

ACDA

Cantabile



The Newsletter of the Connecticut ACDA
Spring 1991

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I'm writing to you while I'm still existing on a wonderful high! I've just returned from the ACDA National Convention in Phoenix, Arizona. This was my second national convention. After the first, I promised myself not to miss a national EVER!

It was the largest ACDA National Convention with final registration approaching 3500 and an additional 2500 performers. As I expected, the level of performance and the quality of music was an inspiration. From the pure simplicity of groups like the Toronto Children's Choir to the overwhelming magnificance of the Bach b minor Mass with Helmut Rilling conducting, the week was a great experience for the 10 Connecticut Yankees who made the trip. It was a special treat for me to find a college

classmate to be the Alaska ACDA President!

It was a wonderful feeling to sit at division and national assemblies and report that Connecticut ACDA is doing just fine. We are growing in membership and in the number of activities that we offer for conductor professional growth and choral improvement. I urge you to support activities like the upcoming High School Chamber Festival and the Children's choir festival with your participation and attendance.

Your state ACDA organization is only as strong as the membership makes it. The countless hours that your executive board works to provide you with growth opportunities is for naught without your participation and criticism to improve them.

The 1992 Eastern ACDA Convention will be in Boston, Mass. and the 1993 National ACDA Convention will be in San Antonio, Texas. Start planning now!

Jim Papp

In this issue:

President's Message

From the Editor

Elementary Chair News

Ethnic Survey Results

Public Relations & the Music Program

VoiceCare Network
(Part II)

Middle School Festival
Update

New Music & Worship
Chairman Welcomed

Male Choirs

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.

From your Elementary Chair...

On Saturday May 4, 1991, the Connecticut ACDA will sponsor our first All-State Elementary Choral Festival at Rocky Hill High School. Our clinician and guest conductor will be Mary Ellen Junda, Assistant Professor of Music at the University of Connecticut. I have found Ms. Junda to be a caring professional who is devoted to the establishment and nurturing of excellence in children's choirs.

The enthusiastic response from teachers and students who will be attending has been most encouraging for our first endeavor. I look forward to an exciting day that, hopefully, will become an annual event.

The day's schedule is:

8:30-9:00 a.m. --Registration
9:00-12:00 -----Rehearsal
12:00-12:45 -----Lunch
1:00-2:30 p.m.---Rehearsal
3:00p.m. -----Performance

Kimberly Quinn
7 Tamavack Lane
Simsbury, Ct. 06070

We have a New Middle School Chair...

Beginning with this newsletter, Jon Noyes, from Illing Junior High School, Manchester Ct. will be taking over as Middle School chairperson. *(Now the editor can devote his energies to our Newsletter!!)* Please notice his article on the Voice Care Network, Part 2. in this issue, as well as a final update on the Middle School Festival by yours truly.

From the Editor...

When I planned on attending the national convention in Phoenix, I was both very excited and nervous about meeting editors of state and regional newsletters. It seems that some states do an incredible job with their newsletter staff and turn out some very good publications that are both informative and educational. In only three issues, I believe the quality of our newsletter has increased. This is primarily due to the assistance from most of our executive board. Special thanks to Jim Papp who has helped to remind others about issues and deadlines.

We have also been blessed with some of our membership writing for Cantabile. I am grateful for all those who have lifted a pen for Cantabile this past year- thank-you. Your efforts give me the necessary materials to provide a meaningful and quality product.

To continue to improve the quality of our publication, and more than meet the needs of our membership, there is still more to be done. Our members have so many talents and experiences that could be shared. How many pieces of choral music have you conducted over five, or ten, or even twenty years? Their has to be a favorite piece to review or comment on!

And what about some funny stories or experiences that you could share! Sometimes hearing what has happened to others teaches us more than the most serious articles in the ACDA Choral Journal. What is that old sayin.....
."Misery loves company".

