



Georgia Newsletter

VOL. 4

No. 3

Spring 1986

CONVENTION ISSUE

The 1986 Georgia ACDA Convention is scheduled to be held July 29-30 at Grace United Methodist Church in Atlanta. Registration will begin at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday with the opening session and concert scheduled for 3:30 p.m. Activities will conclude at 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday. The convention will immediately follow the one and one-half day presentation of CELEBRATION II by Hinshaw Music.

Dr. Charles Hirt, a former national president of ACDA and a distinguished member of the choral music profession, will be the featured convention clinician. His Tuesday evening session, "Choral Development Through Choral Literature," will feature the first Georgia ACDA Directors' chorus. The session will focus on rehearsal techniques and style.

Other interest sessions will be presented by Georgia ACDA members who will address the topics of working with children's choirs, sightreading techniques, development of good choral tone, selecting appropriate literature, music for small ensembles with unusual combinations of voices, music for chorus and handbells, and score analysis. Mini-sings will be devoted to music reading sessions.

Featured performers will be vocal and choral students participating in the summer Governor's Honors Program sponsored by Georgia State Department of Education. The students will be under the direction of Jeff Johnson who is choral director at Marietta High School. Other groups presently scheduled to perform include The Chancel Choir of First Baptist Church in Marietta, Posey Starkey, conductor, and The Mercer University (Atlanta) Community Singers, conducted by Dr. Michael O'Neal.

No special convention housing designations or arrangements have been made; however, assistance in finding housing will be provided by J.C. Boehm and the registration committee if so requested on the preregistration form which may be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

Members of the convention planning committee are Beth Brown, Jim Bohart, John Habermen, Jeff Johnson, Suzanne Shull, and Ann Jones, who serves as chairperson. Dr. Jones shared the following comments concerning the summer convention: "The committee has made a point of trying to identify your needs and provide you with some ideas which might help you. All conductors in all situations will find something which will be of benefit. Come and enjoy all the new music that Hinshaw will present in the sessions prior to the start of our convention and then stay and get some new ideas to help make the music that you choose work better. It is an investment in yourself that we encourage you to make! See you in July in Atlanta!"

CHARLES HIRT To Be Featured Convention Clinician

Charles Hirt is known and honored worldwide among university, school, and church musicians for his extraordinary contributions to choral art.

As Emeritus Professor of Music in the School of Performing Arts at the University of Southern California, Dr. Hirt is active throughout the country as a conductor and lecturer. He was chosen to conduct the 1000-voice Honor Choir for the Opening and Closing Ceremonies of the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles, and more recently, has been invited to conduct during the rededication ceremonies for the

Statue of Liberty, in addition to being in charge of planning for choral participation in these events.

Dr. Hirt has performed under the auspices of the U.S. State Department in Europe and Israel, and under a Ford Foundation grant in Russia and eastern Europe.

The recipient of numerous honors and several honorary degrees, Dr. Hirt's professional affiliations include ASCAP, MENC, MTNA, Choral Conductor's Guild of California and the American Choral Directors Association, of which he is a founder and life member, former National President, and member of the Board of Directors.

Tentative Convention Schedule

Pre-Convention Activities

July 28-29 CELEBRATION II presented by Hinshaw Music

Tuesday, July 29

- 1:00-5:00 Registration
- 1:00-4:00 GA ACDA DIRECTORS' CHORUS REHEARSAL.
Bill Caldwell, chairperson.
- 2:00 Board Meeting. Beth Brown, presiding.
- 3:30 OPENING SESSION AND CONCERT
- 4:15 SIGHT READING TECHNIQUES WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON THE MIDDLE SCHOOL SINGER.
Millie Turek and Cindy Conner Lee, clinicians.
- 5:00 Break
- 5:30 CONVENTION DINNER. (To be catered by Lynn Brown and served at the church. Included in the registration fee.)
- 6:45 CONCERT. Mercer University Community Singers, Dr. Michael O'Neal, conductor. Program will include Bernstein's "Chichester Psalms."
- 7:30-9:30 CHORAL DEVELOPMENT THROUGH CHORAL LITERATURE. Dr. Charles Hirt, and the GA ACDA Directors' Chorus.
Program:
Kyrie Eleison Victoria
Sing Unto God Handel
O Schone Nacht Brahms
Three Gypsy Songs Brahms
Sing We Noel Chesnokov
Flee, O Flee From Love's Desire di Lasso
Dark Night of the Soul Surinach

