

GEORGIA ACDA STATE CONFERENCE: JULY 11-12



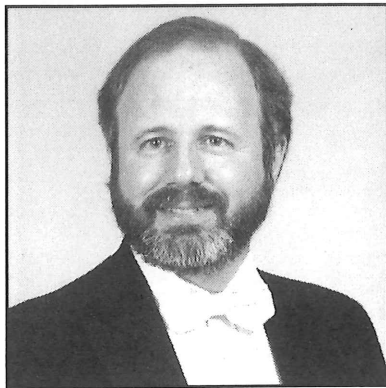
Georgia Newsletter

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Kevin Hibbard



Plans have been finalized for your 1997 Georgia ACDA Summer Conference, to be held July 11 and 12 at Spivey Hall, on the campus of Clayton College and State University in Morrow. We are very excited about this landmark event for Georgia ACDA. Our headliner will be well-known clinician and conductor Weston Noble, from Luther College. He is one of the most inspirational clinicians I have ever heard, and you will be informed and renewed by his four sessions. Thanks go to Rod Caldwell of Georgia Southern University for securing Weston's services.

The conference will feature six Georgia choirs, plus one or more international choirs from the DeKalb International Choral Festival. I must say that you are in for a treat when you hear these choirs. Some thought it would be difficult to find performing groups for a summer conference, but we were delighted with the response. I would be proud to have any of the choirs which were *not* selected! As it happens the selected choirs represent children's, church, community, high school, professional, and university choirs. In this convention issue you will find photos and

biographies of Weston Noble and [ed. some of] the performing ensembles.

Our facility for the event is the renowned Spivey Hall. This magnificent hall is a jewel for choral music. The 400-seat hall, filled with elegant touches of marble and gold leaf, is a visual and acoustical masterpiece. National artists reserve the hall for their recordings, as attested by the many compact discs recorded there, as well as more than 25 tapes for National Public Radio's "Performance Today." Itzhak Perlman, Emanuel Ax, Diane Bish, Chanticleer, Misha Dichter, Moses hogan Chorale, Juilliard String Quartet, King's Singers, Midori, Sherrill Milnes, Albert McNeil Jubilee Singers, Samuel Ramey, Doreen Rao, Jean-Pierre Rampal, Joshua Rifkin, Robert Shaw Chamber Singers, Frederica von Stade, Dawn Upshaw, and Andre Watts are representative of the multitude of stars who have performed at this relatively new "Carnegie Hall of the South." We will also have at our disposal the magnificent Albert Schweitzer Memorial Organ, a 79-rank Ruffatti. This instrument provides a stunning focal point to the hall.

Also on tap for the conference are reading sessions for various ages, and sessions on church music (Dr. Stanley Roberts, Mercer University), music for men's voices (Dr. John Broman, North Georgia College), performance practice, (Dr. Chris White, Armstrong Atlantic State University), and more. CEU/SDU credit will be available through the State University of West Georgia for those who desire. Registration materials, including CEU/SDU credit and housing information, are being mailed separately.

As you can see, the 1997 Georgia ACDA Summer Conference is a not-to-be-missed event. Reserve July 11 and 12 now for a thrilling weekend.

WESTON NOBLE TO HEADLINE GEORGIA STATE CONVENTION

Weston Noble, director of Nordic Choir at Luther College, Decorah, Iowa, is an internationally known conductor and clinician. He has served as guest conductor for over 775 music festivals in 48 states, in Canada, Europe, Australia, and South America. More than 50 all-state choruses, bands and orchestras have been under his direction. He is believed to be the only director asked to conduct all-state groups in all three areas: band, choir and orchestra. In 1989 he was named the outstanding Music Educator of the United States by the National Federation of High School Associations. He was the first recipient of this national citation.

He has conducted either Luther organizations or festival groups in Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center, New York; Kennedy Center, Washington D.C.; Music Center, Los Angeles; Bolshoi and Tchaikovsky Halls, Moscow; Philharmonic Hall, St. Petersburg, Russia; Franz Liszt Academy, Budapest, Hungary; and the Mormon Tabernacle, Salt Lake City. Mr. Noble has conducted nine concert tours in Europe, including countries from Norway to Rumania, and has toured Russia three times.

He annually makes 25 to 30 appearances from coast to coast as festival director, clinician or adjudicator. He also has appeared as guest faculty at 45 colleges or universities. In 1983 he was a guest conductor of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, Salt Lake City, Utah. In July of 1991 Mr. Noble participated in the Bridges of Song Music Festival, Talinn, Estonia, at which 25,000 singers were present.

