

Soundings

An official publication of the Wisconsin Choral Directors Association, Inc.

Vol. XXXVIII, No. 1 Fall, 2011

President's Letter:

Bringing WCDA closer to you—

Communication is the Key!

—Susan McAllister, WCDA President



Susan McAllister

It is a privilege to write my first article for *Soundings* as president of WCDA. A privilege because I know to whom I am writing—our valuable WCDA members who are:

* *Professional choral musicians/directors/teachers who have dedicated themselves to bringing beauty, sensitivity, joy, and significance to the lives of the singers in your choirs.*

* *Choral musicians who are committed to learning and growing as directors by being members of their professional associations.*

* *Fun, inspiring, and downright great Wisconsin people who constitute a community and network to support one another and the health of choral music and the arts in our state.*

Thank you for this opportunity and please know that as a member of our WCDA community and network I will definitely need your support over the next two years to keep our organization strong and healthy!!! We're all in this together!

Thanks to **Rodger Trader** for his leadership and untiring commitment to WCDA during his term as president. I am certainly happy to know that as past-president he is still on the board to help me out and offer his wisdom. I am also grateful for our new president-elect, **Matt Wanner**, for his youthful enthusiasm and mighty talents. I like our WCDA team and believe that you will be happy to see what the future holds for WCDA as we move forward. *Thanks for bringing us together!*

A new school year/season is beginning, but that beginning couldn't happen without a lot of preparation and work. Just like you, the WCDA Board and project chairs were working this summer to prepare for another exciting year of WCDA projects and events. In addition, we put our heads together in a **Leadership Retreat** this summer to look at the past, assess the present, and plan for the future.

You are aware of many of the changes occurring in WCDA because of the new **website** which is now one year old. We are tweaking, improving, and adding things to the website to not only make it easier to use, but also to make it more useful. Do not hesitate to send us your ideas and thoughts about what you would like to see on the WCDA website.

Continued on page 4

Inside

There are three ways to enjoy this issue of *Soundings*!

Turn pages in the ISSUU format for leisurely browsing,

Print a copy, or

Click on the links below to go to any page!

There are also active links throughout *Soundings*.

Letter from the Editor

News/Announcements

Fall Election for Southern District Reps

A Message from the NC-ACDA President

Vocal Jazz Institute Wrap-up

High 5's
Middle School
High School
Men
Women

"Sound Ideas"
from District Reps
Bev Mattingly, SW
Christine Anderson, NE

WSMA News



**WCDA
Executive Board
of Directors**

PRESIDENT

Susan McAllister, Green Bay
suecmus@att.net

VICE-PRESIDENT

Rodger Trader, East Troy
trarod@easttroy.k12.wi.us

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Matthew Wanner, Muskego
matthew.wanner
@muskegonorway.org

TREASURER

Lynn Seidl, Luxemburg
lseidl@luxcasco.k12.wi.us

NW DISTRICT REP

Cathy Reitz, Eau Claire
creitz@ecasd.k12.wi.us

CENTRAL DISTRICT REP

Dan Larson, Wausau
dlarson@wausau.k12.wi.us

NE DISTRICT REP

Christine Anderson,
Green Bay, canderso
@shiocton.k12.wi.us

SW DISTRICT REP

Bev Mattingly, Lancaster
mattinglyb
@lancastersd.k12.wi.us

SE DISTRICT REPS

John Choi, Kenosha
jchoi@kusd.edu

WCDA OFFICE

Judy Eckenrod, Green Bay
wcda@wischoral.org
www.wischoral.org
920-455-0525

Letter from the editor

My daughter Molly started 4K this year. She told me that she has been waiting her “whole life” to go to school.

The excitement that built in our house in the weeks leading up to September 1st was palpable. But I realized it wasn't just from Molly. I realized I also couldn't wait for the first day of school! I was so excited to get back in my classroom and see my students again. I have big plans for this year and I just couldn't wait to get started! I bet most, if not all, of you reading this felt the same way. There is something about what we do and how it is an innate part of us that makes us giddy at the thought of getting to start fresh in the fall.



Joy Paffenroth

In this issue of *Soundings*, we have brought together some great resources to help you get things kicked off in the right way! Be sure to check out the variety of **High 5's** from our state R&S chairs. These music selections are sure to be a welcome addition to your ensemble's repertoire. It's also a great time to check out some programs that WCDA offers both you and your students. **Singing in Wisconsin** is celebrating its **20th** (!) anniversary this year, **All-State Choir** (independent of a convention) will take place in January and, of course, Wisconsin is privileged to play host to the **NC-ACDA division conference** in Madison in February.

But, WCDA is more than that – *WCDA is a great place of sharing among its members.* I know of several groups that got together informally over the summer to have repertoire sharing sessions. The one I attended at Appleton East HS was a morning filled with good conversation, delicious food and great music. I came away with so many ideas that it will take me years to program them all. Or, have you been on the **WCDA Facebook** page recently? It has become a wonderful place to ask questions, share ideas and celebrate each other. I have “met” so many colleagues from around the state just by being a member of the page.

