



Georgia Newsletter

Number 2

October, 1982

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

The major objective of ACDA is to encourage the finest in choral music by promoting its development in all ways including performance, composition, publication, and research. Personally, ACDA encourages my growth in two ways: 1) The Choral Journal with its informative articles and music reviews, and 2) the conventions where ideas are shared and explored, problems are discussed, and one hears the finest of choral singing.

The site of our third annual state convention will be the lovely campus of Woodward Academy. The program will take place in the auditorium of Richardson Hall, the new Fine Arts Building, a room which was chosen for its excellent acoustics. We wish to express our appreciation to Headmaster Don Wolf and President Gary M. Jones for allowing us the use of their facilities.

The program for the convention is included in this newsletter, the format offers a variety of listening and learning opportunities as well as time for socializing. At the risk of going over budget, the officers of our State organization have printed an attractive brochure (which has already been mailed), arranged for a festive luncheon, and published a program. We also want to present each performing choir with a beautiful plaque denoting their excellent achievement.

In short, we are investing more money than ever before to make our convention a first class happening. We hope that the convention program will be attractive enough to net 100 registrations which is forty-five percent of our state membership. Therefore, in order for our convention to break even, we need all committee chairpersons to personally invite four or five colleagues to attend. We need all college choral conductors to bring at least two college students to the convention. For my part, I plan on writing twenty-five personal invitations to non-members who are making choral contributions on a community or church level. If you cannot attend due to other commitments, but wish to show your support, I urge you to send the \$10 registration fee as a TAX DEDUCTIBLE GIFT.

For those who have spent hours of preparation to perform and lecture at a convention, the greatest disappointment is to have a small audience. So, give yourself a "choral shot in the arm." Join old friends and make new ones at your 1982 ACDA State Convention. Fill out the pre-registration form today!! Remember, pre-registration includes the luncheon; registration at the door does not.

Remember also that, beyond our own convention, the GMEA State

Convention will be held at Columbus, Georgia on January 20-22. ACDA member Glenn Halsey, GMEA State Choral Chairman, has planned many exciting concerts and lectures. The All-College Chorus is slated to perform at the convention under the baton of Weston Noble. Professor Noble is one of the most prominent choral conductors in the country. Mark your calendars now and watch for information from GMEA and J. C. Boehm who is the Organizing Chairperson of this event.

FROM PRESIDENT COLLEEN KIRK

The following message was received in a memo from Colleen Kirk, National ACDA President. Read and heed if it applies to you:

"There is a serious need to inform our National Office as soon as there is a change of address. The increase in postal rates makes mailing The Choral Journal alarmingly expensive. For each Journal which cannot be delivered to an ACDA member whose address has changed, ACDA is billed each month by the postal service. The cost of each copy of The Choral Journal which cannot be delivered exceeds \$1.50 (including postage): The total bill last year for Journals which could not be delivered because addresses had been changed without notification to our National Office was astronomical. Please help disseminate this information and urge all ACDA members to notify our National Office immediately when an address is changed!"

NEW CALLAWAY PROFESSOR APPOINTED

We would like to introduce you to Dr. Ned R. DeJournett who has been named Callaway Professor of Music at Georgia Southwestern College. He comes to us from the

University of Arkansas at Little Rock where he has been Choral Music Director since 1969. Dr. DeJournett received his PhD from Florida State University.

Dr. DeJournett is no stranger to the ACDA Southeast region. Before moving to Little Rock, he served as Choral Music Director for Lake Worth High School in Lake Worth, Florida. He has adjudicated and conducted choral festivals in Florida, Alabama, and West Virginia as well as Arkansas. Additionally, he has been active as Music Director for churches in Ohio, Florida, and Arkansas. He has been an active member of ACDA since 1960. Dr. DeJournett will serve as Choral Music Conductor for Georgia Southwestern, and he will also teach Applied Voice and Music Education.

HASKELL BOYTER SCHOLARSHIP ESTABLISHED

The Georgia State University Department of Music is proud to announce the establishment of the Haskell Boyter Choral Scholarship.

