

# OCD A NEWS

## BULLETIN OF THE OHIO CHORAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION

VOLUME XVII, NUMBER 2

December 1996

### FROM THE PRESIDENT: REMEMBERING ROBERT FOUNTAIN

It was February, and I was snowed in at the PMEA district choral festival. At breakfast, when I asked the guest conductor for his opinion on doctoral programs, he said, "Well if I were choosing a graduate program, I'd want to study with Robert Fountain at the University of Wisconsin." Hmm, I thought, I know of Robert Fountain's work. Hadn't he been at Oberlin? Wasn't it the Oberlin recording of Mozart's *Missa Brevis in F major*, K. 192 I had listened to so often at Temple University? I remembered loving that sound. He said, "I think Bob is touring with the choir through Pennsylvania next month. You should call him and try to hear them. You won't be sorry you made the effort." I did, and the pilgrimage changed my music-making forever.

I had already been teaching for ten years, and knew the work of many fine choirs. I'd heard the Shaw and Wagner Chorales in concert, I'd been to two or three national ACDA conferences, I'd had powerful experiences singing under Robert Page in the Temple University Concert Choir, and I'd heard recordings of most of the major college choirs. But this sound was different.

No choir I'd heard in performance had matched the electricity, the physical energy passing between the conductor and singers, none had this vibrant diction at the front edge of the beat (without being overdone), and most of all, none had this deep core in legato singing—this feeling of line drawn from the center of the singer. In what I later learned was the Fountain tradition, the program, all first-rate repertoire, was memorized by both

singers and conductor. Bach's *Jesu Meine Freude* and Kodaly's *Matra Pictures* remain especially memorable.

It was my good fortune to spend the next three years, five days a week, on the inside of that sound, feeling him develop that tone, watching him reveal a score and its lifeblood. Using the principles of Dalcroze, we stepped out phrases—shaping them according to our own artistic inclinations, moving them through space in order to discover the feeling we sought to convey later from the choral risers. He challenged us to find the core of our spirit, to find the place from which we moaned when in pain, and to sing from the same center of our being. I remember wailing for Absalom in Dinnerstein's *When David Heard* and pleading for deliverance in Bardos' *Libera me*. He aroused the thinker and the feeler in each of us.

While the artist-teacher was truly impressive, the man was even more remarkable. Beyond his infectious sense of humor, he was noble, gallant, honest, kind, generous and brave. Diabetes and arthritis had already weakened his once strong body. (He had told me that before the diabetes had set on, he used to take on two students at once in handball matches.) Now he was never without pain. Despite these deterrents and the cancer and hip replacements that later also challenged his spirit and mobility, he seemed to soar whenever he made music. He looked twenty or thirty years younger. To borrow from a folk singer, "He was an eagle in an old man's frame."

I'll remember his rich baritone voice, his acute sense of intonation, his love of puns, his cocktail piano playing, his imitations of Frankenstein, his wonderful performances of *The Road to Mandalay*, and *The Green-Eyed Dragon*, his sincere investment in my professional growth, and his profound love for his wife Clara.

On one occasion I asked the wife of another choral director for her impression after having met Robert Fountain. She looked away a moment, then her face took on an unforgettable warmth as she said, "You know, he impressed me as the kind of man King Arthur might have invited to sit at the Round Table."

—Peter Jarjisian  
OCDA President

### 1997 SUMMER OCDA CONFERENCE

### YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

July 20-23, 1997

#### Clinicians:

•Peter Bagley, Jr.  
from the  
University of Connecticut

•Christine Jordanoff  
from  
Duquesne University  
and the Youth Choir of the  
Pittsburgh Mendelssohn  
Choir

# CHORAL PERFORMANCES ACROSS THE BUCKEYE STATE

## November 15

*Fall Concert*, Cleveland State University Chorale, Betsy Burleigh, conductor. Britten's *Rejoice in the Lamb*, Vivaldi's *Gloria*, joined by the Collegium Musicum. Waetjen Auditorium, CSU, Cleveland, 8:00 P.M.

## November 23

*Holidays in the Heartland*, The Wright State University Madrigal Singers, University Chorus, Men's Chorale, and Women's Chorale, Hank Dahlman, conductor; the Paul Laurence Dunbar Chorale; The Sinclair Community College Singers, Daniel B. Greene, conductor. Epiphany Lutheran Church, 6430 Far Hills Avenue, Centerville, 8:00 P.M.