Finally, next year we will be adding advertisements to our newsletter. If you represent a company who's business would serve our membership, or have suggestions for ads, please contact me this summer. This includes universities, music stores, and clothing companies. Have an enjoyable summer. Robin T. Aubin

From your M. S. Chair..... The Voice Care Network (Part II)

(This is the second of a two-part review of a workshop entitled "Male and Female Changing Voices: State-of-the-Art Methods of Voice Development and Health". Part I focused on the male changing voice.)

THE FEMALE CHANGING VOICE

Although the voice change process in males has received much study, little attention has been given to the female changing voice. One possible explanation for this is the perception that girls' voices don't really change. In fact they do! During the entire voice change process, the vocal folds of female adolescents increase in size approximately 3-4 mm, while the folds of male adolescents increase up to one cm. The main difference, therefore, is the degree of change.

Lynn Gackle has proposed the following signs of female adolescent voice change:

1. insecurity of pitch
2. development of noticeable register breaks
3. increased huskiness in the voice
4. decreased, inconsistent range capabilities
5. voice "cracking"
6. hoarseness

Gackle has also defined the following stages of voice change in females: (Chronological ages are given as general guides and should not be used as definitive indications of stage occurrence.)

STAGE I - Pre-pubertal (ages 8-10)
No register breaks; soprano quality; good flexibility.

STAGE IIA - Pubescence/Pre-menarcheal (ages 11-12) Breathiness in tone due to appearance of mutational "chink", and inadequate closure of the vocal folds; register break between G4 & B4; lack of volume; loss of range.

STAGE IIB - Puberty/Post-menarcheal (ages 13-14) Lack of clarity in tone; hoarseness; voice "cracking".

STAGE III - Young Adult Female/Post-Menarcheal (ages 14-16) Range increases; breathiness decreases; richer tone; increase in volume, resonance and agility; vibrato may appear.

CONCLUSION

Among the many other subjects presented in this course were the use of the voice for efficient and healthy speaking, how voices are made, grown and efficiently operated, teaching voice skills through literature and conducting gestures, and arranging music for changing voices. The information covered in these areas has given me greater insight and has allowed me to be more effective in teaching my own students in Grades 7-9 at Illing JHS in Manchester.

I welcome your questions and comments. For more information:

The Voice Care Network
Riverside Park Plaza-Suite 7
701 25th Avenue South
Minneapolis, Mn. 55454

Jon Noyes
Illing JHS
227 East Middle Tpke.
Manchester, Ct. 06040

(Leon Thurman will be teaching a course on Voice Care at Hartt College this summer; Lynne Gackle will be conducting the Middle School Honors Choir at the ACDA East Regional Convention in Feb. '91)

