

THE CONDUCTORS' PODIUM



Illinois State Newsletter of the American Choral Directors Association

Vol. XI No. 1

Fall Issue

September 1984

Illinois ACDA State Convention

October 19-20, 1984
Sheraton Naperville Hotel

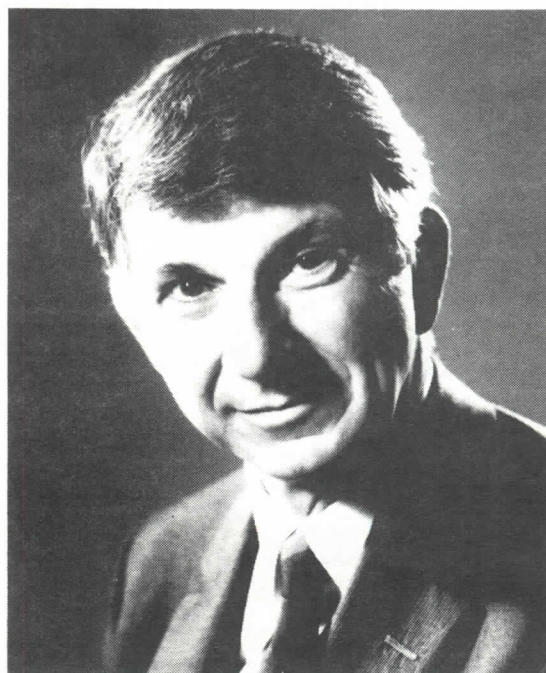
Professor Elmer Thomas—Featured Guest Conductor

Dr. Elmer Thomas is a professor of choral music at the College—Conservatory of Music, University of Cincinnati, where he heads the Division of Ensembles and Conducting. The division is responsible for graduate and undergraduate conducting majors in orchestral studies and wind studies, as well as choral studies. There are over 30 major performing ensembles in the division.

At the College—Conservatory of Music where Dr. Thomas is in charge of the graduate choral conducting program, he conducts the Chamber Choir and Renaissance Consort. The list of major works conducted by him include Bach *B Minor Mass*, *St. Matthew Passion*, *St. John Passion*, *Magnificat*, *Christmas Oratorio*, Mozart *Requiem*, the late Masses by Haydn, Brahms *Requiem*, Verdi *Requiem*, and Stravinsky *Cantata*. In addition, Dr. Thomas has conducted a number of world premiers including Paul Cooper's *Credo* and *Cantigas*, John Baur's *Canti II Prisms*, and Norman Dinerstein's *Frogs*.

Dr. Thomas is co-founder, conductor, and music director of the Vocal Arts Ensemble of Cincinnati, a professional chorus in its fifth season. The Vocal Arts Ensemble performs extensively in a Concert Series and with the Cincinnati May Festival and the Cincinnati Orchestra. The Vocal Arts Ensemble has performed for national and international broadcast over NPR.

Dr. Thomas was the EXXON—Affiliate Artist Conductor in 1973–74 with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra under Music Director Robert Shaw. The first to be selected for this program, he conducted family and children's concerts, studied orchestral repertoire,



assisted Shaw with the orchestra, and prepared the choruses for five different concerts during the season.

Dr. Thomas has also been a guest conductor with the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra and the Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra.

Dr. Thomas was Conductor of Choruses for the Cincinnati May Festival from 1971 to 1975. During that

time he prepared over 30 major works for performances conducted by Leonard Bernstein, Julius Rudel, James Levin, Thomas Schippers, Max Rudolf, James Conlon, Michael Gielen, and John Nelson.

During 1975-76 Dr. Thomas was Conductor-in-Residence for a national pilot project in McHenry County, Illinois sponsored by the Woodstock Fine Arts Association, with partial funding from the Illinois Arts Council.

Dr. Thomas is Director of Music at Armstrong Chapel United Methodist Church, where he has an extensive sacred music program and Concert Series.

