



OCDA *news*

BULLETIN OF THE OHIO CHORAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION

REFLECTIONS OF A PRESIDENT



Greetings from Scandinavia! My family and I have been in Skåne, the southern-most region of Sweden, since the last week of July, and we are enjoying our experience very much. We arrived two and a half weeks before the official faculty exchange began so that we could enjoy a family vacation here. During that time we visited cathedrals, castles, and Copenhagen; and we even swam in the Baltic Sea!

My work this year consists of three parts: 1) teaching four days per week at a public high school, the equivalent of U.S. grades seven through ten in a

“music magnet” type of setting; 2) teaching two choral methods classes for a university; and 3) directing a select community chorus. I have worked at the high school for several weeks now, and am enjoying working with that age group again on a regular basis. My three wonderful Swedish choral colleagues and I meet every week to plan together and to help one other. It is the positive and supportive work environment that all of us should have!

I am pleased to announce the clinicians for our 2006 summer conference. Bob Chilcott will join us from the United Kingdom, and Ann Howard Jones from Boston. Emily Ellsworth of the Glen Ellyn Children’s Choir will serve as director of our second honors chorus for children.

Congratulations and thanks to Tom Merrill and Gayle Walker for their leadership in producing the successful, attendance-record-breaking 2005 summer conference! Tom has served our organization well as president, and we are grateful to Gayle for her fine service as conference chair for the past five years. As it is now time for Gayle to step away from that responsibility, I am pleased to announce the appointment of a conference committee, whose members will share the responsibilities previously assumed by the conference chair. Daniel Monek has agreed to serve as chair of the conference committee. Hugh Floyd, Amy Lenzmeier, and Ann Usher have joined Dan as members of the committee. We appreciate the willingness of these OCDA members to serve our organization in this way.

Finally, I want to wish all of you back in Ohio a wonderful and productive year of teaching and music making. It is a privilege to do the work that we do, and I challenge each one of us to remember – even on those *really* long teaching days this year – that it is indeed a privilege to be a choral musician. Of course this privilege carries with it much responsibility. It really should not be “all about *us, the choral directors,*” but about the music and about those in our ensembles before whom we are privileged to stand and celebrate our art!

Skål!
(Cheers!)

Fall 2005

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OCDA Summer Conference 2006

June 19-21

Otterbein College
Westerville, OH

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2005 OCDA SUMMER CONFERENCE - REFRESHING!

The OCDA Summer Conference has always been a time of renewal. Colleagues across the state become reacquainted, conference participants dive into learning together, and we are reminded of the many reasons we are in the field of choral music. This year's conference was all the more exciting because its size; 187 participants registered for the conference, a record number. Thank you to all who came to share your voices, energy, and enthusiasm; and to all who registered for the conference as new OCDA members, welcome!

Numerous leaders in the choral field brought their expertise to headline the conference schedule of events. Rebecca Rottsohlk opened the conference with sessions on effective and inspirational teaching, as well as healthy singing for developing voices. Eric Whitacre, recognized as one of the finest choral composers of our day, performed and discussed his music, and co-conducted the OCDA Director's Chorus with Lynda Hasseler. In addition to her work with the Director's Chorus, Dr. Hasseler led sessions on choral warm-ups, and conducted the Capital Chapel Choir in a moving performance at Linworth United Methodist Church. Additionally, Grant Cook shared his research on the work of Ignaz Karl Dirzka, the chorus master for the premiers of Beethoven's Missa Solemnis and 9th Symphony. The presentations by all of the clinicians were varied, interesting, lively, and informative.

A new event was introduced at the OCDA Summer Conference this year – the OCDA Children's Honor Choir. Conducted by Rebecca Rottsohlk, the choir consisted of 150 elementary students selected by their general music teachers. Con Brio, a children's choir conducted by Emily Hil, also performed on the Honor Choir concert. The organization of the Honor Choir event, the experiences shared by teachers and students, and the final concert were all a resounding success. Many thanks to Robin Lana and her team for their hard work in bringing the Honor Choir to the conference! Watch for continued Honor Choir events in next year's OCDA Summer Conference.

