



Georgia Newsletter

VOL.9 NO.3

MAY 1991

From the President-Elect

Roger Waters

Congratulations are in order for Millie Turek whom you have elected as President-Elect for 1991-1993. Millie is a very capable organizer and excellent teacher. She will lead the Georgia ACDA very well into the mid '90's. She will assume office on July 1, 1991.

Also on July 1st, I will assume the office of president for our state chapter. What an humbling experience to follow in the steps of previous state presidents. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Bill Caldwell for the leadership he has provided as president for the past two years.

I would like to solicit your continued support for state, division, national, and international ACDA events, with particular emphasis on state events. Our chapter is only as strong as its weakest member. We may be able to function and give the impression of strength of commitment, but the fact remains that without *you, your* resourcefulness, *your* creativity, *your* willingness to give of yourself, and *your* support of state vents, our

chapter cannot reach maximum effectiveness. As I stand on the threshold of a two-year term of office, my first official action will be to issue a challenge to each member of Georgia ACDA to become involved. Each of you is aware of what involvement and commitment means to the life of your choral organizations. Surely we are not so naive as to think that involvement and commitment will not have a positive effect on ACDA. Please accept the challenge; your presence is valuable and valued; *you* can make a difference.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find a schedule for our state convention being held on Saturday, June 29, 1991. I hope you will make your plans to be in attendance at the convention to learn, be inspired, fellowship, and meet the challenge of involvement.

*John Haberen and
Mitzi Groom
to appear at Georgia
State Convention.*

*See insert for complete
information and
registration form.*

*June 29, 1991
Smymna, Georgia*

Rehearsal Techniques for Volunteer Choirs

George Martin

Rehearsal planning is essential to the life of a volunteer choir for several reasons. A planned rehearsal makes use of the choir's limited amount of rehearsal time. A planned rehearsal respects the gifts of time and talent given by choir members and does not waste those gifts. A planned rehearsal offers musical security to both the director and the choir member, freeing them to participate physically, mentally, and spiritually in offering their musical gifts.

A successful rehearsal might be compared to an aerobic class, with the components of warm-up, workout and cool-down present.

1. **Warm-up.** As clinician Helen Kemp has taught, "body, mind, spirit, voice—it takes the whole person to sing and rejoice!" The warm-up engages and stretches each of these areas.

2. **Rehearsal Body.** The "workout" portion of the rehearsal should be structured so that members experience a changing variety of styles, keys, technical demands, etc.

(continued on page 2)

(continued from page 1)

3. **Conclusion.** The "cool-down" of the rehearsal should give choir members a positive sense of accomplishment and send them forth renewed and interested in returning.

Now we've started on time and the body, mind, spirit, and voice have been activated. What next? It's time to rehearse a particular piece.

The first step in knowing how to rehearse a particular anthem is to become very familiar with it. You should at least determine the following: What is the form of the piece? Are there repeated sections? What abilities does the piece require? Is it mostly four-part singing or mostly unison with one section in four parts? Where will the choir breathe? What dynamic markings will you want to bring to the choir's attention?

One way to rehearse an anthem is to learn the most difficult section first and then learn the sections around it, thereby singing the difficult section more often. Before rehearsing, assign each section a letter name (A, B, C, D, E, F), and then rank the sections in order of their difficulty.

Let's say that an anthem with six sections would result in the following ranking ("E" being the most difficult section and "A" the least difficult): E, B, D, C, A, F. A rehearsal plan for such an anthem might look like this:

WEEK 1

- Step 1-Sing through the entire anthem (optional).
- Step 2- Learn section E, the hardest section, notes dynamics and interpretation.
- Step 3-Learn section D: notes dynamics, and interpretation.
- Step 4-Sing through sections D and E.

WEEK 2

- Step 5-Repeat step 4.
- Step 6-Learn section B.
- Step 7-Learn section C.
- Step 8- Sing sections B and C.
- Step 9- Sing section B, C, D, and E.