Before joining the University of Cincinnati faculty in 1966, Elmer Thomas was assistant to the Chairman of the Choral Department at the University of Illinois where he also conducted for three years the University of Illinois Women's Glee Club. He received the Doctor of Musical Arts degree there in Choral Conducting in 1970. His Master of Music degree was received from the University of Michigan in 1958. Between 1958 and 1963 Dr. Thomas conducted and taught at the College of Idaho, Caldwell, Idaho.

While in the U.S. Army between 1950 and 1952, he was director of the 25th Army Band Chorus which won the All-Army Singing Contest in 1952.

Dr. Thomas is a member of the American Choral Directors Association, American Choral Foundation, Phi Kappa Phi, Pi Kappa Lambda, and Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia.

Featured Performing Groups

Senior Tour Choir

Chicago Children's Choir
Keith Hampton, Director

Sanctuary Choir

Community United Methodist Church (Naperville)
Mr. Dale McCurdy, Director

DePaul Chamber Choir

DePaul University
Dr. Gregory Lyne, Director

New Classic Singers

College of DuPage
Mr. Lee Kesselman, Director

Windy City Gay Chorus

Windy City Performing Arts, Inc.
Mr. Richard Garrin, Director

University of Illinois Concert Choir

Dr. Chester Alwes, Director

Wheaton College Concert Choir

Wheaton Conservatory of Music
Mr. Paul Wiens, Director

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Convention Interest Sessions

"Vocalises for Children's and Jr. High Choruses"

Donald Roach, IL-ACDA Children's Chorus Interest Chair and Libby Larsen, IL-ACDA Jr. High Chorus Interest Chair

Panel includes:

Carolyn Paulin, Director, Central Illinois Children's Chorus, Urbana

Diane Lewis, Assoc. Director, Glen Ellyn Children's Chorus, Glen Ellyn

Mary Ellen Pinzino, Director, "Come Children Sing Institute", Homewood

Sandra Stoneham, Director, Homer Junior High Chorus, Lockport

David Weck, Director, Jay Stream Singers, Carol Stream

"Developing an Acceptable Children's Chorus Vocal Tone Quality"

Donald Roch, presiding

Clinician: Linda J. Gibson, Conductor, Classic Children's Chorale, Evanston

Demonstration Group: Classic Children's Chorale, Evanston

"Away With Repetitious Repertoire"

Carolyn Paulin, Conductor, Central Illinois Children's Chorus, Urbana, presiding

Clinician: Harriet Ziegenhals, Conductor, All God's Children, Chicago

Demonstration Group: All God's Children

Junior High Chorus Open Rehearsal

Sandra Stoneham, presiding

Clinician: Libby Larsen, Eisenhower Junior High School, Darien

Demonstration Group: Eisenhower Junior High School Choir

Treble Chorus

Diane Jankiewicz, Madonna High School, Chicago, IL-ACDA Treble Choir Interest Chair

Male Chorus

Janet Underwood, IL-ACDA Male Chorus Interest Chair

"What Do We Do The First Week Of School?"

Dan Spreckelmeyer, Springfield High School, IL-ACDA High School Choir Interest Chair, presiding

Clinician: John Stoffel, St. Charles High School

Demonstration Group: St. Charles High School Choir

"How To Have An Audition"

Presiding: Robert Snyder, President ACDA Central Division, Eastern Illinois University

Panelists: Cheryl Frazes-Hoffman, Highland Park High School
Theodore Klinka, New Trier High School

James Lucas, Northeastern Illinois University

Leonard Van Camp, Southern Illinois University—Edwardsville

Community Chorus

Presiding: David Brunner, IL-ACDA Community Chorus Interest Chair

Jazz/Show Choirs

Presiding: Dr. Walter Lamble, Glenbrook South High School, IL-ACDA Jazz/Show Choir Interest Chair

"Use and Training of the Voice: The Lessac Method"

Presiding: Lee Kesselman, College of DuPage, IL-ACDA Community College Chorus Interest Chair

Clinicians: Phyllis Griffin, Speech and Theater Department, Northwestern University

Kurt Hansen, tenor, voice teacher, Millar Chapel, Northwestern University

"What An Accompanist Wants From A Director"

Presiding:

Clinician: Dr. William Schnell, Glenbrook South High School, Vice-president IL-ACDA

IL-ACDA Convention Hotel Registration

Reserve Accommodations For:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Arrival Date: _____ Arrival Time: _____ Departure Date: _____

_____ Single @ \$43.00 per night _____ Double @ \$43.00 per night

PAYMENT IS NOT GUARANTEED:

(Room will be held until 6 p.m., unless it is guaranteed.)