A charter member of ACDA and an elected member of the American Bandmasters Association, Mr. Noble is listed in the World Biographical Hall of Fame, International Register of Profiles, Dictionary of International Biography, Intercontinental Biographical Association, 1970 Creative and

Successful Personalities of the World, Who's Who in Music, the World's Whose Who of Musicians, Marquis' Who's Who in America, Men of Achievement 1973 and the Dictionary of Distinguished Americans.



In 1971 he was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Arts by Augustana College, Sioux Falls, South Dakota. In 1992 he received the Presidential Award from the Illinois Music Education Association. In 1993 he was given the Citation of Merit award from the University of Michigan. In 1994 he was the first recipient of the Weston Noble Award, presented by the North Central Division of the American Choral Directors Association "in recognition of Lifetime Achievement in the Choral Art." In 1996 he was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Arts by St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minnesota.

In March, 1969, Nordic was one of three choirs chosen to represent the United States at the Second International Choral Festival sponsored by Lincoln Center, at which 13 choirs represented the countries of the world. In 1985 Nordic Choir received a standing ovation at the ACDA National Convention in Salt Lake City where they shared the program with the Mormon Tabernacle Choir. In April, 1996, they received a standing ovation at the national MENC in Kansas City, Missouri, where they appeared on the program with the Eastman Wind Ensemble.

THE SPIVEY HALL CHILDREN'S CHOIR

In just its fourth season, the Spivey Hall Children's Choir was created with the intention of offering advanced choral training to gifted singers. The Children's Choir offers its members professional level music training in vocal development, music theory, sight singing, ear training, presentation, and a variety of musical and choral styles.

The formation of the Children's Choir is another successful endeavor on the part of the Spivey Hall Education Committee to provide supplementary music education programs to metro area youth. Participants have the opportunity of develop qualities of self-reliance, personal integrity, self-discipline, social awareness and confidence in their abilities.

Under the direction of Martha Shaw, this season found the Children's Choir performing not only at their namesake Spivey Hall, but also with Intik-Illimani, a Latin American folk group who will be celebrating 30 years of music making in 1997. The Tour Choir has performed at the GMEA convention in Savannah and several area churches. In the Tour Choir's short history, they have already performed in a national Children's Choir Festival at Disney World; as part of a children's choir workshop led by Henry Leck; and as guest choir for the University of South Carolina Choral Workshop with Barbara Tagg in the summer of 1996. They also performed in NPR's "Spirit of '96" concert series and were included on the CD recording by the same name in celebration of the 1996 Olympics. In May the tour Choir was the resident choir for the "Children in Harmony" National Choral Festival in Orlando, Florida. In August of 1998, the Tour Choir will be Artists-in Residence for the Choral Music Experience Institute in Stockholm, Sweden.

The Spivey Hall Children's Choir consists of 90 young singers ranging in age from ten to sixteen. Out of these 90 youth, 41 are selected to comprise the Tour Choir. Students involved in the choir hail from all parts of the metro Atlanta area, including Clayton, Coweta, Fayette, Fulton, Henry, Rockdale and Spalding counties.



Martha Shaw, director

Martha Shaw, Director of the Spivey Hall Children's Choir, is a doctoral student in choral conducting at the university of South Carolina, where she has just been named as a faculty member in Choral Music and Music Education. Previously, Ms. Shaw was a music specialist in Fulton County for fifteen years. During her tenure, she was named Teacher of the Year at two schools. Ms. Shaw was the founder and director of the Fulton County Children's Honor Chorus which performed with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, Tara Winds and at Spivey Hall.

In 1994, Ms. Shaw was guest conductor for the GMEA Statewide Elementary Choral Clinic. She studied choral conducting with Don Neuen at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville where she earned a Masters degree in Music Education, and has completed post-graduate workshops with Doreen Rao. She also holds an undergraduate degree in Music Education from Shorter College in Rome, Georgia. Ms. Shaw is a member of Pi Kappa Lambda and Mu Phi Epsilon.



THE LANIER SINGERS

Dr. Lee Bratton, conductor

The Lanier Singers was founded in 1991 by its conductor, Dr. Lee Bratton, and in the seven years of its existence, this versatile ensemble has established a solid reputation as one of the finest choral groups in northeast Georgia. The founding tenet of this ensemble was to provide an alternative to large community choirs, while offering challenging repertoire to its members.

The repertoire performed by the Lanier Singers is extremely varied, including an abundance of works from all historical periods. In addition to their normal fall and winter concert programs, the group has performed for numerous college campuses and special Christmas celebrations. The Lanier Singers have performed with the Gainesville Symphony Orchestra, and were selected by the Atlanta Arts Council to perform during the 1996 Olympics.

