

OCDA NEWS

Volume X, Number 1
September 1990

BULLETIN OF THE OHIO CHORAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION

FROM THE OCDA PRESIDENT

My contribution to this edition is purposely short and takes the form of offering thanks to a number of people who have made the last year one of genuine pleasure for me as your president.

My gratitude:

To all who contributed time and expertise to the success of the summer conference in Youngstown.

To Beverlie Mayer for nine years of dedication, wisdom and love; a "We will miss you" cannot begin to express our gratitude.

To outgoing board members Margaret Mann and Kim Wigglesworth and to new board members Sandi Gesler, Ben Locke and Ed Maclary for their willingness to give time and leadership.

To outgoing treasurer Jerry Ulrich and to new treasurer Jay Mann for efficiently and accurately performing a job for which none of us has enough time.

To C. M. Shearer for a major contribution to the 1990 summer conference and for his hosting of the summer conference of 1991 at Kent State University.

And to William Osborne for his agreeing to edit the *OCDA News* — an enormous commitment of time to our organization. The new format and Bill's comments in this issue only hint at what we can expect from this knowledgeable colleague.

Wade Raridon
OCDA President

OCDA/ACDA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

1990

Saturday, September 22: Latin and Italian Diction Clinics; 9:30 A.M.-3:30 P.M.

Ohio University in Athens; Peter Jarjisian, clinician/Ben Locke, host

Forest Park High School in Cincinnati; William Bausano, clinician/David Bell, host

Heidelberg College in Tiffin; Jay Mann, clinician/Sandi Gesler, host

Hiram College in Hiram; Wade Raridon, clinician/Damaris Peters Pike, host

Saturday, October 13: Central Division Fall Board Meeting in Elkhart, Indiana

Saturday, October 20: A Conducting Workshop at The Ohio State University, Clayton Parr, host

1991

Thursday, February 7: An OCDA Reading Session at the OMEA Convention in Cleveland, 8:00-10:00 P.M., led by Richard Mathey

Saturday, February 16: A Workshop on Children's Voices at Capital University in Columbus; Lora Moore, host

Wednesday-Saturday, March 13-16: The ACDA National Convention in Phoenix, Arizona

Thursday-Saturday, July 18-20: The OCDA Summer Conference at Kent State University; C. M. Shearer, host

1992

July: The OCDA Summer Conference at the University of Cincinnati; Earl Rivers, host

THE OCDA SUMMER CONFERENCE 19-21 July 1990

OCDA members were welcomed to Youngstown State University for our annual summer conference by President Wade Raridon and members of the Office of University Outreach, particularly John R. Loch.

Pre-conference sessions dealing with the teaching of sightreading were conducted on Wednesday evening and Thursday morning by C. M. Shearer of Kent State University. The days which followed were filled with ideas, expertise and enthusiasm, as well as almost endless music-making.

Vice President Bob Mix had selected music for the bountiful reading sessions. That which included music for the elementary and junior high levels was led by Sandi Gesler and Lora Moore. Church music was introduced by Frank Jacobs, that for high school and beyond was led by Sandra Stegman and Gwen Burbaker, male and female voices by Dick Mathey, motets and madrigals by Bill Osborne, double chorus by John Drotleff and C. M. Shearer (these sung from the main floor and gallery of the spacious lobby in Bliss Hall), black spirituals by John Leman and Christmas music with harp by host Wade Raridon. Bob Mix himself introduced us to works which fell in the resulting cracks, appropriately bunched as "odds and ends."

Donald Neuen of the Eastman School of Music conducted rehearsals throughout the convention with spirit and finesse. Not only did he share his techniques and methods, but he applied them in a concert which we performed in the Butler Museum of American Art at noon on Saturday to a small but appreciative audience. Other performances were presented by the *Dana Madrigal Singers* of YSU on Friday evening, led by the omnipresent Wade Raridon, and *The Young and Alive* of West Branch High School in Beloit, directed by Kelly Scurich, our

board member for Vocal Jazz and Show Choirs. This followed the final luncheon and business meeting in the Ballroom of the Wick Pollock Inn early Saturday afternoon.

Thursday afternoon Peter Jarjisian presented an interest session on "Styles in Choral Music," including a discussion about diction which prompted President Raridon to announce the offering of one-day sessions in diction in the various regions of the state this fall [see the OCDA/ACDA calendar for specifics].