PAYMENT GUARANTEED BY MAJOR CREDIT CARD:

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Exp. Date: _____

Bank No. _____

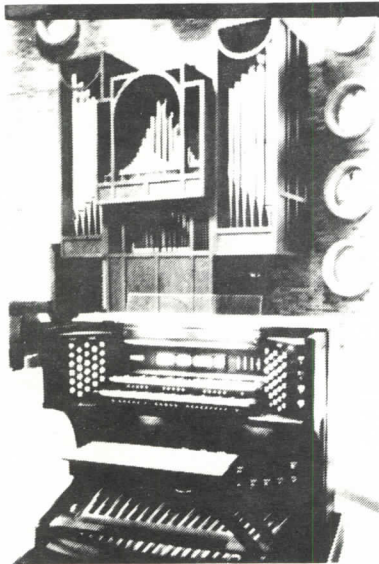
CHECK IN BEFORE 1:00 P.M. CANNOT BE CONFIRMED

RETURN TO: Reservations Department
Sheraton-Naperville Hotel
1801 N. Naper Boulevard
Naperville, IL 60540

Award-winning Choral Composition to be Featured at IL-ACDA Convention

The Illinois chapter of ACDA is pleased to announce the winner of their first Choral Competition for Illinois Composers. This year's recipient is Michael Kosch. Born in 1959, Mr. Kosch studied musical composition at the University of Miami, Florida, and at the University of Illinois at Urbana. His music has been programmed at the Humboldt Arts Center Series in Eureka, California, and the Meta-Music Festival in Coral Gables, Florida. His distinctions include a commission from the American Dance Festival, a fellowship from the Composer's Conference, and a Newman Award for Music Composition. Mr. Kosch has been a guest composer at the Charles Ives Center for American Music and the Festival of Contemporary Choral Music in America. From 1982-1984, he was assistant to the director of the University of Illinois Experimental Music Studios.

Plans are underway for a performance of *spring! may*—at the fall convention of IL-ACDA in Naperville, October 19-20.



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On Teaching Music and Children

Sandra Stonebam
Choral Director
Homer Junior High School
Lockport, IL

I have heard the following statement spoken most proudly by more than one music educator: "I don't teach *music*, I teach *children*"! The intention behind that statement is most honorable; the humanity of the person taught is held in high regard as, indeed, it should be. However, I feel that care must be taken to avoid making continual trade-offs of skill development and musical knowledge for shallow experiences in group vocal recreation, sincere but perhaps unproductive attempts in adolescent group therapy, and rehearsal atmospheres which assure good times, but often at the expenses of attaining real musical growth.

In her recent article in the *Choral Journal*, Colleen J. Kirk refers to the twelve purposes listed in the ACDA constitution as providing help and refreshment in clarifying thinking about our work. The first three of these purposes are:

1. To foster and promote choral singing which will provide artistic, cultural, and spiritual experiences for the participants;
2. To foster and promote the finest types of choral music to make these experiences possible;
3. To foster and encourage rehearsal procedures conducive to attaining the highest possible level of musicianship and artistic performance.

These purposes, as stated in the ACDA constitution, are not to be found in an amended or watered-down version for use by teachers of elementary or junior high choral music. They are statements of goals for which choral directors and teachers need to strive, regardless of the age level of the singers that they are conducting.

If we hold these purposes as our own, then no exceptions can be made because we have chosen to commit ourselves to teaching young children or junior high students. As a professional organization, we have mandated for ourselves (and our students) high levels of achievement and high quality musical experiences. Let us not allow youth or adolescence to serve as an iron curtain between the children we teach and the purposes to which we have committed ourselves.

