



The Conductors' Podium

Illinois State Newsletter of the American Choral Directors Association

VOLUME XII, NUMBER 4

APRIL 1986

FROM THE PRESIDENT

It was great to see so many Illinois friends and colleagues at the Indianapolis Central Division Convention. The sessions were stimulating, the concerts superb, and the fellowship and discussion as warm and exciting as ever. Although they were not "my" groups, I did feel a great deal of pride in the way Illinois ACDA was represented at the convention. I think we all can send a collective *Bravo* to Paul Wiens, Keith Hampton, Carolyn Paulin, Richard Garrin and all of their performers for the beautiful concerts which they provided. They were the highlights of the show.

At our last Board meeting two important projects were set in motion. First, detailed planning was started for next fall's State Convention. It will be held again at Elmhurst College on October 17-18. The focus of the meeting will be improving ourselves and our singers as musicians. Sessions will be structured to develop *our* singing, conducting, reading and pedagogical skills and will emphasize how to help our singers grow as performers and musicians. If you have ideas for sessions or individuals to lead sessions in these areas, please forward them to me immediately.

The second project is the development of an Illinois ACDA recommended literature list. The challenge of finding music that best meets the specific needs of our choirs is one that we must all face. This is especially true for young and inexperienced conductors. It is with this in mind that the list is being compiled. It is not meant to be exhaustive nor will it reflect items "hot off the press" or "sure-fire winners with any age group." These works are meant to be exemplars of *quality* literature. Many Board members have responded with suggestions for the various interest areas. I will be editing the list and forming a computer data base here at U of I. Our hopes are to have the

lists ready for distribution at the fall convention and to have some of the pieces available at the reading sessions. If you have pieces of this nature, submit to me: title, composer, voicing, appropriate level (H.S., church/synagogue; children, etc.), a difficulty rating (E,M,D), publishing info., and a short comment or two about the piece.

Elsewhere in this issue you will find the tape audition form for next fall's state convention. I know there are plenty of high quality groups in our state and I urge you to send an audition tape. We all know the concerns of money, travel, missing school, and most frequently, "it's so early in the year." Well, it's early in the year for all of us and those that attend the convention know and appreciate that fact. Believe me, if your group is invited you'll never have a more stimulating motivator than preparing for such a performance! Try it, you'll like it.

It is also time to submit nominations for the 1986 Harold Decker Award. Please take a moment to reflect on this matter and send your nominations to me.

To close, let me deliver sermonette #126. Following your last concert this year don't give up on the remaining rehearsals and spend them collecting music, rehashing the year's favorites or "reading" new pieces. Establish with your choir a systematic approach to music reading. Passing out a chorale and stumbling through on "lah" does not count. Choose a system — numbers, solfeggio, letter names — and go at it in a logical, sequential manner. Establish the "sound" of the system in their ears, then apply it to the symbols on the page. Provide a means for reading rhythm as well. Counting (heaven forbid) seems to work for instrumentalists, I wonder if singers could do that too? Of course they can; but *you* have to provide the knowledge, skill and most of all the motivation. If *you* approach sight-reading with an "I guess I've got to

do it" attitude so will they. Show some creativity, make it a challenge and have fun at it. Amen.

Joe Grant
IL-ACDA President

FROM THE EDITOR

This is the 4th newsletter that I, as your editor, have assembled. I am most grateful to all who have sent materials to me to be published in past newsletters. As you can see by this issue, very little has been submitted. I know that we are right in the middle of a tremendously busy time of concert and teaching. But, please take a moment to send information on summer activities, what you are planning for the Fall, literature ideas, etc., to me, or to your interest chairperson. Our next issue will come out in August, and the deadline for submission of materials is July 15. Keep those cards and letters coming in!

The next IL-ACDA Board meeting is scheduled for June 7. If you have anything you want your board to discuss, please contact your district chairperson (listed on the back of this and each newsletter) with the information. The board is planning our state convention right now, which will again be held at Elmhurst College, on October 17-18. Plan to attend . . . mark your calendar now!

We should all be proud of Illinois ACDA. Our state had four *fine* choirs performing at our just-completed Central Division Convention in Indianapolis: The Wheaton College Concert Choir, Paul Wiens, Conductor; The Chicago Children's Choir Treble Ensemble, Keith Hampton, Conductor; The Windy City Gay Chorus, Richard Garrin, Conductor, all performed superbly. As for the Chamber Choir of the Central Illinois Children's Chorus . . . I cannot be objective. But I was proud of my singers, and grateful for all the ap-

plause and kind words we received. This convention made me realize, once again, that meetings such as this one are vital to us all. Everyone comes away with something that has inspired them, or renewed their love for music and the choral art. Plan now to attend our state convention and our upcoming National conference in 1987. ACDA is there to serve you, and to represent you!