WEEK 3

- Step 10-Repeat step 9.
- Step 11-Learn sections A and F.
- Step 12-Sing Sections A, B, C, D, E, and F.

WEEK 4, 5, and 6

- Step 13-Polish the anthem, paying attention to details, allowing the choir to sing the entire anthem.

The choir rehearsal must have a format that will keep the interest of its members. Good rehearsals offer a variety of degrees of difficulty, keys, tempos, style and familiarity of the section of the piece to be rehearsed. The rehearsal should end on a positive tone. To finish rehearsal with the anthem for Sunday may indicate that it is not quite prepared. Singing or focusing on selections of familiarity will be a more positive approach.

(Edited from an article published in the Iowa Sounding Board, Aimee Beckmann-Collier, editor. George Martin is the Musician Worship Chair for Iowa ACDA.)

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President's Farewell

Bill Caldwell

Many thanks to all of you who have supported Georgia ACDA by your enthusiasm and presence during my tenure. I know that Roger and Millie will be happy to have your continuing support.

Seeing so many of our members in Phoenix this spring was gratifying. The talent that was represented by that group reminded me of the enormous number of strong church, school and community choral directors we have in our state, people dedicated to keeping the choral art alive and well, and musicians committed to educating singers and their audiences with fine choral literature.

My wish for the future is that we can become more active in our local activities. Come to the Summer Convention and network with some of the best choral directors you will find anywhere!

Sing with your voices, and with your hearts, and with all your moral convictions; sing the new songs, not only with your tongue, but with your life.

St. Augustine (354-430)

**GEORGIA CHAPTER ACDA
STATE CONVENTION
JUNE 29, 1991
CUMBERLAND UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
SMYRNA, GEORGIA**

8:30—9:30 A.M.	Registration, coffee and donuts
9:00—9:15	Welcome, Bill Caldwell, President Charles Claiborne, Host
9:15—10:00	First Reading Session*
10:00—10:15	Break
10:15—11:00	Second Reading Session*
11:00—12:00	"Literature for the Younger Voice" and Southern Division Update Mitzi Groom, Southern Division President
12:00—1:15	Lunch on your own. Choose from a number of great locations.
1:15—1:45	Reports from R & S chairpersons
1:45—2:15	An address by John Haberlen, National ACDA President-Elect
2:15—3:00	Concert by the Covington/Conyers Choral Guild Roger Waters, Conductor
3:00	Executive Board Meeting, TBA