As we get busy in our own “bubbles” in the coming months, *don't forget to stay connected to WCDA!* Being in touch with others that are as giddy about choral music as you are might keep the excitement of the new year last all the way to June! ■

Joy Paffenroth, Chilton High School

News/Announcements

FROM THE WCDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

WCDA Members “in the news...”

James B. Kinchen, Jr. was recently elected president-elect of the North Central Division of ACDA. The division includes Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. Dr. Kinchen is the director of choral activities at UW-Parkside in Kenosha. He has made a substantial impact on choral music in the state of Wisconsin throughout his career. His ensembles from UW-Parkside and the Milwaukee Choristers have made several convention appearances over the years. James has served as a convention organizer, presenter and performer. He has served on the board of WCDA in several capacities including R&S Chair for Colleges, R&S State Chair, chair of the Visions Committee, President-Elect, President and Past President. James has also served as the R&S Chair for Multi-cultural/Ethnic music at the national level of ACDA. We extend our sincere appreciation to James for all he has done and look forward to his leadership at the division level. ■



Joy Paffenroth has been selected as the North Central Division representative to the International Conductors Exchange Program for 2012. The exchange program will be held in conjunction with a Choral Music Symposium in Cuba, May 15-20, 2012. Joy will be traveling with 6 other conductors from around the country to take part in the symposium and exchange with Cuban conductors. A Cuban conductor will be visiting Wisconsin in February prior to the 2012 NC-ACDA conference in Madison. Congratulations, Joy! ■

Links to WCDA & NC-ACDA Event Webpages:

Singing in Wisconsin—20th Year!, Saturday, November 12.

Four Sites: Chippewa Falls, Appleton, Wausau and NEW! West Milwaukee.

SIW Registration available online for the first time!

Payment options include PayPal online or check by mail.

Deadline for Registration: September 23.

WCDA All-State Choir, January 12–14, Carroll University, Waukesha.

All new format, separate from convention.

A two-day experience for exceptional students, by teacher recommendation.

Outstanding All-State Clinicians and a performance.

Online Application forms available soon.

Deadline for registration: November 15.

NC-ACDA Division Conference, February 8–11, 2012, Madison.

Honor Choir Audition/Application at ncacda.org. Deadline: October 1.

WCDA Advisory Board of Directors

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Joy Paffenroth, Sherwood,
paffenrothj@chilton.k12.wi.us

R&S STATE COORDINATOR

Carol Dahle, Hudson,
dahlecj@hudson.k12.wi.us

SINGING IN WI CHAIR

Sara Route, Baldwin,
sroute@scc.k12.wi.us

NEXTDIRECTION CHAIR

Herb Berendsen, Oshkosh,
herbert.berendsen@oshkosh.k12.wi.us

VISIONS CHAIR

To Be Announced.

SINGSPIEL CHAIR

Jason Brinker, Waukesha,
jbrinker@waukesha.k12.wi.us

VOCAL JAZZ INSTITUTE

Janette Hanson, Sparta,
janettejazz@gmail.com

BUSINESS & INDUSTRY

Emily Crocker, Milwaukee,
Hal Leonard Publishing,
ecrocker@halleonard.com

HISTORIAN

Carol Dahle, Hudson,
dahlecj@hudson.k12.wi.us

SCHOLARSHIP CHAIR

Polly Amborn, Kenosha,
pamborn@kud.edu

LIAISON TO WSMA

Timothy Wurgler, Waunakee,
twurgler@wsmamusic.org

SOUNDINGS ONLINE POSTING INFORMATION & DEADLINES

Articles for *Soundings* must be submitted to Joy Paffenroth, editor, via email to paffenrothj@chilton.k12.wi.us at least six weeks prior to publication.

Online advertising opportunities are under development. Please contact Joy if you are interested in advertising.

SOUNDINGS ISSUE
Winter 2011

DEADLINE

October 1

ONLINE AFTER

November 15, 2011

SOUNDINGS ISSUE
Spring/Summer 2012

DEADLINE

April 1

ONLINE AFTER

May 15, 2012

SOUNDINGS ISSUE
Fall 2012

DEADLINE

August 2

ONLINE AFTER

September 15, 2012

WCDA reserves the right to edit and approve all materials.

President's Letter

Continued from page 1

As your Leadership Team, we are so grateful to all of you who took the time to complete the **WCDA Survey** last May. We looked at the results this summer and are in the process of analyzing those results. The input we received from you will influence the planning of new initiatives, improvement of our current projects, events, and communications, and will lead us to a WCDA that will be *pertinent and healthy* well into the future. Please watch for reports of the survey results and related items in subsequent *Soundings*.