Wednesday, July 30

- 8:30 Late Registration
- 9:00 CHORAL WARM-UPS, Part I.
- 9:15 DEVELOPING CHORAL TONE.
Jacquie Holcombe, clinician.
- 10:00 MINI-SING. Music reading session.
- 10:15 CHILDREN'S CHOIRS. Cheryl Rogers, clinician.
MAKING A MAJOR WORK ACCESSIBLE FOR YOUR CHOIR, Part I. Alan McClung, Michael O'Neal, Ann Jones, clinicians.
- 11:00 Coffee Break
- 11:15 CONCERT. Governor's Honors Program Students. Jeff Johnson, conductor. Program will feature literature for small ensembles and chamber choir.
- 12:00 CONVENTION LUNCHEON. (To be served at the church. Included in the convention registration fee.)

Wednesday (cont.)

- 1:00 CHORAL WARM-UPS, Part II
- 1:15 MUSIC FOR CHORUS AND HANDBELLS.
Mike Bryan, clinician.
MAKING A MAJOR WORK ACCESSIBLE FOR YOUR CHOIR, Part II. (see above)
- 2:00 MINI-SING. Music reading session.
- 2:15 MUSIC FOR SPECIAL ENSEMBLES. Jim Bohart, clinician. Session will focus on interesting music for unusual combinations of voices, with special emphasis on literature for the small ensemble with limited resources.
- 3:00 Break
- 3:20-4:00 CLOSING CONCERT. The Chancel Choir, First Baptist Church, Marietta, Posey Starkey, conductor.

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Directors' Chorus To Be One Of Convention Highlights

The first Georgia Directors' Chorus will be comprised of approximately thirty conductors/singers from throughout the state. The chorus, which will rehearse for three hours on Tuesday afternoon of the convention, will be under the direction of Dr. Charles Hirt, guest clinician, and will serve as a demonstration group for Dr. Hirt's convention session, "Choral Development Through Choral Literature," to be presented Tuesday evening.

Literature selected by Dr. Hirt includes Victoria's "Kyrie Eleison," Handel's "Sing Unto God," "O Schone Nacht" and "Three Gypsy Songs" by Brahms, "Sing We Noel" by Chesnokov, di Lasso's "Flee, O Flee From Love's Desire," and "Dark Night of the Soul" by Surinach. Music packets of this literature will be available for purchase at the convention.

For additional information concerning the Directors' Chorus, contact Dr. Bill Caldwell, Colquitt County High School, Moultrie, (912) 985-9669.

**1987 National Convention
San Antonio
Texas**

Music is a discipline, and a mistress of order and good manners; she makes the people milder and gentler, and more moral and more reasonable.
—Martin Luther

Celebration II To Preceed State Convention

Grace United Methodist Church in Atlanta and Hinshaw Music of Chapel Hill, North Carolina, will present CELEBRATION II, a choral workshop for school and church musicians, at the church on July 28 and 29.

The opening session will begin at 9:00 a.m. on Monday and the final session will conclude at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday. A highlight of the workshop will be the premiere performance of John Rutter's new composition, REQUIEM, presented by the Chancel Choir of Grace United Methodist Church, under the direction of Dr. John Morgan. Special interest sessions will be presented in the areas of handbells, choral conducting, and creative techniques and repertoire for the church organist.