**Reading sessions organized by various R & S chairpersons*

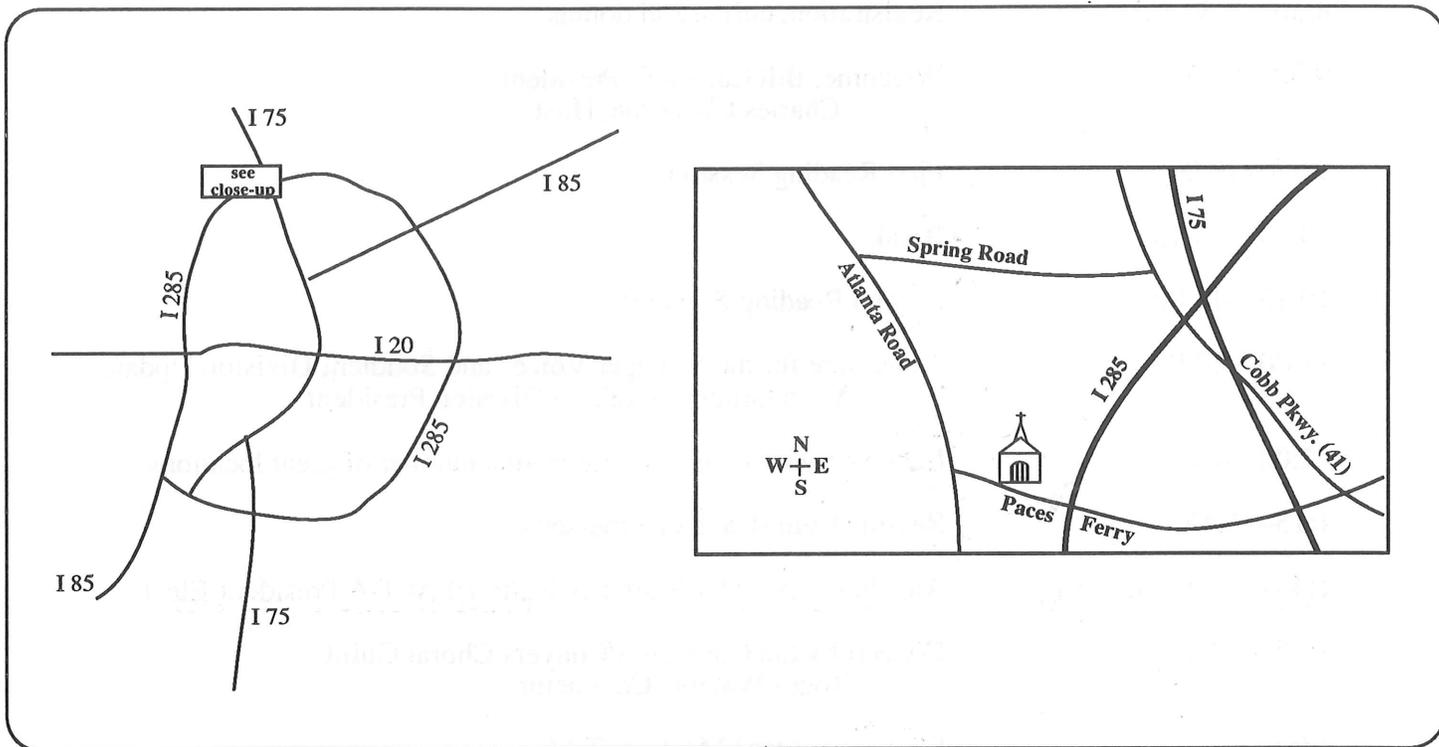
To insure your receipt of ACDA mailings during the summer and holiday seasons, the Georgia ACDA Executive Board recommends that you use your HOME ADDRESS. Please send address changes/corrections to the local newsletter editor and to the national office.

ACDA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO APPROVE ANY APPLICATION FOR APPEARANCE AND TO EDIT ALL MATERIALS PROPOSED FOR DISTRIBUTION.

GA Convention Pull-out

JUNE 29, 1991

Directions to Cumberland United Methodist Church
(see other side for convention schedule)



Mail Pre-registration fee by June 20th to: Charles Claiborne
(\$15.00) 3364 Dunn St.
Smyrna, GA 30080

I will be attending the June 29th ACDA State Convention

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Area of interest: ___Children ___Church ___College ___Community
___High School ___Middle grades ___Jazz and Show

I will be coming a long distance. Please advise about accommodations for an overnight stay. ___Motel ___Private home

I live in the area and can accommodate overnight guests.

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Haberlen and Groom, Headliners for the State Convention

Last year's gathering of state members in Smyrna proved to be so successful that organizers have expanded this year's event.

Along with reading sessions of all levels and types of music, the convention will feature John Haberlen, the National ACDA President-Elect and Mitzi Groom, the Southern Division President.

Mitzi, members of the Southern Division Board, and Robert Harris, Convention Host, will be looking to our membership to help make the 1992 Convention in Savannah a success. Let's show our solidarity by our participation in the summer event!

Singing is a noble art and a good exercise. It has nothing to do with worldly affairs, with the strife of the market place and the rivalries of the court. The Singer fears no evil; he forgets all worry and is happy. . .

Martin Luther (1483-1546)

As an ACDA member, I will comply with the copyright laws of the United States of America. (Compliance with these laws is also a condition of participation by clinicians and performing ensembles that appear on any ACDA-sponsored event or convention.)
 ACDA is a founding member of the International Federation for Choral Music (IFCM). If you need additional information about IFCM, please check box.

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