

# The

# Conductors'

# Podium

Illinois State Newsletter of the American Choral Directors Association



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## State Convention Provides Interest For Elementary-Junior High

Doreen Rao, chairperson of District I, extends a special invitation to all elementary and junior high choral teachers to attend this state ACDA Convention at Dekalb October 24-25.

There is a growing concern within ACDA for children's choruses and junior high choral music. At the national, division and state levels activities are being planned to meet the needs and interests of those teaching elementary and junior high music as well as working more closely with college instructors to provide materials and techniques they may include in methods and conducting courses for future teachers. Illinois ACDA will continue to plan performances and interest sessions for choral music at these levels.

The junior high session "Choral Music in the Junior High School-Focus on Curriculum and Composition" will provide a comprehensive overview on what is happening in junior high music in the state and what can be done in terms of curriculum design, quality literature, publisher resources, and festival concepts. A distinguished panel of experienced teachers-Elizabeth Larson from Darien, Sue Ann Lackey from Dundee, Dr. James McKelvy from Mark Foster Music, and Willie T. Summerville from Champaign, will present ideas on junior high music and a packet of selected choral literature to illustrate their concepts.

Another session entitled "Developing a Community Children's Chorus" will be highlighted by the Moline Boys Choir under the direction of Kermit Wells, and a panel discussion with Carolyn Vernel, director of Illinois Central Children's Chorus, Harriet Ziegenhals, director of the Community Renewal Chorus and All God's Children, Kermit Wells, director of the Moline Boys Choir, Kevin Butler, assistant director of Chicago Children's Choir, and Doreen Rao, director of Glen Ellyn Children's Chorus and chairperson of the ACDA National Standing Committee on Children's Choruses.

The panel will discuss recruitment, audition, orientation, training, performance opportunity and funding. Both of these sessions will give Illinois ACDA opportunity to establish communication with professionals in these specialized teaching disciplines. Come, participate, learn.

## COLLEGE CHOIR INVITATIONAL FESTIVAL

Saturday, February 28, 1981

at Eastern Illinois University, Charleston

## JESTER HAIRSTON AT ISU FEBRUARY 18-20

The famous black composer and choral conductor, Jester Hairston, who now lives in Los Angeles, will give lectures and seminars for three days, February 18-20, on the campus of Illinois State University. Mr. Hairston will be rehearsing with various university ensembles and classes which will culminate in a public concert in the University Auditorium February 20 at 7:30 p.m. You are invited to take advantage of this rare occasion for this part of the country. Contact Dr. Donald Armstrong, Music Department, Illinois State University, Normal, 309-436-7631.

## COMMUNITY COLLEGE CHORAL FESTIVAL

The twelfth annual Community College Choral Festival is being planned for April, according to last year's host and organizer, Jon Warfel of Waubensee Community College. The exact date and site, to be located in the northern half of the state, will be announced shortly to community college directors.

## DATE CORRECTION FOR U OF I CHORAL CONSORTIUM

This year's Choral Consortium will be held at the Krannert Center on the University of Illinois Urbana campus on Saturday, October 11. October 25 has been given in several published calendars, but that date is incorrect. Outstanding Illinois high school choirs will participate. Other choral ensembles may observe the day's concerts and activities if interested. Please call the Choral Division at 217-333-3206 for further information on the annual High School Choral Consortium.

## October 23-25 State ACDA Convention at NIU

Northern Illinois University, Dekalb, will host the 5th annual Illinois ACDA Convention. Sessions on elementary and junior high choral music, concerts by various choirs, High School Honors Choir performing Mozart Coronation Mass Friday night, Dr. Don Moses, clinician.

## SUPPORT IMEA

Dr. Dennis Sparger, our Illinois ACDA President has asked that I write a column for *The Conductors' Podium* regarding activities of the Illinois Music Educators Association. Dr. Sparger writes: "While a portion of our memberships overlap, we have readers who do not have contact with IMEA and we think they would profit from knowing more about what you are doing". I agree. I urge IMEA Choral Directors to become members of ACDA and I would suggest that ACDA members also consider becoming members of IMEA--both are worthwhile, live-wire organizations.

Our IMEA is divided into eight districts and each year on a Saturday in November, we hold a district festival. There is a Festival Chorus of up to 300 voices and also a Jazz Choir. There are well-known quest directors and the performances are very fine. These students may then tryout for the All State Chorus and Jazz Choir. This year's directors are Karl Erickson and Kirby Shaw. If you do not have information about your festival, please write to our Executive Secretary: Christopher Izzo, P.O. Box 166, Macomb, IL 61455.