## November 24

Handel's *Messiah*, Shawnee State University Choir, Shirley Crothers, conductor, and the University of Rio Grande Masterworks Choir, Rio Grande, 8:00 P.M.

## November 25

Fall Concert, University Choir, Kent Chorus, and Women's Ensemble, C.M. Shearer, conductor, Wolfe Recital Hall, Kent, 8:00 P.M.

## December 1

*The Cecilian Singers of Columbus*, James C. Myers, conductor. Central Presbyterian Church, 132 S. 3rd Street, Columbus, 3:00 P.M.

*Annual Christmas at St. Mary's Concert*, Shawnee State University Choir, Shirley Crothers, conductor. St. Mary's Catholic Church, Portsmouth, 4:00 P.M.

*Voices of Christmas*, The Lancaster Chorale, Robert Trocchia, conductor, with the Michiana Brass and harp. Traditional and contemporary seasonal works, including audience sing-along. St. Mary of the Assumption Church, 132 S. High Street, Lancaster, 4:00 P.M.

Handel's *Messiah*, The Mount Union Alliance Chorale and Alliance Symphony Orchestra, Scott Dorsey, conductor. Alliance High School Auditorium, 3:00 P.M.

"Sing It Yourself" *Messiah*, Cuyahoga Community College Chorale, Greg Upton, conductor. Tri-C West Campus, Parma, 3:00 P.M.

## December 2

*Columbus Youth Chorale*, Mark Hutsko, conductor, Broad Street Presbyterian Church, Columbus, 7:00 P.M.

## December 3

Handel's *Messiah*, Shawnee State University Choir, Shirley Crothers, conductor, and the University of Rio Grande Masterworks Choir,

SSU Vern Riffe Center for the Arts, Portsmouth, 8:00 P.M.

## December 4-7

*24th Annual Yuletide Feaste*, Kent State University Chorale, C. M. Shearer, conductor. KSU Student Center Ballroom, 8:00 P.M.

## December 5

*Bringing in the Season*, The Sinclair Community College Choral Ensembles, Daniel B. Greene, conductor. Blair Hall Theatre, SCC, Dayton, 7:30 P.M. 513/226-7987.

*Holiday Choral Concert*, Mayfield High School, Stephen Glosser, conductor. MHS Auditorium, Mayfield Village, 7:30 P.M.

## December 6

*The Fall Concert of the Mount Union Choir*, Scott Dorsey, conductor, Presser Recital Hall, Mount Union College, Alliance, 8:00 P.M.

*BGSU Annual Christmas Concert*, The Collegiate Chorale, Richard Mathey, conductor, and the ACappella Choir, Mark Munson, conductor. Kobacker Hall, Bowling Green, 8:00 P.M.

*A Robert Page Cleveland Christmas*, The Robert Page Cleveland Singers, Waetjen Auditorium, Cleveland State University, 8:00 P.M. 216/228-PAGE.

## December 6-7

*A Dickens Christmas*, Heidelberg Chamber Singers, Jay Mann, conductor. An all-campus production including music, theater, and student affairs departments. Music by Schein, Haydn, and Mendelssohn. The Campus Center, Heidelberg College, Tiffin, 7:00 P.M.

## December 6-15

*Madrigal 1996*, The Canton Civic Opera Chorus, Frederick J. Locker, conductor. Performances for corporate Christmas parties.

## December 7

*Holiday Concert*, Lorain County Community College Civic Chorale, Nancy L. Davis, conductor. Renaissance Singers in period costumes, seasonal favorites, the Christmas section of Handel's *Messiah*, 7:30 P.M.

*The Clark State University Chorale in Concert*, Carol Todd, conductor. Turner Studio Theatre, CSU, Springfield, 3:00 P.M.

*A Robert Page Cleveland Christmas*, The Robert Page Cleveland Singers, Euclid Avenue Congregational Church, Cleveland, 8:00 P.M. 216/228-PAGE.

## December 7-8

*Christmas Masterworks*, Masterworks Chorale, Donna Tozer Wipfli, conductor. *Gloria* by John Rutter, *Totus Tuus* by Henryk Gorecki. *Hymn to Mary* by Franz Biebl, Motets by Victoria and Palestrina, well known carols, Blessed Sacrament Church, Toledo, December 7 at 8:00 P.M.; December 8 at 4:00 P.M. 419/327-9644

## December 8

*Seasonal Music by a Trio of Italians*, The Denison University Concert Choir and Orchestra, William Osborne, conductor. Vivaldi's *Magnificat* and *Gloria*, Boccherini's *Gloria*, Corelli's *Christmas Concerto*. Swasey Chapel, Denison University, Granville, 7:30 P.M.

