



Colorado RE:View

The Newsletter of the Colorado Chapter of the American Choral Directors Association
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From our President ...



It is difficult for me to believe that preparation for holiday performances is underway already. I hope your year is off to a strong start and that you have settled into a wonderful routine. That your students are eager to learn and the music hallways are filled with wonderful choral literature that moves and motivates all involved.

As I look ahead and plan for my term with COACDA I must first offer my thanks and appreciation on behalf of the state constituency to Mike Kornelsen for his years of dedicated service to the organization. I have always appreciated Mike's freshness and warmth, his humor, and his dedication to music teachers around the state, including me. I look forward to continued work and collaboration with Mike over the next two years.

I must also express my gratitude to the R&S chairs and board members. The experience of all these professionals is what drives the summer workshop. I have benefited greatly from their experience and contribution over the years and offer a sincere thank you to each one.

We have much to look forward to coming up throughout the year. In two short weeks many middle school choirs will be participating in our **Middle-Level Choral Festival**. If you couldn't participate this year, start planning now to take a group next year. It is an excellent boost for your students to prepare them for a fall festival.

We are already in heavy preparation for the **2010 Summer Workshop, July 19-21**. Get those dates on the calendar now and plan to join us. More information will follow to let you know who, what, where, and when. The summer workshop has always been an important resource in my preparation for the new school year.

The big news is that the **2010 Southwestern Division ACDA Conference will be in Denver this year!** Mark your calendars for **February 24-27**. You must not miss this event. It has been approximately 15 years since we have had the conference in our own back yard, and will be a while before it returns to Denver. Dr. Galen Darrough, SWACDA President, wants "every man, woman, and child that is a member of ACDA, and many who are not, to attend this conference." Eric Whitacre, Francisco Nunez, Dr. Hillary Apfelstadt, Henry Leck, Dr. Rollo Dilworth, and Craig Jessop will be speaking to us and working with our honor choirs. Visit SWACDA.org for more Convention Highlights. Treat yourself to an event that is sure to uplift and inspire and plan to join us for the SWACDA Mile High Choral Experience.

I look forward to getting acquainted with and working more closely with Colorado's dedicated and talented choral conductors. Thank you for all you do to promote music and inspire singers around our state. Your influence is far reaching.

Sidney Poppe
President, Colorado ACDA

Upcoming Events

The Choral Celebration at Metro State

Thursday, November 5 & Friday, November 6, 8:00 am – 6:30 pm

Each year, Metropolitan State College of Denver welcomes dozens of high school choirs and their directors to the Kenneth King Center for Performing Arts, where the students have the opportunity to perform in the warm acoustic of the Concert Hall and receive performance feedback from the members of Metro's choral faculty, including Steven Meininger, Timothy J. Krueger, Director of Choral Activities MB Krueger, and Chair of the Music Department Dr. Michael J. Kornelsen. A noon hour concert will feature Metro's own ensembles performing for the high school students. The public is welcome on both days.

The following evening, Saturday, Nov. 7, Metro's choral ensembles – the Men's Choir, conducted by Timothy J. Krueger; the Women's Choir, conducted by MB Krueger; and the Metropolitan Chorale, conducted by MB Krueger – will perform their Fall Choral Concert at 7:30 pm. Tickets can be arranged by calling the box office at 303-556-2296.

Middle Level Honor Choir

Thursday, November 5, 2009

This festival is designed to be a positive, non-competitive event giving middle school and junior high school students an opportunity to perform for a panel of clinicians, work briefly with a clinician and participate in a short sight-reading activity. Legend High School, 22219 Hilltop Road, Parker, CO.

St. Martin's Chamber Choir: The Unknown Masterpiece

Friday, November 6, Grace Lutheran Church, Boulder, 7:30 pm

Sunday, November 8, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Denver, 4:00 pm

On November 6th and 8th St. Martin's presents the fascinating Cameo concert "The Unknown Masterpiece," where we invite the audience to consider the nature of fame, and the question of why some composers' fame endures, while other fine composers are relegated to relative obscurity. Twelve singers and conductor Timothy J. Krueger will perform *a cappella* settings of the Mass by Italian Renaissance composer Steffano Bernardi and Romantic-era Czech composer Jan Václav Kalivoda. Tickets can be arranged by calling 303-298-1970 or visiting the website at www.StMartinsChamberChoir.org.

And the Walls Come Tumblin' Down

Saturday, Nov. 7, Newman Center (DU), 7:30 pm

The Denver School of the Arts choirs Bellissima and Chorale will be performing a collaborative Gala concert with the Spirituals Project Choir on Nov. 7 at the Newman Center (DU) at 7:30 pm. Conductors include Rob Styron, Scott Shively, Bennie Williams, and John Hubert.

The Collegiate Choral Festival

Friday, November 13, 7:00 pm

Collegiate choirs from around the state will gather in Gates Concert Hall at the Newman Center on the campus of the University of Denver on Friday, Nov. 13 to share the art of music making. The evening will end with a mass choir performance of "He Watching Over Israel" from Mendelssohn's *Elijah*. This event is free and open to the public.

Lamont Chorale, Men's Choir, and Women's Chorus

Wednesday, November 18, 7:30 pm

Lamont Men's Choir, Paul Smith, conductor and Lamont Women's Chorus, Catherine Sailer, conductor, will share the stage in a concert with the Lamont Chorale, Catherine Sailer, conductor. Gates Concert Hall. Free Parking. Tickets are free and can be picked up at the Newman Center Box Office. For more information, visit www.du.edu/lamont.