Other interest sessions included one by Jerry Ulrich on Friday morning dealing with the "Use and Abuse of the Piano: The Unaccompanied Choral Rehearsal." Sharing his own experiences with us, Jerry presented a convincing case for moving the piano out of the rehearsal hall before classes begin in the fall.

That afternoon Bill Osborne led a panel consisting of Donald Neuen, Ben Locke and Mary Fran McClintock in a discussion entitled "Do we have the vocal cart leading the musical horse?", or "Have we missed noticing the music by concentrating on how it is produced?" Spirited participation by several members of the audience underscored the emphasis of this convention on the meaning and understanding of text in the music we sing as co-equal parts of the total message to both performer and listener. Later Loren Veigel shared some choral warmups that have worked for him, leaving us with six pages of such ideas. Saturday morning Bob Mix offered us the opportunity to "wean your choral group away from musical Pablum," accompanied by appropriate examples.

Friday evening a festive dinner was held in the Ohio Room of the Kilcawley Center honoring Beverlie and Jack Mayer, the retiring editor and unofficial co-publisher of the

OCDA News [a fuller account follows].

Throughout the convention extensive exhibits were presented by Musical Resources of Toledo, Volkwein Brothers Music House of Pittsburgh, Stanton's Sheet Music of Columbus and Mollard Batons of Akron.

Mary Fran McClintock
OCDA Secretary

KUDOS FROM THE KEYSTONE STATE

Congratulations to OCDA on an excellent Summer Conference at Youngstown State University! It was obvious that a great deal of work went into this conference. I found the reading sessions of high quality, plentiful, and with a wide variety of materials; many of the interest sessions surpassed sessions I have attended at divisional and national events; and the challenging rehearsals with Don Neuen demonstrated a high quality of vocal ability among the participants. I hope that you will continue to welcome those of us from out-of-state. Thank you for three outstanding days of choral music!

Marvin Huls
Chair, Music Department
Seton Hill College
Greensburg, PA

OCDA News, the Bulletin of the Ohio Choral Directors Association, William Osborne, editor, is published quarterly from the editorial office at Denison University, Granville, Ohio. It is distributed without charge to members of the Association as well as to selected members and officers of the American Choral Directors Association. It is mailed from the post office in Granville, Ohio 43023.

HONORING BEV

On Friday evening of the summer conference a dinner was given to honor Beverlie Mayer upon her retirement as Editor of the OCDA News. A mini-roast followed the meal, with John Drotleff as Master of Ceremonies. Madonna Goss, Vera Smith and Mary Fran McClintock not only roasted Bev, but also delineated her many major contributions to OCDA. Jack Mayer, Bev's husband, who served so capably as her unofficial assistant, was duly roasted by Bob Mix.

President Raridon read letters to Bev from various ACDA officials: Gene Brooks, Executive Director; Diana Leland, National President; and William Schnell, Central Division President. Wade concluded with personal remarks of appreciation and presented Bev with a pair of Mollard batons in an engraved wooden case. As always, Bev was gracious in her acceptance of this beautiful gift.

Even if you were unable to attend the dinner for Bev, we know that you wish to join all of us in thanking her for her many hours of work and expertise as Editor of the OCDA News for the last nine years.

Madonna Goss
OCDA Historian

BEV'S RESPONSE

23 July 1990

Dear OCDA Members, Board, and Officers,

I am overwhelmed! How can a simple "thank you" be enough to show you how much I appreciate "Our/my Dinner"—all my friends there, the escort service, the orchid, the tremendous entertainment by good friends (I laughed until I cried)? Wow!

And then you climaxed it with a pair of Mollard batons and a beautiful engraved case. I wish I'd had them 30 years or so ago—maybe I would have directed more with my hands than my mouth.

We've come a long way—all of us. We've built a good organization with high ideals, manned by outstanding people. Keep climbing toward that beautiful star of perfection.

With hugs for all! I love you!

Bev Mayer

OCDA reserves the right to approve any applications for appearance and to edit all materials proposed for distribution.