*Advent Lessons and Carols*, The Celebration Choir, Children's Choir and Handbell Choir from St. Albert The Great Church in Kettering, Karen Schneider, conductor. Holy Angels Parish, Brown and L Streets, Dayton, 7:30 P.M.

*Carols and Choruses of Christmas*, The West Shore Chorale and Orchestra, John Drotleff, conductor. Rocky River United Methodist Church, Rocky River, 7:30 P.M.

*A Festival of Lessons and Carols*, The First Baptist Church of Greater Cleveland with the University Brass Quintet, Dr. Robert Schneider, music director. Shaker Heights, 4:30 P.M.

Vivaldi's *Gloria*, Kent State University Chorale, University Choir, and University Orchestra, C.M. Shearer, conductor. Wolfe Recital Hall, KSU, 7:30 P.M.

Handel's *Messiah*, Marietta Oratorio Chorus, Gayle Walker, conductor. St. Mary's Catholic Church, 8:00 P.M.

Handel's *Messiah*. The Heidelberg College Choirs, Jay Mann, conductor. With area singers, alumni, professional alumni as soloists, and the Heidelberg College Community Orchestra. Heidelberg College, Tiffin, 3:00 P.M.

*The Brass Band of Columbus and the Maple Grove United Methodist Church Choir*, Dr. Paul Droste and Len Bussard, conductors. Maple Grove United Methodist Church, Columbus, 4:00 P.M. 614/262-1163.

*GO TELL IT!* Christmas Festival Concerts, Coshocton Community Choir, Coshocton Children's Choir and The Roscoe Brass, Charles R. Snyder, conductor. Coshocton High School, 3:00 and 7:30 P.M. 614/622-3960.

## December 9

*Christmas Concert*, Delaware Hayes High

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School, Kim Boyd, conductor, Gray Chapel, Ohio Wesleyan, Delaware, 7:30 P.M.

*Columbus Youth Chorale*, Mark Hutsko, conductor, Capital University, Columbus, 7:00 P.M.

## December 12-16

*Madrigal Yuletide Revels*, Hiram College Madrigal Singers and Recorder Consort, Damaris Peters Pike, conductor, with jugglers, jesters, herald trumpets and dancers. Kennedy Center, Hiram College, 7:30 P.M. 330-569-5301.

## December 12

*Holiday Festival Concert*, Grove City High School Choirs, Peg Ramsey Weber, conductor. The Columbus Palace Theatre, Columbus. 614/875-9550.

*Winter Concert*, Olentangy High School, Nancy Kiser, conductor, 7:30 P.M.

*Holiday Concert*, Reynoldsburg High School, Joe Thrower, conductor, 7:30 P.M.

## December 13

*Kent State and Cleveland State University Choirs with The Cleveland Orchestra*, C.M. Shearer and Betsy Burleigh, conductors. Severance Hall, Cleveland. 8:30 P.M.

*Marietta College Concert Choir and Band Concert*, Gayle Walker, director. Herman Fine Arts Center, Marietta College, 8:00 P.M.

*104th Annual Holiday Concert*, The Singers' Club of Cleveland, Thomas J. Shellhammer, conductor. Britten's *The Journey of the Magi*, *The Ballad of Little Musgrave and Lady Barnard*, selections from the Washington National Cathedral performance. Waetjen Auditorium, Cleveland State University, 8:00 P.M.

## December 14

*A Celebration of Christmas*, The Cincinnati Boychoir, Dr. Randall N. Wolfe, conductor, Mother of God Church, Covington KY, 8:00 P.M.

## December 15

*Kent State and Cleveland State University Choirs with The Cleveland Orchestra*, C.M. Shearer and Betsy Burleigh, conductors. Severance Hall, Cleveland, 3:30 P.M.

*Songs of the Season*, 53rd Annual Dayton Boys Choir Christmas Concert, Daniel B. Greene, artistic director. Westminster Presbyterian Church, Dayton, 7:00 P.M. 513/837-3647.

*Christmas Concert*, Ashland Symphony Choirs, Sandra B. Brown, conductor. Ashland University Memorial Chapel, 1:30 P.M.