Last year was a transition year for WCDA—from print mailings of project brochures and *Soundings* newsletters to online brochures, registrations, newsletters and E-Notes. For the most part, the transition has gone smoothly. However, one very large GLITCH continues to be the *security procedures* in place in many school districts and institutions.

We could use your help!

If you hear of someone who is not receiving their materials from WCDA please remind them to do the following:

1. Contact WCDA either by calling Judy Eckenrod at **920-455-0525**, e-mailing WCDA at wcdawischoral.org or e-mail me at suemcmus@att.net.
2. Check with the school district or institution to get all of your WCDA correspondence approved.
3. Check your SPAM file on a regular basis to make sure WCDA correspondence isn't ending up as SPAM.
4. If you prefer to receive WCDA communications at your **home e-mail address** rather than school, let us know ASAP so you don't miss a thing.

All of the work on the website, on the survey, on our Facebook page, on increased E-Notes, etc. is part of our effort **to communicate more effectively with you**—our WCDA members! As an organization, we are aware that communication is the **key** to a successful, relevant, and healthy WCDA.

But, communication is a TWO-WAY STREET! Please help us out by communicating with us. It's easier than ever. Join the **WCDA Facebook** page. Make it a habit to **check the WCDA website** at least once a week. **E-mail** any or all WCDA Board members and project chairs by clicking on the Leadership page on the website. We truly are only a click away and are interested and anxious to hear from you.

My best wishes to each of you as you embark on a new school year and/or choir season. The beauty you create with your singers elevates you, them, and your audiences above the everyday cares of this world and truly makes this world a better place! You have never been as important as you are right now!! ■

Sue



Do you live in the South East or South West District?

Elections will be held this fall...check your zip code on the map below.

Online ballots will be posted soon!

Last fall, WCDA announced the revision of district boundaries based on Zip Codes, in order to provide a simpler method of identifying member districts. Using Zip Codes makes it possible to use electronic searching and sorting. The WCDA state-wide fall election for president-elect, North East, North West and our newly-formed **Central** district took place with these guidelines and was managed on this website!

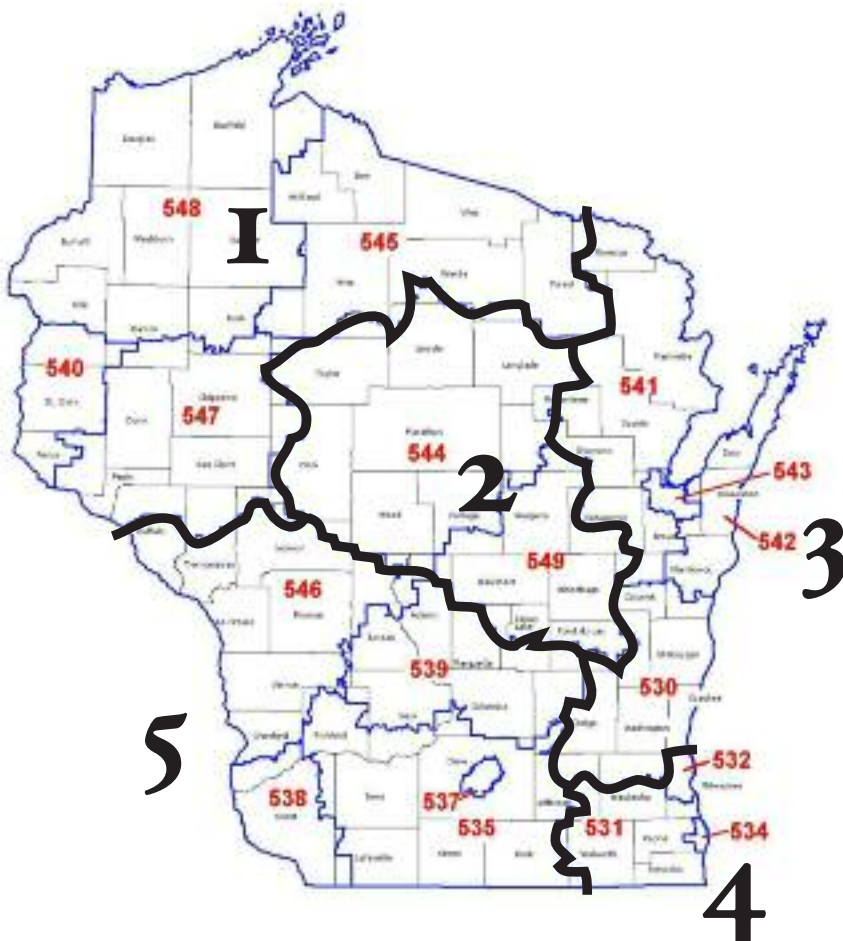
In fall, 2011, the SOUTHERN districts will have elections for the 2012-2014 term.

Please consult the zip code map below to confirm which is your district. You may be eligible to vote in a different district than you have in the past!

