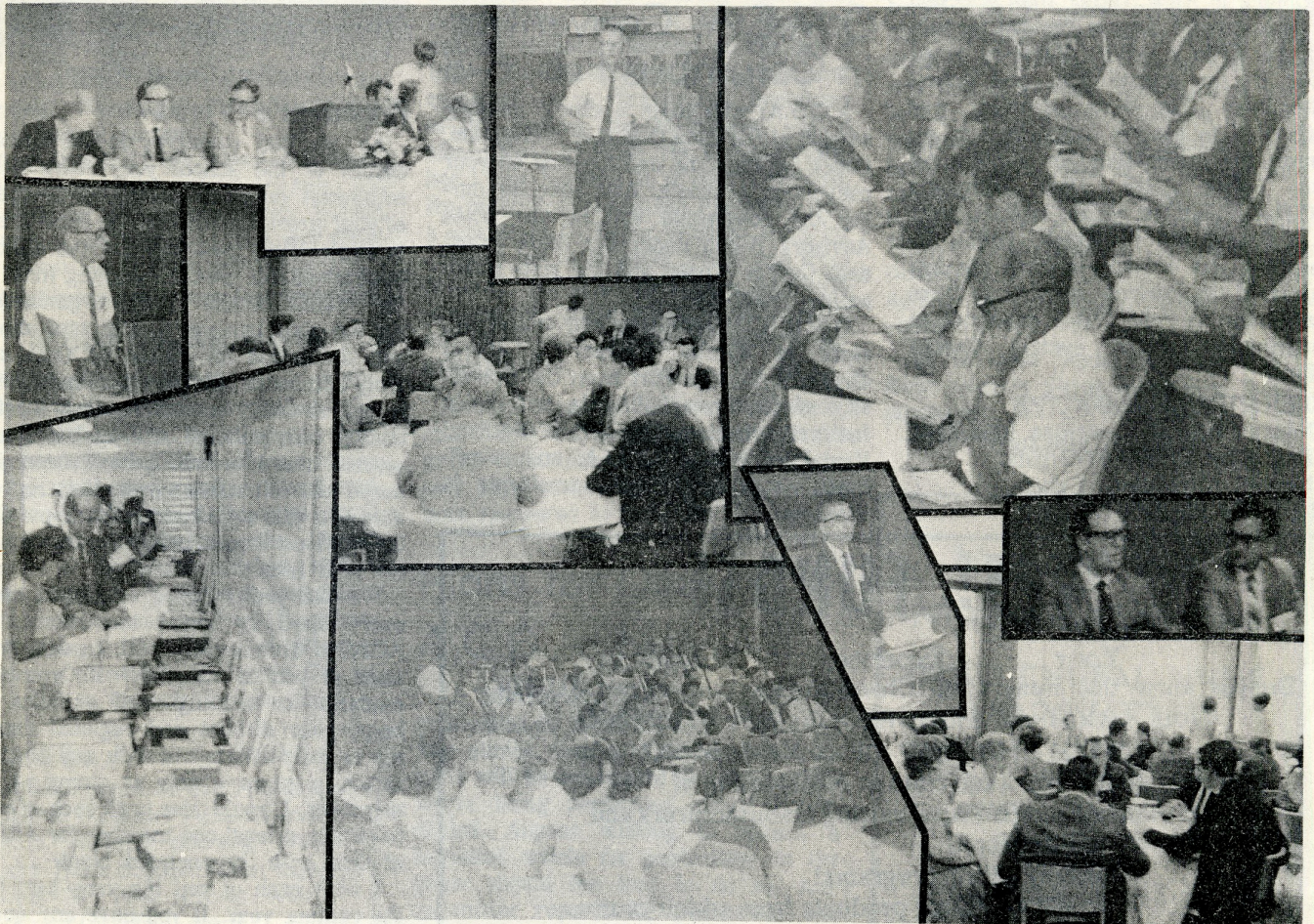


OHIO A.C.D.A. NEWS

Eighty Directors Attend 2nd State Choral Convention



A two day clinic-convention was held July 29, 30 at Capital University in Columbus. The first day sessions were on "Performance Styles of Different Periods". Featured clinicians on this day were Lewis Whitehart, University of Cincinnati; Paul MacGill, Wright State University; Martha Wurtz, Ohio University; and Donald Simmons, Ohio State University. The second day emphasized the topic "Choral Music With Instruments." Featured Clinicians on this day included Lawrence Tagg, University of Dayton; Robert Moore, Talawanda High School; Richard Whitmore, North Olmsted High School; Calvin Roger, Ashland College; Ferris Ohl, Heidelberg College; Ernest Hisey, Avon Lake High School, George Wilson,