*Winter Concert*, Hilliard High School, Carole Bundy, conductor, 3:00 P.M.

*Trinity United Methodist Church Christmas Concert*, James Gallagher, conductor. Rutter's *Magnificat*, Wilberg's *Jubilate Deo*. Trinity United Methodist Church, Columbus, 4:00 P.M.

*Advent Concert*, The Lakeland Civic Chorus and Civic Orchestra, Romeo Pallante, conductor. Lakeland Community College, Mentor, 2:00 and 4:00 P.M.

*Annual December Concert*, The Yellow Springs Community Chorus, Ruth Bent, conductor. J.C.F. Bach's *Die Kindheit Jesu* and Gerald Near's *Cum Novo Cantico*. First Presbyterian Church, Yellow Springs, 7:30 P.M.

*Winter Concert*, Thomas Worthington High School, Jerry Parsons, conductor, 2:30 P.M.

## December 16

*Holiday Concert*, Marysville High School, D. Winters, conductor, Marysville, 7:00 P.M.

*Holiday Concert*, Liberty Union High School, 8:00 p.m.

*Holiday Concert*, Teays Valley High School, Mike Crandall, conductor, 7:30 P.M.

## December 16

*Winter Choral Concert*, Dublin Coffman High School, Cyndi Brewer, conductor, Dublin, 7:30 P.M.

*Winter Choral Concert*, Shaker Heights High School, Ronald Morgan, conductor, 7:30 P.M.

*Winter Concert*, Westerville South High School, Todd Stoll, conductor, 7:30 P.M.

## December 19

*Holiday Concert*, Franklin Heights High School, Darrell Forren, conductor, Columbus, 7:00 P.M.

*Winter Concert*, Westland High School, Dave DeWeese, conductor, Columbus.

*Holiday Concert*, The University School Glee Club, Kerry P. Brennan, conductor, with the Shelburne Singers, Martin Kessler, conductor. University School, Hunting Valley, 7:30 P.M.

*Holiday Concert*, Chillicothe High School, Jennifer Shively, conductor, 7:30 P.M.

*Winter Choral Concert*, Pickerington High School, John Long, conductor, 7:30 P.M.

*Winter Concert*, Dublin Scioto High School, Jeff Chesser, conductor, at Dublin Coffman High School, 7:30 P.M.

*Holiday Concert/Art and Drama Show*, Hilliard High School Transition Building, Mike Martin, conductor, 7:00 P.M.

## December 21

*Christmas Holiday Concert*, The Vocal Arts Ensemble of Cincinnati. Arvo Pärt's *Magnificat*, Britten's *Ceremony of Carols*. Carols by Stephen Paulus and Marjorie Hess, audience singing. Athenaeum of Ohio, 6616 Beechmont Avenue, Mt. Washington, 8:00 P.M.

*Fall Concert of The Knox Choraliers*, Diane Reiss, conductor. Mount Vernon HS, 7:45 P.M.

## December 22

Handel's *Messiah*, Part I. The First Baptist Church of Greater Cleveland, Dr. Robert Schneider, director, Fairmount Boulevard at Eaton Road, Shaker Heights, 11:00 A.M.

*Christmas Holiday Concert*, The Vocal Arts Ensemble of Cincinnati. See December 21 listing. St. Barnabus Church, 10345 Montgomery Road, Montgomery, 3:00 P.M.

## January 3-12

New England Concert Tour, Mount Union College Choir, Scott Dorsey, conductor.

## January 12

*Welcome Home Concert*, Mount Union College Choir, Scott Dorsey, conductor, Union Avenue Methodist Church, Alliance, 8:00 P.M.

## January 25

*Male Chorus Day*, Ohio State University. Rehearsal clinic at 12:45 p.m. Evening concert with OSU Men's Glee Club, James Gallagher, conductor, and Medina High School Men's Chorus, Frank Bianchi, conductor.

## CHILDREN'S CHORUS FESTIVAL

•Co-Sponsored by OCDA and Ashland University

### •February 22, 1997

915 A.M. - 3:45 P.M., Ashland University

- A process-oriented workshop
- Sessions include:
  - Movement and Style
  - Sight-Reading and Listening
- Tone, Vocal Pedagogy, and Artistry
- Instrumentation and Orff Process
- Mini-performance as culmination

•Sandra B. Brown, Coordinator  
1514 Center Lane Drive  
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e-mail: pbrown@ashland.edu  
Fax: 419/289-5333

•Call to extend registration deadline

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