To vote online you only need to enter your ACDA Membership # and Zip Code..it's that easy! You will then have access to the proper ballot for your district. If you prefer a paper ballot, please contact the WCDA office at 920-455-0525 or email wcdawis@wischoral.org to request a mailed ballot.

The map of WCDA Districts is shown below, and will be included on your electronic or mailed ballot.

If you have a question about your district or your ballot, please contact the WCDA Office at 920-455-0525 or email wcdawis@wischoral.org. All members have a voice...let's hear from YOU!



EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2011:

1. NORTH WEST: 540, 545, 547, 548

Cathy Reitz, Representative

W: 715-852-4992

creitz@ecasd.k12.wi.us

2. CENTRAL: 544, 549

Dan Larson, Representative

W: 715-261-2000 x22106

dlarson@wausau.k12.wi.us

3. NORTH EAST: 530, 541, 542, 543

Christine Anderson, Representative

W: 920-986-3351

canderso@shiocton.k12.wi.us

4. SOUTH EAST: 531, 532, 534

John Choi, Representative

W: 262-605-8623

jchoi@kUSD.edu

5. SOUTH WEST: 535, 537, 538, 539, 546

Bev Mattingly, Representative

W: 608-723-6425 x222

mattinglyb@lancastersd.k12.wi.us



A message from Aimee Beckmann-Collier, president, North Central ACDA

Dear North Central Members,

I'll bet you're thinking very practical thoughts as you begin a new academic year.

The most practical (and also the most inspirational) thing you can do for yourself and your singers is to plan now to attend the North Central Division's conference, *Beyond the Notes*, in Madison, February 8-11, 2012. *Beyond the Notes* is all about the process of music-making. All aspects of the conference are designed to help teachers/ conductors to increase the richness of their work with singers. Sessions will focus on ways to engage singers' imaginations; to develop artistry in ways that connect mind, body, and spirit; to build choral programs, not just concerts.

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT:

- **Watch for the conference registration brochure**, which should arrive in your mailbox in early October (pre-registration deadline is Nov. 15). In the meantime, check out details regarding interest and reading sessions, honor choirs, and concerts on our website - www.ncacda.org. Every aspect of the conference is focused on the process of music-making, and each features an unusual, very practical, and stimulating twist guaranteed to help you to lead your singers to heightened independence, artistry, and a broader contextual understanding of music, themselves, and the power of music in human experience.

Participating Wisconsin conductors:

PERFORMANCE:

Lawrence Academy Girl Choir-Bel Canto,
Karen Bruno,
conductor

MIDDLE LEVEL BOYS

HONOR CHOIR:

Margaret Jenks &
Randy Swiggum, conductors

INTEREST SESSION:

Randy Swiggum

READING SESSIONS:

Janette Hanson
Marcy Russell
Diane Skrobis
Phillip Swan
Rebecca Winnie

- **Encourage your students to audition** for the four honor choirs
Elementary-grades 4-6, **Angela Broeker**, conductor;
Middle level boys-grades 7-8, **Randy Swiggum/Margaret Jenks**, conductors;
Middle level girls-grades 7-8, **Paul Caldwell/Sean Ivory**, conductors;
High school SATB-grades 9-12, **Brad Holmes**, conductor.

Brochures were sent to all ACDA members last April. Complete information and forms are at www.ncacda.org. APPLICATION DEADLINE IS OCT. 1.

- **Recommend a quartet of students from your college/university** for the College Repertoire Chorus, a process-oriented ensemble that will rehearse with five conductors on Saturday, Feb. 11. Brochures were sent in August to all college/university ACDA members. APPLICATION DEADLINE IS OCT. 1.

PLEASE NOTE: **The Registration Brochure you'll receive has been written to make clear to both you and your administrator how the conference will directly impact your teaching/rehearsing.** We hope you'll find it helpful as you talk with your administrator about why it's important for you to attend. ■

Best wishes for a great new year! Aimee Beckmann-Collier

Exploring Jazz!

—Janette Hanson, VJI Chair,
WCDA R&S Chair for Vocal Jazz

Vocal Jazz Institute celebrated its sixth year August 10-11 at Waunakee High School Performing Arts Center. Special thanks to our WHS host, Mollie Petroff.

The VJI project is a continued collaboration between WCDA and WSMA. This year, we were fortunate to add sponsorship from **Hal Leonard Music Corp.**, which brought us University of North Texas Jazz Professor Emeritus **Paris Rutherford**. Paris provided a great new format for our annual workshop, including some personal insight on writing for vocal jazz and collegiate vocal jazz programs in our nation.

Our “house regulars” were back again—**Kathy Schreck** (Jefferson HS), **Dennis Gephart** (Port Washington), and **Janette Hanson** (Sparta HS). These are the folks that you want to contact when you have questions about your vocal jazz program!