Repertoire & Standards Chairs

Children's Choir

TBA

College and University

TBA

Community Choirs

TBA

High School

Sarah Harrison

Jazz and Show Choir

TBA

Multi-Cultural

Sue Williamson

Men's Choir

TBA

Middle School/ Junior High Co-Chair

Abigail Kilcoyne

kilcoyne_abigail@stvrain.k12.co.us

Middle School/Junior High Co-Chair

Michele DiNuova

Michele.DiNuova@Adams12.org

Music and Worship

Dan Grace, DMA

dbgrace@cybox.com

Women's Choir

TBA

Youth and Student Activities

Dr. Leila Heil

Webmaster

Josh Jackson

josh.jackson@comcast.net

DPS Citywide Honor Choir

Saturday, November 21, 3:00 PM

Manual High School, 1700 East 28th Ave., Denver

Approximately 300 students from schools throughout the Denver Public Schools will perform in a Citywide Honor Choir concert on Saturday, Nov. 21, at 3:00 pm at Manual High School. This event is free and open to the public.

SWACDA Convention

February 24 – 27, 2010

For complete information, please visit the website at www.swacda.org.

St. Martin's Chamber Choir with the Baroque Chamber Orchestra of Colorado: Noël, Noël!

Friday, December 18, 7:30 pm, St. John's Cathedral, Denver

Saturday, December 19, 7:30 pm, First United Methodist Church, Boulder

Sunday, December 20, 4:30 pm, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Denver

This collaboration will feature the Charpentier "Messe de Minuit," as well as French carols and other Christmas delights.

Conducted by Timothy J. Krueger of St. Martin's Chamber Choir and Frank Nowell of the Baroque Chamber Orchestra of Colorado.

Tickets can be arranged by calling 303-298-1970 or visiting www.StMartinsChamberChoir.org

The Editor's Last Word: From Singers to Musicians

MB Krueger, Newsletter Editor



I cringe whenever I hear it: "Let's put singers on this side of the stage, and musicians over there." Or at a choral rehearsal: "Next week the musicians will be joining us!" There exists a great divide in the minds and language of many in our field – instrumentalists are musicians, but singers are just singers.

There are reasons for this, of course. It is highly unlikely that someone in middle age could show up at a community orchestra rehearsal, pick up a violin or a trombone for the first time, and actually make any kind of contribution to the ensemble. It's not terribly likely in the world of choral music, either, but it is just possible. It is possible for someone who has never studied music theory, never had a voice lesson, never sung in a choir, never sung anywhere but in the shower, to join a choir and learn within a relatively short time period to be an adequate (or even better) choral singer. And we all encourage and welcome those people into our ensembles – in schools, churches, and community groups – because we want music to be a part of everyone's life, not just the few whose parents forced them into lessons during childhood.

But for those of us who actually make a living in the choral music world, it is discouraging sometimes to be differentiated from the musicians. "Singers" don't really read music. "Singers" need every note spoon-fed to them. "Singers" can't count.

How can you and I, as music educators, make a dent in these expectations?

We can do it by treating our students like musicians.

We can do it by training them to read rhythm, and then expecting them to be able to perform it. We can do it by training them to sight read, and then expecting them to be able to learn the notes without spoon-feeding. We can do it by talking with them about the music: Why did the composer choose to use a dissonance on that word? Why does the composer ask for *forte* on that phrase? Which syllables should be stressed, and what beats do they fall on? Why do the tenors get the melody there? If you were the composer, would you have done that differently?

We can do it by training them to understand their voices and how to use them in the healthiest and most effective ways possible. Where should your tongue be on that vowel? When you sing that phrase, can you identify any tensions in your body that need to be released? What can you do to improve the resonance or intonation of that chord?

We can do it by talking about the music and the poetry in their historical and artistic context. What events were going on in the world when this music was written? What other artists or political figures were living at the same time as this composer or poet? Was this music written for a specific occasion – a celebration, a religious rite, a commission?

Sometimes we get tired; we don't have the energy to be the teacher who challenges them and demands things of them. It's easier just to play the notes and have them sing back. It's easier just to chant the German text at them and not talk about what the words mean. It's easier to treat them like singers. Every teacher feels that way sometimes. But when we treat them like musicians, their own commitment to the music becomes a motivating factor for them, rather than us, their teachers, always having to be the motivator.

We do our students (and I consider that those who sing in church choirs and community choirs are also students) a disservice when we assume all this is over their heads, so it is easier to keep it simple. We need to give them the opportunity to be surprised, amused, impassioned, or mystified by music, and by the poetry that is unique to vocal music. They need for us to provide the tools, but once they learn to use them, they can grow from singers to musicians.



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February 24 – 27, 2010

National ACDA Advocacy Resolution

Whereas the human spirit is elevated to a broader understanding of itself through study and performance in the aesthetic arts; and

Whereas serious cutbacks in funding and support have steadily eroded arts institutions and their programs throughout our country,

Be it resolved that all citizens of the United States actively voice their affirmative and collective support for necessary funding at the local, state, and national levels of education and government, to ensure survival of arts programs for this and future generations.

Learn more and find ACDA Membership Application forms at www.acdaonline.org.

Visit the CoACDA Website:
www.coloradoacda.org