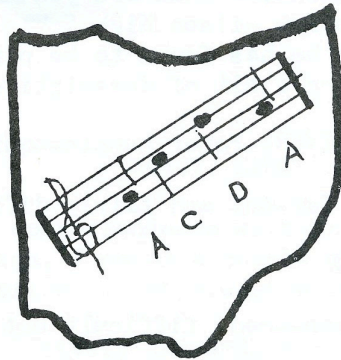


OHIO



NEWS

AFFILIATED STATE ASSOCIATION OF THE AMERICAN CHORAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION

Vol. 5, No. 4

ATTEND THE WORKSHOP/CONVENTION!

May 1973

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GREGG SMITH

at
HEIDELBERG COLLEGE

Tiffin, Ohio

July 31---August 3

O H I O A C D A

WORKSHOP/CONVENTION!!

Gregg Smith Vitae :

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Gregg Smith and his Singers have made four European tours, recording the motets of G. Gabrieli in St. Marks Cathedral, Venice, where Gabrieli was organist and composer. They have appeared in U. S. concerts with such musical giants as Stravinsky, Stokowski and Ernst Krenek.

Reviewers have said that his--their---performances were "literally stunning," "perfection in choralistry," "great musical events in this year's Edinburgh Festival," and exhibited "incredible musicianship, discipline, and devotion."

His over 30 record albums show his dedication to contemporary composers: Schoenberg, Stravinsky, Lalo Schifrin, Aaron Copland, and Irving Fine, as well as to Brahms, G. Gabrieli, Monteverdi and Wm. Billings, to American and International folk music, and, of course, to Charles Ives.

In response to my question in the April issue: "What are you doing that is interesting and unusual?", A. P. Van Iderstine of Woodrow Wilson High School in Youngstown has sent me the following list of selections which he has found to be particularly effective. He has done us a real favor, too, by including a bit of descriptive information on them.

IN THE QUIET NIGHT and CROSSING THE HAN RIVER--Peter Mennin--quite far-out and difficult

FOUR SLOVAK FOLK SONGS--Bartok--somewhat far-out and fairly difficult

PRAYERS OF STEEL--Paul Christiansen--HARD

BIRTH (from "The Redeemer")--Leland Sateren--med. difficult but absolutely lovely

THE LORD'S SUPPER--Lapin--a nice, medium-hard rock setting, very moving

RAINY DAYS--Larson--modern but not difficult

THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD GOD IS UPON ME--John Davye--quite hard, some wicked progressions, dissonance, "bad" cross-relations

CHRIST, THE FLEUR-DE-LIS--A. P. Van Iderstine--fairly easy)
A CHRISTMAS CARROLL " medium difficulty) all fairly modern
O CLAP YOUR HANDS " " ")

THE EVENING PRIMROSE--Benj. Britten--Absolutely beautiful, medium difficulty

O LET ME LIVE FOR TRUE LOVE--Boyd--rather odd and difficult, but cute

TWO OR THREE--Castelnuovo-Tedesco-- (same)

VIDENTES STELLAM and QUEM VIDISTIS, PASTORES--Poulenc--Christmas--rather difficult

FIFE AND DRUM--Herbert Bielawa--cute setting of "Pat-a-Pan," medium difficult

SWEET WAS THE SONG--Bielawa--a lovely piece, almost atonal, difficult in spots

I would imagine that Van would be glad to furnish you with even more information on the above selections if you were to write him.

My thanks to him for taking time to furnish us the list. After all, we're all in this together!!!

GRUBBS

SMITH

at

HEIDELBERG

GUEST SPOT

(Editor's note: While in correspondence with Mr. Van Iderstine regarding the music listed on the preceding page, I posed a couple of questions to him which, I am glad to say, resulted in the following article-ette for which we thank him .)

When I speak of new and relatively unheard-of composers and music, I'm not referring entirely to music of college and professional difficulty; although I must add that I don't think it hurts a high school choir to learn such music now and then. I'm talking also of music which is not necessarily difficult, but which is new, fresh, and written by people who are our contemporaries and who, like myself, will probably never be recognized among the "greats" of the musical world. There is good, fine, well-worth-the-time-and-effort music being written by us. There is some such which can be performed by junior high, or even, in a good school system, elementary choruses. There are some excellent unison and two-part things out, as well as SAB.