Wilmington High School, and Harlan Thomas of Rocky River High School. Session Topics this day included "Oratorio Tradition and Rehearsal," "Problems of Strings," "Introducing Larger Works Into Church or School Music Program," the reading of larger choral works and shorter works with small and large instrumental groups. Robert Petty was local chairman, Pat Schramm of Cincinnati was convention accompanist, while John Van Nice of Findlay College coordinated commercial exhibits. All

sessions were held in the air conditioned Toledo Room of the music conservatory. The convention was concluded with a banquet in the student center.

First State Executive Board Takes Office

Our first elected slate of leaders under the new constitution took office this summer. The State President is George Wilson of Wilmington High School, Secretary is Sandra Schlub of Akron, and Treasurer is Larry Tagg of

(Continued on Page 4)

Convention Business Meetings

The State Advisory board met in July preceding the convention. The need for state funds with which to meet the organizations financial obligations was discussed. A state dues collected by the National Office was proposed as the most efficient answer to this problem. The state constitution was refined and committed for preparation to a constitution committee. One important change would be the election of Regional Chairmen beginning in April, rather than selection by appointment. It was decided to publish the Ohio A.C.D.A. News as stipulated in the constitution, and solicit advertisers. The state president was authorized to appoint committees to research the possibilities for a State All Star Select Choir, Ohio Composer A.C.D.A. Published Series, establishment of a Choral Job Placement Office for Churches and Schools in Ohio. He has appointed the following persons to these committees to date. Those interested in participating should contact George Wilson.

CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE

Nancy Twitchell, Chairman, Mansfield.
Paul Bliss, New Philadelphia.
Herbert Kirchbaum, Galion.

ALL STAR SELECT CHOIR

COMMITTEE

Sam Shie, Hamilton Taft, Hamilton.
Bob Petty, Pleasantview High School.

JOB CENTER OFFICE COMMITTEE

None Yet Appointed.

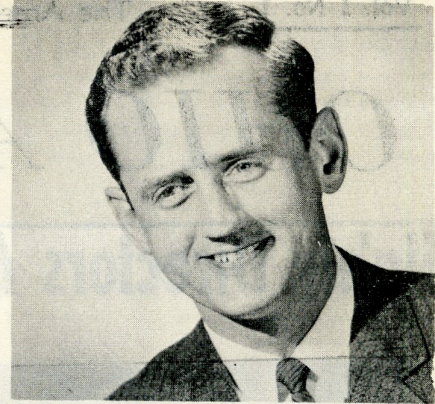
OHIO COMPOSER SERIES COMMITTEE

Rod Evans, 781 Joselyn Ave.,
Mansfield.

A.C.D.A. Sessions at O.M.E.A. Convention in Columbus Feb. 6-8

A.C.D.A. will chair a choral reading session at the state O.M.E.A. convention. Check for the time and location on your convention schedule. Also meeting during the convention will be the State Advisory Board under our State President George Wilson and the state nominating committee.

O.M.E.A. is arranging convention sessions of special interest to choral directors. Charles Hirt from the University of Southern California will be a featured clinician. Dr. Hirt is National Vice President of A.C.D.A. and coordinates all state A.C.D.A. presidents in the country.



President George Wilson

President's Views—

As we find ourselves in the second month of the school year there is a somewhat ominous feeling on the part of your president. On the one hand there is Ernie Hisey who has had the almost insurmountable task of handling most of the minute details of this organization for the past two years. His aspirations and dedication for ACDA of Ohio are truly admirable. On the other hand there is apprehension concerning Ohio's relationship with national ACDA. There are several questions which have been ignored and left unanswered. It is regrettable that this situation exists; hopefully, the various issues will be resolved in the near future.

I would prefer being optimistic however—especially where membership in ACDA of Ohio is concerned. I would urge each of you to support (with your attendance at meetings and an offer to help) your district and regional chairmen in their efforts. As with any organization, a group is only as strong as its members. I would also urge each of you to obtain at least one member for ACDA of Ohio with the enclosed blank.

I wish each of you the very best for the coming year. If you have any questions let me know. If I cannot answer them, I am sure Ernie will try.

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Ohio Choral Events

Wayne Hugoboom, National A.C.D.A. Executive Secretary, will be clinician at the District 12 meeting October 25th in the University of Cincinnati Conservatory. Topic: "Advanced Choral Techniques."