The most impressive (and most fun!) part of the workshop was seeing every participant sing a solo standard in our new favorite restaurant, the Garden Bistro in Waunakee. Even our most “inexperienced jazzers” gave it a shot with our awesome combo, which included bass player **Phil Stiemke** (Prairie du Chien HS choir), drummer **Cale Kaiser** (UW-Whitewater music student), and Janette Hanson on the keyboard.

Thanks to **Mary Elsner** at WSMA for taking care of all of the logistical details, and providing a well-organized workshop. We are excited to bring a vocal jazz session or two to the upcoming NC-ACDA conference in Madison in February. If you direct, or are thinking of directing, a vocal jazz ensemble, plan to join us next August for our seventh annual **Vocal Jazz Institute!** ■ [Click here to Return to front cover.](#)



R&S “High Fives”

WCDA State Repertoire & Standards Committee

STATE
COORDINATOR
Carol Dahle
Hudson
dahlecj@hudson.k12.wi.us

BOYCHOIR
Margaret Jenks
Madison
mjjenks@tds.net

CHILDREN/
COMMUNITY YOUTH
Ellen Shuler
Thiensville
eshuler@usmk12.org

COLLEGE/
UNIVERSITY
Lucinda Thayer
Stevens Point
lthayer@uwsp.edu

COMMUNITY
Matthew Faerber
Superior
mfaerber@uwsuper.edu

ETHNIC/
MULTICULTURAL
Eduardo Garcia-Novelli
Kenosha
egarcianovelli
@carthage.edu

JR HIGH/
MIDDLE LEVEL
Beth Herrendeen Smith
Racine
bhsmith@kusd.edu

Women's Choirs

Phillip Swan, R&S Chair
Lawrence University, Appleton

1. **The Singing Place**, Joan Szymko earthsongs S-305; SSAA; Piano

This composition was commissioned by the 2007-08 ACDA women's choir consortium, involving fourteen ensembles from across the United States. The direction of this commission was to create an SSAA composition for advanced women's groups; a piece that was musically challenging, containing a text that had depth and would speak to women (no fluff or flowers). The text is by a little-known poet, Lily A. Long, and was published in Poetry Magazine in 1912. Szymko has done an amazing job setting the heart of the text and taking the singers and audience on a musical journey. The six and one-half minute composition contains a short duet section with thick choral accompaniment. Cantala was proud to premiere this work in May 2008. A short excerpt can be found at the www.earthsongschoralmusic.com website and a full version is available on their "One World • Many Voices, Vol. 7" CD-09.

2. **Crióme Mi Madre** (*from Four Spanish Lullabies*), Francisco J. Núñez Boosey & Hawkes 48019280; 2 Part/Guitar

An original lullaby based on anonymous texts, "Criome Mi Madre" tells a story in which the narrator remembers his mother singing to him and foretelling a wonderful future for him, one that did not necessarily come about. The pairing of two-part women's voices with an expressive guitar accompaniment makes this a beautifully effective 3' 30" composition.

3. **Simple Gifts**, Amy Dalton, arranger Santa Barbara Music Publishing SBMP 302; SSAA/*a cappella*

Amy Dalton, former director of The Brigham Young University Women's Chorus (who recorded and premiered the work), has created a fresh arrangement of the traditional Shaker hymn. This piece contains rich teaching elements, including choral blend, intonation, shaping a musical line, and allowing for a discussion of early American Shaker music. I feel strongly that this piece should be considered standard repertoire for women's choirs. Although only 1' 40" in length, this is a rewarding challenge.

R&S “High Fives”

Women’s Choirs, *continued*.

4. **Psalm 100**, René Clausen

Shawnee Press/Mark Foster Music MF0917; SSAA;
piano or small instrumental ensemble accompaniment

A great concert opener or closer (approximately three minutes in length), this is another example of a piece that I believe deserves to be included as standard repertoire for women’s voices. The skillful setting of this text is reflected in the spritely, mixed meter and bright, colorful harmonies. Although this works well with piano accompaniment only, I prefer the added color of the small ensemble, which includes flute, oboe, bassoon, marimba, drums, and string bass. Accompaniment parts may be purchased separately, MP0917.