Ct ACDA Welcomes new Music and Worship Chairperson

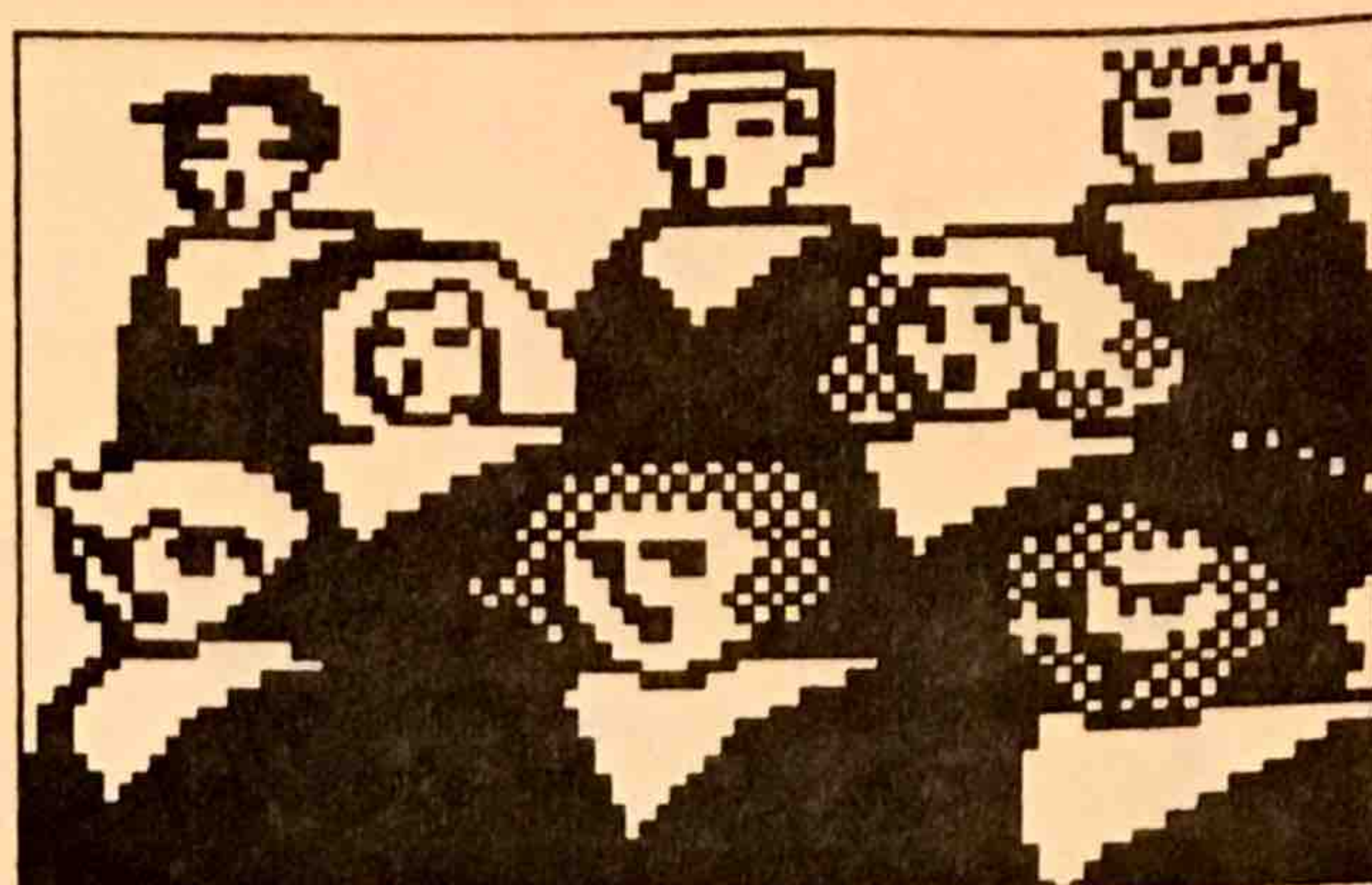
David Spicer has been appointed as our new chairperson for the area of Music and Worship. We are very happy to receive him to our executive board.

David Spicer is Minister of Music at the historic First Church of Christ (Congregational) in Wethersfield, Ct. First Church is the largest Congregational church in New England and was organized in 1634. At his post, Spicer directs a multiple choir program and produces a concert series of monthly events, including an annual Colonial Concert with costumes and music in keeping with the church's historic past. Prior to assuming the Wethersfield post, Spicer was Director of Music at First Presbyterian Church in Lincoln and taught Church Music at Nebraska Wesleyan University.

Spicer is a graduate of the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, where he was an Artist-Scholar under Dr. Alexander McCurdy. He completed graduate studies at Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary, also in Philadelphia, and further organ study with Dr. Robert Elmore.

As a recitalist, David Spicer always involves his audience, and likes to feel that they "walk away with a greater understanding of the King of Instruments." He is known for his performance of organ recitals from memory and his arrangements of pieces not customarily performed on the organ. While in Lincoln, he played the opening pre-convention recital for the 1985 Regional Convention of the American Guild of Organists. He has played recitals at numerous places, including St. Thomas Church in New York City, where he performed in December, 1986.

David is also an innovator choral conductor. He has promoted the premier performances of several works, among them the Midwestern premier in 1986 of Herbert Howells' "Hymnus Paradisi" with combined choirs and the Nebraska Chamber Orchestra.



As a teacher, he has the distinction of having three of his students win full scholarships to his alma mater, the Curtis Institute of Music.

The artist is married to Dana Hill Spicer. A man committed to his family, his faith and his musical craft, he is dedicated to the concept that Religion and Music, two of the greatest forces in our world, can effectively merge to "wash away from men's souls the dust of everyday life."