FROM THE EDITOR

I would like to add my personal words of thanks and appreciation to those of Madonna. When Wade approached me about serving as Bev's successor, my instinct was to demur, knowing how demanding the role had been on Bev and Jack. I was also concerned about my ability to maintain her high standards. However, when I discovered how facilities available to me would make my life as Editor so much simpler than Bev and Jack could have envisioned, I was forced to relent. I only hope that I can produce a publication which you will find both functional and attractive.

I welcome suggestions and encourage you to send articles and information about relevant events. For the moment I plan to maintain the pattern of Bev's deadlines, which for this season will be September 10, December 10, February 4 and April 1.

I suspect that it may be easier for me to get the publication out soon after those deadlines because of the new manner of producing the News. I will create the raw copy on my office Macintosh, after which the director of our Office Services department will structure it using Pagemaker software, an amazing

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program which allows us to bypass the whole process of paste-up, except for ads and other camera-ready copy.

The result can then be printed in-house, folded mechanically and labelled by our professional personnel. It all sounds faintly like a dream and I certainly trust that it will work that well.

Bulk mailing has become increasingly lethargic and unpredictable, so our efficiency here may not translate into your receiving the **News** in a timely fashion.

Wade and I made an arbitrary decision to eliminate photographs in order to increase the ease with which the **News** is produced and to lower its cost considerably. Let us know if you have severe objections to the result. I hope that the "Here and There" column (debuting on this page) can become a useful bulletin board for the membership.

The new R & S column was suggested by Wade. We hope that Kelly's contribution will be only the first of many we can expect from those members of our board.

My responsibility will be that of getting the publication out more or less on schedule. Your responsibility will be to furnish the raw material through which we can keep ourselves informed about choral happenings across the state, sending it as far in advance of the deadlines as possible.

I regret that the tardy arrival of material from several contributors has delayed this issue to the point that it will undoubtedly arrive too late to inform you in advance of the happenings of the weekend of September 22-23.

Our new logo and format have been designed by Robert Seith, Denison's Advancement Communications Manager, to whom we owe a considerable debt of gratitude. I hope that you find the result distinctive.

William Osborne
Editor of the OCDA News

OSU MEN'S GLEE CLUB: 'ON TOP OF THE WORLD'

What better way to proclaim the honor visited upon one of our own than this headline from *The Columbus Dispatch* of 15 July 1990 which introduced an extensive article by Barbara Zuck, the paper's Music and Dance Critic, paraphrased excerpts from which follow:

"Glee" club, indeed. The 71 members of the Ohio State University Men's Glee Club have more reason that ever to live up to their name. On July 7 the chorus took top honors at the International Musical Eisteddfod in Llangollen, Wales. The club, conducted by James Gallagher, won the men's chorus competition by an unprecedented 20 points and went on to capture the real biggie—the "Choir of the World" title.

The initial phase of the competition included 132 choirs from 32

countries. To become Choir of the World, the Men's Glee Club had to beat out winners in the other competition categories. The OSU men became the first male choir to take the overall honor. Though the Llangollen Eisteddfod is merely 44 years old, for many it has become the most important choral competition in Europe.

The OSU Men's Glee Club was founded in 1875, performs several times a year and has toured nationally. However, it has never competed. "We really didn't know what to expect," said Gallagher. "I thought the men could hold their own, but when you go to England and Wales, there are choral groups everywhere, and they have a real tradition of singing. I think what won it for us was the beautiful, sustained pianissimo singing. The other groups

HERE AND THERE

September 23, 3:00 P.M., Mershon Auditorium, Columbus:
The OSU Men's Glee Club "Victory Celebration," James Gallagher, conductor (see the accompanying article for ticket information)

October 9, 8:00 P.M., Memorial Auditorium, Ohio University, Athens:
Figuralchor Stuttgart, Johannes Moesus, conductor, on its first US tour in an all-German program which will include Bach's *Jesu, meine Freude* (free admission)

November 17 and December 1, Grove City High School:
Ohio Honors Choir Auditions (for further information contact Robert E. Moore, 650 S. Campus Avenue, Oxford 45056)

February 12, 8:00 P.M., Memorial Auditorium, Ohio University, Athens:
Chanticleer (tickets at \$7 and \$9, with discounts for groups of 25 or more, will be available after October 1; 614/593-1780 from noon until 4 P.M.)

