



OHIO CHORAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION

WINTER ISSUE 1988



President's Letter Winter 1988

Now that Christmas is over and choral music is no longer of interest to the general public, we have a chance to recharge our own batteries. I'd like to suggest some ways to accomplish this. First, is convention attendance. The convention in Cleveland will give us all an opportunity to learn from expert clinicians and hear first rate groups from our four-state region. When returning home we all have renewed energy to work with our young people who have not yet attained the quality we have just experienced. As you plan ahead, please include the Bowling Green summer convention, August 11-13. Terry and Dick are busy at work planning a variety of experiences that will be of practical value. Of the 350 of you who have never experienced a convention, why not start with these two. This is one of the most important benefits of your OCDA membership and many of you never avail yourselves of this experience.

A second way of rejuvenating ourselves is discussion with like spirits - those who teach our level and experience the same problems. On our Board we have a chairperson for each area of choral teaching. These people are gold mines of experience, knowledge, tricks and good common sense (we have 473 years of teaching experience represented on this Board). The old adage says we learn by our mistakes. I can personally speak for the Board, "They are brilliant."

This newsletter has a list of Board members with their fields of expertise. Call them, write them, or seek them out at the conventions and talk, if for no other reason than having an ear to listen to your problems.

Our thanks to Bill Osbourne for a fine meeting at Dennison. Tina and Scott gave us all a practical, useable background in their fascinating field. A special thanks to the Board members for attending the sunrise breakfast meeting - that's dedication!

Prepare for the robins and the buds, they're on their way.

Dates To Remember

March 16 (evening only), 17, 18, 19, 1988
CENTRAL DIVISION CONVENTION - Bond
Court Hotel, Cleveland, Ohio, - Erney Hisey and
B. Neil Davis, Co-Chairmen.

August 11, 12, 13 - OCDA SUMMER CONVEN-
TION - Bowling Green State University, Bowling
Green, OH - Richard Mathey, chairman.

Date to be Announced - OCDA FALL CONFE-
RENCE - Heidelberg Univ., Tiffin, OH - Jay
Mann, chairman

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1625 Columbus Ave., Sandusky, Ohio 44870*

Yes, There Are Reading Sessions

Get up early at Central Division Convention (March 17-18-19) for there is a reading session every morning at 8:30, usually in the Bond Court Dorothy Fuldheim Room. On Thursday it will be Children's Choral Music with Sandra Stegman, followed by 3-part Madrigals, Robert Mix presiding. Mix, OCDA President, has planned all reading sessions for a 30 or 45 minute length so be on time.

Friday after the 7:30 Special Interests Breakfasts the reading session will be on A Cappella Ballads for Show Choirs. At 1:15 will be a session on 3-Part Folksongs.

On Saturday Chorus with Brass will be at 8:30, and the Concerto Reading will be at 10:15 in St. John's Cathedral Music Room, following the Children's Festival Concert.

Three other sessions will stress literature strongly. They are "Musicals for Adolescents" with Robert Stoll, Thurs. 10:30 in 7A on Seventh Floor; "The Challenge of Junior High" with Mary Ann Lopez in the Hassler Room at 10 a.m.; and "SSA Literature to Develop the High School Female Voice" with Joe Grant at the same time, then repeated at 11:45 on Saturday.

Something New For ACDA

A letter and appeal from national office for help with establishing the talked-about ACDA Endowment Trust has been sent to all members. It was signed by Raymond Brock who is ACDA's new Director of Development. Ray has been very involved in the arrangement with the Israeli Ministry of Tourism for the national ACDA leadership to visit Israel for ten days this month. ACDA is really becoming a recognized force in world music.

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Middle School - Jr. High

Since the first informal gathering of Middle School - Jr. High teachers at the OCDA summer convention our number of "help-me-out-we-need attention-with-MS/JH students" has almost doubled. That doesn't mean we're in the majority yet but it does mean there are real concerns among us as we deal with this "special" age group. At the Denison convention the exact same concerns were expressed as were voiced at Miami: (1) lack of quality literature for the changing voice (2) how to better deal with the changing voice. Concern was also expressed that there is lack of recognition of MS/JH performing groups at such events as State, Divisional or National Conventions. The concern for change in the auditioning process suggested by Ernie Hisey sounds encouraging.

We are continuing to compile a list of quality literature for 3-4 part choirs and will be happy to send you that list of selections. PLEASE SEND A SELF-ADDRESSED, STAMPED ENVELOPE - WITH YOUR REQUEST. Also please send me the titles, composers, publishers, etc. of your favorite anthems so they can be added to the present list. This is meant to be a sharing experience.