I do think a high school choir can present programs with some of this music included. I also think we have to ever remember we're performing for very ordinary, unmusical people who have come to our concerts primarily to be entertained. I thoroughly believe in a program well-rounded enough to include works spanning at least four hundred years--all the way from sixteenth-century madrigals and motets to contemporary works, including a bit of "pop."

I champion the new, I suppose, for three reasons: 1) because I believe a composer who writes something worthwhile ought to have the satisfaction of knowing it is performed at least a few times while he's still alive; 2) because I believe good new music not only deserves but MUST HAVE hearing by ordinary, unmusical audiences; and 3) naturally, because I'm one of the above. It's as simple as that, really.

A. P. Van Iderstine

* * * * *

Reserved for your contribution to GUEST SPOT

FROM PRESIDENT LARRY TAGG:

The Convention/Workshop Program and Registration Form are being included with this, the last issue of the OHIO ACDA NEWS for the fiscal year. Use the Registration Form !!! Extra copies can be had to give or to have sent to your friends and other prospects of your acquaintance. Contact Pres. Larry Tagg, U. of Dayton, 45469.

Constitution Revision material for OHIO ACDA is also being included. These items will update the Constitution and enable the organization to function more effectively. It is, therefore, imperative that you give it your consideration and mail in your vote as per the directions on the enclosure. The Board and the Constitution Chairman, George Wilson, have spent a great deal of time preparing the material. You can show your interest in the organization and your appreciation of their efforts by mailing in your vote promptly.

I have appointed Bruce S. Browne of Mt. Union College to be Chairman of Student Memberships. He will be contacting first our active members in colleges, although high school students also are eligible for membership. Dues for students are \$5 for the coming year; membership now will make students eligible to attend our summer convention (all new memberships apply to 1973-1974). High School directors in other states report many interesting projects with student members via CHORAL JOURNAL material for display and discussion.

(Editor's note: An increasing number of ACDA members at the college level are requiring membership on the part of music students in choral materials, methods, and conducting classes.)

Remember that Gregg Smith will be working with the entire convention attendance as a chorus--you will be participating, not just watching.

* * * * *

TELL US: What is sacred music?

Thought for the moment: Is the translation:
"Make a joyful NOISE unto the Lord?"

- - - - -

By the way, have you experimented with a Madrigal Christmas Program-Dinner?

THE EDITOR'S CORNER: (dal segno)

Sforzando:

State Supervisor of Music Education E. Richard Shoup has written a pungent reply to my article "Where Have All . . ." and has given permission to have it published in the CHORAL JOURNAL. I have sent it on to Wayne Hugoboom, sooooo, keep your eyes open for it, as I hope it will be accepted.

Dick speaks in his usual incisive way and we all should spend some time in self-examination--both music teachers and music teacher trainers.

Theme and Variations:

One of the current philosophies of education to which many institutions now subscribe is: EDUCATION FOR A LIFETIME OF LEARNING.

If we accept this as valid, what is the place of the following in the scheme of things--what do they provide that people can carry and use in their post-high school/post-college living? ::

Choral music of the Renaissance and Baroque?
(not to mention other "great" music)

The ubiquitous annual Spring musical?
(operetta, musical comedy, stage show)

The plethora of rock music for choirs?
(with amplified guitars and percussion)

The electronically enhanced & multi-media music?
(complete with glossolaly) (?)

The emerging Swing Choir?
(or more the "swinging choir")

The traditional robed choir?
(on the "rack," like organ pipes)

The "great music"--which is not sung in church?

The director who knows the "great music," but doesn't attempt to sing ANY of it in Church?

Expectant Pause: (Sorry, no musical term??)
You're not going to sit there idly and not react to the above, are you?

Tacet:
I don't hear anything from out there!

Luftpause:
My small vacation from the NEWS until Fall.