

From Your President

Who Is Serving Whom?

AS I WRITE my final article as the president of OCDA, I am struck by how quickly the last two years have passed. I am preparing for my final conference as president and looking forward to sharing time with friends and colleagues from throughout the state. I am excited to bring Simon Carrington from Toulouse, France, to the great state of Ohio for all three days so that he may share his expertise and musical knowledge as well as his wit and humor. I am pleased that Howard Helvey will deliver two excellent clinics on church music and the creative process of composition. Kristina Caswell-MacMullen will share two thought provoking sessions on artistry and movement in performance and building community within the choral ensemble. Amy Johnston-Blosser will share her wonderful knowledge of literature selection for all choral ensembles. Each of these will prove to be exciting, engaging, educational, and especially motivational for all in attendance.

But, I must admit that as excited as I am to hear and see what our conference has in store, it will be bittersweet as it marks the end of my term as your president. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time in this position but more than that, I cannot believe the ways in which it has helped me to grow. We find ourselves in positions such as this most often because another in our field asks us if we would be “willing to serve.” As I look back over the years I have spent on the board of OCDA—first as region chair, then membership chair, president-elect, and now president—and as I look ahead to the new role I will assume on July 1, I find it somewhat ironic that we are approached to assume roles such as these in order to “serve others.” I say this because this experience has shown me that it is really the person serving who receives the most benefit.

In the last two years, I have met some of the most prominent individuals in our field. I have been able to share conversation with them one on one over coffee or lunch—not just listen to their teaching from afar. I have traveled across the country to be part of leadership experiences I would never have thought possible. I have gained new friendships with colleagues I had only known tangentially in the past and some I would never have met otherwise. I have been permitted to share my own experiences and knowledge with you



OCDA President Dara Gillis

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on every subject from literature selection to traveling with students. Indeed, as I list here all the ways in which I have gained and grown in this position, it's clear to me that I'm the one who has been served.

We are all busy people. It is difficult to find a choral director who does not burn the candle at both ends and maintain a schedule that

would frighten even the most driven type-A personality. However, I can honestly say, if given the opportunity to go back in time and accept this responsibility again, I would not hesitate.

I thank you for the chance to serve you. I encourage each of you to take on similar service opportunities should they be offered to

you. You will be amazed at the professional and personal growth you are afforded through the experience. I hope that you finish your spring in wonderful, musical ways and I look forward to seeing you June 22–24 on the Otterbein campus for what I know will be an exciting and rewarding three days of growth through music. ♦

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President-Elect Loren C. Veigel

IN THE “SPRING” of my life, I stumbled into a number of fortunate decisions. Having been raised by two wonderful parents and given every encouragement to pursue my musical aspirations, and inspired by my organ instructor and high school choral director, I changed my plans to become an architect, selecting vocal music education instead. Next, I chose Mount Union College for my undergraduate degree; as it happened, I sang with the Mount Union Choir under Cecil Stewart, who had created there a mini–St. Olaf in Ohio. I was a freshman; he was in his last year

as director. Then, I sang and studied conducting with Bruce Browne, just then finishing his doctorate in one of the nation’s first conducting programs under Rodney Eichenberger. This was the greatest good fortune of all. Bruce was deeply committed to the new American Choral Director’s Association, and bundled us into a college van to head off to each convention. There, I fell in love with this wonderful professional organization, and it’s been one of the great love affairs of my life!

During the “Summer” of my life, as I strove to grow as a music edu-

cator and choral director, ACDA was there for me each and every year. I read the *Journal* cover to cover monthly (every one is still on my bookshelf!); I built a base of treasured, life-long colleagues through our own state conferences. My ACDA friends were always there for me: to host a tour choir, to suggest repertoire, to serve as choral clinicians, to share stories and ideas. One of my Mount Union colleagues and friends, Jim Feiszli, foresaw the future potential of the Worldwide Web, and helped begin




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March 22
April 19
April 26

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Friday, March 20 - Monday, March 23 | *Performance on Sunday, March 22*
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National Youth Choir - Anton Armstrong

Friday, April 17 - Monday, April 20 | *Performance on Sunday, April 19*
National Youth Choir - Lynne Gackle
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I suppose "Fall" has now arrived. (It's *surely* not "Winter" yet, at least in my estimation!) Having retired after thirty-one wonderful years teaching music and directing high school choirs, I now enjoy working with a talented and dedicated community choir as well as dabbling in the tour business with Witte Travel. My long-term relationship with ACDA continues and has matured. I am privileged, delighted, and honored to be serving as State President for OCDA over the next two years. My opportunity to return service to my colleagues and this great organization is truly a gift to me. Feel free to contact me at any time to let me know how I can help you.

Over the seasons of my life, I have been nourished consistently and increasingly by ACDA. Serving as Ohio Treasurer early in my career, I sent packets of checks to Wayne Hugoboom's front porch in Florida, and collected conference fees in college dormitories each summer, where I also handed out linens! Goodness, my heart swelled with ACDA pride recently when, seated in the Mormon Tabernacle, we heard Tim Sharp report our na-



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tional membership at 21,000! ACDA resources have grown with the membership. The organization has improved in every way. Having been around as long as I have, I've witnessed the way ACDA has affected the very style and quality of choral singing and literature throughout our nation, and is now beginning to do so globally.

