

OHIO

American Choral Directors Association

NEWS

January 1975

DIRECTORY.....

President: John W. Williams, School of Music, Wittenberg U., Springfield 45501
 President-Elect: William Hamilton, 133 Far View St., S.W., N. Canton 44720
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 U. of Dayton, Dayton 45469
 Secretary: John Drotleff, 8073 Forest Lake Drive, Youngstown 44512
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 North East Region: Lowell Unger, 260 Fairway Drive, Akron 44313
 East Central Region: Lanny Hisey, 58 W. Oxford St., Alliance 44601
 South West Region: Madonna Goss, 5302 Bittersweet Dr., Kettering 45429
 South Central Region: John Carter, 1409 Haines Ave., Columbus 43212

Above are Board of Directors - Elected

CHAIRMEN; CHAIRWOMEN:

Music Loan Service: John Wrabel, 54 Meadow Drive, Berea 44017
 Student Chapters: Bruce Browne, Mt. Union College, Alliance 44601
 Ohio Composers; Composers' Competition: Leora Klotz, 806 24th St. N.E., Canton 44714
 St. Louis Convention Transportation: Ron Kenreich, 280 Storington Rd., Westerville 43081.
 Home Phone: 614/882-9119
 Historian: R. Byron Griest, 2207 Lincoln Way East, Massillon 44646

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE.....May 1.
 May-June concert announcements;
 summer workshops, articles, suggestions,
 questions.....BE A CONTRIBUTOR.

COMING EVENTS.....

Jan. 11 -- Our Midwinter Conference in Columbus. John Carter, Chairman.
Feb. 6 -- Our Choral Reading Session at the OMEA-KMEA Convention, Cincinnati. 8:00 p.m. William Hamilton, Chairman.
March 6-8 -- National ACDA Convention in St. Louis. See December CHORAL JOURNAL page 1 for pre-registration blank and hotel reservation information. See notice herein on charter bus for Ohio members from Columbus/Dayton.

STUDENT COMPOSITION COMPETITION - get application blank and details now so your students can participate. See article in this issue.

RESULTS OF RECENT ELECTION.....

President-Elect...William Hamilton
 Secretary...John Drotleff
 North East Region...Lowell Unger
AND THANKS to outgoing officers who served long and well:
 Leora Klotz (ex-Secretary) compiled, typed, duplicated, and mailed the Board proceedings for dozens of meetings. This enormous labor separates reality from fantasy (some meetings are fantastic!) and provides us with a written record of official proceedings. Leora is also the world's best writer of Thank You letters. She has accepted the new post as coordinator of Ohio Composers business.
 Cyril Chinn (ex-North East Region) has been a valuable member of the Board and promoted many new memberships in the oft-frozen north.

OHIO COMPOSERS with published choral work did not respond in large numbers to our request in the last issue (page 7). Let's hope Leora Klotz will have more luck. Composers, we are trying to help you!

HOW CAN WE KEEP YOUNG PEOPLE SINGING? by John Van Nice

If you have kept up on your professional reading in the CHORAL JOURNAL and NEWS, you will recognize one of my perpetual concerns. How can we all contribute to our students' continuing education and, at the same time, reap the benefit of that growing backlog of musicianship? How can we be assured they will continue to sing as they move from Jr. High into H.S., then into college and community performing organizations?

I would like to represent all directors who inherit the philosophies (or the lack thereof) that students develop from the attitudes, training, and encouragement they receive from previous directors.

In an effort to learn what that is, and to bridge the gap between h.s. and college, I try to contact by letter each entering student who has had choir experience. I attempt to alert the singer's high school director of that fact by letter. I ask both to return reply cards with information on the singer's interest and potential as a choir member. From those letters I receive replies from about one-fourth of the students and about an equal number of the directors--not an overwhelming majority.

This modest return prompts me to point out that we, as teachers, should be concerned with music in the lives of those young adults when they leave us: Did they learn enough to want to continue? Was the music meaningful enough to make it worthwhile to continue? Are we teachers encouraging them to continue in college, community, and church choirs?

CHOICE OF COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY.....

My letters are sent after the singer has chosen to attend our college. It has little to do with our college recruiting or with the interest a secondary school choral director may have in seeing that a student chooses the college which will provide the most satisfying musical experience.