The membership of the Lanier Singers is determined by audition and includes singers from a variety of occupations, although many are employed as musicians by public schools, colleges, universities, and churches.



Dr, Lee Bratton, conductor

Dr. Lee Bratton has served as conductor/director of the Lanier Singers since its founding in 1991. He has taught and conducted choruses at the college/university level for 19 years including Brevard, University of Texas, Fairmont State and Brenau University where he served as Head of the Music Department for eleven years. In addition to the Lanier Singers, he currently serves as Choral Director at South Forsyth High School and McEver Road United Methodist Church.

His professional education actually began at the age of nine when he became a soloist with the internationally acclaimed Columbus Boychoir (now the American Boychoir). His formal education includes a Bachelor of Music in Music Education from Michigan State University, a Master of Music in Conducting from the University of Michigan, and a Doctor of Musical Arts in Conducting from the University of Texas at Austin. Dr. Bratton also performed for seven years as a member of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Chorus under the direction of Robert Shaw and was selected to perform for their 1988 European Tour.



NEBRASKA CHILDREN'S CHORUS

Z. Randall Stroope, conductor

The Nebraska Children's Chorus is a professional training for young singers in eastern Nebraska and western Iowa. Since its formation in 1984 NCC has firmly rooted itself in the arts of this area and beyond - performing with the Omaha Symphony, USAF Heartland of America Band, Ak-Sar-Coronation, Omaha Ballet and other organizations, as well as maintaining their own season arts series.

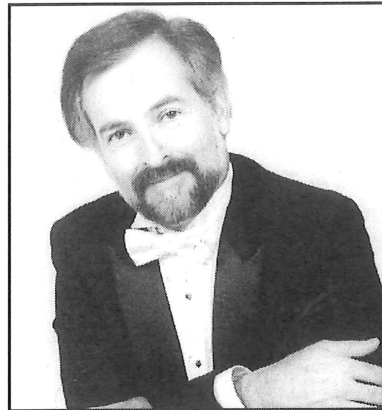
Beyond its immediate geographic area, the Nebraska Children's Chorus has performed at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C., the Golden Gate International Children's Choral Festival, where they received two silver medals in the "International" category in competition with choirs from all over the world, and various cities across the United States. The NCC has toured in Germany and Western Canada. They have also appeared at state and regional ACDA conventions.

The Nebraska Children's Chorus is made up of approximately 250 young singers who meet weekly, eight months a year. They have an opportunity to be in one of five choruses: Jubilate (grades 2-4), Ragazzi (grades 2-6), Camerata (grades 5-7), Cantori (grades 5-10), and Bel Canto (grade 5 and up). They represent over 20 school districts and come from 50 different schools in Nebraska and Iowa.

The NCC is committed to involving students from a variety of ethnic, socio-economic, and cultural backgrounds. "Satellite" programs are set up in

various parts of the Omaha area to insure that all segments of our population are represented. Further, tuition and tour scholarships are available to those students who could not otherwise afford to be involved in youth arts programs.

The various choirs of the Nebraska Children's Chorus are led by operations manager, Barbara Anderson; Dr. Z. Randall Stroope, artistic director/conductor; Nancy Robson, assistant music director/conductor; and Sharon Smith, conductor.



Dr. Z. Randall Stroope

Dr. Stroope has just completed his tenth year as Artistic Director and Conductor of the Nebraska Choral Arts Society. In that capacity he has prepared choruses for Margaret Hillis, Sir David Willcocks, Albert McNeil and several other well-known conductors. A native of New Mexico he has a masters from the University of Colorado and a doctorate from Arizona State University.

Since coming to Omaha in 1987 Dr. Stroope has been named as one of the Ten Outstanding Young Omahans by the Jaycees for his work in the arts, honored as the featured composer at the North Central Regional Convention of ACDA, and served three years as grant reviewer on the Nebraska Arts Council.

He is currently professor of music at the University of Nebraska at Omaha where he conducts choirs and coordinates the choral/vocal program, and is in demand as a guest conductor and clinician. Dr. Stroope is also the published composer of more than 30 compositions, and has written articles and reviews for *The Choral Journal*.

THE ATLANTA SINGERS

David D. Bresinger, conductor

The Atlanta Singers, a professional ensemble of 16 voices now in their twentieth year, have developed a reputation for excellence in the performance of a wide range of choral repertoire. They have performed works ranging from medieval sacred pieces through twentieth century music, and have commissioned works from composers such as Alice Parker, John Luther Adams, and Stephen Paulus. The Atlanta Singers have made several recordings and have appeared on WPBA Public Television, as well as public radio in Georgia and South Carolina. Portions of their 1993, 1995, and 1996 Christmas concerts at Spivey Hall were heard nationally on NPR's "Performance Today." They made a highly acclaimed appearance at the 1994 Piccolo Spoleto Festival in Charleston, South Carolina, and returned to the festival this year.