What is it then which will ignite the spirits of our students and kindle their minds and voices to be receptive to those experiences which the aforementioned purposes aim to provide? I believe the answer lies in bringing the best of our own musicianship wrapped in love and a genuine concern for each one of the individual students we teach. If we can *combine* the teaching of music with the teaching of students, then perhaps we will have experienced the process of educating as a unique, exciting, and ever-changing art form which expresses our own personal style, pays high regard to the personhood of our students, *and* fulfills the purposes of our profession.

¹Kirk, Colleen J. "ACDA's Future: A Perspective." *The Choral Journal* 24 (May, 1984) pg. 5.

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CHORAL MUSIC READING SESSION

**8:00 A.M. – 1:30 P.M.
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 1984**

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Dr. Robert Harris**

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1984 ILLINOIS ACDA STATE CONVENTION—October 19–20, 1984
 Sheraton Hotel—Naperville, Illinois

Convention Pre-Registration Form

Mail by Saturday, October 6, 1984
 TO:
 Patricia Densford, ACDA Treasurer
 1017 59th Street
 Lisle, Illinois 60532



	Pre-registration Fee	Convention Registration Fee
_____ ACDA Member Registration	\$20.00	\$25.00
_____ Non-Member Registration	\$45.00*	\$50.00*
_____ Student Registration	\$10.00	\$15.00
_____ Student Non-Member	\$20.00**	\$25.00**
_____ Retired Member	\$10.00	\$15.00
_____ Spouse (Husband/wife)	\$10.00	\$15.00
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* includes a one-year active membership in the fee
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School Name: _____ Church Name: _____

School Address: _____ Church Address: _____

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School Phone/Extension/Area: _____ Church Phone/Extension/Area: _____

Note: A note of confirmation of your registration will be sent to you upon receipt of your check. If your membership needs to be renewed, please do it now. The money that we receive from National ACDA depends upon how many paid-up memberships we have.

WE NEED YOU!

To Sing In The

“DIRECTOR’S CHORUS” Dr. Elmer Thomas, Conductor

At The
1984 STATE ACDA MEETING TO BE HELD AT NAPERVILLE
Sheraton Inn
October 19th–20th, 1984

This group, specially assembled for the convention, will be singing “Canata No. 140” (J.S. Bach), “Komm Jesu Komm” (J.S. Bach), and “My Heart is Inviting” (G.F. Handel) under the direction of Dr. Elmer Thomas, Director of Choral Activities at the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music.

Three general sessions of the convention will be devoted to Dr. Thomas and this choir. These sessions will be “open rehearsals” in which Dr. Thomas will use the chorus to demonstrate aspects of style and

articulation in Baroque music. What better way to prepare for the upcoming 1985 anniversary year!

Singing with the chorus will not cause you to miss any of the other sessions; in fact, you’ll be getting the best seats from which to watch Dr. Thomas work. Space limitations and stylistic considerations dictate a balanced chorus of no more than 40 voices, so please return the slip below indicating your willingness to participate as soon as possible.

Director’s Chorus

NAME

STREET ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP

WORK PHONE

HOME PHONE

VOICE PART (PLEASE BE SPECIFIC, S², A¹, ETC.)

RETURN TO: Dr. Chester L. Alwes
Music Building
1114 W. Nevada Street
Urbana, Illinois 61801

Convention Sight-Reading Sessions

Five 25-minute sight-reading sessions are planned for the convention on October 19 and 20. Presided over by Robert Boyd (Lyons Township H.S.), music from many publishers has been screened and packets prepared to ensure a heavy dose of music reading for those in

attendance.

All sight-reading sessions will be accompanied by Dr. William Schnell (Glenbrook H.S.). Competent leadership will be provided by different conductors for individual sessions. Included in this lineup are:

Donna Peterson, H.L. Richards High School, Oak Lawn
 Kim Brunssen, Victor J. Andrew High School, Tinley Park
 Dennis Schafer, OFM, Quincy College, Quincy
 Robert Boyd, Lyons Township H.S., LaGrange

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The Conductor's Podium

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