Any institution may be ideal for certain students but absolutely wrong for others. The directors who reply to my letters know their students well. This knowledge can be used to good advantage if they will discuss the various options and schools with their students. Directors have a golden opportunity to note the student's personality, background, an ability--to help the student select a college in which the maximum potential may be realized.

The solid, conscientious youngsters who produce are a real gold mine and the backbone of any institution. Unfortunately,

some students who attend a large institution may find themselves buried in the talent there. I often wonder how many fine players Woody has out for football who spend four years gathering splinters in their posteriors waiting for the first, second, and third string to become ineligible, transfer, etc. These players could see First String action on other squads and play an excellent grade of football, too.

The same can be said for performers in music. A case in point: we have a fine oboist who transferred from one of the major conservatories in Ohio because she was given little opportunity to play. Now she is performing great symphonic literature regularly in an excellent neighboring community orchestra. Isn't that better than gathering splinters?

Could we directors help each other--and our students--to realize our ambition to keep 'em singing? As a start, is it possible for public school directors to encourage students to consider institutions in which their unique musical talents can be developed in the best possible way? This should be the concern for all who continue their education, and especially those to whom music will be a life-long avocation.

We in higher education need to be involved in a closer liaison with high school directors who--at the secondary level--are preparing students for a lifetime of enjoyable, rewarding participation in one of the greatest and most dynamic of the arts. If we do this, we can know that all of our efforts have not come to a dead end--a "dead-end" sitting on a splintery bench somewhere outside the choir room door.

EDITOR'S RESPONSE TO ABOVE ARTICLE

The high school graduate who does not continue in some kind of college or community music activity is not a lost soul, but he certainly is missing something important. I can't imagine a teacher/director devoting years training young people without feeling discouraged if they do not continue music later.

Here are the most common and numerous cases I encounter, year after year, with new college students. Some have written to express an interest; some visit to make inquiry; some I have written as John described.....

1. "I wanted to sing in h.s. but couldn't get in the choir." Why??
 2. "I had a wonderful time in h.s. music but no time for that sort of thing now." Music isn't that rewarding?
 3. "I would like to sing but I can't read music--afraid you wouldn't take me." Had 4-10 years of music and can't read!
 4. "I was afraid to audition--can't read; can't sing very well." !!
 5. "Our h.s. choir had 120 members; not interested in one with only 50."
 6. "I'm not a music major."
- Well, what of it?

Too many of these comments indicate that the student had an enjoyable experience but never learned the wonders of really expressing himself musically.

Since I am a teacher (by choice), I will train anyone willing to work and learn. Still, after all these years, it continues to surprise me that so many new singers are amazed that we spend time every day learning to read and interpret printed music - that is, they must learn to read and interpret, not depend on me for every note, rhythm, inflection.

Why should someone have years of

NOW HEAR THIS! from President Williams...

