

ACDA *Cantabile*



The Newsletter of the Connecticut ACDA
Winter 1990

Ct. ACDA Honors Dr. Peter Bagley

by Carol Gustafson

The Ct. Chapter of the ACDA honored Dr. Peter Bagley, one of its most active members, at the ACDA Honors Choir performance on Saturday, October 20, 1990. Dr. Bagley was presented with a plaque naming him "The Connecticut Choral Educator of the Year."

Dr. Bagley, Professor of Music at The University of Connecticut, received his B.S. in Music Education at the Crane School of Music, State University of New York at Potsdam, and his D.M. in Choral Conducting under Julius Herford at Indiana University. He taught public school music in Greenwich, Ct., and prior to his appointment as Director of Choral Activities at UConn, was Professor of Music for seventeen years at the State University of New York, College of New Paltz.

Dr. Bagley has been invited as guest conductor and

choral clinician for numerous festivals and all-state choirs in New England, as well as New York, West Va., Texas, Illinois, Florida, and Iowa. He has held summer or part-time appointments at Harvard University, the University of Illinois at Urbana, Marshall University, and the University of Iowa. He conducted the UConn Concert Choir and Wind Ensemble at the MENC Eastern Division In-Service Conference in Baltimore, Maryland, for which they received the MENC *Certificate of Excellence* "...for its high quality of musical performance and outstanding contribution to the success of the professional conference." Among many other engagements, he has been invited to return to conduct the All-Eastern Division Chorus in the spring of 1991 at the In-Service Conference in Pittsburgh Pennsylvania.

Dr. Bagley has recently accepted an appointment as

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DISCLAIMER

The National office has requested the accompanying disclaimer be carried on all ACDA publications:

ACDA reserves the right to approve all materials proposed for distribution.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

So many thoughts concerning ACDA are on my mind. I would like to share them with you.

Under the leadership of Claire Conklin-Burnett, a truly fine Fall Conference was presented to the membership. Our new Eastern Division President Virginia Moravek, came up from New Jersey to spend the day with us and was impressed almost beyond words. The words arrived a few days later in the form of a very complimentary letter expressing her thanks to the Ct. Chapter for a super day.

Michelle Holt as Honors Choir chairman provided a great experience for our high school singers. The general consensus was that two honors choirs allowed many students to experience types of literature that individual schools cannot provide. They had a great day.

Your executive board met following the conference for a long fruitful session. Many things are now in the works for the coming year.