The Trinity United Methodist Church Choir, conducted by Rich Schnipke, performed on Tuesday night of the conference. The quality of this fine church choir, as well as that of all of the ensembles performing at the conference, was very high.

In addition to fine clinicians and choral concerts, the 2005 Summer Conference included multiple reading sessions, dinner rountable sessions, a business luncheon, and a social *gemütlichkeit*.

If you were not able to attend the 2005 Summer Conference, make plans now to attend the **2006 conference, June 19-21, at Otterbein College in Westerville, OH.** Clinicians will include **Bob Chilcott, Ann Howard Jones, and Emily Ellsworth**, who will also conduct the Honor Choir. Be on the lookout for more information regarding the upcoming conference: flyers will be distributed at upcoming OMEA and ACDA conventions, postcards will be sent to OCDA members in early winter, and the registration brochure will be mailed in April.

The 2005 OCDA Summer Conference was my last as Conference Coordinator. I am pleased to announce that Dr. Daniel Monek of Marietta College will be leading next year's outstanding conference committee. The conference is in very good hands, indeed. I would like to thank the OCDA Board for their wisdom and assistance during the past four years, as well as the numerous OCDA members and colleagues who jumped in to help in a myriad of ways. I would also like to thank the OCDA membership for being the friendly, committed, and musical people you are.

If you have questions about the 2006 conference, please contact Dr. Daniel Monek, OCDA Conference Committee Chair, at dmonek@marietta.edu, or (740) 376-4689.

Best,
Gayle Walker

2005 Summer Conference Coordinator



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OCDA Summer Conference

June 19-21, 2006
Otterbein College, Westerville, OH

OMEA Conference

January 26-28, 2006
Cleveland, OH

ACDA Central Division Conference

February 15-18, 2006
Chicago, IL

ACDA National Conference

January 31-February 3, 2007
Miami, FL

Spring 2006 Newsletter

In the Spring 2006 Newsletter you can look forward to articles from your:

- President
- Summer Conference Coordinator
- Retired Members R & S
- Senior High R & S Chair
- Jazz/Show Choir R & S Chair
- Male Choirs R & S Chair
- Female Choirs R & S Chair

(deadline January 15)

OCDA RETIREES

(if any of us ever fully achieve this status)

As your representative on the OCDA Board, I would like to hear from you with suggestions and/or concerns which should come before the Board. Do you have ideas for sessions at future summer conferences which would be especially relevant for retirees.

I would also like to attempt some type of program to mentor young conductors in their teaching environment or with other conducting endeavors such as a church or community choir. This could be as short or as long term as you prefer. Many of you have had outstanding careers and have a wealth of knowledge that could be shared with a young professional needing some assistance in rehearsal. We all remember how little conducting experience we had as we began and few of us knew enough about choral and rehearsal techniques to be really effective during the very early years of teaching.

Would you be willing to observe a rehearsal and give constructive criticism to the conductor? Would you be available to serve as a clinician during a rehearsal with a school, church, or community choir? If so, please respond to me via e-mail at <jgall0444@yahoo.com>. You may also call me at (614)891-0444. We will attempt to match your availability and areas of interest with young teachers who are seeking assistance in your general locale.

In your e-mail, please include:

- name, address, phone number, and e-mail address
- area(s) and level at which you prefer to assist
- elementary school/middle school/high school/church/community/etc.
- any other information which you feel would be helpful

It is not my intent to make this a difficult or long term situation for any volunteer. Some groups may have the finances to offer a small honorarium which could, at the very least, cover transportation costs. This would be entirely between you and the conductor with whom you would work.

Many of you may already be a mentor or doing some type of clinics with area schools and churches. Thanks for being involved and furthering the cause of outstanding choral conducting and teaching. Please let me know of your involvement, so that we may learn from your experiences.

