



Georgia Newsletter

Southern Division
Convention
Birmingham
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Dr. Lowrance Honored

Jim Bohart

One of the most gratifying duties as a member of the Past Presidents Council is to honor ACDA members who have had distinguished careers as choral directors.

At the Fall convention, Georgia ACDA honored Dr. Robert Lowrance, Jr., with the Distinguished Service Award for Outstanding Achievement.

Dr. Lowrance has been best known for the many years he spent at North Fulton High School during a career that spanned four decades. The North Fulton Chorus under his direction set artistic standards for all other choirs in the area and served as the training ground for many student teachers anxious to learn from a choral master.

Members of the North Fulton Special Alumni Chorus made a surprise trip to Macon to present a short concert for Dr. Lowrance. The communication, commitment and love between the singers and conductor was evident in the performance.

Congratulations, again, Dr. Lowrance, from your fellow members of ACDA. We wish you many more years of enjoyment in choral music.

Swingle Demonstrates Techniques

At the Fall Convention Ward Swingle explained the techniques he developed for jazz and scat singing. He had spent some time prior to coming to Macon with a newly formed vocal jazz ensemble from North Georgia College which he used as a demonstration group.

Swingle is to be admired for his innovative style, his tireless enthusiasm for vocal jazz, and the love and patience he displays when working with young singers. As he shared so many personal experiences and ideas, one had the feeling of being in the presence of an important contributor to choral music history.

The following are some of the suggestions he made for correct interpretation of his arrangements as well as the vocal jazz other composers and arrangers:

- Stress beats 2 and 4 slightly to give a feeling of syncopation, but don't over accent syncopated notes.
- Don't be too careful with pronunciation. In general, rhythmic stress should align with the way syllables are stressed in spoken words.
- In scat singing, "doo" should rhyme with "moon"; the "bum" syllable should be short when imitating acoustic bass and stretched out on the vowel sound to imitate electric bass.
- Tone quality should be bright rather than dark and accurate but not a "trained" quality.

From The President

Bill Caldwell

It was a treat to see so many of you at the recent GMEA In-Service Conference in Savannah. I was very proud of all of our members who participated in the conference both as listeners and as performers.

You are to be congratulated! The dues referendum passed by a large majority. It is great news for ACDA. Thanks for taking the time to cast a vote that will help keep our organization strong.

Our State Convention in Macon this Fall was varied and interesting. A special thanks to Ed Byrom and Roger Waters for their good work. It was also a great opportunity to work with our Southern Division President, Bing Vick, from Furman University. (Be sure to read the information he shared with us from the Furman Faculty.)

I hope that you are making your arrangements for the Southern Division Convention in Birmingham. I know this will be another in the long line of successful Southern Division events. Bing Vick, Bill Thomas and Mitzi Groom have made some excellent decisions regarding programming. Our state goal for attendance is 150 members. Do yourself a favor and be one of those 150!

Have you invited anyone to join ACDA lately? We are getting very close to the magic number of 400 members (our goal before 1992). Do something special for your colleagues by telling them about the advantages of belonging to ACDA. For more information, contact Missy Stamenkovich, our membership chairperson.

Finally, are you on a "programming cycle"? Do you program the same literature over and over during a four or five year time frame? I encourage you to seek out new music for your choirs to perform. They will benefit from your fresh approach to new literature. Of course, only the finest literature is worthy of your time (and the time of your singers). I encourage you to search for those pieces of literature which suit your choirs and then share them with your professional friends.

See you in Birmingham!

ACDA To Keep Calendar

The State Membership has requested that ACDA assume the responsibility of acting as a "clearing house" for the scheduling of choral events throughout the state. This should help to avoid the conflicting events which sometimes plague our performance schedules.

To facilitate this service, members are requested to call or write either of the following people with information about choral events or questions concerning scheduling.

Charles Claiborne
3364 Dunn St., Smyrna, GA 30080
(404) 433-0561

Sheila Colvin
1344 Hill Dr., Conyers, GA 30208
(404) 760-1311

Furman Faculty On Learning/ Motivation and Good Teaching Techniques

These lists on Learning/Motivation and Enhancing the Lecture were compiled by the faculty at Furman University and shared with ACDA membership at the Fall Convention by Dr. Bingham Vick.

Selected Statements About Learning/Motivation

1. Learners (including good learners) differ in many ways in regard to how they learn.
2. Learning requires activity on the part of the learner; he should not be passive.
3. Learning is enhanced when learners accept responsibility for their own learning.
4. Learning is directly influenced by the physical and social environment of the learner.
5. Learners are motivated when they can associate new learnings with previous learnings.
6. Learners are motivated when they can see the usefulness of the learning in their own personal terms.
7. Learning will not be likely to occur if we perceive the material to be irrelevant or too difficult to learn.
8. Learning is enhanced by novelty.
9. Learning is enhanced when we participate in selecting and planning the learning experiences.
10. The ability of a student to learn effectively is dependent upon many attributes, only one of which is his measured intelligence.
11. Learners are motivated by successful experiences. Concerts of Quality.
12. A variety of teaching methods and procedures encourage learning.
13. Learners ultimately learn what they actively desire to learn; they do not learn what they do not accept or come to accept as meaningful or useful.