In 1989 Mr. Spicer was appointed House Organist of Hartford's Bushnell Memorial Auditorium. In addition to his musical activities, he is teaching a Church Music course for Central Connecticut State University's summer session.

We are honored to have a man with the talents, achievements and credentials as David. Welcome to our family, Mr. Spicer.

Famous Quotations concerning Music and Worship

"The better the voice is, the meetier is to honour and serve God therewith: and the voice of man is chiefly to be employed to that end."

William Byrd (1588)

"I will sing to the Lord all my life, make music to my God while I live."

Psalms 103

"The Church knew what the Psalmist knew: Music praises God. Music is well and better able to praise Him than the building of the church and all its decoration; it is the Church's greatest ornament."

Igor Stravinsky (1958)

Middle School Fest- Another Success!

In the first festival, we didn't know if we: 1) would get enough schools to participate, 2) should provide lunch,.... or even the main question....

3) "How do you keep 200+ middle school students excited, happy, and interested in the choral art for an entire day, while helping them to learn something, meet other students, and, see and hear other choirs?"

Well, after getting our feet wet in the first festival, we tried to improve the formula and...voila!...it worked!

Over 200 students participated from six schools in Connecticut for a fabulous day of fun and music on February 2, 1991, at the beautiful new Killingly Intermediate School, in the quiet corner of northeastern Ct. Each choir had the chance to sing in a combined chorus, perform for other choirs, and after their performance, receive comments and help from an adjudicator.

Our adjudicators were Jon Noyes from Illing Jr High School in Manchester, Salle Ferrebee from Sedgewick Middle School in West Hartford, and Sal Ciciarella, who had the dubious honor of rehearsing and directing the combined choirs. The combined pieces were a Czechoslovakian round called "Let Us Sing Together" and "Down by the Riverside", (Swanee pub.) arranged by Jay Althouse. Sal did an outstanding job, as many students and directors commented on his rapport with and direction of the choir.

The participating schools and their directors included:

*Griswold Jr. High, Rocky Hill -
Clair Burnett, dir.*
*Windsor Locks Middle School, Windsor Locks -
Cindy Latournes, dir*
*North Haven Jr. High School, North Haven -
Richard Nigro, dir*
*Sedgewick Middle School, West Hartford -
Patricia Donohoe, dir*
*Lyme/Old Lyme Middle School, Old Lyme -
Russell Hammond, dir*
*Saxe Middle School, New Canaan -
Anna Montero, dir*

The directors should be complimented on the choice of repertoire as well as the preparedness of the choirs, since the festival was so close to seasonal performances. Once again, it displayed the overwhelming diversity in the adolescent voices, and the various possibilities in parts and voicings. A festival such as this also shows how musical the middle level student can be. Those of us who teach this level, realize that the only limit these students have are the limits that we often place on them ourselves!

We have offered this festival every two years. Do you think we should start having it annually? Would you be interested next year?

From your Men's Choir Chair....

This column will address different aspects of male choral ensembles. This, our inaugural article, will ask for your help in gathering some statistics and information. First, we need to compile a list of all existing organized choirs "for men only" If your school, community or church has a men's choir, please send the name of the group or sponsor, the director's name, a mailing address, ages of singers, number of singers, genre (barbershop, renaissance, show choir, mixed repertoire, etc.), and any other information you might think be beneficial to the Ct ACDA men's choir committee. Please send any information you may have to:

Gary Rosoff, Fairfield Prep
North Benson Rd.
Fairfield, Ct. 06430

You may also call me at 254-4000, ext 2263

Secondly, we want to create a list of songs arranged for men's voices that our membership recommends. This will provide all of us with a repertoire list that is "tried and true" Please include the titles, composer/arranger, publishers, catalogue number, voicing, type, (spiritual, classical, madrigal, Christmas, secular, etc.), level of difficulty (easy, medium difficult, very difficult), and any other information you feel may be beneficial.