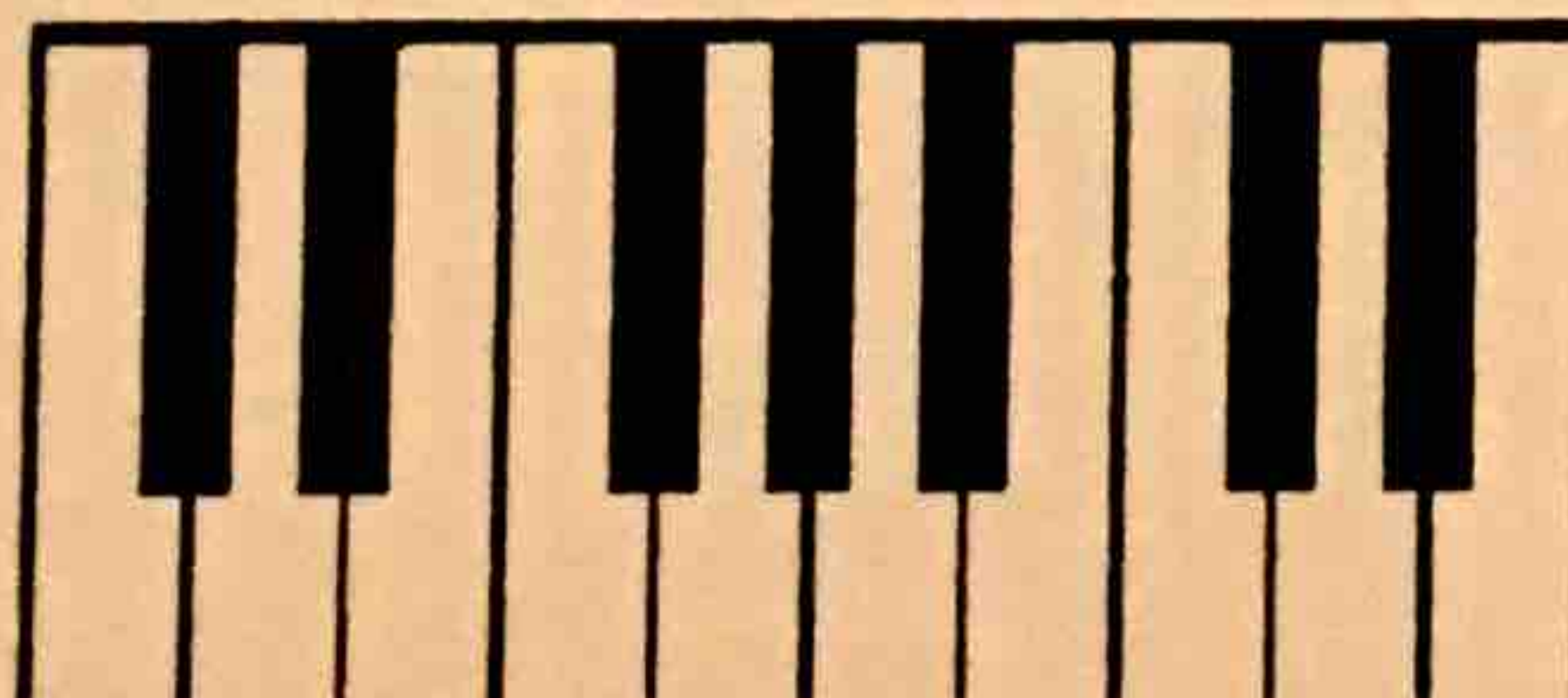
Michelle Hammond will chair the 1991 Honors Choirs. Suggestions for the coming year as to procedures and possible conductors should be addressed to her.

We have begun work toward a Connecticut ACDA Scholarship Fund. Lori Cetto is chairing an information committee with plan of

(Bagley continued)

Music Director of the Eastern Connecticut Symphony Orchestra Chorus and has been invited to conduct the combined forces of the chorus and orchestra in the 1991-92 season. He was responsible for the choral preparation of the UConn Concert Choir in the choral collaboration with Eastern Ct. Symphony Orchestra in the world premier recording of Sydney Hodkinson's *Missa Brevis*, recently released on compact disc for Centaur Records.

Dr. Bagley is active in the American Choral Foundation, the College Music Society, MENC, and the Ct. Music Educators Association. His professional achievements are recognized in- *Who's Who in the East*, *Who's Who Among Black Americans* and the *International Who's Who in Music*.



presenting to your executive board a suggested plan of action. Please direct to her any suggestions of information that you feel would be helpful.

By now you should have received questionnaires from Dot Mutkoski, Ethnic Choirs chairman. Please return them to Dorothy with as much info as you can provide for all of our benefit. We are looking forward to supplying you all
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A Word From The Editor...

So far, we are pleased with the new interest in our Newsletter. The many compliments I have received were greatly appreciated. With more members taking pride in their newsletter (as well as writing for their newsletter!), the quality of our publication will certainly succeed in reflecting the needs and aspirations of our membership.

The next step is to get the support of merchants and suppliers through advertising in Cantabile. Please send the names of your most reliable and supportive suppliers of music, equipment, etc., so we may possibly represent a state-wide representation of Connecticut businesses. Contact Jim Papp, or myself, so we may begin contacting them.

