

The Conductors' Podium

Illinois State Newsletter of the American Choral Directors Association



Vol. VI, No. 3

April 4, 1980

THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Friends in Choral Music:

Attending an ACDA convention is always a thrilling and rewarding experience, and our recent North Central Division convention in Madison was certainly no exception. The Wisconsin CDA'ers organized and presented a truly outstanding choral experience; they are deserving of our utmost praise and appreciation.

We Illinoisians are especially proud of the many fine choirs and clinicians that represented our state on this convention. As all of the participants were identified in the last issue, I will not repeat them here, but I must commend each singer, conductor and clinician for the excellent performances and presentations that were shared with us.

I would not wish to slight any contribution by omission, but I am nonetheless compelled to acknowledge an exceptional performance by the Moline Senior High School Choir. In talking with Cal Hedegaard afterward, he candidly related that "about a week ago the kids all realized that they were pretty good, but then they began to sense the responsibility that comes with being good." And so it is with all our fine choral groups: a sense of pride from striving toward perfection, coupled with humility from considering the importance of our mission.

While at the convention I was reminded of an obvious characteristic of most ACDA members: to continually update and improve skills and understandings (this trait, of course, is not limited to dues-paying members!). Quite sadly, however, far too many in our profession are content to accept complacency, avoiding the teaching of skills and techniques and relying on rote learning, allowing dealers and students to select their music, and substituting superficial thrills for meaningful and lasting experiences.

A substantial part of our time is spent complaining about the poor status of school music in Illinois and planning ways to improve this condition, but perhaps we should also address the problem of lazy and uncreative music teachers. Lawyers can be disbarred, clergy can be defrocked, but poor choral conductors only receive our "understanding." Must we continue to tacitly condone sub-standard teaching?

We are likewise quick to criticize administrators who don't support music programs, but slow to help them effectively evaluate them. In an effort to improve this situation, we are currently in the midst of a curriculum study at the high school level, soon to be followed by junior high and elementary studies. While our initial goal is to help our conductors formulate a consistent and sequential pattern of

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Choral Repertoire and Techniques Workshop October 24-25, 1980 Northern Illinois University, DeKalb

The fifth annual convention of the Illinois ACDA will begin on Friday, October 24, at 10:00 a.m. with an open rehearsal of the first Illinois ACDA High School Honors Choir, directed by Dr. Don V. Moses. The afternoon sessions will deal with topics of particular interest to high school directors, including the high school choral curriculum, swing choir literature and techniques, a reading session and performance by an outstanding group.

The evening session will begin at 7:30 and will be a concert hour featuring the Chicago Renewal Chorus, the Honors Choir performing Mozart's "Coronation Mass" with the NIU Orchestra, and other selected groups. A social gathering will be planned to follow the performances.

The Saturday sessions will begin at 10:00 a.m., and will end by 3:45 p.m. The day will include a reading session on Jewish choral music, the relationship between the conductor and the composer, the junior high musical, church literature, performances and a conducting techniques session by Don Moses. There will also be an ACDA luncheon.

Dr. Don V. Moses, our featured clinician, directed the Illinois ACDA College Honors Choir last year and was so well received that he has been invited to again be a significant part of our convention. Director of Choral Activities at the University of Iowa since 1973, Dr. Moses also directs the Haydn Festival at Eisenstadt, Austria.

Don't miss this exciting (and low-cost) opportunity to expand your knowledge, rekindle your enthusiasm, and see old friends.

Coming Dates

October 24-25, 1980 Illinois ACDA Fifth Convention,
"Choral Repertoire and Techniques
Workshop," DeKalb

March 4-8, 1981 ACDA National Convention,
New Orleans

Mark your calendar———plan now to attend.

CHORAL CURRICULUM COMMITTEE AT WORK

A committee is being formed to survey choral curricula and sequential programs of choral music education in the State of Illinois. Present plans are to focus on the high school program, but input for other levels is welcomed.

In addition to exploring various choral curricula in the state, the committee would like to provide an arena for sharing ideas about curriculum, samples of effective curricula, a source for assistance in creating written curricula, and perhaps a means of aiding administrators in more intelligent evaluation and understanding of choral programs. The committee hopes to present a preliminary report at the October 24 state convention of Illinois ACDA at DeKalb.

