



# The Conductors' Podium

Illinois State Newsletter of the American Choral Directors Association

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APRIL, 1987

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

In this issue of the *Conductor's Podium* we are reminded of several important matters for our state organization. Two of the most important are the tape audition forms for next year's state convention and information regarding the nominations for the Harold Decker Award.

As each tape deadline is announced, comes, and goes, for the various levels of ACDA conventions I hope that a startling, unknown choir and director will send his or her best efforts in to be recognized. Believe me, I know that this is a difficult decision to make. What selections should I send? What should I list as the tentative program? And then if we are selected (heaven forbid!) what will we really sing? How will we raise the money to get there? It's so early in the year! All my seniors will be gone!

These are all legitimate concerns but they are outweighed by the opportunity to provide a real service to your fellow members in ACDA, to reward your singers for their hard work and musicianship, and to perform for a truly knowledgeable and appreciative audience. Next fall's convention will be in Champaign on October 23-24. I hope that this downstate site will allow some choirs to make application which have hesitated in the past because of distance.

Because of my delay in completing information for the *Podium* we will accept tapes *two weeks longer* than the date printed on the form. Repeat: *the tape deadline is extended by two weeks!*

This issue also contains the information for the Decker Award nominations. I would like to personally thank Tom Stauch and his committee for the work that they did in investigating and clarifying this process and for their suggestions for structuring the procedure. The suggested procedures have been approved by the board and will be followed. It does remain up to you to make the initial nominations. Please take time to write a letter of support for your candidate.

On a personal note I would like to thank you each for your warm personal and professional support before, during and after the Glee Club's performance at San Antonio. It meant a lot.

Joe Grant

## FROM THE EDITOR

This final issue of the school year brings you much material to read, a fine repertoire list for male chorus and a calendar of events compiled by Don Armstrong. I encourage all our members to send event announcements to your IL-ACDA newsletter editor next year, so that our membership can be kept informed of the great variety of fine musical performances presented throughout our state.

You will also find the application form for performance at our upcoming state convention, to be held in October at the University of Illinois in Urbana. Eva Wedel, state church music interest chair, has written a very thoughtful article about performing at an ACDA convention that ought to convince everyone to send in their tapes immediately. We need your representation and encourage all of you to send in materials.

Best wishes to all of you for a successful Spring concert season and a restful Summer.

Carolyn Paulin

## NATIONAL OPEN HOUSE

ACDA will be holding an Open House at our National Offices in Lawton, Oklahoma on May 30 and 31. This open house is to celebrate the dedication of the new addition to the building, which features a library and archives. A U.S. Army chorus will perform on Saturday, and there will be a presentation of the Rutter *Gloria* on Sunday. The open house is for all ACDA members who can attend.

## FROM THE INTEREST CHAIRS

### Children's Choirs

Here are two items of interest for young singers and those who work with them.

Mary Ellen Pinzino from Homewood, Illinois, will be Director of the Children's Choir at the Summer Music Camp on the campus of Western Illinois University in Macomb, Illinois. The camp is being offered for the first time for children of grades five through eight from June 14 to June 20.

In addition to the actual singing, the children who are in attendance will also be involved with Orff instruments, guitar playing, folk dancing, and a wide variety of other educational and recreational activities.

Held on the campus of the University, the campers will be housed in air-conditioned residence halls and will be closely supervised by trained counselors in addition to the music staff. Additional information and application blanks are available from Summer Music Camps, Western Illinois University, Macomb Illinois 61455, or by phoning 1-800-322-3902, extension 1087.

"Helping Young Singers Develop" is a symposium, held every summer at the campus of Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville. This year's session is to be held July 27-31, with daily classes from 2 to 9 p.m. Featured instructors will be Dr. Warren Joseph (voice physiology), Dr. John Cooksey (the adolescent male voice), Lynn Huff-Gackle (the adolescent female voice), Helen Kemp (music for the church) and Dr. Mary Goetze (developing musicianship). Symposium director Dr. Leonard Van Camp will lead sessions on philosophy and inspiration. For further information, contact Leonard Van Camp, Box 1771, SIU-Edwardsville, Edwardsville, IL, 62026-1771, or phone 618-692-2024.