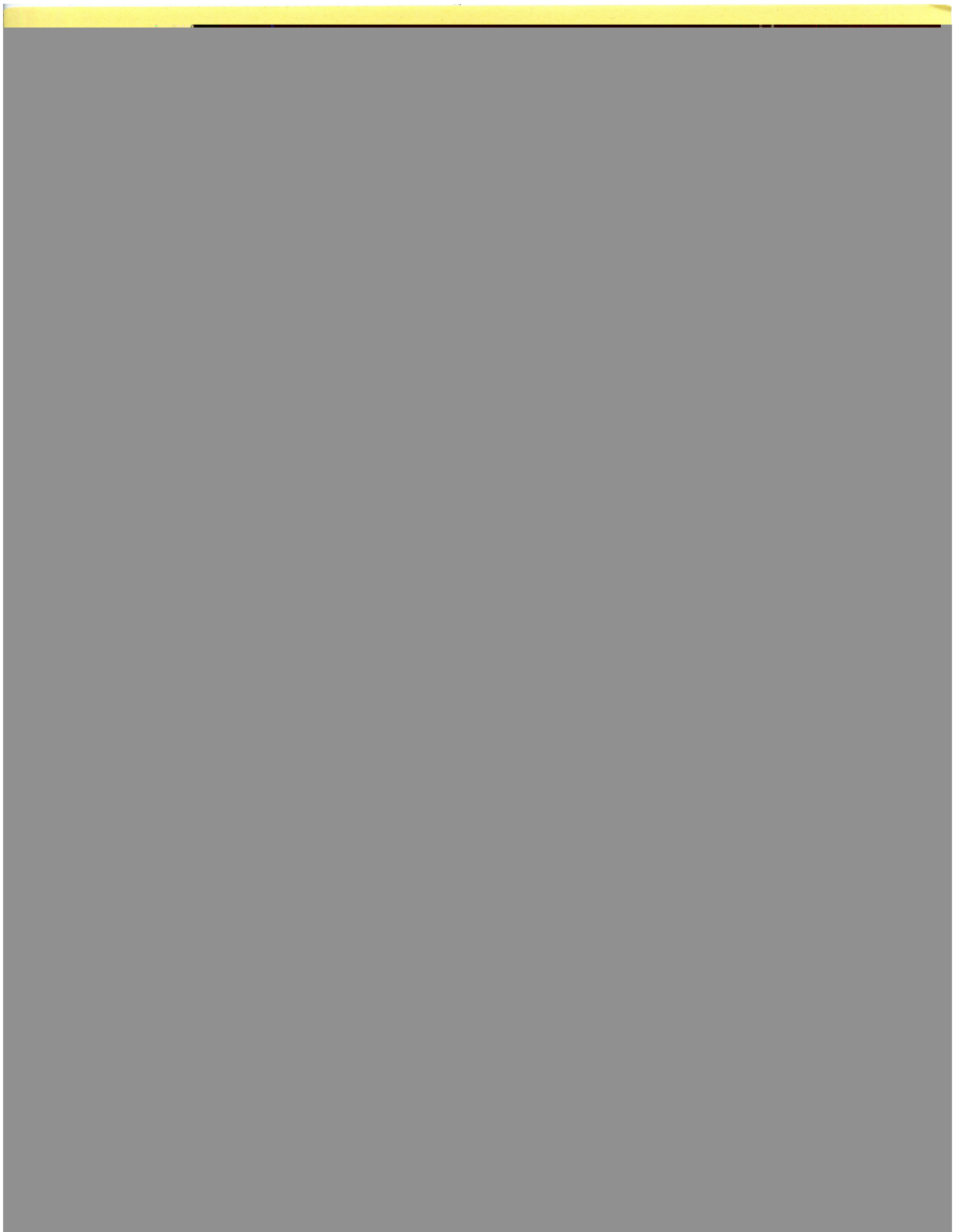
As we begin the new year, we can reflect on many accomplishments and anticipate several exciting events in 1975. With a membership of over 300, Ohio is one of the leading states in ACDA. Our constitution is used as a model in other states; our workshops and conventions compare most favorably with any in the country. Too, for the past several years, we have been able to operate all programs without a deficit. All this reflects the strong leadership since the founding of ACDA OF OHIO. Further evidence of leadership is shown in such contributions as the recent articles in the CHORAL JOURNAL by Bruce Browne and John Van Nice.