Carolyn Paulin
Editor

BEETHOVEN 9TH IN ST. LOUIS

Hear this orchestral/choral masterpiece performed by a major symphony orchestra and chorus. The St. Louis Symphony will be joined by the St. Louis symphony Chorus in presenting Beethoven's Ninth Symphony on May 16, 17, 18, in Powell Orchestra Hall in St. Louis. SLSO Music Director Leonard Slatkin will conduct the performance, and Thomas Peck will prepare the chorus. This is an occasion for anyone within a driving distance of St. Louis to make every effort to attend.

DISTRICT NEWS

District 6 — Jim Wilson

For the first time, Illinois ACDA sponsored an Invitation College Choir Festival in both northern and southern locations. Five choirs participated in the southern festival, held at Greenville College, in Greenville. Those in attendance were SIU (Carbondale) Concert Choir, SIU (Edwardsville) Concert Choir, ISU Concert Choir, Quincy College Chamber Choir and Greenville College Choir. Four other choirs were originally scheduled to attend, but had to cancel for a variety of reasons.

Each choir sang works from their own repertoire for 25 minutes, with the other choir members and the public as audience, and concluded the day with three combined numbers: Brahms — *How Lovely Is Thy Dwelling Place (Ein Deutsches Requiem)*; Handel — *But Thanks Be To God (Messiah)*, and Peter J. Wilhousky — *Battle Hymn of the Republic*. The stimulation of hearing such good choral singing, hearing a variety of fine literature, and observing other directors was most beneficial to singers and conductors alike, and made the experience worthwhile for everyone.

FROM THE INTEREST CHAIRS

Junior High — Sandy Stoneham

Summer Is Icumen In! Encourage your capable students to attend a summer choral camp, and plan some professional growth time for yourself — you all deserve it! There are so many workshops being offered, all over the country, that it may become difficult to choose. You owe it to yourself, and your students, to partake of summer offerings. Summer stimulation of this type always gives one a boost in professional energy for the school year to come.

One of several camps offered to junior high students will be presented by Illinois State University for one week — June 15-20. I will be conducting this mixed ensemble with various university faculty and graduate students assisting. A wide variety of literature will be rehearsed and presented on a final demonstration/concert. For further information on this workshop, contact Marge Kelly at the ISU Music Education Department.

Please take a moment to contact me during the summer concerning repertoire ideas, festival information, rehearsal techniques, warm-up ideas, etc. This is *your* column! Let's use it as a vehicle to enhance our communication network, to improve our effectiveness in teaching our singers, and increase our understanding of choral music.

CHORAL READING SESSION

Karnes Music Company will present a choral reading session, entitled "The Joy of Singing," on August 23, 1986. Presented in cooperation with Hal Leonard Publishing Company, this session will be held at the Westin Hotel, 6100 River Road, Rosemont, Illinois, from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The clinicians will be Ed Lojeski, Ruth Artman, Kirby Shaw, Mark A. Brymer, and John Jacobson.

The Reading session will present the newest in literature for all levels and interest areas: elementary, junior high, high school, college and church music. Highlights of the session will include information on staging/choreography, choral programming, vocal techniques, video instruction and new publications of musicals, cantatas and revues.

The \$25.00 registration fee entitles the

participant to over 100 publications, lunch and a special reception with the clinicians at the end of the day.

To register, contact Karnes Music Co., 2399 Devon Ave., Elk Grove Village, IL 60007. You may call toll free — (800) 942-1057, from anywhere in Illinois. The number in Chicago is (312) 766-9320.

NOMINATIONS FOR DECKER AWARD

The Harold A. Decker Choral Award was established to honor each year an Illinois conductor who "consistently demonstrates the highest standards of humanity, musicianship and literature." Take a few moments to consider who is deserving of recognition for a truly outstanding career. Send the name of your nominee and a paragraph to support your choice, before June 1, to: Joe Grant, President, Illinois ACDA, 3018 School of Music, University of Illinois, 1114 W. Nevada, Urbana, IL 61801. Nominations can only be accepted from ACDA members.

THE HUMAN VOICE

The 6th Annual Interdisciplinary Conference on the Use and Care of the Human Voice: Freedom In Performance, will be held July 16, 17 and 18 at the University of Minnesota. It is sponsored by four departments of the University of Minnesota: the School of Music, Department of Communication Disorders, Department of Theatre Arts, and the Continuing Education and Extension — MacPhail Center for the Arts — Department of Professional Development.

This conference offers a unique exploration of the physiological, psychological and pedagogical aspects of the human voice. It is designed for singers, actors, public speakers, voice and music teachers, choral conductors, speech pathologists and others who are students in these areas or use their voices professionally.

The conference provides a multidisciplinary discussion of current research and practice relating to vocal production and performance. It is concerned with examining ways in which performers can release tension and inhibition — thus the title "Freedom in Performance."

The cost is \$220 (tuition). Low cost housing is available on the University of

Application for Performance
ILLINOIS ACDA STATE CONVENTION
October 17-18, 1986....Elmhurst, Illinois
(Please type or print)

Name of ensemble _____

Size _____ Additional instruments _____

Voicing: SSA ___ TTB ___ SATB ___ Other _____

Type and/or level _____

(University, community college, church, jr. high, high school, children, jazz/show, treble, male...)