If you would like to be involved in this work, or if you have examples of existing written curricula, or if you know of people with expertise in this area, please contact committee chairman Lynne Bradley, 915 S. Catherine, LaGrange, IL 60525. Day: 312-354-4220, ext. 427 (am) 347 (pm) Night: 312-579-0665

NOMINATIONS ARE DUE

The Harold A. Decker Choral Award was established at our convention last fall to honor yearly an Illinois conductor who "consistently demonstrates the highest standards of humanity, musicianship and literature." During its summer meeting, the Executive Board will be considering the nominees and, on behalf of the membership, making an appropriate selection to be announced at our convention luncheon, October 25.

Take a few moments to consider who you believe is deserving of recognition for a truly outstanding career. Certainly someone who fits our criteria has made an impression on you.

Send the name of your nominee, along with a paragraph that supports your choice, before May 25, to: Dr. Theodore M. Klinka, 1237 Pfingston Road., Glenview, IL 60025. Nominations can only be accepted from ACDA members.

ACDA HIGH SCHOOL HONORS CHOIR

As a part of an emphasis on high school choirs at our State Convention in DeKalb this October, an ACDA High School Honors Choir will congregate to sing the "Coronation" Mass (K.317) of Mozart. Dr. Don Moses from the University of Iowa will be the clinician, and Northern Illinois University will provide the orchestra. This will be an opportunity for students from all over the state to sing a "major" work with an orchestra.

Each high school director in attendance at the convention will be able to bring his or her best quartet of singers to participate in the choir. (No partial quartets will be allowed.) A letter with full particulars and registration form will be mailed during April. For further information, contact Robert Fuller, Choral Director, Oak Park and River Forest High School, 201 N. Scoville, Oak Park, IL 60302 (312-383-0700, ext. 603).

PRESIDENT'S LETTER Continued

musical growth for their singers, we are also anxious to assist administrators to evaluate good and bad teaching in music, so the deadwood can be cleared away.

We are fortunate to have an organization such as ACDA where we can set ideals and we can strive for our goals. Through our interaction and sharing of ideas we all are stimulated and challenged. If you are not currently a member, give thought now to joining; membership costs less than a tank of gas! To be an artist is to always grow—no one of us can afford to remain the same.

Have a good year.

Sincerely,

A. Dennis Sparger

NEWS AND EVENTS ACROSS THE STATE

DISTRICT I

July 7-11 Church Music Seminar, Moody Bible Institute, Dr. Donald Hustad, guest lecturer, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, KY. Topic: All aspects of choral work will be explored through lecture and demonstration. Primarily on choral techniques, keyboard skills, recitals, and master classes. Undergraduate credit available.

Anyone interested in attending, please contact Moody Bible Institute, Sacred Music Department, 820 N. LaSalle Drive, Chicago, IL 60610. Telephone 312-329-4080.

June 23-27 Church Music Conference, Moody Bible Institute. John J. Atherton, guest lecturer, Minister of Music at the First Baptist Church in Selma, Alabama. Topics: Church Choir, Ministry and Organization; Multi-media Presentations, How and Why; The Hymnal, The History and Contemporary Use; Handbells, Demonstration and Participation.

August Choral Reading Clinic with Carl Fischer, Kimball Co., Chicago. Possibly third week of August, call 312-427-6652.

Doreen Rao, District I Chairman, 2506 Braeburn, Flossmoor, IL 60422. Telephone 312-799-3177

DISTRICT II

April 19 Community College at Sugar Grove, Illinois. Six to eight choirs will participate in a non-judging festival that provides opportunity for similar groups to hear each other and hear the literature they perform.

Ronald Pexton, District II Chairman, Illinois Central College, East Peoria, Illinois 61635

DISTRICT III

Professor Andrew Cottle of the U. of I. Music Education faculty recently conducted a concert by the newly formed Theater Chorus, featuring staged choral scenes from opera, operetta, and musical comedy. The group, which consists of both community and student performers, is co-sponsored by the Champaign Parks and Recreation Department and the Office of Continuing Education in Music Department of the U. of I.

March 21-22 Chamber groups were selected to participate in the annual Allerton Vocal Chamber Music Symposium. Groups selected include: Danville High School (Joe Grant), Thornridge High School (Karen French), Princeton High School (Thomas Crane), Pekin Community High School (Marilyn Nicholson), and Addison Trail High School (Richard Anderson). Alternates were Lyons Township High School (Robert Boyd) and Evergreen Park High School (Raymond Fry).

March 24 Dr. Paul Steinitz, Conductor of the London Bach Society, presented a lecture-demonstration at Krannert Center on the ST. JOHN PASSION of J.S. Bach, assisted by the University Graduate Chorale.