Hopefully we will see you in Cleveland March 16-19 at the North Coast Central Divisional Convention. Watch for notification of a possible interest session/assembly of Ohio MS/JH at the convention. Bob Mix and I are communicating about that now. Plan on attending--a support group can really help.

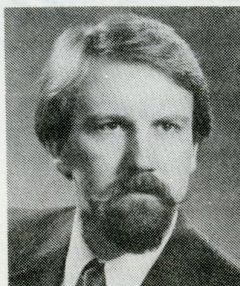
Carol S. Huffman
OCDA Middle School-Jr. High Chairperson
Pickerington Middle School
100 East St.
Pickerington, Ohio 43147



Chicago Children's Treble Choir

For thirty one years the Chicago Children's Choir has brought its songs and singers to audiences throughout the nation. It is the largest choral training and performance program of its kind in the nation. With a full time staff of eight it maintains a Concert Choir of specialized ensembles, including the Treble Choir, the Men's Chorus, the Madrigal Singers, and the Chamber Choir plus an In-House Training Program and School Chorus Program. Over 600 children, age 8 to 18, participate.

John Uhlenhopp has been conductor of the choir for the last three years. He is an active performer as a tenor soloist, played Martin in Aaron Copland's *The Tender Land* last summer at Aspen Music Festival, is a professional member of the Chicago Symphony Chorus and holds a master's degree in choral conducting from Northwestern University, Evanston, IL.



Joe Grant

Dr. Joe Grant directs the Women's Glee Club of the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign and both the music education program and the musical theatre program. His Bachelor of Music in Voice is from Murray State Univ., Ky; his Masters in Voice and Doctorate in Education is from the University of Illinois. He is currently the vice-president and acting editor of Illinois ACDA.

The Women's Glee is the oldest performing group on campus, celebrating its 90th anniversary this year. It performed at national ACDA convention in San Antonio last year. The 65 member undergraduate ensemble is made up of students from all majors on campus; it maintains a very active performing and touring schedule.

Questions for Members

The fall OCDA Board meeting at Denison University resulted in questions for the membership. YOU are a member of OCDA. It is YOU who should take out pen and paper and answer. Enclosed is a list of board members, talk to them if you have questions also. Otherwise send your answers to President Bob Mix.

Madonna Goss researched the attendance records of summer conventions from 1968 to the present. Mid-July through early August were the best attended. Attendance ran from 60 to slightly over 100. (Where are the rest of you?) After much discussion Terry Eder moved that beginning in 1989 OCDA summer conventions be held the third weekend in July.

A general discussion of the fall conferences resulted in two questions: one about early or late fall time, the other about making the fall conference a more general scope of interest and the summer convention a more concentrated study of certain areas. (Fall conferences are notorious for their poor attendance. However, they are the BEST time to get to know other OCDA members.)

QUESTION-STATEMENTS

- _____ 1. I like the definite time for OCDA Summer Convention: the 3rd weekend in July.
- _____ 2. PREFER THE Summer Convention to be moved about datewise.
- _____ 3. I prefer a date in _____ October, _____ November for the Fall Conference.
- _____ 4. I like the existing idea of topic specialization for the Fall Conference.
- _____ 5. I'd like to see more specialization in the Summer Convention.
- _____ 6. I have singing organization which is available for _____ Fall Conference, _____ Summer Convention.
- _____ 7. I'd like to hear something on this topic. _____

Behind the Scenes or Preparation Time

Going to a convention takes much preparation and great planning when you are responsible for your choir members. Mary Ann Lopez of Griffith, Indiana started in early September the ground work first was started with her principal and then the superintendent to get permission to offer the choral expertise of 32 children from grades 6, 7, 8, and 9 as a demonstration clinic of what happens with voices at that age. The permission granted, she introduced the idea of taking part in the March Central Division Conference in Cleveland to each of her three 60 voice choirs. Enthusiasm grew rapidly and she started after-school auditions. 93 singers out of 183 auditioned for the 26 places for 7th, 8th, and 9th grades. Then she went to the elementary music teacher, Susan Ruhs, and involved her in selecting 6 more sixth grade voices to better show the maturing process.

The next thing was to set a rehearsal schedule and rules. Everything was done after school. If a student missed a rehearsal he was dropped. (Even

orthodontists' visits were foresaken for rehearsals.). Music was selected to demonstrate what is best for various voice combinations. A third teacher Betty Bellamy was added to take care of the piano accompanying. Parents were interviewed and five (one an R.N.), were selected to act as chaperones. All the red tape with the administration was carefully finished and it was decided to use a bus for transporting 32 students and 8 adults and to pack lunches for the 5 to 6 hour ride. Letters and phone calls back and forth to Cleveland assured hotel rooms at the Hollenden and Bond Court. Now polish the music.