Name of institution _____

Mailing address _____

Zip

Institution phone: () _____

Name of Director _____

Home Address _____

Zip

Home phone: () _____

Member ACDA? Yes ___ Exp. date _____ No ___

ELIGIBILITY: conductors must be current, paid-up members of ACDA. Conductors must have been employed in the same position for the past two years (1984-86).

It is understood that ACDA will not assume any financial responsibility for travel, food or lodging for the performance groups. This application implies that the above mentioned group is prepared to travel to and perform at the convention is accepted.

Director signature _____

Administrator signature _____
(principal, dept.chair, minister, etc.)

PROPOSED PROGRAM FOR PERFORMANCE

Total time may not exceed 25 minutes.
(If lect./demo., give topic and works used)

| Title | Composer | Time (min. & sec.) |
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TAPE SPECIFICATIONS

A. Performance applications should be prepared on superior quality tape, reel or cassette. The recording should be 10-15 minutes in length, and should include two selections from each of the previous years '84-85 and '85-86.

B. Vocal jazz and show choir applications may include a video cassette, Beta format, in addition to the required audio tape.

RECORDED SELECTIONS SUBMITTED ON THIS TAPE:

1. Title _____

Composer _____

Year recorded _____

2. Title _____

Composer _____

Year recorded _____

3. Title _____

Composer _____

Year recorded _____

(continue on back)

PROGRAMS

All applicants must submit one program (or photocopy) for each of the two previous years - '84-85 and '85-86.

MAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Mail this completed form, together with your audition tape and programs, to the address below. Applications with tapes must be received no later than May 1, 1986.

Notification will be made by June 1.

Include return postage, and an addressed or labeled container if you wish to have your materials returned.

Mail to: Illinois ACDA Program Committee
3018 School of Music
University of Illinois
1114 West Nevada Street
Urbana, IL 61801

Minnesota campus. The program offers one graduate level course credit.

For information and/or an application form, contact:

Anne Dickason
Program Director
Department of Professional
Development
209 Nolte Center
315 Pillsbury Drive S.E.
Minneapolis, MN 55455
(612) 376-7436

ILLINOIS STATE FAIR CHOIR CONTEST

The Illinois State Fair will be holding a contest for choruses, bands and orchestras, August 11-15, 1986. This will be held at the State Fair grounds and all events will be public and open to fair goers.

Any school in Illinois can enter its band, stage band, orchestra or chorus. Any student who participates in your chorus this spring semester is eligible to participate in the competition chorus, even if that person will not be in the chorus next Fall.

Competing high school organizations will be divided into classifications according to size of school enrollment. All junior high schools will enter under the Junior High classification and will not be divided by enrollments. There will be a *non-competitive classification* for high school and junior high groups who do not wish to compete but do wish to perform.

Groups will be given a I, II or III rating. There will be a Grand Trophy awarded to the top group, regardless of classification, plus special trophies for the top group in each classification. Groups receiving a I or II rating will receive an engraved wall plaque.

There is no entry fee for this competition. Please contact the superintendent of the music contest for further information or an entry form.

Mr. Michael Croghan
413 Hawthorne Drive
Carmi, IL 62821
(618) 382-4661 (school)
(618) 382-8330 (home)

Address for the contest is:
Illinois State Fair
Competitive Events
P.O. Box 576
Springfield, IL 62705

Entry deadline is June 20, 1986



This is your IL-ACDA Board. We are here to serve you.

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Chicago, IL 60645
312-743-5516

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Normal, IL 61761
309-438-2443 (w)
309-452-6257 (h)

High School

Dan Spreckelmeyer
1537 S. Douglas
Springfield, IL 62704
217-546-2028

Children's Choir

Donald Roach
Western Illinois University
Macomb, IL 61455
309-298-1163 (w)
309-837-3776 (h)

Male Choir

Janet Underwood
8316 S. Ada
Chicago, IL 60620
312-723-0263

Church Choir

Eva Wedel
First Congregational Church
401 Country Club Road
Crystal Lake, IL 60014
815-459-6010 (w)
815-459-5124 (h)

Community & Junior College

Thomas Stauch
Harper College
Algonquin & Roselle Roads
Palatine, IL 60067
312-397-3000 (w)
312-980-6771 (h)

Junior High School

Sandra Stoneham
Homer Junior High
Rt. 1, Box 367
Lockport, IL 60441
312-460-2300

Community Choir

David L. Brunner
605 W. Indiana
Urbana, IL 61801
217-328-4959

Treble Choir

Diane Jankiewicz
637 Bluff St.
Carol Stream, IL 60188
312-665-3925

Youth and Student Activities

Mona Quinn
Music Department
Northern Illinois University
DeKalb, IL 60115
815-753-1551 (w)
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"ACDA reserves the right to approve any applications for appearance and to edit all materials proposed for distribution."



THE CONDUCTORS' PODIUM

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