Finally, we would like to include reviews of new releases for men's choirs. If you would like to do one, please send it to me (see above address). I hope to hear from the membership soon. Please help.. without your participation, this will not succeed

Gary Rosoff

Contact Jon Noyes, our new Middle school chair
Thanks to Salle, Claire, Jon, and Sal for their fine work and help. Special thanks to Jerre Fillimore and Killingly Public Schools for their hospitality and fine facilities....BRAVO!

Robin T. Aubin

From your Ethnic Chair...

First Ethnic Survey Results

The following is the first of a three-part list of quality choral pieces with ethnic themes recommended by high school and college level choral directors. Other sources consulted were several state manuals and contest lists.

RECOMMENDED SPIRITUALS

WITNESS J. Halloran, KJOS

SOON AH WILL BE DONE William Dawson, KJOS

I COULDN'T HEAR NOBODY PRAY Hall Johnson, Schirmer

AIN'T GOT TIME TO DIE Hall Johnson, Schirmer

Other composers or arrangers who were recommended were Jester Hairston and William Smith. All of the above seemed to capture or preserve the original material best.

In the next newsletter, I hope to include a list of recommended Hebrew pieces and out of the ordinary Folk Songs. If you can contribute a title or two, please don't hesitate to drop me a note at the address below.

Many thanks to all who took the time to contribute your recommendations!

Dorothy Y. Mutkoski,
Ethnic Chair
50 Towpath Lane,
Cheshire, Ct. 06410

**Our next Ct. ACDA Conference
is Saturday, October 19th.
Plan Ahead!**

From your H. S. Chair...

Book Review

"Sound Thinking" is the clever title of a new sight-singing and ear training book by Michael Houlahan and Philip Tacka. Both authors hold diplomas from the Kodaly Institute, Kecskemet, Hungary. The strength of this book lies in its successful application to any sight-singing system, including letter names, numbers and solfa syllables. Suggestions on practice methods are plentiful and varied. Each chapter begins with a list of musical terms and contains sequenced rhythmic and melodic materials. The authors suggest using both volumes 1 & 2 for college ear training courses, high school choral programs, or middle school general music classes. At a pricey \$15 per book, these Boosey editions could be overlooked. However, they offer a refreshing approach and a welcome addition to sight-singing and ear training activities.

"Sound Thinking" Music for Sight-Singing
and Ear Training

Volume 1 & 2

Michael Houlahan and Philip Tacka

Boosey and Hawkes

(TXB 73, TXB-74)

Lorri Cetto

**It is the best of all trades,
to make songs,
and the second best
to sing them.**

Hillaire Belloc

Letter to the Editor...

Public Relations and the Music Program

from Leslie A. Imse

This year, I agreed to chair a public relations committee with the Professional Affairs Committee of CMEA. The position is overwhelming, in that, it is a job which could never be completed. There is a great deal happening in our state and so many avenues in which to highlight these events.

The primary goal of the committee is to encourage musicians across the state to promote their programs through available sources of Public Relations. Musical events and accomplishments abound in each of your individual programs, therefore it would be impossible for one committee to act in your best interests. You are the person that must make this difference with your available resources.

As you know this is "The Year of the Arts" and the public needs to be aware of all that is happening in the arts. If you have been remiss in publicizing events previously, this is the year to make it a priority.

On a more grave note, state and local budgets for the upcoming year do not look good. The responsibility of expressing the importance of music in our schools and lives rests upon we, the musicians.

Publicity should begin within your school, filter to your town, and eventually to your region. Utilize school newspapers, principal's newsletters, town publications and newspapers. Don't be afraid to make announcements over your school PA, write an editorial or establish a music department newsletter. Call radio and television stations, you would be surprised that they may be interested.

Our committee has been disseminating information to state and local newspapers regarding music festivals and activities across the state. However, there are so many local

and regional publications that it is impossible to contact all of them. In addition, a local newspaper is more likely to print information submitted by a local resident or employee than an unknown committee. Therefore, I encourage you to submit your own press releases to as many publications as possible. Normally, two weeks lead time is required for publication. Many press release forms are available and are in format that is easily reproduced for your convenience.