Featured clinicians will be Dr. Charles Hirt, choral conductor and lecturer, organist Robert Hebble, and Donald E. Allured, authority on handbell performance and repertoire. Presenting music reading sessions will be Don Hinshaw, president of Hinshaw Music, and Richard E. Thorne, vice-president of Hinshaw Music.

The pre-registration fee for CELEBRATION II is \$45.00 which includes music and entrance to all performances, sessions, and activities, as well as lunch at the church on Monday. For additional information write Hinshaw Music, Inc., P. O. Box 470, Chapel Hill, NC 27514.



**State Convention - July 29-30
Grace United Methodist Church
Atlanta**

**High School Invitational
Choral Festival Held In May**

The High School Invitational Choral Festival was held on Saturday, May 3, at Clayton Junior College in Morrow. Participating choirs included the North Hall High School Treble Chorus under the direction of Lynn Welch-Lathem, the Woodward Academy Ensemble directed by Alan McClung, and the Marietta High School Concert Choir directed by Jeff Johnson. Each group presented a fifteen minute program which was immediately followed by a fifteen minute work session with the clinician.

Guest clinician for the event was Jerry Jordan, Director of Choral Activities at the University of Mississippi. Janice Folsom, choral director at Fayette County High School and chairperson of the Senior High School Standing Committee organized the event.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

1985-1986 has been an exceptional year for the Georgia chapter of ACDA. Our state convention in November was well attended and a variety of concerts and topics were presented. The next state convention will be in July. Please make plans now to be in attendance. More information about this convention appears in this issue. Thanks to Ann Jones for chairing this summer convention. She has done a tremendous job in lining up a super convention.

Many thanks also to Gwyn Spell for her work as newsletter editor. The new look is exciting and professional. The newsletter is our sole contact with some non-ACDA members and ACDA members outside the state. Thanks, Gwyn, for putting our best foot forward.

Thanks to all the chairs of standing committees. Each chair is planning for next year. Offer them your ideas and support.

As of March 31, 1986, our state has a membership of 314. Rick Copeland has done an excellent job of recruiting and clearing up problems with addresses. Many thanks to Rick. David Barnett includes membership applications in mailings from his school to choral directors. Great idea! (I hope others catch on.)

Georgia ACDA sends Happy Birthday wishes to Robert Shaw on his seventieth birthday. Be sure to read the articles in the Choral Journal's April edition on Mr. Shaw. We are very fortunate to have him in Georgia.

Enjoy the summer. See you at convention.

Beth Brown, President



"Average" is as close to the bottom as it is to the top.

**AJC Choir Performs
With Andy Williams**

The Atlanta Junior College Choir, under the direction of John C. Boehm, were featured as back-up singers for The Andy Williams Show for eight shows March 18 through March 23, at the Fox Theatre in Atlanta. They were selected by Whiteco Productions of Chicago, Illinois, to perform "Words," an adaptation of Beethoven's "Ode to Joy," and an inspirational medley including "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands," "O Happy Day," "Day by Day," "Jesus Loves the Little Children," "We are Going to See the King," and "You'll Never Walk Alone." The choir joined Williams for the finale of the show, "The Battle Hymn of the Republic."

Reflections On My First Convention

By Marie Boyett

ACDA Convention, Nashville, Tennessee, 1986. My first. Impressed? Yes!!!

I have been a member of ACDA for years, but was never able to attend a national or divisional convention until this year. Every concert and session was of top quality.

Some of my favorite sessions were presented by Rodney Eichenberger from the University of Southern California. He was so full of energy and new ideas, that I came home with a renewed approach of improving my own choirs. Other sessions of interest to me were Rhonda Fleming's "Hands-On Tone Production" and "Movement in Musical Learning" presented by Eichenberger and Sue Wyatt

To name the best performing groups would be next to impossible. The East Tennessee University Jazz Singers were dynamic, and the college and high school and junior high choirs were superior. I was most moved by the United States Army Chorus. I truly felt the deep expressions coming from each singer.