The IMEA State Conference will be held Thursday, January 29 to Sunday, February 1, Conrad Hilton Hotel, Chicago. This year we have many fine choral sessions: Junior High General Music; Concert by the All-State Collegiate Choir; Treble Choir repertoire: Lynne Bradley and the Lyons Township High School Treble Choir, Mattie Robertson and the Renaissance Concert Girls Choir, Whitney M. Young of Magnet High School; Training the High School Accompanist for performance and competition; Concert: Addison Trail Concert Choir, Richard Anderson, director; ACDA-Easy Early Classical Music, Dr. Robert Snyder and the EIU Concert Choir; Vocal Jazz Techniques by Kirby Shaw; The Musical Culture of Korea by Korean Children's Choir; Lecture-Recital, Dr. John Ferrell and the ISU Madrigal Singers; Choral Reading by Don Hinshaw; Answer My Questions, Walter Rodby and a panel; Concert-Clinic, Suburban Veterans Chorus; Better Singing in the Classroom by Richard Hoffland; Concert by Oak Park-River Forest High School Concert Choir, Robert Fuller, director; Lobby Sing, Richard Whitecotten, director.

There also will be many Jazz & Swing Choirs performing in the Exhibit Area. The Conference closes with a concert by the All-State Chorus, Orchestra and Band.

Charles Beckman  
IMEA Vice President, Choral Division

## NOMINATIONS ARE DUE

In January Illinois ACDA members will elect a President-elect who will begin a two-year term on July 1. This term is followed by two years as President and then two years as Vice-President.

The state board of directors will meet on Friday morning, October 24, during the annual convention, and will select the nominees. You are encouraged to submit recommendations through your district chairperson or by writing the current President-elect, Dr. William E. Schnell, 370 Hirst Ct., Lake Bluff, IL 60044. Let your voice be heard!

## Specialists in Choral Music



While Mark Foster Music Company uses a post office box to speed up mail orders, we want you to know where we are located: In Urbana, 1402 E. Colorado Avenue. Find the NW corner of Philo and Colorado, park near the Wash & Dry Laundry, and walk around the side of the building. We are open five days a week from 9 to 5, with a large selection of music and a piano with earphones for your personal use.

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## COMPOSER DEAD AT 55 - COURT RULES DEATH BY CONDUCTING

March 23, 1687

Monsieur Jean-Baptiste Lully, Court Composer, administrator and *roué* died yesterday at the age of 55. The master's passing was due to gangrenous complications following a protracted infection of the lower leg. Readers will recall Monsieur Lully's *Te Deum* performed in Saint-Honore early in January to celebrate the King's recovery from surgery. While loudly beating time with his large and heavy cane to keep the more than 150 performers together, Lully inadvertently struck himself in the foot. The wound was not serious and Lully had been conducting his "affairs" as usual (a fact well known to those who gossip in public places). Unfortunately he was suddenly struck with a fever. Lully preferred the advice of a charlatan to that of the famous M. Alliot and refused to have the leg bled. After a temporary recovery, the fever returned, gangrene set in and M. Alliot declared that there was no hope. Although this writer can scarcely credit the news, sources close to Madame de Lully indicate that her licentious husband repented his wicked life, and received absolution and the last rites on March 19, shortly before dictating a canon à 5. He expired three days later, having set his financial affairs in order. He left a fortune of about 800,000 livres.

Plans are underway for a requiem mass to be sung at the Church of the Madeleine and Madame de Lully is arranging for a mausoleum elsewhere in Paris. Monsieur Lully's music will be missed.

"NOTES — Ancient and Modern" - A New Column by Dr. Leonard Rumery

## REFLECTIONS

At a planning session last June in Champaign-Urbana, the state ACDA officers and chairpersons suggested that our *Conductors' Podium* develop a regular column called "Reflections". It was felt that experienced directors can provide insights, know-how, and inspiration to the younger generation of choral conductors. We are soliciting names of "old pros" or, if you aren't embarrassed to be called an older choral conductor, write several paragraphs on any facet of choral music and send to the editor for future issues of our state paper.



State Board of Directors Meeting - June, Champaign-Urbana

From the left: Dick Boyd, District VI chairperson, Ron Pexton, District II chairperson, Ted Klinka, vice-president, Doreen Rao, District I chairperson, Leonard Rumery, District III chairperson. The rest were present—they were just left out of the picture. It was a session however, of hard work and airing ideas.

## CHANGED FORMAT OF CONDUCTORS' PODIUM

Beginning with this issue, readers will notice two music advertisements. Other music companies, institutions or organizations are invited to use space in the publication. Please contact Dick Boyd, Advertising Assistant, 314-621-2408, St. Louis, or the editor for cost and publication schedule.

Several new regular columns will be featured in future issues.