These young people have worked hard to learn some classics, folk songs, spirituals, and moderns in all combinations: SA for 6th grade, SSA and SAB for 7th, SAB and even SATB for 8th and 9th. You will hear them at Mary Ann Lopez's session on "The Challenge of Junior High - The Problem Years" at 10 o'clock Friday, March 14.

This is not the only choir that has gone through this elaborate process. Even the adults have their problems. Cleveland, Here They Come! Enthusiastic, energetic, amazing singers of all ages, thrilled at being selected to entertain you. Welcome them and appreciate all of their efforts!



Bev's Briefs

The singers are in place, the orchestra is ready, bows in hand, lips moistened; the anticipatory hush falls on the audience.... are you going to be there? Have you made arrangements? I'm speaking to each of you OCDA members about the Central Division Convention in Cleveland, March 16, 17, 18, 19.

Hundred of people have been working silently and audibly for four, six, fifteen (the committee) months to bring you a stupendous array of talent. Now my prayer is that you are taking advantage of it.

Each one of you Ohio members is a host. We have three guest states: Indiana, Illinois, and Michigan. It is up to you to meet, greet, welcome, talk with people. Make it your business to get acquainted and to make our guest feel your pleasure that they are here. Then they will go home saying "What a great convention!" Can we count on YOU? (It's nice to say "Thank You" to clinicians, too.)

A reminder to members running for offices: I must have your pictures and biographies no later than March 10. News is due then also.

P.S. The bulk of publicity for the Central Division Convention went to Lawton, OK to appear in Choral Journal. The News has tried to give the extra or unusual. Our apologies if we have inadvertently missed some one or some choir. Much material came in, some of it too late. Sorry if we missed yours.

Summer Plans-Already!!

What are your outstanding singers doing this summer? There are many opportunities open to young people these days which were not even considered twenty years ago: choir camps, band and string camps, theatre associates etc. with options for one, two, or even eight weeks (Interlochen).

Many colleges in Ohio sponsor various "workshops" for junior or senior high students with musical ability. If you are interested in a particular school call or write the director of the conservatory or music department and get literature for your good singers. Watch how it helps your program next year.

Here are two experiences for juniors, seniors or college freshmen or sophomores which have received rave reviews from participants.

One is the Fred Waring U.S. Chorus which is a realization of Fred Waring's dream of a one hundred voice chorus of young people from every state in the union. In the two years Virginia Waring and her funding godfathers have presented this "Professional type camp" for 2 weeks on the Penn State campus it has grown in ability and national attention. This is a full scholarship auditioned opportunity for your top vocalists.

Under the guidance of Mrs. Waring and former Waring Workshop staff members: Pete Kiefer, coordinator; Brian Breed, Lenny Thomas, and Dr. John Raymond as conductors; Stevie Rivers as Choreographer; and New York artist and director Joe Bellone, the chorus will be in session for ten days with a special addition of a major performance in Washington along with the T.V. show. (The 1987 show has appeared on most major public television stations.)

New directors this year are Craig McBroom of Raleigh, N.C. and Donna Knott of Penn State Choral Dept.

This is a completely auditioned chorus. The dates are July 15 to concert date July 24, and D.C. addition July 25, 26. Write Pete Kiefer, Fred Waring's America, 222 Special Services Bldg., University Park, PA 16802. REMEMBER: Audition Tapes are due BEFORE April 15.

The other chorus open to singers if they successfully audition is the Ohio Honors Chorale. This chorus of 40-45 top singers of high school upper grades and early college travels to Europe each summer for fantastic European singing and learning experiences in great cathedrals, opera houses, small churches, and outdoor gardens. Added to this is the housing with European families for some overnights and in old romantic hotels as well as in new modern ones, sightseeing, and shopping.

This year's trip will fly into Amsterdam, travel by bus south through France into Italy, across the northern part of Austria, Switzerland, and Germany where they annually visit friends in Brilon and vicinity, Belgium and home. It is a three week tour of music performances, sightseeing, and spreading American friendship; following a one week rehearsal camp at beautiful Kenyon College. There are openings for tenors and basses. Contact Robert Moore, 650 South Campus, Oxford, Ohio or your News Editor Bev Mayer.

In Memoriam

John Ness Beck, internationally known composer and conductor and a good friend to many Ohio musicians, died in Columbus June 25, 1987. His primarily sacred choral compositions numbered over a hundred. He was also a choral director, an arranger, an actor, and a graphics designer. At Ohio State he taught harmony and theory for seven years.