Third Annual Avon Lake Conference of Larger Choral Works. Massillon, North Olmsted, Avon Lake High School Choirs, combined on Stravinsky "Mass." Each choir does a larger work. Feb. 1.

University of Dayton concerts—Friday, November 22nd, Beehoven "Elegy" and Harrison's "Mass." Sunday, December 8th—Pinkhams "Christmas Cantata" and Handels "Messiah" with combined church-school singers.

North Olmsted High School—5th annual Choral Symposium with choirs from Bay Village and Avon Lake. Tom Hilbish, University of Michigan as guest director. Saturday, October 26th—8:00 p.m.

Miscellaneous Notes

The September-October issue of *The Choral Journal* has announced proposed changes in the National constitution affecting both the structure of the national executive board and national state dues. A financial statement last appeared in the *Choral Journal* of September-October, 1967.

List of Music for Chorus and Wind Instruments available from Professor L. E. Tagg, University of Dayton, Dayton, Ohio 45409, 25c same list as the A.C.D.A. Columbus convention.

OHIO A.C.D.A. NEWS

Official organ of the American Choral Directors Association of Ohio. Mailing address, Avon Lake High School, Avon Lake, Ohio. V. Pres. Ernest Hisey; Editor. Oct.-Feb.-April.

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A MOST UNUSUAL GROUP

The Princeton High School Choir in Princeton, New Jersey is one of America's most unusual singing groups. The choir's reception during a trip to Europe in the summer of 1962 made this apparent. There are, to be sure, a number of fine-sounding high school singing groups in the United States: ad a substantial number have also concertized throughout Europe during the past decade. Few, however, have sung the difficult choral repertoire of this group led by Thomas Hilbish. To program such compositions as Stravinsky's *Symphony of the Psalms*, the *Magnificat*, and *B Minor Mass* of Bach, the *Cantata Number I* and *Number II* of Anton Webern, the *Magnificat* of Johann Pachelbel, and a new Mass by Roger Sessions is daring enough; but to do these works and from memory, and in a way to earn the praise of respected music critics in this country and in Europe, is an extraordinary accomplishment.

Howard Hanson, Wallace Woodworth, and Roger Sessions have termed the group outstanding. To date this is the only high school choral group that has been sponsored by the State Department

of the United States to appear in concerts abroad under its auspices.

The story begins in the 1950's. The unusual work of the Princeton High School Chorus was attracting attention five years ago. The group sang the complete *Theresa Mass* of Haydn from memory at the MENC Eastern Division meeting at Buffalo in 1959. It had been heard only in concerts in and around the Princeton area and in Atlantic City until then. The repertoire of the group was and is its most distinguished trait. In the past five years, besides the compositions mentioned, the following have been included: *Mass in G*, by Schubert; cantatas by Bach: *King David* by Honneger: *The Unicorn*, by Gian Carlo Menotti: *The Messiah*, by Handel: *La Damoiselle*, by Debussy: *Dido and Aeneas*, by Purcell: *Les Noces*, by Stravinsky.

All of these works have been done from memory and quite often in foreign languages.

(Continued on Page 4)

Plans for Ohio A.C.D.A. News

All information must be received for publication by February 1st, or April 1st. Any clinics, festivals, and unusual concerts will be announced if possible. The works being performed should be included. Anyone wishing to submit a technical article for publication in the paper should fee free to do so. Any committee reports for publication are also due by February 1st.

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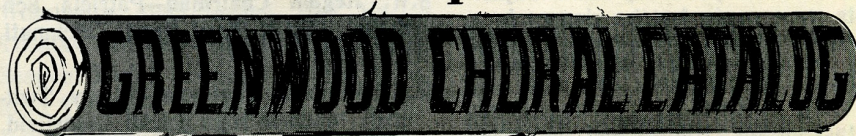
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A MOST UNUSUAL CHORAL GROUP

(Continued From Page 3)

It was at the eighth Congress of the International Musicological Society held on the Princeton University Campus in September 1961 that the work of the chorus was hailed internationally. Eric Salzman, music critic of the New York Times, covered the Congress and the concert of the high school choir. Here are some excerpts from his article:

"Only a few years ago, the choral music of Anton Webern was considered to be virtually impossible to sing accurately. Yesterday evening the local high school choir here sang the two Webern cantatas accurately and with musical understanding. These extraordinary performances were part of the sixth day of the eighth International Musicological Society Congress being held in this country. Princeton University was the host of yesterday's session, and 850 musicologists came out here for the occasion. Without any doubts it was the boys and girls in their choir robes who stole the show.