## Junior High

I would like to share with you some impressions and memorable moments from the National Convention in San Antonio, March 11-14. On many occasions during the convention, I was reminded of the fact that the continual development of one's own musicianship is so crucial to improving our teaching techniques and consequent musical growth of those we teach. This thought occurred during our own Joe Grant's wonderful performance with the University of Illinois Women's Glee Club. Among their varied program were two of the Brahms "Vier Gesänge" for women's chorus, harp and two French horns. Having experienced this work as a high school junior, I found myself being very grateful, again, for my choral director's commitment to providing musical experience through quality choral literature. This exposure to Brahms was one of those "magic" moments which helped me to commit myself to life-long music participation.

In a session entitled "J.S. Bach For Young Voices," we were encouraged by Jean Ashworth Bartle (Conductor, Toronto Children's Chorus), Anton Armstrong (Conductor, St. Cecilia's Children's Chorus) and Joan Gregoryk (Chevy Chase Elementary School) to investigate the use of Bach's unison songs and cantata duets as valid as well as technically and musically accessible repertoire for young voices. In addition, these works are indeed opportunities for students to experience the aesthetic of one of the great musical masters.

Yet another session from which I gained much was "Using Challenging Literature To Reach the Capabilities of the Junior High Singers" (Clinician: Sally Herman with demonstrations by her Fox Junior High Choir). The basis for the session was Sally's belief that the use of challenging literature sets up expectations on the part of students as well as the teacher/director. Junior high students *need* to expect a lot of themselves. By presenting challenging literature this need is fulfilled for the students and at the same time offers the teacher a vehicle to teach the vocal skills necessary to perform this literature.

Dale Warland presented many ideas in his interest session ("Developing A Choral Concept") that apply to choral work at any level. Detail work in rehearsal is that which allows a composition to have life in performance, surpassing a preoccupation with those details.

If you have not heard a performance or recording of the Toronto Children's Chorus it is my recommendation that you

do so as soon as possible. Their performance at the convention was the *best* I have ever heard by children.

Perhaps, *even at the junior high school level*, we can teach our singers the joy that comes out of rehearsing and performing music of the masters by way of vocal skill building, examination of the elements of music as they are crafted in each composition, detailed preparation and assist each singer in bringing to the surface the artistry which is in us all.

May the rest of your year be challenging and gratifying.

**Sandy Stoneham**

## Handbell Festival

The Second Collegiate Handbell Festival will be held at Judson College, Elgin, on November 12-14, 1987. Under the direction of Alice Thompson and Paul Rosene, this festival will present William H. Griffin of Columbus, Ohio as guest conductor. Mr. Griffin directs the Ohio State University handbell choir as well as local high school handbell choirs, and is President of the American Guild of Handbell Ringers, Inc. Each participating choir will ring two numbers and take part in massed numbers conducted by Mr. Griffin. Interested directors should contact Alice Thompson, Judson College, 1151 N. State St., Elgin, IL 60123, or call 312-695-2500.

## ACDA TO SPONSOR SUMMER WORKSHOPS

This summer, for the first time, ACDA will sponsor three workshops to help fill your vacation months with growing experiences. These three workshops will cover the state, geographically, and will cover the gamut, musically. Watch for further information about the workshop taking place in your area, and feel free to contact any one of the three people in charge to find out more.

Please try to take advantage of one of these opportunities.

### North

On Monday and Tuesday, June 16 and 17, a workshop for choral directors will be held in Northeastern Illinois at the Glenview Community Church in Glenview hosted by Bill Schnell. The workshop is open to all choral directors and will run from 9:00 a.m. til 5:00 p.m. both days. There will be *NO* fee for the workshop as there will be no expense other than meals and housing, if needed.

During the workshop all participants will form a chorus for the purpose of

providing a choral laboratory which all participants (who wish to do so) can direct one (or two) new pieces they'll be using with their choirs next year. Each singer will offer comments and suggestions on each conductor's conducting style, rehearsal techniques, interpretation, etc., and each singer, in turn, will conduct and be critiqued.

In addition to the conducting laboratory there will be special sessions devoted to specific topics such as:

- 1) How we can help our students to improve their ability to:
  - a) produce a good tone
  - b) sing more expressively
  - c) extend their range
  - d) sight read
- 2) How can we learn to communicate more effectively in our role as teachers and directors.