March 10, 8:00 P.M., Swasey Chapel, Denison University, Granville:
The King's Singers (tickets at \$15 will be available at the door; tickets at \$7.50 will be available after February 11 to OCDA members who reserve in advance either through the mail [Vail Series, Department of Music, Denison University, Granville, OH 43023] or by phone [614/587-6220])

didn't seem to have that. One of the judges critiqued us publicly. He was impressed with the consistency and the musical artistry. What they wanted, apparently, was strong emotion and sensitivity."

So, how can the OSU Men's Glee Club top becoming Choir of the World? Only by winning again next year. "We'd like to go again, of course," said Gallagher, who, with some justification, could call himself the Conductor of the World.

OSU's winning program, broadcast live by the BBC:

Handl	<i>In nomine Jesu</i>
Victoria	<i>Ave Maria</i>
Marshall	<i>An Eternal King</i>
Casals	<i>O vos omnes</i>
Tchesnokov	<i>Salvation belongeth to our God</i>
Nelson	<i>Behold man</i>

Many OCDA members will recall with pride and pleasure hearing that literature at the divisional convention in Grand Rapids last March. Although it seems unlikely that this issue of the **News** will reach you in sufficient time, Jim invites all OCDAers to a "Victory Celebration" in Mershon Auditorium on September 23 at 3:00 P.M. The program will include the pieces listed above as well as other literature presented on their European tour. The audience will also see a bit of the Llangollen performance via a BBC video. Tickets are available through the Mershon Ticket Office (614/292-2354): \$5.00 for adults, \$3.00 for students and senior citizens.

We of the OCDA certainly would want to affirm the sentiments of Donald Harris, director of the OSU School of Music, quoted in The Ohio State *Lantern* of 9 July 1990: "Their triumph is a great tribute to the University, adding greater luster to the prestige of the School of Music. But most particularly it represents a crowning achievement for Associate Professor Jim Gallagher."

SEARCH FOR CHILDREN'S CHORUSES

As State Chairperson for Children's Choruses, I thought that it might be helpful to update our OCDA list of children's choruses and their directors. If you are a director of a children's chorus or know of one, please photocopy this form, fill it out, and return it to me as soon as possible. I look forward to sharing program ideas and repertoire. Maybe we can arrange some exchange concerts as well. The possibilities are endless! I am anxious to hear from you!

Director's Name

Street, City, ZIP Code and Telephone

Name of the Chorus and Address, if different from that above

Return to: Lora Moore 2638 Hiawatha St., Columbus, OH 43211

R & S RECOMMENDATIONS: SHOWCHOIR REPERTORY

We're Doin' a Show

Words and music by David Nagy, arr. Jay Althouse (SATB, SAB or two-part with piano and optional instrumental accompaniment; Shawnee A1756)

This piece works well as a lively show opener. Often we need time to adjust to new surroundings, which this accomplishes with ease. Harmonically quite simple, the voice ranges are reasonable.

There is a speaking part which may be a bit too corny for your students. I suggest that you substitute a dance sequence. Choreography: This ought to be simple. Marching in different line sequences and using various hat movements ought to work.

Ain't She Sweet?

Words and music by Jack Yellen and Milton Ager, arr. Walter Rodby (SATB with piano and optional bass; Warner Brothers SC1960)

A piece which harkens back to the 1920s in style, it is basically homophonic with many half steps

creating dissonance most frequently between soprano and bass.

Ranges are for the most part reasonable, although the bass line calls for several low A's and G's. Choreography: Guys and girls can partner each other, the guys with hats, the girls with umbrellas. Since this is a stylized number, use the most popular steps of the flapper era.

Sing for You, America

Words and music by Barry Fasman and Sue Sheridan, arr. Kirby Shaw (SATB or SAB and piano with optional instrumentation; Hal Leonard Publishing 08663471)

A very positive and upbeat number whose message is that in America you can be anything you desire. The piece calls for different vocal combinations; the tenors need a solid high F; soprano, alto and bass split in the final chord. While the harmony is of medium difficulty for the average high school choir, the syncopation is difficult. Choreography: Use various occupational

stances and change them throughout. Make each pose sharp and precise.

Merry Christmas with Love

Words and music by Billy Smiley and Greg Davis, arr. Alan Billingsley (SATB, SAB or two-part; Jenson Publications 432-13224)

A very moving and sentimental piece which sends the message of Christmas to the forgotten and lonely people of the world. It is strophic, the harmony is easy to medium in difficulty with many repeated notes which demand that the students be attentive to intonation. Choreography: Use varied groups and keep movement minimal, slow and graceful.