5. **From Behind the Caravan: Songs of Hâfez**, Abbie Betinis

Abbie Betinis Music Co. AB-049-01

SSAA with SA soloists; viola (or cello), hand drums, optional Oud

Abbie Betinis, a rising young composer originally from Stevens Point, WI, wrote this amazing composition when just 26 years old. The medieval Persian (Farsi) text is by Khwajeh Shams al-Din Muhammad Hâfez-e Shirazi (ca. 1320-1390). However, don’t be frightened by your lack of knowledge of this language. Betinis provides terrific diction aids in the form of IPA notes and recordings of spoken text on her website http://www.abbiebetinis.com/works/from_behind_the_caravan.html, as well as interesting and thorough background to the poet and text. The challenging 13-minute masterpiece consists of five movements of contrasting style and represents a Middle-eastern color palate. Although intended as a complete work, each movement has the potential to be performed separately. ■

WCDA State Repertoire & Standards Committee

MEN

Gary Schwartzhoff
Eau Claire
schwargr@uwec.edu

MUSIC IN WORSHIP

Scott Foss

Verona

sfoss@charter.net

SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Linda Meier
Waunakee

linda.a.meier@gmail.com

SHOW CHOIR

Nancy Allen
La Crosse

nlallen@viterbo.edu

TWO-YEAR COLLEGES

Benjamin Schoening
Rice Lake

benjamin.schoening@uwc.edu

VOCAL JAZZ

Janette Hanson
Sparta

jhanson@spartan.org

WOMEN

Phillip Swan
Appleton

phillip.a.swan@lawrence.edu

R&S “High Fives”

WCDA State Repertoire & Standards Committee

STATE
COORDINATOR
Carol Dahle
Hudson
dahlecj@hudson.k12.wi.us

BOYCHOIR
Margaret Jenks
Madison
mjjenks@tds.net

CHILDREN/
COMMUNITY YOUTH
Ellen Shuler
Thiensville
eshuler@usmk12.org

COLLEGE/
UNIVERSITY
Lucinda Thayer
Stevens Point
lthayer@uwsp.edu

COMMUNITY
Matthew Faerber
Superior
mfaerber@uwsuper.edu

ETHNIC/
MULTICULTURAL
Eduardo Garcia-Novelli
Kenosha
egarcianovelli
@carthage.edu

JR HIGH/
MIDDLE LEVEL
Beth Herrenden Smith
Racine
bhsmith@kusd.edu

Men's Choirs

Gary Schwartzhoff, R&S Chair
University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire

- 1. Danza, Danza, Fanciulla Gentile**, Francesco Durante/Linda Spevacek
Heritage Music Press 15/2773H; TB; Piano

This is a very accessible setting of an Italian art song for a young developing ensemble. Good score to bring classical music to young male voices with a diction guide provided. Accompaniment is very similar to the original art song piano part.

- 2. Skip To My Lou**, Greg Gilpin, arranger
Alfred Music Publishing Co. #34750; TTBB; Piano

Mr. Gilpin presents an effective setting of this American folksong with rhythmic surprises throughout. This setting is suitable for a high school age ensemble.

- 3. Sing To The Lord**, Paul Basler
Colla Voce #36-20307; TTBB; Piano/French horn

This piece is a great program opener for a high school and / or festival male chorus with piano and French horn. The score is accessible to a young high school age ensemble.

- 4. On Music**, David Dickau
Walton Music #WJMS 1121; TTBB; Piano/Cello

This selection is a 2011 publication that requires a cello and a fine pianist. The score is a lyrical setting of a text by Thomas Moore. Score is suited for a fine high school or collegiate ensemble.

- 5. Tu Lo Sai**, Giuseppe Torelli/James Mulholland
Colla Voce #10-96190; TTBB; Piano

Tu Lo Sai was originally a violin solo. Torelli reset the melody as the Italian art song that became world famous. This choral score is a romantic setting that requires a fine accompanist and an ensemble with heart and passion. This arrangement is for a fine collegiate ensemble or festival chorus. ■

R&S “High Fives”

High School Choirs

Linda Meier, R&S Chair
Waunakee

1. **It Is a Good Thing to Give Thanks**, Eugene Butler

Eugene Butler Choral Series EB9213 ; SAB/Piano

A great 3 part mixed voice selection (in the key of G with appropriate ranges for all voices) that introduces the theme in unison and splits to standard harmonies in a mostly homophonic setting. Some challenge in melodic intervals and lively syncopation. Contrasting dynamics and use of the melodic theme in a “round” (women and men then all three parts separately) create an exciting momentum to the final chord. Good concert closer.

2. **Roses I Send To You** (from “*Songs of a Prospector*”), Stephen Chatman

Boosey & Hawkes 48004393; SAB/Piano

A tender song of love and devotion expressed in turn by a woman, her lover, and together as a couple. Lovely, melancholy melody and simple homophonic harmonies. Lots of opportunity to work on breath and legato line along with the listening and tuning of minor tonality.

3. **All My Trials** (*Bahamian Spiritual*), Norman Luboff, arranger

Walton Music Corporation #W3065; SATB; a cappella

Got some low basses this year? Let their low D vibrate thru this beautifully poignant and rubato spiritual in a 3/2 setting. Easily learned vocal parts will challenge your singers in intonation and legato line. Some simple divisi for soprano and bass with a short 4 meas. Soprano solo with choir accompaniment. My kids always loved this piece.

4. **Agnus Dei**, Thomas Morley

Bourne Co. #001056; SATB/ a cappella

Beautiful, legato lines challenge each section in this polyphonic setting. Long melismas utilize breath control and accidentals flirt with major and minor tonality throughout.

