Musical heritage.

It all started on July 19 as we came together for the first American Music Session under Charles Hamm. The week included such outstanding personalities as Gregg Smith, Sally Terri, Iva Dee Hiatt, Frank Pooler and Robert DeCormier. These people gave us a fine background in the American musical heritage most of us have ignored for so long.

The evening sessions brought fine performances from many excellent choirs. We heard music from The Bulmershe Girls Choir of Reading, England whose tone and pitch were almost impeccable. There was the evening of Black music from the Hampton Institute, Roland Carter, conductor. Those of us from Illinois were proud of the delightful program Doreen Rao gave us with the Glen Ellyn Children's Chorus. Thursday evening Gregg Smith and the Gregg Smith Singers presented a history of American Music in Concert. We were also moved by the Shaker Worship Service by Sally Terri, presented by the Oakland University Singers. All of these wonderful evenings were followed by the final concert on Saturday

evening. The two-hundred voice choir made up of singers from all fifty states worked all week with Lukas Foss and the World Youth Symphony. It was truly an exciting evening to see the efforts of so many put together for the premier of a new work.

Probably one of the most exciting aspects of the celebration was the appearance of some of the world's finest choral directors. They were all there as observers and were therefore very relaxed and had a great time along with the rest of us. To mention a few, those who attended included: Marcel Courand, Paris; Eric Ericson, Stockholm; Rolf Ostbye, Oslo; Guy Jansen, New Zealand; Eugeniusz Kus, Poland; Paul Steinitz, London; Paul Wherle, Karlsruhe and Gustav Ernesaks, Esthonia. I will always remember their singing of "Saturday Night" with Sonya Garfinkle leading the singing. It was truly delightful.

On Sunday, as we all departed, many very early in the morning, we said goodbye to many old friends as well as a number of new faces from all parts of the globe. It is nice to know that the Choral Art is alive and well all over the world, and we are an important part of it.

*Editor's Note: Phil Mark kindly responded to a request to share his view of the Interlochen Celebration. Always an active ACDA member, Phil is currently a nominee for national treasurer. His work in ACDA started in 1970 when he became Chairman of the Steering Committee for the first independent North Central Division Convention in Chicago. In 1971, he was elected president of the North Central Division of ACDA. He served on the National Board of Directors for five years in that capacity. Most recently, he has been on the Advisory Committee for the 1976 Bicentennial Celebration in Interlochen.*

*Phil has been Director of Choral Activities at Barrington High School for the past nine years. He has a B.A. from North Dakota State University and a M.A. in Choral Literature and Conducting from the University of Iowa. I would personally encourage all Illinois ACDA members to support the candidacy of one of our fine colleagues.*

### BRING SOME TO SHARE

In an effort to exchange as much good SSA music as possible you are invited to bring single copies of a few of your most successful pieces to the State Convention. Please attach your name and address, and any additional comments you may want to share and bring them to the registration desk when you arrive. All copies will be on display during the session on Music for Girls. At the conclusion of the convention, a list of the music submitted will be compiled and all copies of music returned to the directors.

Rosamond Ernst (Mitzi) Hearn has been named Director of the Choral Music Section of Lyon-Healy, Chicago's 111-year old music retail firm. She is responsible for developing the choral music catalogue and related retail services for Lyon-Healy.

Mrs. Hearn is organist and choirmaster of Sacred Heart Church, Lombard, Illinois, and has been engaged as Chorus Master for the Oak Park Civic Opera Company for the 1976-1977 season.

Mrs. Hearn has served on the executive board of the Chicago Chapter A.G.O., the Music Camp Committee of the Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ, the executive board of the Chicago Club of Women Organists, the Chicago Archdiocesan Liturgical Commission of Sacred Music, the board of directors of Psi Chapter of Delta Omicron, and she was a founder of the Choral Conductors Guild of Chicago.

### FESTIVALS

The Eighth Annual Illinois ACDA Junior College Invitational Choral Festival will be held on Saturday, March 19th, at the College of DuPage. Conductors interested in bringing their groups to perform are invited to correspond with host Dr. Carl Lambert.

The Ninth Annual Illinois ACDA Invitational College Choir Festival will be held in February at Illinois State University. Conductors interested in bringing their groups to perform are invited to contact host Dr. Donald Armstrong before December 1.