Thank-you,

*Robin T. Aubin
Cantabile Ed.*

*9th Annual
High School
Chamber Choir
Festival
March 22, 1991*

President's Message

(Cont'd)

with choral suggestions for your use.

A Children's Choir Festival is in the works. Kim Quinn, elementary choirs chairman, has been working on a proposal to establish an elementary festival. Look for more information to come.

As you can see your executive members have been busy beavers. However at our last meeting much time was taken to discuss a rather serious problem - the number of unprepared students who arrived to participate in your Honors Choir program. This particular year the honors choir committee was able to supply individual schools with music and information well in advance of the festival. Yet, many students arrived unprepared without the proper music to the frustration of the prepared singers around them in rehearsal. Singers even voiced their concerns to the guest conductors during rehearsal breaks. We find this situation not only frustrating, but embarrassing in that the guest conductors we provide are nationally known and carry their experience in Connecticut to other festivals around the nation.

We can do better. The Honors Choir Festival is a one day event. A tremendous amount of time and effort would be taken up with on site auditioning of singers. The choral directors of this state are capable of more

Special Events

CONCORA (The Connecticut Choral Artists Inc.) will present "Cabaret '91" on Friday, February 8, 1991, at the Stanley Center, New Britain, Ct at 7:00 p.m.

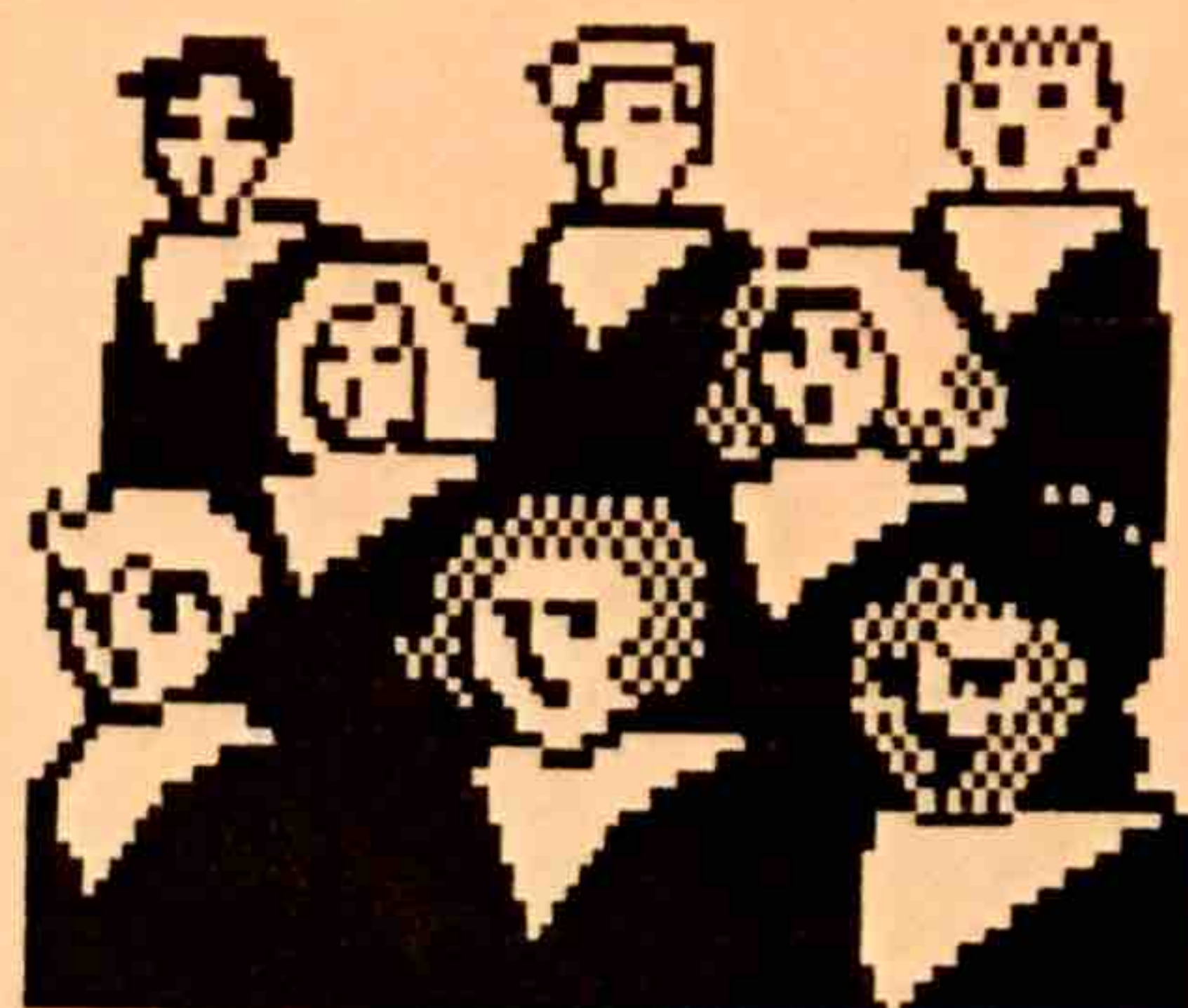
The gala benefit will feature an evening of music and comedy by members of CONCORA. Champagne and elegant desserts will be served. Reservations are \$35 per person and can be made by calling:

CONCORA (203) 224-7500
CONCORA is one of two professional choruses in Connecticut and is conducted by Richard Coffey.

The Lyme-Old Lyme High School Concert Choir, under the direction of Russell Hammond, will present a program on Thursday, January 10, 1991 at 7:30 p.m. at the High School Auditorium. For information, call:
434-1651

responsibility. Prepared singers from neighboring towns deserve better prepared comrades in song.

We are very concerned about this issue and welcome response from the membership. We are striving to provide quality activities for the benefit of the membership. Please give us your input.



DDATES TO REMEMBER....

Ct. ACDA Middle School
Fest
Dayville, Ct,
February 2

ACDA National Convention
Phoenix, Ar.
March 13-16

All New England Music
Festival
Stonington, Ct.
March 14-16

Ct. ACDA High School
Chamber Festival
March 22

OAKE Conference
San Francisco, Cal.
April 3-6

MENC Eastern Division
Pittsburgh, Pa.
April 18-21

CMEA All-State Fest
&
In-service Conference
Uconn, Storrs
May 22-24

Letter to the Editor

Dear Colleagues and Friends:

This year seems to be a banner year for me and unaccustomed as I am in expressing personal sentiments in a professional format such as this, you all have forced my hand to pen this letter to you. As some of you probably know and for those of you who were unable to attend our wonderful fall conference here at Storrs, I was the recipient of the 1990 award "Connecticut Choral Educator of the year" which was presented to me by President, Jim Papp. The sentiments which were expressed that afternoon both visually and aurally were profoundly moving to me. I am still somewhat at a loss for words, however, I can say only one has truly reached heights of Mount Olympus when one receives that kind of recognition and thanks from his "home" family of colleagues.

As Jim was reading over my list of credits, there was, of course the sheer exaltation of literally being dragged onto the stage. The award was a total surprise and the best-kept secret of the conference. There was this rush of panic: how can I possibly be able to say anything in the midst of my colleagues and the 300-voice student chorus on stage, many of those faces I

recalled in last year's All-State Chorus. But I was able to gain some resemblance of composure when I realized the profound joy and pride of that being your colleague here in Connecticut, and I shall always treasure that pride, together with the most generous gesture of recognition.