Haskell Boyter (June 19, 1907-October 23, 1976) began his teaching career in Atlanta, Georgia, where he was employed by the Atlanta Board of Education from 1933 until his retirement in 1972. During this time, he directed several high school music programs and, in 1948, was made Director of Education Broadcasting, a position he held until his retirement. During his forty-nine year career as an educator, singer, conductor, clinician, church musician, and broadcaster, Haskell Boyter became a prominent figure in the cultural life of Atlanta. He founded the Atlanta Choral Guild in 1939 and directed it for twenty-five years until his retirement when he was named Director Emeritus. Mr. Boyter was a member, and in many in-

stances, an officer of professional and civic organizations including the American Choral Directors Association (he was our fourth state president, 1968-1970), Music Educators National Conference, Georgia Music Educators Association, and the Georgia Music Teachers Association.

The Haskell Boyter Scholarship will be awarded annually to a Georgia State University junior or senior music major with a concentration in Choral Music Education. The award will provide the recipient with a full tuition scholarship for an entire academic year. A plaque in memory of Haskell Boyter engraved with the name of the scholarship recipient will be placed in the choral rehearsal room.

A brochure which announces the Haskell Boyter Choral Scholarship in detail may be received on request from the Georgia State University Department of Music, University Plaza, Atlanta, Georgia 30303 (404/658-2349). Contributions to this fund by friends of Haskell Boyter are most welcome.

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

I have been asked to write, for my "notes from the editor," a few paragraphs about Britten's War Requiem. I am flattered by the request, but I am awed at the prospect of attempting to convey in a few words what has taken others volumes to say. Clearly, the ultimate substance of any work of this magnitude can be conveyed only through its own sounds. However, a commentator can tell you something of the way in which a work is put together, and this knowledge can enhance the listening experience; and it is with faith in this premise that I offer the following.

The War Requiem was commissioned for the festival celebrating

the consecration of St. Michael's Cathedral in Coventry on May 30, 1962. Restoration had just been completed on the Cathedral after its destruction by German bombs during World War II, and this fact undoubtedly added profound dimensions to the first performance.

Britten set the entirety of the traditional Latin text of the Missa pro Defunctis in his Requiem. Following the various sections of text, however, he added poems by Wilfred Owen, an English poet who was killed in action, at the age of twenty-five, just seven days before the armistice that ended World War I. Mr. Owen's war poetry is not typical of the time insofar as it does not speak of deeds performed for the glory of God and country. Rather, it speaks of what men had unforgivably been made to do to one another. His thoughts are those not only of an humane officer who felt he could offer no hope to the men whom he served but also those of a human being who felt a deep sense of commitment to try and speak for the suffering masses in all wars who were unable to convey for themselves the futility of armed conflict to succeeding generations.

Britten, by inserting Owen's poems into the text of the Mass, has not really "troped" it in a medieval sense which would presume the addition of text for the purpose of amplifying the liturgy. Rather, what he has done is to place side by side seemingly disparate passages in such a way as to force us to see the relations between the two. Ultimately, the listener begins to sense that both sets of texts address the same theme, that of death pre-ordained but inseparable from grief when associated with man's inhumanity to him-

self, yet, in spite of all, associated with forgiveness and peace. The complex of ideas inspired by the two texts so combined conveys a message which speaks not only to the mourners of earlier wars but also--since the fear of war is as pervasive now as it ever was--directly to us.

Britten uses a large assemblage of performers to communicate the message of his War Requiem: Soprano, tenor, and baritone soloists, a mixed chorus, a boys choir, a full symphony orchestra, a chamber orchestra, and an organ. He deploys these forces in three distinct planes representing three levels of existence. The two male soloists perform only with the chamber orchestra and sing only the text of Owen's poems. They represent two soldiers who are forced to live and react to violent circumstances in the world of now. The Mass text is conveyed primarily by the soprano soloist, full chorus, and full orchestra. They are the forces which deliver the formal and universal expressions of mourning and petitions for deliverance. The boys choir sings selected sections of the Mass text and is accompanied only by organ. These forces project the sense of innocent mystery and purity associated with voices in an infinite world beyond earthly existence. All of the forces are united near the end of the work in a symbolic synthesis of these three spheres of influence.