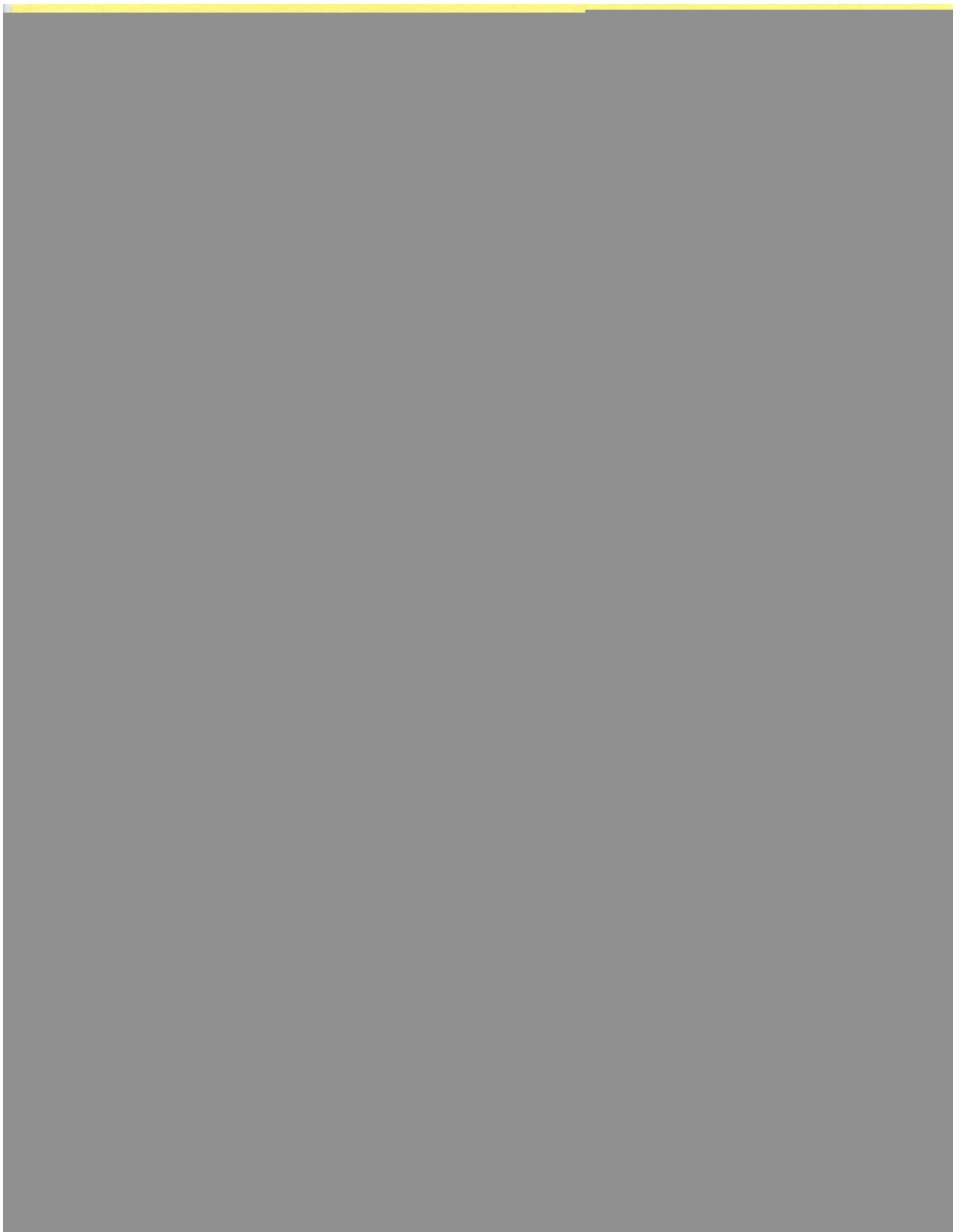
To continue to be an effective, living organization, we cannot rest on past accomplishments but rather must build on all of them. Therefore, in coming months I want to encourage you and your students to participate in some major activities:

ACDA OF OHIO Student Choral Composition Contest (see further notice herein).

ACDA OF OHIO Reading Session at the Ohio & Kentucky Music Education Assn convention in Cincinnati, February 6.

ACDA National Convention March 6-8.





SIGHT-READING IN CHORAL COMPETITIONS?

Although many states require sight-reading in choir contests, Ohio has not had this requirement. The issue often has been raised but has not met with much interest. In many states it is believed that s-r contributes significantly to the singers' basic musicianship, considering the training necessary to lead up to the competition. Certainly our singers would benefit from this kind of training and would be rewarded by achieving more skill.

If you are interested in consideration of sight-reading in connection with Ohio competitions, send us a note. We will pass along the consensus to the OMEA Competitions Committee.

--John Williams

The Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra will perform Beethoven's Symphony No.9 on its subscription series March 19, with choruses from the U. of Dayton (Larry Tagg), Wright State U. (Martha Wurtz), and Grace Methodist Church (Clark Haines). Paul Katz is conductor. For many years the Philharmonic has included a choral work in its series, using choral groups from the Dayton area.

FROM OUR COLLECTION OF ARTISTIC LORE

1. Do you use the terminology printed on the music your students are reading? Do you say "Allargando - Diminuendo - Forte" or "Slow down - Get softer - Loud" and thus teach your students to pay no attention to what is printed? "pp" means nothing to the singer who never has heard the word "pianissimo".
2. Do your singers actually read music, or do they just follow direction? Can they work out a musical phrase without you dictating every detail--or have they had a chance to try?
3. Have a singer stop-watch one of your rehearsals: how much time was spent singing and how much otherwise?
4. How often does your choir hear recordings of other choirs? How often do your singers hear live performances by groups similar to theirs?