He was chairman of the board of the John Ness Beck Foundation for Choral Composers and Arrangers of Traditional Church Music. As president and co-founder of Beckenhorst Press, Inc. he introduced many new composers and arrangers to the field besides turning out a wealth of very good choral music of his own. In 1982 he was awarded the Ohioana Music Citation for Distinguished Service to Ohio.

Ray Sax Schroeder finished up the big "Celebration of Song" in honor of Fred Waring, went home with a feeling of great satisfaction in a spectacular show. On that accomplishment he slept away December 7 1987, leaving his well-known-in her own-right, dancer-designer wife, Nadine Gae; two sons, Scott and David; and literally thousands of young and older people whose lives he had touched either on stage or at the well-known Waring Workshops. He was the General Manager of the Fred Waring's Pennsylvanians when he retired. Audiences remember his contribution in every show as he walked out on stage, said a few words, then pulled up his trouser legs revealing his famous striped knee socks and performed a few very tricky dance steps.

The great lover of Scandinavia, its people and its music, Norman Luboff, has gone on to teach the angels how to harmonize more effectively. His style, his sound, and his ability to teach others how to achieve beauty in choral singing will last in the memories of all who came under his spell., either in workshops, in recording sessions, in his great Norman Luboff Choir, in radio, television, and any of the 80 motion pictures for which he arranged or composed.

It was largely through his work with Walton Music Corporation that Scandinavian and Canadian music was introduced in the U.S. He was the first non-Scandinavian to be honored by the presentation of the Hugo Alfvén Society of Sweden Gold Medal in 1985. His influence on American folk arrangements is worthy of a crown.

Congratulations!

Elmer Thomas, professor of choral conducting, Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Human Letters by a unanimous vote of the Board of Trustees of his alma mater, the College of Idaho this past summer.

Jerry Ulrich is assistant professor of music and director of choral activities at Ashland, Oh. College, where he holds a mentor award and the department chairmanship for '87-'88.

Boys Choir/Ethnic Studies

Charles Brown
Bldg. 6, Apt. 6
400 S. Mumaugh Rd.
Lima, OH 45804
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(419) 226-0890 (O)

Children's Chorus

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Wauseon, OH 43567
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Church Music

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418 Cedar Lane
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(419) 352-4829 (H)
(419) 372-8733 (O)

Community Chorus

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Delaware, OH 43015
(419) 363-3319 (H)

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5302 Bittersweet Dr.
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(513) 434-2903 (H)

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NEW OCTAVOS

POOR LITTLE JESUS, Eugene W. Hancock

Afro-American spiritual for TTBB with countertenor solo
(general, Lent). 11-2369 .75

LAMENTATIONS OF JEREMIAH, Knut Nystedt

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O GOD OF LOVE, Jane Marshall

Original music for SATB, keyboard, opt cong., 2 texts for
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Indianians Return Home

Two directors from the opposite ends of the teaching spectrum, both former Ohioans now in Indiana, will be heard and seen at the Cleveland Convention. We welcome them back.

Mary Ann (Hewitt) Lopez has, for ten years, been in charge of Junior High Music for the Griffith, Indiana schools. Seventeen years ago she was teaching in the Perkins Schools, Sandusky area after graduation from Baldwin-Wallace Conservatory of Music. She possessed a beautiful voice but chose to use it to inspire that difficult junior high age. She has attended Purdue, Roosevelt (Ill.), Hammond and Valparaiso, Indiana Univ. and holds a Masters in Music Education and Guidance and Counseling.

Her Griffith Junior High Mixed Choir competed against junior and senior high schools from Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota and received "Overall Most Outstanding Choir" in

Choirs Wanted

The 1989 Louisville National Convention Planning Committee is looking for audition tapes in the following areas:

1. Church-Synagogue Choirs for a "Music in Worship" event featuring several choirs, organ, and instruments.
2. Madrigal ensembles that will perform during a madrigal dinner. (Please submit both video and audio tapes if possible.)
3. Adolescent choral ensembles--children's and junior high choirs.

Use the audition application printed in December *Choral Journal* and submit it to ACDA National Office in Lawton by March 21, 1988.

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Reminders

Pre-registration for the Central Division Convention in Cleveland March 16, 17, 18, 19 saves time.

Is yours in

Reservations for (1.) Wednesday night's Cleveland Orchestra and Chorus dress rehearsal of Britten's *War Requiem* (no charge).

(2.) Friday morning's Interest Breakfasts (\$4.50).

(3.) Saturday Noon's Performance Banquet featuring Robert Page Singers (\$6.00) are due to Steve Glosser, 23923 Baintree Rd., Beachwood, Ohio 44122.

(Interest breakfasts: Church, Women's Chorus, Show Choirs, College Univ., Community, Children's Chorus, Men's Chorus, Junior College.)

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