Enjoy yourself! You earned it!
Jim Gallagher

FROM THE EDITOR

Greetings. Just a couple short notes:

1. Apologies for the timing of this newsletter. I ran into unexpected delays.
2. Your Repertoire and Standards Chairs (listed in the OCDA Leadership Roster) have been charged by the President with coming up with specific and relevant events for each area. Please contact them directly with your ideas and let them know what you think might be a useful activity, possibly including, but not limited to: clinic, concert, workshop, massed choir, honors choir, training session, roundtable.

Thanks.
Ron

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

To have your concert included here in the next issue of the OCDA News, please e-mail the editor, Ron Blackley, at: rblackle@ashland.edu

Saturday, December 3, 7:30 p.m.

Bellarmino Chapel, Xavier University
Cincinnati, OH (513) 745-3135
Advent Lessons and Carols
Free
Thomas Merrill, conductor

Saturday, December 3, 2005, 8:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 4, 2005, 4:00 p.m.
Epworth United Methodist Church, Toledo
MASTERWORKS CHORALE'S 34th SEASON
Welcome Christmas, Welcome Home

Dec. 8, 2005 8:00 p.m.

UD Chapel
Dayton, OH
University of Dayton Chorale

Friday, December 9, 8:00 p.m.

St. Boniface Catholic Church, Northside
Vocal Arts Ensemble of Cincinnati
Guests: Premieres of Indian Hill High

Saturday, December 10, 8:00 p.m.

St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, Anderson
Vocal Arts Ensemble of Cincinnati
Guests: Anderson High School Mixed Chorus

Saturday, December 10, 2005, 8:00 p.m.

Wagnall's Memorial – Lithopolis
Lancaster Chorale 'A Festive Yule!'
Tickets: \$12/\$10/\$6 (740.687.5855)
20th Anniversary Season

Sunday, December 11, 3:00 p.m.

St. Peter in Chains Cathedral, downtown
Vocal Arts Ensemble of Cincinnati
Guests: Cincinnati Children's Choir:
Jubilate and Lyric Choirs

Sunday, December 11, 2005

Finney Chapel, Oberlin
Oberlin College Musical and Oberlin Chamber Orchestra
Hugh Ferguson Floyd, conductor
Program includes Faure, *Suite from Pelleas and Mellisande*
and the Robert Levin edition of the Mozart *Requiem*

Sunday, December 11, 8:15 and 10:30 a.m.

Westlake United Methodist Church
WUMC Chancel Choir Britten Ceremony of Carols with Jocelyn
Chang, harp
free

Wednesday, December 14, 2005 6:30 p.m.

Warner Concert Hall
Oberlin College Singers Winter Concert
Program includes music of Viadana, Thomson, Gawthrop and
Hogan.

Wednesday, December 14 and Thursday, December 15, 7:00 p.m.

Hilliard Darby HS Performing Arts Center
Celebration Concerts
no charge

Thursday, December 15, 7:30 p.m.

Teays Valley HS's Holiday Concert

Sunday, December 18, 2005, 3:00 p.m.

Lutheran Church of Our Savior
155 Thruston Boulevard
Dayton, Ohio
MUSICA: LAUGHTER & TEARS: CONCERT II

2006

Sunday, January 22, 7:30 p.m.

Westlake United Methodist Church
Pendulum Percussion Duo: free

Saturday, January 28, 10:30 a.m.

OMEA performance at convention - Cleveland Ohio
Hilliard Darby HS Michael G. Martin, conductor
Lora L Moore, assistant conductor

Sunday, February 12, 4:00 p.m.

Westlake United Methodist Church
WUMC musicians Valentine Concert: free

Saturday, February 18

Teays Valley Classic Show Choir Invitational
Call (740) 983-5026 for group registration information.

Friday, February 24, 8:00 p.m.

St. Barnabas Episcopal Church, Montgomery
Vocal Arts Ensemble of Cincinnati

Saturday, February 25, 8:00 p.m.

CCM Corbett Auditorium, University of Cincinnati
Vocal Arts Ensemble of Cincinnati

Sunday, February 26, 2006, 4:00 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church, 222 N. Broad Street, Lancaster
Lancaster Chorale 'CIAO, Italia!'
Tickets: \$12/\$10/\$6 (740.687.5855)
20th Anniversary Season

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