HELP US FILL THIS SPACE

CONTRIBUTE TO ACDA

via the NEWS, the CHORAL JOURNAL, your Region Chairman, President. Contacting your Region Chairman helps you get together with others in your area with similar interests. President Williams asks especially for your ideas and suggestions on:

1. Region and State activities
2. Special repertoire for Reading Sessions at our various meetings.
3. Specific repertoire for OMEA competitions--large and small ensemble. --and items for the NEWS:
 1. Concert promotion, programming.
 2. Organizing community support for various kinds of music activities.
 3. Organizing youth choirs of all ages in churches.
 4. Exercises to improve various techniques - rhythm, tone, diction, dynamics, expression etc.

ACDA MEMBERS HELP EACH OTHER

The Editor is particularly interested in Student Member reactions, impressions, questions, suggestions. Let's hear from those who do the singing. What kind of Summer Convention session would be of particular interest to student members, for instance?

OUR STATE ORGANIZATION operates under our 1973 Constitution and By Laws. A copy of this document may be requested from President Williams.

From dues paid to the Ohio Treasurer, we retain \$4.50 per active member. This covers the NEWS and other mailing and minimal office expense by the Board. No salaries, wages, or travel expenses are paid. Conventions and workshops are planned to break even. Financial records are audited every two years.

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE (Past Presidents) meets at the OMEA convention Feb. 6-8 to select candidates for change of office next summer for:

Treasurer
East Central Region
North West Region

Incumbents are directed to advise the nominations committee on successors.

NEW DUES-MEMBERSHIP YEAR...In the December CHORAL JOURNAL, page 18, note that from now on a membership is good for one year from the date dues are paid. This is ideal for recruiting members year-round. Use the form below for new members. All dues go to Fred Fusco excepting LIFE memberships. There is a special form for STUDENTS available from Fred - dues are \$5 individual or chapter.

DO NOT FOLD THIS CARD

APPLICATION for MEMBERSHIP in American Choral Directors Association

NOTE: ACTIVE Applicants include brief resume of career, if available, for your Personnel File.

Make check payable to:
American Choral Directors Ass'n

Mail to: Fred Fusco
1309 Hartzell Avenue
Niles, Ohio 44446

Please accept my application for membership in ACDA as checked:
 ACTIVE - \$15.00 ASSOCIATE - \$15.00
 LIFE MEMBERSHIP - \$200 (payable in installments)

APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE

Please Indicate Areas of Activity:
 Elem (): Jr HS (); Sr HS (); Coll-U ();
 Comm (); Church ()

MEMBERSHIP CLASSIFICATIONS AND PROCEDURES

For complete information on Membership Classification please refer to MEMBERSHIP section in the Bulletin of Information.

INDUSTRY ASSOCIATE, INSTITUTIONAL, CONTRIBUTING MEMBERSHIP Applications and other information available on request from the Executive Secretary's office.

Check appropriate blank: MR (), MRS (), MISS ()

APPLICANT'S NAME
(Type or Print)

Title and Position

Institution

Street Address
(IMPERATIVE if used as Mailing Address)

City..... State..... Zip.....

PREFERRED MAILING ADDRESS

City..... State..... Zip.....

Ferris Ohl's HEIDELBERG COLLEGE CHOIR tours in February and will present a home concert March 23.

ACDA involves school music at all levels, church and community choral activity of all kinds.

CHARTER BUS FOR ST. LOUIS CONVENTION Leave Columbus Greyhound Bus Station 7:30a.m. Thursday, March 6. Pick up just north of Dayton about 8:45 a.m. at Ramada Inn, junction of I-70 and I-75 (first exit south of I-70 on I-75). Return the evening of Saturday, March 8. Reserve and pay in advance to Ron Kenreich, 280 Storington Rd, Westerville 43081 (614/882-9119). Ron must have check and form below by February 28. \$30 round trip.

Reserve _____ seats @ \$30 for St. Louis Charter Bus March 6. Enclosed \$ _____
(Make check payable to "Ron Kenreich--ACDA")

Name _____ Phone ____/_____
Street _____ City _____ ZIP _____

Name _____ Phone ____/_____
Street _____ City _____ ZIP _____

I will board the bus at Columbus _____
Dayton _____