My advice? Grab your ACDA resources, and use them! Make sure, this year, you let one other non-ACDA colleague or new teacher know about *our* ACDA, and bring them with you to summer conference. See you at Otterbein, and, once again, thank you for the chance to serve you. ♦

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Elections

William Zurkey, Past President

THE OCDA ELECTION BALLOT for 2015 will be coming your way this month. The national ACDA office in Oklahoma City will open Ohio elections on May 12 and close on May 26. Each member will be invited to peruse the candidates on an email blast from the national office. Just follow the instructions and cast your vote for the future leaders of our incredible organization. Have your membership card available with your ID number. As a member of Ohio Choral Directors Association you have a re-

sponsibility to vote for the candidate that you believe will best serve our organization. You will find complete biographies and pictures of each candidate in the election email.

In this year's election you will find two fine candidates for President-Elect: **Rich Schnipke**, from Xavier University, and **Dan Monek**, from Marietta College. The position of Secretary is also open this year. **Brandon Moss**, Choral director at Central Crossing High School in Grove City, and

Greg Ramsdell, Heidelberg University are your candidates. There are three regional representative positions this year. From the Northeast Region: **Tyler Skidmore**, Medina HS, and **Max Jackson**, Garrettsville United Methodist Church, are your candidates. Candidates from the Southwest include: **Jeremy Jones**, Miami University, and **KellyAnn Nelson**, Cincinnati BoyChoir. And finally from the South Central Region: **Keith Tankersley**, Delaware City







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Schools, and **Zeb Highben**, Muskingum University. Once again, you will find their complete bios and pictures online during the election which runs from May 12 through

May 26. Don't forget to vote!

The 2015 Distinguished Service Award winner will be announced at the Tuesday business meeting luncheon during the OCDA Sum-

mer Conference. If you haven't registered, please take the time to complete the registration. It will be a great conference. See you in Westerville at Otterbein University! ♦

OCDA News, the official publication of the Ohio Choral Directors Association, is published three times annually and is distributed without charge to members of the Association as well as to selected members and officers of the American Choral Directors Association. Distribution is by PDF file that is e-mailed and posted at ohiocda.org. OCDA reserves the right to determine inclusion of materials submitted and to edit all materials proposed for distribution.

Copy and Ad Submission Deadlines: September 15 for the Fall Issue, January 15 for the Winter Issue, and April 15 for the Spring Issue.

Advertising Rates: a full-page ad is \$135 per issue, a half-page ad is \$80 per issue, and a quarter-page ad is \$45 per issue. A 15% discount is offered on the purchase of three consecutive ads; other discounts are available. Please contact the editor for exact ad sizes and other specifications.

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2015 Summer Conference

June 22-24, 2015

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Simon Carrington was Professor of Choral Conducting at Yale University and Director of the Yale Schola Cantorum from 2003 to 2009, and, before this, Director of Choral Activities at the New England Conservatory of Music. Prior to coming to the United States, he was a creative force for twenty-five years with the internationally acclaimed British vocal ensemble The King's Singers, which he co-founded at Cambridge University. He keeps up an active schedule as a freelance conductor and choral clinician, leading workshops and master classes around the world.

Howard Helvey is among the most widely published composers of his generation. Awarded the international choral-composition first prize in 2006 by the John Ness Beck Foundation, his hundreds of works are published by over twenty major American and British companies, and are regularly performed and recorded throughout the world. Mr. Helvey also conducts (and co-founded) the professional Cincinnati Fusion Ensemble, and in 1998 was appointed as organist/choirmaster of historic Calvary Episcopal Church in Cincinnati.



Kristina Caswell MacMullen serves as Assistant Professor of Music and Associate Director of Choral Studies at The Ohio State University, where she conducts the Symphonic Choir, the Women's Glee Club and instructs both undergraduate and graduate students in the areas of conducting and choral pedagogy. She is featured on the DVD "Conducting-Teaching: Real World Strategies for Success" published by GIA (2009), and her editions for treble choir are published by Musicatus Press and Boosey & Hawkes.

Amy Johnston Blosser is the National Chair for Repertoire and Standards for ACDA. In her twelfth year as Choral Director at Bexley High School, Blosser's choirs have performed at state and divisional ACDA conferences numerous times and have toured throughout the United States and Europe. She has been an adjudicator and guest conductor throughout Ohio and the Midwest and was recently selected to serve as a Conducting Fellow for the 2015 International Conductors Exchange Program to Sweden.



Christine Jordanoff, this year's Children's Honor Choir Director, is Professor Emerita at the Mary Pappert School of Music at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, PA where she served for 41 years in a variety of prominent roles, including Director of Choral Organizations and Chair of Music Education. She also recently retired after her 28th season as Artistic Director of the Children's Festival Chorus, a 150-voice, 3-tiered ensemble of children ages 8-15 that is in residence at Duquesne where it provides a "living laboratory" for the Music Education majors.

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Fill out the registration form and return as indicated below. The registration must be postmarked by June 6, 2015, in order for the pre-registration fees to apply. After June 6, a higher fee structure is in place (see below). Reading session packets cannot be guaranteed for those who do not pre-register by the June 6 deadline. A refund will be made if a written cancellation is received by June 6, 2015. After that date a deduction of \$80.00 will be made.

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Mail payment and Registration Form to: Brandon L. Moss, OCDA Summer Conference Coordinator, 1759 Canvasback Lane, Columbus OH 43215. E-mail or call Brandon with questions: ocdaconference@gmail.com, 614-499-8089. Make checks payable to the **Ohio Choral Directors Association**.

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_____ \$89 non-member spouse (does not include membership)
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_____ \$104 retired member
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_____ Website

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June 2015

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June 22–24, 2015, Columbus, OH

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Retired

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