

The Conductors' Podium

Illinois State Newsletter of the American Choral Directors Association



A Special Report

November 21, 1979

Dear Fellow Conductors:

I am pleased to announce that Governor Thompson has again proclaimed a CHORAL MUSIC WEEK in Illinois, to be observed December 9-22. We think it is significant that the Governor recognizes "the tremendous interest of Illinoisans in choral music" and that, further, he encourages "all Illinoisans to participate in the musical events of the season and to support the arts throughout the year" (underlining mine). But most of all, we are delighted to see the Governor advise that "Our schools should be encouraged to include choral music in their arts curriculums."

The Governor's stand on the importance of music in our schools comes as no surprise, for just recently he signed into law House bill #2023, which amended the Illinois School Code, Chapter 122, Paragraph 27-1, to include the following critical statement of purpose:

"In order to provide an educated and useful citizenry, encourage intellectual development, and foster appreciation for, and active participation in music and the other arts."

This law came about as the result of the resolutions adopted by the state ACDA membership at last year's convention.

Now, both of these -- the proclamation and the amendment -- are of absolutely no value unless you choose to make use of them. It's completely up to you to inform the students and taxpayers in your area that you are not the only person who thinks choral music is important, but that the Governor thinks so, too.

Enclosed in this mailing is a copy of the proclamation. You may wish to reproduce it in your Christmas concert program, or read it aloud to your audience (they'll get to see your face for once!). At any rate, you are encouraged to take positive steps to promote the importance of choral music to your local people.

Condolences are expressed to those who were unable to attend the state convention. Those who were there enjoyed being exposed to new, exciting ideas and repertoire, as well as sharing fellowship with other conductors. Mark your calendars now for next year's state convention, to be held on October 10-11, in the northern part of the state.

A significant event announced at the convention was the establishment of the HAROLD A. DECKER CHORAL AWARD, to be awarded each year to an outstanding Illinois conductor.

I look forward to seeing many of you in Chicago on January 25, when ACDA will sponsor a session at the IMEA Conference. Dr. Karle Erickson of the Conservatory of Music of Lawrence University will present "Rehearsal Techniques for Oscar's Only Ostrich: the Value of Consonants." This session will give us all an opportunity to refine yet another important component of our choral art. We have not yet been notified of our time-slot, but we anticipate rising early!

Best wishes to your musical endeavors.

A. Dennis Sparger, President
Illinois ACDA