Winter Wonderland

Words and music by Dick Smith and Felix Bernard, arr. Clay Warnick (SATB; Bregman, Vocco and Conn T9610A(9))

A good arrangement of this popular tune. Dissonance makes the harmonies difficult but manage-

able for the advanced high school choir. Ranges are normal. Choreography: Form a sleigh-like formation and have the students pretend that they are riding through a forest during the winter.

Kelly Scurich
OCDA Showchoir/Jazz Chair

A NEW CHORAL SOCIETY FORMED IN AKRON AREA

During the final days of Summer 1990 a small, ambitious and energetic group of choral music enthusiasts from Cuyahoga Falls, Munroe Falls, Tallmadge, Silver Lake and Stow committed themselves to the formation of a new choral arts organization in the Akron area.

This organization has been incorporated as the Central Summit County Choral Society and has named two OCDA Board members

to key positions. Frank Jacobs (Church Music Chair of OCDA) has been appointed Music Director and Conductor for the four-concert inaugural season of the Society's first organized ensemble, The Masterworks Chorale. OCDA President Wade Raridon has been named one of the nine trustees of the corporation.

The first two concerts by the 110-voice Masterworks Chorale will present *A German Requiem* by Johannes Brahms on October 27 and Handel's *Messiah* on December 15. Both concerts will be given in the Cuyahoga Falls High School Auditorium.

Before taking this position with the Central Summit County Choral Society Jacobs served as Director of Music at the First United Methodist Church of Cuyahoga Falls for ten years. Earlier he had taught for five years each at DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana and at the University of Akron.

Linda R. Maynard

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OCDA TO SPONSOR OCT. WORKSHOPS IN CONDUCTING

On October 20 OCDA will sponsor a choral conducting workshop at the School of Music of The Ohio State University in Columbus. This hands-on event will give conductors an opportunity to work with a demonstration group and receive feedback from clinicians concerning conducting and rehearsal techniques.

Each participant will conduct a 10- to 15-minute rehearsal and receive immediate feedback from one clinician. A videotape of that rehearsal will then be viewed by the participant and a second clinician.

The workshop will be in two parts: That from 9:30 A.M. until noon will be for undergraduate student conductors. The Harding High School Choir from Marion (Lucinda Houck, director) will serve as the demonstration chorus; clinicians will be Richard Mathey of Bowling Green State University and Clayton Parr of Miami University.

The second session, from 1:00 until 3:30 P.M., will be for graduate student conductors and post-graduate professionals. Clinicians

for this session will be Ernest Hisey of Cleveland State University and Elmer Thomas of the University of Cincinnati.

Registration will be limited to 15 in each part of the workshop. The fee (\$10 for undergraduate conductors, \$15 for graduate and professional conductors, \$3 for observers) will include participation, a VHS video-cassette (for participants), coffee and donuts.

Further information and a registration form is being sent in a separate mailing by host Clayton Parr. Please take advantage of this opportunity to fine-tune your conducting skills and share in the ideas of others by attending this clinic either as a conductor or observer.

WOMEN'S CHOIR FESTIVAL SET

The Saint Mary's College Department of Music will host the sixth annual High School Women's Choir Festival on November 15 and 16, 1990.

Each participating choir will be asked to perform a program of 15-25 minutes. There will be no

competition as such, but each choir will receive written evaluations from two commentators and a third commentator will work with each choir for 10-15 minutes following their performance. Commentators will be Dr. Douglas Amman, Director of Choral Activities and Professor of Music at Ball State University, Muncie, Indiana; Dr. Hilary Apfelstadt, Associate Professor of Music and Director of the Women's Choir at the University of North Carolina, Greensboro; and Dr. Michael Schwartzkopf, Director of Choral Activities and Associate Professor of Music at Illinois State University.

The choirs will perform for each other during the morning and afternoon sessions. Lunch will be provided for all participants. The day will include a tour of the campus and a performance by the Saint Mary's College Women's Choir. There will be opportunities for selected students from participating schools to take a private piano or voice lesson with a Saint Mary's College faculty member.

For further information contact Dr. Nancy L. Menk, Director of Choral Activities at St. Mary's, 219/284-4634/32.

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