The fellowship of other ACDA members made me feel welcome. If you are like me and have put off attending an ACDA convention, then give yourself a great experience and don't let the next one pass you by. I won't!!! See you there.

(Marie Boyett teaches general and choral music in grades K-12 in Brantley County.)

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

The Georgia ACDA Newsletter is published during the Fall, Winter, and Spring. Copy deadline for the Spring newsletter is April 15. Advertising rates are as follows:

One-eighth page (4 1/4" x 2 15/16")	\$25.00
One-quarter page (4 1/4" x 5 1/2")	\$40.00
One-half page (8 1/2" x 5 1/2")	\$70.00
Full page (8 1/2" x 11")	\$125.00

All newsletter information and camera-ready advertising copy should be sent to the following address:

Gwyn Spell, Editor
Georgia ACDA Newsletter
956 Mill Stone Drive
Marietta, GA 30062

Beth Brown Selected First Runner-Up In Conducting Competition

Beth Brown, choral director at Wills High School in Cobb County and president of the Georgia ACDA chapter, was selected First Runner-Up in the Second Annual Choral Conducting Competition sponsored by Scarritt Graduate School on Wednesday, February 19. The event was held immediately prior to the Southern Division ACDA convention on Nashville, Tennessee. Judges for the competition were Sherry Kelly of Belmont College, George Mabry of Austin Peay State University, and John Haberlen of Georgia State University. Beth was one of five finalists invited to the Scarritt campus from all applicants submitting video-taped auditions. The winner of the 1985 competition was Georgian Rick Smith, Director of Music at Dunwoody United Methodist Church in Dunwoody.

For information concerning criteria and procedure for entering the 1987 event, contact Dr. Sandra Willetts, Chairperson, Church Music Department, Scarritt Graduate School, 1008 19th Avenue, S., Nashville, Tennessee 37203.

How To Kill A Choir

The first and most important step in killing a choir is to scare the singers to death. Fear of the director ties the vocal chords in knots.

Use trite music. The chorus will love it the first time, but hate it the tenth rehearsal.

As a director, learn the music as the singers do — at rehearsal. They won't catch on. Don't bother to discover trouble spots ahead of time. The chorus will stumble over them soon enough. Let them get that first wrong impression — it will be so easy to unlearn. Teach them to sight read by the "stumble" method — it's so good for their vocal technique.

If the music is in a foreign language, keep them guessing. Be sure to teach the words by mechanical syllabication.

Don't treat your singers as unique and varied individuals, each with his own peculiar voice and problems. Lump 'em and leave 'em.

Forget the warm-up exercises or anything that might help build vocal technique, tone or musicianship.

In concert, make sure conducting is the main attraction of the show — that's what the mothers and fathers came to see.

Finally, do not insist on personal responsibility on the part of each singer. The attitude of "let the other guy do it" should prevail. Don't admit that group art is at its best when it allows, inspires, and demands the ultimate in individual participation, self-discipline, and self-expression.

(by Marjorie Malone. From ACDA: Sooner Style, February 1986)

**PRE-REGISTRATION FORM
GEORGIA ACDA SUMMER CONVENTION
July 29-30, 1986**

Name _____ Phone _____

Summer Home Address _____
street city zip

_____ Check here if you would like housing information.

Pre-Registration Cost – \$40.00. Includes all sessions, coffee breaks, music for reading sessions,
and TWO MEALS. (Note: Student members pay half-price.)

Please make check payable to Georgia ACDA.
Send check and pre-registration form to J.C. Boehm, 1301 Dunwoody Lane, Atlanta 30319

Postmark Deadline is June 15, 1986

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Application for Membership in American Choral Directors Association

Please accept my application for membership in ACDA as indicated below:

- | | | | |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Foreign | \$40.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Contributing | \$50.00
or more |
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Mail to: Gene Brooks, Executive Secretary, ACDA, P.O. Box 6310, Lawton, OK 73506

***Include a brief resume of career, if available, for your personal file.
 Make check or money order payable to: American Choral Directors Association**

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