April 14 Anthony Milner, eminent English composer, will discuss "Contemporary English composers of choral music and their relationship to the past" at the Smith Music Hall Auditorium at 8:30 p.m. Choral conductors are cordially invited to attend free of charge.

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News and Events - Continued

DISTRICT III (continued)

June 9 - The School of Music, University of Illinois, will offer a summer workshop on Palestrina and his contemporaries. In addition to the workshop sessions, classes by U. of I. faculty will be offered on Palestrina and his music, aesthetics of the Renaissance, and instrumental music of the sixteenth century. Four hours graduate credit. Contact Leonard Rumery, 2136 Music Building, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois 61801

Leonard Rumery, District III Chairman, requests news, announcements, or trivia from choral directors. Public school and church items are especially solicited.

Leonard Rumery, District III Chairman, 2136 Music Building, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois 61801

DISTRICT VI

April 13 Brahms's REQUIEM, St. Louis Symphony Chorus, Thomas Peck, director (sung in English utilizing the two-piano edition that Brahms used in London). The Penitential Motets by Poulenc.

April 20 MESSIAH Parts II and III, Belleville Philharmonic and Chorale, Charles Rann, director, 3:30 p.m. at the Scottish Rite Temple, Belleville.

April 26 Dennis Sparger, president of the Illinois ACDA, will conduct two concerts with the Masterwork Chorale of Belleville Area College featuring Bach CANTATA No. 4 and the Fauré REQUIEM. This program will be presented on April 26 at the Blessed Sacrament Church, 8:00 p.m. It will be repeated the following day at St. Joseph's Church, near the Convention Center, in St. Louis. This will be a benefit concert to help preserve this important landmark.

DISTRICT VI (continued)

May 1, 2 Verdi REQUIEM, St. Louis Symphony Orchestra and Chorus, Jerzy Semkow, conductor. Powell Symphony Hall, St. Louis.

May 10 Beer and Pretzel Concert, Belleville Philharmonic Chorale, Charles Rann, conductor, Exhibition Hall, St. Clair County Fair Grounds, Belleville.

SHATTINGER'S READING CLINICS AT COLLINSVILLE HOLIDAY INN.

- Aug. 4 Vocal Jazz Workshop, Roger Emerson, clinician 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- Aug. 5 Twenty-second Annual High School Clinic, Roger Emerson, clinician, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- Aug. 5 Thirty-first Annual Church Clinic, John Walters, and Richard Boyd, clinicians, 7:45 to 10:00 p.m.
- Aug. 6 Thirteenth Annual Elementary—Junior High Clinic, Doreen Rao, clinician 9:30 to 3:30.
- Aug. 6 Twenty-first Annual Youth Church Clinic, John Walters and Richard Boyd, clinicians, 7:30 to 10:00 p.m.

Richard Boyd, District VI Chairman, 415 N. Stanton, Lebanon, IL 62254

NEW ENSEMBLE FORMED

Charles Rann, director of the Belleville Philharmonic Chorale, has formed a new ensemble, the Philharmonic Chorale Consort. Their debut was March 16 at the United Methodist Church, Lebanon, IL, at 8:00 p.m. Winstanley Baptist Church will be the site of their second concert on April 13 at 7:30 p.m. The third and final concert of the season will be May 4, 8:00 p.m., at St. Paul's United Church of Christ, Belleville.

APPLICATION for MEMBERSHIP in

American Choral Directors Association

NOTE: ACTIVE Applicants include brief resume of career, if available, for your Personnel File.

**Make check payable to:
American Choral Directors Ass'n**

MAIL TO: GENE BROOKS
Executive Secretary, ACDA
P.O. Box 5310 Lawton, OK 73504

Please accept my application for membership in ACDA as checked;

- () ACTIVE-\$20.00 () ASSOCIATE-\$20.00
- () LIFE MEMBERSHIP-\$300
(payable in installments of \$50.00 or more)

APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE.....

Please Indicate Areas of Activity:
Elem (); Jr HS (); Sr HS (); Coll-U ();
Comm (); Church ()

MEMBERSHIP CLASSIFICATIONS AND PROCEDURES
For complete information on Membership Classification please refer to MEMBERSHIP section in the Bulletin of Information.

\$3.00 of your membership fee is for the Choral Journal.

APPLICANT'S NAME.....
(Type or Print)
Title and Position.....

Institution.....

Street Address.....
(IMPERATIVE if used as Mailing Address)
City..... State... Zip....
PREFERRED MAILING ADDRESS.....

City..... State... Zip....

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