David D. Bresinger, artistic director and conductor

David D. Bresinger has been Artistic Director and Conductor of The Atlanta Singers since 1993, and is also Director of Music/Organist at Holy Innocents' Episcopal Church in Atlanta, Georgia.

He received his Bachelor of Science in Music Education, magna cum laude, from West Chester University and his Master of Music in Church Music with honors, from Westminster Choir College. Additionally, he holds the Associate certificate from the American Guild of Organists. Prior to moving to Atlanta, he served churches in Dallas, and the Philadelphia areas.

As organist, he has performed in recitals in Atlanta and throughout the country, with the Atlanta and Dallas Symphony Orchestras, and with the Robert Shaw Chamber Singers. He also appeared in recital at the Cathedral of St. Stephen in Toulouse, France during the Academie d'Ete, 1993.



Under his direction, the Parish Choir of Holy Innocents' Church has mastered a vast repertoire of music for the church, ranging from the 16th through 20th centuries, and has gained a reputation for quality choral interpretation. They have performed on local and national AGO programs, and have twice sung at the Piccolo Spoleto Festival in Charleston, South Carolina. They have been heard nationally on the Protestant Hour and have also been broadcast in the southeast on Atlanta and South Carolina public radio.

The Mountain Park Choir - Mountain Park United Methodist Church

The Mountain Park Choir is completing its 33rd season of service leadership and community performances. The 50-voice choir is the central musical ensemble of the 3,000-member Mountain Park United Methodist Church in Gwinnett County. The Choir is one of six adult choral ensembles in a comprehensive music ministry program that includes 25 music groups involving over 500 registrants.

Each year since 1992, the Choir has hosted the annual Gwinnett Festival of Music that brings together over 300 community musicians in a festive concert celebrating Reformation week. Each February the Choir celebrates Black History Month with a program of spirituals and works by black composers called "The Gospel Truth." In December, the Choir presents a traditional service of lessons and Carols with The Mountain Park Orchestra, and during Holy Week the Choir presents a Solemn Reading of the Passion with selected choral literature.

The Mountain Park Choir has long been committed to bringing concerts of major works with professional orchestra and soloists to its suburban community. Recent years have brought performances of the "Glorias" of Rutter and Vivaldi, the "Requiems" of Faure, Rutter and Mozart, Handel's "Messiah" and the Haydn "Creation." On May 17, 1998, the Mountain Park Choir will present Mendelssohn's "Elijah" with professional orchestra and soloists.



William O. Baker, Minister of Music

William O. Baker is a native Atlantan. He studied singing and conducting at Mercer University, the University of Georgia, and in England. In 1985 he founded The Gwinnett Festival Singers and has led the 60-voice a cappella choir to many convention appearances, as well as international tours, the Piccolo Spoleto Festival in Charleston, and nine nationally marked recordings.

He has served four church positions over a 20 year career, having been appointed Minister of Music for the Mountain Park United Methodist Church in 1991. He served as Community Chorus R & S Chair for the Southern Division of ACDA from 1993-96. His many writings on choral issues have been published in a number of national journals and periodicals. Through The William Baker Choral Foundation he conducts The William Baker Singers and the Summer Singers of Atlanta, and is active as a guest conductor, lecturer and clinician.



LATVIAN CHOIR TO BE FEATURED AT STATE CONFERENCE

MEITENU KORIS RIGA

Girls' Choir Riga is the concert group of Riga Choir School. It consists of more than 100 singers ranging in age from 6 to 25. Gira Choir has made significant contributions in Latvian culture and education. The choir gives concerts at the most prominent concert halls of Latvia, such as the Latvian Philharmonic, the Dome Cathedral and has performances on television and radio in Latvia. The Riga Choir has several years of work experience with choir associations and international choir institutions. The choir has made many tours, performing in six European countries in 1996 alone. It was invited to open the "Days of Latvian Culture" in Denmark, followed by a concert tour of Norway and Sweden.

Arnita Melnaksne, conductor

Arnita Melnaksne has been a conductor of the Girls' Choir Riga since 1993. She graduated from Latvia Music Academy music Teachers faculty. At present she also studies psychology at the University of Latvia. She successfully works as chief conductor in the youngest group of the choir.

Gunta Malevica, artistic director

Ms. Malevica has worked with the choir since 1983 and has worked as a conductor of the Latvian Philharmonic Choir and Women's Choir Dzintar

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