Directors wishing to participate in this choral laboratory/workshop should contact Bill Schnell at Glenbrook South High School, 4000 West Lake Avenue, Glenview, 60025 — 1-312-729-2000, x282 by May 15.

### Mid-State

A choral workshop with a new twist to uncover fresh ideas for "kicking off" a new school year is planned for August 10-11 on the Illinois State University campus. This unique workshop is being organized by Michael Schwartzkopf, new at ISU this year, and assisted by colleagues and all that attend.

An open forum concept with discussions and demonstrations over various topics of concern for the public school choral educator will be the basic format of the workshop. This format will be a unique way of helping us solve some of the day to day problems that plague us by sharing ideas and solutions among ourselves. It will also be an opportunity for us to get to know one another better, something for which there never seems to be enough time.

The first day will be concerned with the voice, its health and its development in a choral setting. Students of junior and senior high school age will be on hand to help us discuss problems and new approaches to this perennial area of concern. A cookout will bring the day to a close.

The second day will be spent going back to the basics of conducting and discussing problems of performing music of the various historical periods. Each participant is encouraged to bring multiple copies of several selections that illustrate particular problems in conducting technique or performance practice.

## PERFORMANCE CALENDAR, SPRING, 1987

Thanks to Don Armstrong, our Higher Education Chairperson, for compiling this list.

### **Illinois State University, Normal**

- April 15 University concert Choir, Michael Schwartzkopf, conductor  
8:00 p.m., Braden Auditorium
- April 20 University Madrigal Singers, John Ferrell, conductor  
8:00 p.m., Circus Room, Bone Student Center
- April 23 Cecilian Singers, J. Mark Baker, conductor  
8:00 p.m., Kemp Recital Hall
- April 26 University Civic Chorale, Kevin Hibbard, conductor  
3:00 p.m., Braden Auditorium
- April 26 University Treble Choir, Donald Armstrong, conductor  
8:00 p.m., Braden Auditorium

Contact the ISU choral department for ticket information.

### **University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**

- March 29 University Concert Choir and University Symphony Orchestra, Chester Alwes and Paul Vermel, conductors  
3:00 p.m., Foellinger Great Hall, Krannert Center for the Performing Arts
- April 4 Varsity Men's Glee Club, William W. Olson, conductor  
8:00 p.m., Foellinger Great Hall, KCPA
- April 25 Women's Glee Club, Joe W. Grant, conductor, Mom's Day Concert  
2:00 p.m., Foellinger Great Hall, KCPA
- April 25 Black Chorus, Ollie Watts Davis, conductor  
8:00 p.m., Goellinger Great Hall, KCPA
- April 28 Masters Choir, Robert Houghton  
8:00 p.m., Smith Recital Hall
- May 3 Oratorio Society, plus Concert Choir, Chamber Choir and the Central Illinois Children's Chorus, with the Champaign-Urbana Symphony, Paul Vermel, conductor. Frances Crawford, Michael Schwartzkopf and Ronald Hedlund, soloists.  
WAR REQUIEM — Benjamin Britten  
7:00 p.m., Foellinger Great Hall, KCPA
- May 10 Concert Choir, Chester Alwes, conductor  
7:00 p.m., Foellinger Great Hall, KCPA
- May 12 University Chorus, Gary Wood, conductor.  
Illini Women's Ensemble, Jeff Reynolds, conductor.  
8:00 p.m., Smith Recital Hall

For ticket information on concerts held in the Krannert Center, call 217-333-6280.

All concerts in Smith Recital Hall are free of charge.

### **Central Illinois Children's Chorus — Carolyn Paulin, conductor**

- May 7 Benefit Concert with "Medicare 7, 8 or 9. 7:30 p.m.  
Contact Carolyn Paulin for location and tickets.
- May 17 Spring Concert, 4:00 p.m., Smith Recital Hall on UI campus.  
For ticket information call 217-356-3212.

### **DePaul University**

- May 16 Mozart Requiem, and Ginastera Psalm 150, Gregory K. Lyne, conductor.  
Orchestra Hall, Chicago.  
Contact the conductor for time and ticket information.

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

### Community Choir

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

### Male Chorus

Greg Lyne  
DePaul University  
804 W. Belden Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60614  
312-341-8373

### High School

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

### Treble Choir

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

### Church Choir

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