My most important thanks, however, is that you as directors entrust me with one of God's most important treasures, the gift of your students and their talent. One of your own students said it ten times more eloquently when he wrote after the All-State Concert:

I learned not one but a number of things during these few days. I learned to value my time even more than I already do. I also realized that there are a great many students who really care about learning and teachers who willingly devote their entire lives to passing on their knowledge. Through Dr. Bagley, I also learned if you want something badly enough, you can get it, and the rewards are colossal. I will never forget him, my friends or the things I have learned. I humbly pray to God that I have another experience like this someday, but even if I don't I will only thank Him for this one.

And that's the reason why I enjoy working in this profession. Again my sincere thanks and best wishes to you for an outstanding year.

Sincerely,

Peter Bagley

Director of Choral Activities
University of Connecticut

From your Ethnic Chair..

ETHNIC/MINORITY SURVEY IN PROGRESS

For building repertoire, one of the most valuable resources I have found is the recommendations of my colleagues. For a variety of reasons, it seems more difficult to build a good library of ethnic and minority pieces (Hebrew, Spirituals, Middle Eastern, Eastern European, etc.) A footnote in a recent Choral Journal article helped explain why there is not a wealth of Hebrew choral music being performed at the high school level:

"Polyphony is not found in Jewish music (with rare exceptions) until the nineteenth century. The Rabbis zealously (but not always successfully) guarded lest the chants from the Middle Eastern homeland become diluted through contact with Western music. And so, synagogue music retained many of its Mediterranean characteristics: it was, by and large, modal, melismatic, monophonic, and male dominated."

Joshua Jacobson, Chairman of Music at Northeastern University and author of the article, goes on to explain: "...much of the repertoire of recent vintage has been hastily crafted to meet the needs of the moment. None-

the less, one can find a number of [Hebrew] works that are of more than passing interest."

If you have one or two pieces in the Ethnic/Minority Category that have worked for your choirs, I urge you to respond to the survey that has been sent out. If you have not received the survey, simply mail your ideas to:

Dorothy Y. Mutkoski
Ethnic/Minority Chairperson, ACDA
50 Towpath Lane
Cheshire, Ct. 06410

Please include: The name of the piece, composer, and publisher. Any recommendations would be greatly appreciated and the final list will be published in a future newsletter.

Dorothy Y. Mutkoski

From your Middle School Chair...

As of this printing, all but one slot has been filled for our Middle School Festival. If you are interested in visiting, or have any questions concerning the festival, give me a call..... I am very glad to have invited Jon Noyes to write an article for *Cantabile*. Part II of his Voice Care Network review, with comments on female changing voice, will be included in the next newsletter....Next year's conference in Boston('92) may have a Children's Honors Choir and a Middle School Honors Choir. Our own Sallie Ferrebee, from Sedgewick Middle School in W. Hartford, is coordinator of the Middle School Honors Choir as ACDA Eastern Division chairperson. Any interest in helping may go through this column.... Finally, do you have a piece of music you would recommend for Middle School? **Please** send me a few ideas, so I may share them at Phoenix(and bring back other ideas from around the country). I hope to publish the list of music in an upcoming *Cantabile*!! Thanks.

Robin T. Aubin
Ct.ACDA Middle School
Chairperson

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS FOR CHORAL DIRECTORS

1. Make an effort to teach your singers about the music you perform—other than just the notes and rhythms.
2. Invite a guest conductor to direct your choir in rehearsal or performance.
3. Make a video tape of one of your rehearsals with the camera pointed at you, not the choir.
4. Take time to write a small article for "*Cantabile*"
5. Look for some good new music. (Rotating repertoire wears thin after a while)
6. Make arrangements for your choir to hear at least one other choral group perform. Invite another choir to hear you.
7. Try sight-reading a new piece of music without a piano.
8. Be real nice to your accompanist. He's/ She's doing the best he/she can.
9. Try something different for your concert. Add lighting, or student introductions of the music. When was the last time you tried something silly?
10. Pursue a hobby or activity completely separate from music. "All work and no play makes Jack....."

(inspired by Illinois' *The Conductors' Podium*, January 1990)

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