If you have any suggestions or questions for me or my committee, please call 653-2531. A special thank you to the committee members: Russ Vinick, Patricia Sheehan, and Lisa Pietrycha.

(Below is sample information and set-up for your own press releases. Thank-you Leslie!)

PRESS RELEASE

ARTICLE TITLE:

DATE OF EVENT:

PLACE AND TIME:

Write a brief paragraph on the event to include with any black and white photos.

CONTACT PERSON:

DATE SUBMITTED:

Any Ct. ACDA member who is not receiving their issue of CANTABILE should contact the editor, or check with the national membership office of ACDA in Lawton, Oklahoma.

DDATES TO REMEMBER....

**MENC Eastern Division
Pittsburgh, Pa.
April 18-21**

**Ct. ACDA
Elementary Choral Festival
Rocky Hill High School
May 4, 1991**

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

**Laurel Music Camp
June 22-28**

**Ct. ACDA Conference
October 19**

**Next
Cantabile
Deadline
is**

**JULY
30th!**

The *MUSIC* Series

Herbert Howells' Hymnus Paradisi and Ralph Vaughan Williams' Five Mystical Songs and motet "O Clap your Hands" will be presented on Sunday, May 19, at 7:30 pm. Co-sponsored by the Music Series of New Britain and the Woodland Concert Series of Hartford, the concert will take place at Immanuel Church, in Hartford, Ct.

Three soloists will be featured: Lorna Haywood, soprano; Jerome Pruett, tenor; and Robert Mobsby, baritone. The Hartford Symphony and the Choirs of South Church, New Britain, and Immanuel Church, Hartford, will be conducted by Richard Coffey. Larry Allen is the associate conductor and organist.

*Admission donation is \$10.00;
\$8:00 for senior citizens and students.*

Hymnus Paradisi was first performed at the Worcester Festival in England in 1950. It is dedicated to the memory of Howells' son who died in boyhood. It is a radiant hymn whose texts reflect the theme of eternal rest. The Five Mystical Songs of Vaughan Williams were first performed in 1911 in Worcester cathedral and are settings of poems by the early 17th century poet, George Herbert. The Motet "O Clap Your Hands" is a Setting of Psalm 47 for mixed chorus with brass, percussion, and organ. The production has recieved a grant from the Helen M. Saunders Charitable Trust and also has the support of individuals, corporations, and other foundations.

For reservations and information, contact either series: The Music Series (203) 223-3691 or Woodland Concert Series (203) 527-8121

CONNECTICUT ACDA OFFICERS

President

James Papp
P.O.Box 1341SMS
Fairfield, Ct 06430
(203) 378-1201

Treasurer

Russell Hammond
43 Boston Post Rd.
Old Lyme, Ct. 06371
(203) 434-7796

Executive Secretary

Carol Gustafson
1332 Bucks Hill Rd.
Guilford, Ct. 06437
(203) 264-2272

Honors Choir

Michelle Hammond
43 Boston Post Rd.
Old Lyme, Ct. 06371
(203) 434-7796

Middle School Choir

Jon Noyes
63 Elm St
Manchester, Ct 06040
(203) 643-9818

Elementary School Choir

Kim Quinn
7 Tamarack Lane
Simsbury, Ct. 06070
(203) 651-0518

President-Elect

Claire Conklin
2K Talcott Glen Road
Farmington, Ct. 06032
(203) 678-8961

Cantabile Editor

Robin T. Aubin
29 Cheryl Ave.
Dayville, Ct. 06241
(203) 774-1933

Chamber Choir Festival

Mike Gosselin
124 Washington Rd.
Cromwell, Ct.
(203) 635-0413

High School Choir

Laurie Cetto
180 Preston St.
Hartford, Ct. 06114

Music and Worship

David Spicer
First Church of Christ
Wethersfield, Ct.

Ethnic and Minority

Dorothy Mutkoski
52 Towpath Rd.
Cheshire, Ct. 06410
(203) 272-5713

Men's Choir

Gary Rosoff
Fairfield Prep
North Benson Rd.
Fairfield, Ct. 06430
(203) 254-4000 Ext. 2263