Each voice will need solid intervallic tuning along with an evenness of tonal concept and vowel blend. Set in the key of F minor and ending with a Picardy third, this piece has lots of teachable moments for a choir that is ready to study the choral music of this time period.

5. **The Best of Rooms**, Randall Thompson

E.C. Schirmer No. 2672; SATB/ a cappella

A bit lesser known than his *Frostiana* settings, this selection is a wonderful challenge for the more advanced concert choir. While written with no divisi beyond 4 parts, the musical lines are beautifully layered to create a full choral sound with a sense of line and use of dynamics that both excites and caresses. Lots of great text painting to the poem by Robert Herrick (1591-1674). ■

WCDA State Repertoire & Standards Committee

MEN

Gary Schwartzhoff
Eau Claire
schwargr@uwec.edu

MUSIC IN WORSHIP

Scott Foss
Verona
sfoss@charter.net

SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Linda Meier
Waunakee
linda.a.meier@gmail.com

SHOW CHOIR

Nancy Allen
La Crosse
nlallen@viterbo.edu

TWO-YEAR COLLEGES

Benjamin Schoening
Rice Lake
benjamin.schoening
@uwc.edu

VOCAL JAZZ

Janette Hanson
Sparta
jhanson@spartan.org

WOMEN

Phillip Swan
Appleton
phillip.a.swan
@lawrence.edu

R&S “High Fives”

WCDA State Repertoire & Standards Committee

STATE
COORDINATOR
Carol Dahle
Hudson
dahlecj@hudson.k12.wi.us

BOYCHOIR
Margaret Jenks
Madison
mjenks@tds.net

CHILDREN/
COMMUNITY YOUTH
Ellen Shuler
Thiensville
eshuler@usmk12.org

COLLEGE/
UNIVERSITY
Lucinda Thayer
Stevens Point
lthayer@uwsp.edu

COMMUNITY
Matthew Faerber
Superior
mfaerber@uwsuper.edu

ETHNIC/
MULTICULTURAL
Eduardo Garcia-Novelli
Kenosha
egarcianovelli
@carthage.edu

JR HIGH/
MIDDLE LEVEL
Beth Herrendeen Smith
Racine
bhsmith@kusd.edu

Jr. High & Middle Level Choirs

Beth Herrendeen Smith, R&S Chair
Mahone Middle School, Kenosha

1. **Blowin’ in the Wind/America**, Bob Dylan; Len Thomas, arranger
Shawnee Press #D0441; SAB; piano (moderate)

Pairing this ‘60’s protest song with America not only clashes in idea, but leads to dissonant harmonies as well. Although these harmonies are new to many middle school students, they are supported in the piano accompaniment. I love this piece because of the deep discussions that ensue as we work on it. Dramatic dynamics and an optional ending also add to meaningful discussion about musical choices, and different ways to interpret text.

2. **We Will**, Jim Papoulis, edited by Francisco J. Núñez
Hal Leonard #48019342; 2-Part Treble; *a cappella* entrance leads to an easy piano and shaker accompaniment.

Kids love Jim Papoulis. His music relates so well to them both in text and melody. He does a fantastic job of letting the singer know what inspired him to write the piece, and my students understand his music so well because of this. The limited range of “We Will” will work well for sixth and seventh grade boys and girls. To give boys an extra challenge in these groups, you may have them sing the descant an octave down.

3. **Bonse Aba**, Traditional Zambian Folk Song; Victor C. Johnson, arranger
Heritage Music Press #15/2689H; 3-Part Mixed, 2-Part also available; drum/shaker

This Zambian song’s translation is “All who sing with the spirit have a right to be called the children of God.” It is a lively, rhythmic piece that makes a wonderful concert opener. The three-part percussion accompaniment is accessible to students, and allowed my general music class to take part in the choir concert. There is a lot of Swahili text, which may frighten students not used to singing in other languages, but they will soon be swayed by the festive mood of the piece. Clapping and movement is also an option for Bonse Aba.

4. **Earth Drum Dance—Songs to Celebrate the Earth**, traditional Navajo Song, Will Schmid, arranger. Hal Leonard #08748214; 5-Part-any combination; recorder/drum

“Earth Drum Dance” combines the Navajo Enemy Way song with the round “I Walk in Beauty”. Although it is written for five parts, it can be successfully performed by sixth, seventh and eighth grade students. The round and strong unison sections make it easy for all students to sing. Combined with the suggested drum ensemble and movement, it makes for a dramatic combined choir opener or closer.