The man responsible for their remarkable achievement was Thomas Hilbish, their conductor, who has taught them in such a way that the notes have become easy and their grasp of the music enormous. Imagine a fresh lively group of teen-agers pulling somber choir robes over their shorts, trotting out into the stage of Princetons Alexander Hall in 90-degree heat before an international assemblage of distinguished scholars and letting loose with difficult contemporary music, all of it learned by heart. There was no strain and no stiffness. It was as if this were the most natural means of expression in the world for a bunch of American teen-agers.

"Webern as it turns out (it always turns out this way) is really not so hard to understand and to perform. It is easy to see now that Webern's subtle simplicity applies to nearly all aspects of his art. It would be an omission of fact not to add that yesterday small adjustments were made for the singers in a few places, mainly octave transpositions.

"But, let no one think that, even taking these circumstances into account, the task of Mr. Hilbish and the choir was an easy one. Hearing the notes, singing them, putting them together into lines and harmony, making them expressive and meaningful, is a challenge that few professionals today seem to be willing or able to meet. That these boys and girls could do it so magnificently is one of the happiest and healthiest signs that

our musical culture has the potentialities of growth and renewal."

Peter Standlen, one of London's newspaper music critics covered a London performance. He wrote: "Anton Webern would have been thrilled and delighted had he heard his two cantatas sung by the Princeton High School Choir under their tutor and conductor, Thomas Hilbish, at their invitation concert at the Royal College of Music last night. Little did one expect such outstanding performances. Indeed, one's heart sank as these 50 or so school boys and girls in their blue gowns mounted the platform, they were entirely unarmed with music sheets . . . Yet they displayed a complete mastery of the notes such as one is not often treated to in these works. This formed the basis for and an entirely natural and unforced expressiveness, the nearest thing to humming this music absentmindedly."

Hilbish believes that high school students are capable of performing the world's finest and most difficult choral literature. He believes that vocal technique is built best by using good litera-

ATTEND the A.C.D.A. reading session at the O.M.E.A. convention.

First State Executive Board Takes Office

(Continued From Page 1)

Dayton. Vice President is Ernest Hisey of Avon Lake who automatically takes this office as immediate past president.

Mr. Wilson has appointed the following Regional Chairmen:

N.E. Region Chairman—Robert Bostwick, Amherst High School, Amherst, Ohio.

N.W. Region Chairman—John Van Nice, Findlay College, Findlay, O. 45840.

S.W. Region Chairman—Patricia Schramm, 1452 N. Bend Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45224.

E.C. Regional Chairman—Nancy Twitchell, Madison High School, Mansfield, Ohio 44906.

S.C. Regional Chairman—W. Ronald Kenreich, Westerville High School, Westerville, Ohio 43081.

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ture. This philosophy he puts into practice at Princeton High School, a four-year school of under 2,000 students where he works with groups for daily 45-minute periods. He gives a course in beginning, intermediate, and advanced vocal techniques. Holding teen-agers to the stern requirements of great music is not always easy, but Thomas Hilbish is not looking for the easy way. He expects his choir members to study hard just as he does himself.

Mr. Hilbish is now on the faculty of the School of Music, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan. This article is a partial reprint from the M.E.N.C. Music Journal, 1964.

Editor's Corner

Why A.C.D.A.?

By ERNEST HISEY

A constant question thrust at A.C.D.A. members is, "why should the organization exist?" "What use is the A.C.D.A. in Ohio?" "If we have to go out and find a need or reason for our existence, then it would seem a questionable existence indeed. A.C.D.A. in Ohio provides a rallying point and an organizational support for church, school, and community choral directors. Providing aid in choral technique and problems to choral directors throughout our communities, is a prime way to raise the level of the choral art in our state. Read again Article I—Sec. 3, of our state constitution, "The purpose of this state organization is to offer an active, localized program of specialized assistance to choral directors, to foster and promote the highest level in artistic ideals, standards, techniques, musicianship, and materials for choral music in schools, colleges, churches, and within communities."

The tremendous attendance at A.C.D.A. sessions preceding National M.E.N.C. conventions (even Seattle) and the phenomenal growth in National membership is surely a firm indication that choral directors are finding in A.C.D.A. an aid and an answer to technical problems that they have not found elsewhere. A.C.D.A. can be a valuable asset to all choral organizations serving areas within the profession from the music educator and college director, to the church director.