Britten prefaced his score with a motto taken from Owen's writings which reads as follows: "My subject is War, and the pity of War. The Poetry is in the pity. All a poet can do today is warn." For the warning to be heeded, it must be heard. We encourage all Georgia ACDA members to avail

themselves not only of their coming convention but also of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and Chorus performance of the War Requiem (November 11-13) with which it is associated. If possible, try to study the work before the performance, as the resultant experience will be enhanced in manifold proportions. We also encourage those of you for whom it is possible to hear Robert Shaw's lecture on "The Text of Britten's War Requiem" which will be delivered in Cannon Chapel at Emory University at 4:00 PM on November 7, as he will undoubtedly provide insights such as could be revealed only by a dedicated, sensitive, and scholarly conductor. Further, we encourage you to encourage everyone within your sphere of influence to listen to any valid performance of the work. Beyond that, let us all hope that we learn to "hear" it for the comprehensive scope and depth of its meaning. The choral art is unique for its ability to communicate messages such as these directly. Let us all learn to do it better by getting together to learn from the best among us. See you at the convention.

TRIBUTE TO FORMER PRESIDENTS

We honor those who have given so many hours to the development and progression of our ACDA state organization.

PAST PRESIDENTS:

Robert Lowrance, Jr.	1961-1964
Don C. Robinson	1964-1966
James E. Dooley	1966-1967
Haskell L. Boyter	1967-1971
Max Peterson	1971-1973
Hampton Kicklighter	1973-1977
Ada Weaver	1977-1979
James Bohart	1979-1982

1982 STATE ACDA CONVENTION PROGRAM
Saturday, November 13
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Woodward Academy, College Park, Georgia
Alan McClung, Host

- 9:00 Convention Registration: Lobby of Richardson Hall
9:45 Slide Show Presentation: History of ACDA - Georgia Choirs
10:00 Concert I: The Young Singers of Callanwolde
"What can we expect of young voices"
Stephen J. Ortlip, Conductor
10:30 Mini-Reading Session I:
Ira Pittman, Accompanist Roswell High School
John C. Boehm, Atlanta Junior College
10:50 Concert II: Fayette County High School Select Chorus
Janice Folsom, Conductor
11:20 Break
11:30 Lecture-Demonstration: "Sight-Reading Techniques"
Woodward Academy Choirs (5-12)
Alan McClung, Conductor-Clinician
12:30 A Musical Luncheon: Remarks by John B. Haberlin, Ga. ACDA Pres.
Vocal Ensemble Presentations:
West Georgia Chamber Singers
Bruce Borton, Conductor
Lithia Springs High School Barbershop Quartet
Carolyn Hansard, Conductor
Girls Ensemble from "Peach"
Westwood High School Show Choir
Kathleen Vande Berg, Conductor
1:45 Concert III: Mercer University-Atlanta Concert Choir
Michael O'Neal, Conductor
2:15 Lecture: "Church Music"
Carlton Young, Candler School of Theology
2:40 Mini-Reading Session II:
James Braswell, University of Georgia
James McRaney, Cross Keys High School
Lee Barrow, South Georgia College
3:00 Lecture: "Benjamin Britten and the War Requiem"
Larry Wyatt, President Elect ACDA Southern Div.
3:30 Concert IV: Eagle Revue Show Choir
Tri-County High School
Alice Bochenko, Conductor
4:00 Social Hour

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

6:00 Dinner (Location TBA)

8:30 Robert Shaw and the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and Chorus
performance of Benjamin Britten's War Requiem

REGISTRATION FEE: \$10 - Members
\$8 - Student/Senior Members
\$15 - Non-Members

ALL PRE-REGISTRATIONS INCLUDE LUNCHEON TICKET;

Registration at the door does not.

ALL WAR REQUIEM TICKETS MUST BE PURCHASED SEPARATELY

**PRE-REGISTRATION FORM
ACDA State Convention - Georgia Chapter**

Please accept my registration fee for the ACDA State Convention, November 13, 1982 at Woodward Academy, College Park, Georgia.

Pre-Registration

- () ACDA Member\$10
- () ACDA Spouse\$10
- () Student or Retired Member\$ 8
- () Non-member\$15
- Optional - B. Britten "War Requiem" - Robert Shaw and ASO
- () Group rate ticket\$10.50

Please mail form to: Ms. Beth Brown
3072-E Spring Hill Road
Smyrna, Georgia 30080

Do Not Fill In
Received _____
Ck. No. _____
Date _____

PRE-REGISTRATION includes the luncheon.
REGISTRATION at the door does not include the luncheon.

I enclose my check money order payable to **ACDA-Georgia Chapter** in the amount of \$ _____ to cover items indicated above.

NAME (print) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

TELEPHONE NUMBERS (home) _____ (work) _____

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