### The Bradley Chorale Triumphs in France

On June 5 and 6, the Bradley Chorale, under the direction of John Davis, participated in the International Choral Competition at Tours, France. There were 15 choirs from Italy, Germany, France, Greece, Switzerland, Sweden and Hungary in this fifth year of the prestigious event. Poulenc was one of the founders and organizers of the Rencontre Internationale de Chant Choral. The Chorale won not only the first prize in the mixed chorus category but also the Grand Prize as the outstanding choir in the entire competition. A prize of 10,000 francs (\$2300) and a silver medal as a gift from the President of France was awarded the Chorale at the closing ceremonies.

The tours competition highlighted a three-week concert tour which included concerts in Spain, France, and England.

## THE BICENTENNIAL CHORUS

One could not help but be overwhelmed at the 200 voice Bicentennial Chorus at Interlochen. The quality of voices and musical sensitivity, combined with determination and good will, brought together a rare experience for those that heard. The national news media has distinguished itself for overlooking this great opportunity to draw attention to the beauty and sincerity of American youth.

A quartet of voices was selected to represent every state in the Union and they came from as far away as Alaska and Hawaii. (Oddly, only two were there from Michigan.) Illinois was asked to help fill the gap and sent six singers. They were asked to share with Illinois conductors their experience at Interlochen.

To talk about the week at Interlochen in one paragraph is rather difficult. The week was so packed with rehearsals (starting daily at 7:00 a.m.!) and an abundance of other activities (both musical and social) that I feel I was there much longer. I was in a unique position: that of singer and rehearsal accompanist. This gave me the chance to work with the piece and the conductor in two very different facets. I also participated as soloist and pianist in several ACDA choral sessions. Musically speaking, it was a very successful week. Congratulations must go to those who initiated and organized the celebration week: mainly, the Planning Committee consisting of Harold Decker, Morris Hayes, Irving Bunton, Melvin Larimer, and James McKelvy. Congratulations also to James G. Smith whose anthology "The New Liberty Bell" made the nightly singing sessions so enjoyable.

*Patricia Ludvigson*

Trying to cram a full week of experience into one short paragraph would surely be a difficult task. Rather than do that, I would merely like to thank the Illinois chapter along with the national association for the opportunity to participate in such a prestigious event. Studying with and talking to conductors that up until this time I had only read about, was surely the experience of a lifetime. I was very impressed with the planning of the convention and the manner in which it was carried off. Certainly the efforts of many are to be commended. I only hope that another two-hundred years does not pass before another such celebration takes place.

*Tom Birkner*

It would really be difficult for me to pick out one certain aspect of the ACDA Bicentennial Celebration that was the most impressive or remembered. Three things will stick out in my memory of the week, however.

First, was what went on at the camp itself. It was my first visit to Interlochen and the fantastic things I had heard about the camp were all taking place on a much bigger scale than I imagined. Secondly, the vocal talent of the choir was also above what I expected and I thought I had expected quite a bit! Thirdly, was the insight given into the composition

of a work of music by Mr. Foss. I felt that I gained some appreciation in what a composer considers when writing a work.

I could go on about other things such as the American Music sessions, etc., but I think it would be accurate to sum up the week as the most enjoyable week in my experience in choral music.

*Jim Harbaugh*

Deadline for news items and articles for the next issue of the *Podium* is November 1.

Rates for advertising in subsequent issues of the *Podium* may be obtained through the editor.

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## FAVORITE CHORAL WORKS

Following is a list of selected works that were read at the ACDA Bicentennial Celebration last summer. While the collections of James Smith and Gregg Smith may appear slightly expensive at first sight (\$5.50 and \$6. respectively), they are both well-worth the price and belong in every conductor's library.

Lukas Foss, *American Cantata*, (Salabert), the commissioned work.

James Smith, ed., *New Liberty Bell* (Mark Foster), anthology of 38 works; many available in octavo form

Gregg Smith, ed., *Sentimental Age* (G. Schirmer), collection of 33 works; many available in octavo form

Morocco-Gleason, *Music in America* (W. W. Norton), a comprehensive anthology dealing with 1620-1865.

Carter, *Heart Not So Heavy As Mine* (AMP A-273)

Copland, *Lark* (E. C. Sch. 1794)

Sessions, *Out of the Depths* (Presser 342-40117)

R. Thompson, *Venus Regina* (E. C. Sch. 1624)

R. Thompson, *Vitas Hinnuleo* (E. C. Sch. 1624)

Pierce, *Solitude of Space* (Walton 2978)

London, *Wounded Byrd Song* (Walton 2925)

Van Camp, ed., *Favorite Hymns of America* (Dean CD-103)

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