## DEVELOPING A JUNIOR HIGH CHORAL RESOURCE

Busy professionals are constantly seeking sources for good teaching materials and techniques. The **Conductors' Podium** can serve in this capacity. Every district junior high choral interest coordinator is encouraged to submit materials for publication at least once a year. All ACDA members are invited to submit literature, programming ideas, festival concepts, curriculum concerns, and effective teaching techniques. Let us work together to stimulate excellence in junior high choral music. How about comments from the junior high students themselves about choral music experiences?  
Doreen Rao, 671 Crescent Blvd. Glen Ellyn, IL 60137.

Listed below is literature from a very successful Junior High Choral Camp held at Urbana, June 1980. Congratulations to the youth and teachers involved.

Eugene Butler	Music Here	Carl Fischer	SATB
G.P. da Palestrina	O Bone Jesu	G. Schirmer	SATB
J.P. Sweelinck	Vanitas Vanitatum		
	Published in Holland for the International Kier festival, 1979		
Antonio Vivaldi	GLORIA	Walton	SATB
	III Laudamus te - Small girls ensemble		
	IV Gratias Agimus Tibi		
	V Propter Magnam Gloriam		
	Performed with H.S. string orchestra		
Johannes Brahms	In Stilly Night		SATB
	Consolidated		
Johannes Brahms	The Fiddler		
	(from Six Folksongs)	Marks	SATB
Benjamin Britten	The Sally Gardens	Boosey	Unison
Charles Ives	The Circus Band	Peer International	
	Performed with four-hand piano version		
		Unison or	SATB
Aaron Copland	I Bought Me a Cat	Boosey	SATB
Early American	Amazing Grace	Shawnee	SATB
Arr. Coates			

Camp recordings are available: Continuing Education in Music, University of Illinois, 608 South Mathews, Urbana, IL 61801.

In each district of Illinois ACDA "interest coordinators" are being asked to work with the district chairpersons. So "interest coordinator" of the junior high division of District I, Libby Larson appeals for ideas and materials. Here is her request.

What goals and challenges have you set for the junior high students in your choruses and for yourself as a teacher-musician who is going to give them this experience of communicating through music? Junior high boys and girls can sing; they are willing to strive for the ultimate; they can learn correct vocal techniques; they are flexible and eager to learn. Set high standards and expect them to make the commitment to music.

Each junior high choral teacher should submit ideas, techniques, goals, lists of literature, in the form of an article for publication to your junior high choral "interest coordinator" and through them to the district chairperson. Let's make the regular Junior High Column in the **Podium** a wealth of positive ideas.

Libby Larson, 5115 Carpenter, Downers Grove, IL 60515

## CHURCH CHOIR SEMINAR WITH JOHN NESS BECK

Under the auspices of ACDA District VI a Church Choir Seminar will be held at the Eden United Church of Christ on Saturday, October 11, beginning at 9:00 a.m. John Ness Beck, Don Hinshaw and David Weck, head the list of clinicians featured in this seminar. Various types of reading sessions will be presented, such as Anthems for Christmas and Easter, New and Old, plus Music for the High School and Youth Choir. A panel consisting of the three clinicians mentioned above and moderated by our president, A. Dennis Sparger, will discuss how the church musician can benefit by membership in ACDA. We hope this will increase our membership in the area of sacred music.

The most exciting feature of the day will be a Festival Choir consisting of choir members from the bi-state area and directed by John Ness Beck. They will present a sacred concert at 5 p.m. in the sanctuary and will be accompanied by members of the Belleville Philharmonic.

For further information and registration forms contact Richard Boyd at the following telephone numbers: residence 618-537-4539 or business 314-621-2408.

## THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Friends in Choral Music:

Give your singers something really special this year--a better you. Take advantage of the many conferences, workshops, festivals, journals and articles that are available. ACDA offers you many opportunities to increase your choral musicianship in ways that can be of direct benefit to those who sing under your direction. Your singers are special people and deserve the best that you can be.

A perfect opportunity waiting for you is our Illinois ACDA conference, described elsewhere in the **Podium**. A whole team of enthused and outstanding choral conductors throughout the state have been busily preparing exceptional performances and sessions designed to both inform and inspire you. Every effort has been made to approach the choral art from every conceivable direction: elementary, junior high, senior high, college, church, community, swing choir and musicals.

A special highlight of this conference will be the Illinois ACDA High School Honors Choir. Under the direction of Dr. Don V. Moses of the University of Iowa, the Honors Choir and an orchestra from the NIU Symphony will present Mozart's "Coronation" Mass. Already we anticipate a high quality performance that will set a new standard for honors choirs. You won't want to miss it!

Another special moment will be the presentation of the Harold A. Decker Choral Award at the convention luncheon. The recipient of this year's award is one of the finest and most respected choral musicians in our state, Sten G. Halfvorsen. Many of you are well acquainted with Sten and will want to share this moment with him.