Lectures Are Enhanced When The Teacher:

1. Uses a variety of appropriate media: Overhead projector, 35 mm slides, 16 mm film, video tapes.
2. Uses the chalk board for special terms, illustrations, or to outline the main points of the lecture.
3. Pauses frequently during the lecture to give students an opportunity to think about the material being presented.
4. Uses humor in a spontaneous fashion.
5. Asks questions/ Answers questions.
6. Uses small-group techniques within the lecture context.
7. Gives the class a pre-organizer (an outline to aid in following and organizing the lecture).
8. Seems enthusiastic about the subject matter.
9. Uses gestures and movement to help make a point. Be sure of correct gesture!
10. Speaks with expression and variety in tone of voice; paces the lecture.
11. Introduces the material to be covered, covers it, and summarizes what has been covered.
12. Relates course material to real-life situations by giving appropriate concrete examples.
13. Limits the number of points to be covered and makes each point in an obvious manner, First . . . , Second . . .
14. Provides visual or verbal illustrations, explanations and examples.
15. Make explicit the interrelationships in course content - within a class and between one day's lecture and the next.

Bing Vick's Rules For Singing and Personal Library

Georgia ACDA wishes to thank Bingham Vick for his part on the Fall convention and for allowing us to reprint his handouts in our newsletter.

Rules For Singing

- Rule #1 MUSIC IS SOUND IN MOTION
- no volume level should remain static
- Rule #2 MUSIC IS SHAPED SOUND
- all same notes are not created equal
- Rule #3 SING PHRASES, NOT NOTES
- never breathe to get air - ALWAYS BREATHE TO MAKE PHRASE.
- Rule #4 MUSIC IS SHAPED BY CONSONANTS AND VOWELS
- all consonants have an EXACTLY CORRECT place
- all vowels must be uniform
- Rule #5 MUSIC IS MORE THAN JUST PITCHES
- always be expressive

Personal Reference Library

Choral Conducting: A leadership Teaching Approach
By Harriet Simons (Mark Foster, 1983)

Translations and Annotations of Choral Repertoire
Volume I: Sacred Latin Texts
Compiled by Ron Jeffers (Earthsongs, 1988
220 NW 29th St., Corvallis, Oregon 97330)

Singing: The Mechanism and the Technique
by William Vennard (Carl Fischer, 1967)

Latin According to Roman Usage
ed. William Hall (National Music Publishers, 1971)

Conscience of a Profession: Howard Swan
ed. Charles Fowler (Hinshaw Music Co., 1987)

The Great Conductors
by Harold Schonberg (Simon & Schuster, 1967)

The Composer's Advocate
by Eric Leinsdorf (Yale University Press, 1981)

A World Event In 1991

The International Concert Agency for Peace and Goodwill, Incorporated, announces plans for an incredible world event to be held in Tallinn, Estonia, USSR, on July 4 - 7, 1991. The goal of the organization is to bring 10,000 singers from the USA together with 10,000 singers from the USSR for a joint concert.

The program will include 10 selections sung by the USA singers and 10 by the USSR singers. The repertoire will include patriotic, folk and classical pieces representative of the music of the nationalities of the singers.

Each state is encouraged to try to send at least 200 singers in order to reach the goal of 10,000. Singers may apply as individuals or in groups. Conductors might plan to make Estonia one of the stops on a European summer tour.

Jim Bohart has been chosen as the conductor coordinator for Georgia. You may contact him for more information about this exciting event (Office, 261-1441 or Home, 458-1150).

Please Return This Questionnaire

February, 1990

Dear Georgia Colleagues,

At the ACDA breakfast during the recent GMEA Conference in Savannah one of the main topics of discussion was the State ACDA Convention. Since the inception of the state event several years ago, we have averages from 60 to 90 registrants every year until the last two. Two years ago less than 30 people paid to attend, and this year we fell to an all time low of under 20.

Obviously, our state membership is expecting to find something in a state convention that we have not offered in two years. As President-Elect, the responsibility of planning the next state convention falls on the shoulders of Roger Waters. You can be of tremendous help if you will take the time to fill out the questionnaire below and send it to him as soon as possible.

Those of us who attended this year's convention found the sessions to be valuable *and* entertaining. But the best part of any state convention is always the opportunity to communicate with fellow directors from across the state. We feel that the continuation of the state convention is vital to the health and continuity of our state membership. *Please* take time to reply.

Sincerely Yours,

Bill Caldwell and Roger Waters

MAIL TO:
ROGER WATERS
1966 GIBRALTER WAY
LITHONIA, GA 30058

1. CIRCLE YOUR PREFERRED LOCATION: 1. ATLANTA AREA
2. MIDDLE GEORGIA
2. WHAT TIME OF YEAR DO YOU PREFER? 1. SUMMER 2. FALL 3. SPRING
3. WHAT CLINICIANS WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE AT A STATE CONVENTION?
4. WHAT ARE YOU WILLING TO PAY FOR THE STATE REGISTRATION FEE?
1. \$25 - \$30 2. \$30 - \$35 3. \$35 - \$40 4. \$40 - \$45
5. WHICH DO YOU PREFER? 1. A ONE-DAY EVENT (ALL DAY SATURDAY)
2. A TWO-DAY EVENT (FRIDAY AFTERNOON - SATURDAY)

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(404) 945-6768 (H)



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

- *Active \$25.00 Associate \$25.00
- Student \$10.00 Retired \$7.50
- Foreign \$40.00 Contributing \$50.00 or more
- Industry \$75.00 Institution \$50.00
- *Life \$500.00 (payable in annual installments of \$50.00 or more.)

Areas of primary activity: Children Jr HS Sr HS Coll-Univ Comm. Church Other

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

Applicant's Name _____
TYPE OR PRINT

Title and Position _____

Institution _____

Institutional Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Preferred Mailing Address _____
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City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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Phone Number _____

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