We who attend the conference are not only going to read new and exciting literature, sharpen our skills and deepen our musical understandings; we are also going to have a great time! Fellowship is also an important part of our gathering and after a long day of intense concentration, we look forward to reveling in spirit and song at the Friday night *Gemütlichkeit* at the Holiday Inn (bring your own Alka-Selzer!)

Early this summer our state board of directors met for a marathon eight-hour business meeting. As a result of our discussions we look forward to the involvement of many more ACDA members in leadership roles. I think the future looks especially bright for Illinois ACDA. Be a part of this forward movement. See you soon in DeKalb. Cordially,

A. Dennis Sparger



by ROBIN KELLER, M.M.

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## NEW COMMITTEE ON CHORAL CURRICULUM

In this turbulent and critical time in education, we may well be called upon to justify our continued presence in the comprehensive high school curriculum, both to our administrators and to the community. It is to address some of these concerns that the Illinois ACDA Curriculum Committee was established last spring with the purpose of exploring choral curricula in our state and provide an arena for sharing ideas about curricula.

At the Curriculum Session at the State Convention, we will consider the value of written curricula, share materials and make some preliminary evaluations of curricula.

Please bring written materials and ideas to the registration desk Thursday night, October 23, or at least bring them to the Friday session.

**High School Choral Directors.** Bring your school's written curriculum if you have one. What skills and knowledge should entering high school students have in choral music?

**College Choir Directors.** What skills and knowledge should entering college freshmen have in choral music? What weaknesses need improvement? What research is in progress in choral curriculum? Cheryl Hoffman-Frazer, Bob Stone.

## NATIONAL CONVENTION IN NEW ORLEANS

The Sixth National Convention of the American Choral Directors Association will be held in the Marriott Hotel in historic New Orleans, March 5-7 of 1981.

The whole gamut of choral activities is being planned from elementary and junior high through high school to college and community. The culmination of the convention will be the performance of the Beethoven *MISSA SOLEMNIS* with Robert Shaw and the Atlanta Symphony. Plan now to attend and receive the inspiration of a great convention.

## GOVERNOR PROCLAIMS Dec. 7-21, CHORAL MUSIC WEEKS

Governor Thompson's proclamation reads, in part:

Choral music has sparked tremendous interest in Illinois as shown through participation in churches, schools, and communities. During the weeks before the winter holidays, citizens of Illinois will hear some of the year's most beautiful music.

This is the third consecutive year that Governor Thompson has responded to Illinois ACDA's request to acknowledge the value and important of choral music. ACDA members may use this proclamation in their concert programs.

## INTEREST COORDINATORS HELP IN DISTRICT ACDA

Each district chairperson within Illinois ACDA is organizing a group of "interest coordinators" to assist with gathering and disseminating information. As an example, Doreen Rao, chairperson for District I has arranged the following people as her assistants: Children's Chorus--Sandra Stoneham, Homer Junior School, Lockport, and associate director of the Glen Ellyn Children's Chorus; Junior High Chorus--Elizabeth Larson, Eisenhower Junior High School, Darien; High School Chorus--Elvis Coble, Homewood-Flossmoor High School, Flossmoor; College-University--Tom Hoekstra, Thornton Community College, South Holland; Community Chorus--David Brunner, director of Park Forest Singers, and choral director of Rich South High School, Richton. The other districts are organizing in a similar fashion.

These "interest coordinators" can greatly aid the district chairperson at the "grass roots level" 1. in communicating with persons of similar interest in their district; 2. in reporting information to the district chairperson and on to the state level committees; 3. in planning clinics, festivals, meetings at the local level; 4. in reporting news, concerts, workshops, job information, festivals, etc. to the editor of the **Conductors' Podium** for publication.

It may be noticed that these categories of "interest coordinators" parallel the organization of ACDA national committees. All choral directors in Illinois are encouraged to become active, share your ideas and band together for mutual inspiration and growth.

## AUGUSTANA HOSTS WORLD MUSIC WORKSHOP

On September 26 and 27, Augustana College, Rock Island, is hosting a workshop of Music for the Native American and Latin American. Guest lecturers are Suni Paz, Argentinian composer, singer and guitarist, and Dr. David McAllester, Professor of Anthropology and Musicology from Wesleyan University.

## CHURCH MUSIC SESSIONS BY MARK FOSTER CO.

The Mark Foster Music Company has been holding workshops in five cities in Illinois. Unfortunately, our publication is too late to assist announcement of the sessions during September in Wilmette, Flossmoor, Springfield, and Champaign. However, announcement of the one scheduled for October 11, at the University United Methodist Church, 2818 North University in Peoria may reach you in time to take advantage of it.

### *The Conductor's Podium*

James E. Wilson, Editor  
Greenville College  
Greenville, Illinois 62246