R&S “High Fives”

Jr. High & Middle Level Choirs, *continued.*

5. **Soli Deo Gloria!**, Michael Praetorius; Patrick Liebergen, arranger
Shawnee Press #D 0538; SAB; optional piano

What would middle school teachers do without the arrangements of Patrick Liebergen? He arranges music so thoughtfully. This simple canon can be performed using any combination of voices. It is great as an introduction to three-part singing and early choral music. Students easily learn the piece with the aid of the optional accompaniment, but will be challenged when singing it *a cappella*. ■

In Memoriam

One of our loved and valued colleagues, **Bill Ross**, passed away at his home on Tuesday, July 19, 2011 after a brief fight with cancer. Bill was a dedicated and active member of WCDA who gave untold hours to choral music in Wisconsin and WCDA and served as editor of *Melisma* for North Central ACDA for many years.

After teaching in Montrose, MI and Oconto, WI, Bill became the vocal music director at Port Washington High School in 1974, directing all the choirs, the high school musicals, and the Port Washington Summer Theater musicals. He was also the choir director at Marquette University, along with multiple professional commitments throughout the state. He was a member of Crossroads Presbyterian, Mequon and Immanuel Presbyterian, Milwaukee, where he sang in the church choirs. A worship service celebrating Bill's life was held at Immanuel Presbyterian Church, with those in attendance asked to be prepared to sing. And sing they did!

Bill will be remembered as a true friend, colleague, and mentor, who was dedicated to the success of his many students. His warm smile, genuine interest in his students and colleagues, and presence at WCDA events and WSMA Solo-Ensemble Festivals will be sorely missed by those of us who had the privilege of knowing this wonderful man and educator.

His wife Lonie, of Port Washington, daughter Erika (Michael) Spitz of Mequon and son Andrew (fiancée Sara Hofer) Ross of Madison have established a memorial fund to honor Bill's love of music education. WCDA members may make a contribution to this fund to honor Bill's memory. The Bill and Lonie Ross Music Scholarship c/o The Community Education Foundation of Port Washington-Saukville, 100 West Monroe, Port Washington, WI 53074.

WCDA State Repertoire & Standards Committee

MEN

Gary Schwartzhoff
Eau Claire
schwagr@uwec.edu

MUSIC IN WORSHIP

Scott Foss
Verona
sfoss@charter.net

SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Linda Meier
Waunakee
linda.a.meier@gmail.com

SHOW CHOIR

Nancy Allen
La Crosse
nallen@viterbo.edu

TWO-YEAR COLLEGES

Benjamin Schoening
Rice Lake
benjamin.schoening@uwc.edu

VOCAL JAZZ

Janette Hanson
Sparta
jhanson@spartan.org

WOMEN

Phillip Swan
Appleton
phillip.a.swan@lawrence.edu

“Sound Ideas” ...from your District Reps

WCDA South West District

Bev Mattingly, District Representative
Lancaster School District

“Bev Mattingly, Elementary Music Teacher”



Bev Mattingly

SW DISTRICT REP
Bev Mattingly, Lancaster
mattinglyb
@lancastersd.k12.wi.us

SE DISTRICT REP
John Choi, Kenosha
jchoi@kusd.edu

Well, that is something I never thought I would see. I have taught middle school choral and general music (the same job) for 25 years. I have built the program, tried new things (some worked and some didn't), shared good and bad times with staff and students, shed happy and sad tears, and made that program *my own*. Suddenly last winter and spring, among the chaos that was Wisconsin, I was told I would be moved to our elementary school. We had an unusually high number of retirees in our small district, several of whom were “Walker Retirees.” Our music department lost a partial position, and every single one of us will be doing a new job this year. I had a very difficult time wrapping my head around this transition. “I won't be a choral director any more. No more choral concerts, solo/ensemble events, MS musicals. I will miss those crazy kids sooooo much. How will I survive?”

It took me most of the summer to pull myself out of the dumps, but I look forward to this year with a new perspective. I have always believed elementary music specialists to be some of the most underappreciated in our profession. Teaching 10 or 11 classes a day? Running your room like an assembly line – one group out, next one in? Teaching several hundred students? *How many preps?* However, to these teachers, those questions don't really matter. What is important is *the opportunity to touch so many young lives with the joy of music, to show music can transport you to another place, to share the passion for music.*

Does WCDA fit into the life of an elementary person? The answer is a resounding **yes**.

This year offers a unique opportunity for teachers of all levels to **send audition CDs** for the regional conference to be held in Madison. **Attend the conference** to see results of your efforts. Send your young singers to **Singing in Wisconsin**. Most of all, *attend these events to establish relationships with others who share your job – the frustrations and rewards. Build those relationships so you have someone to go to when you need help and to share those triumphs from that difficult first grade class!*

Here is my message to all choral directors reading this: *contact the elementary general music teachers in your district – pat them on the back, take them out for lunch, send them an e-mail, or just say “Thanks.” Make sure they know they are part of the team and are always appreciated!*

I wish you all a fabulous 2011-2012 school year. Here's to building relationships and making wonderful music with our students! ■

“Sound Ideas” ...from your District Reps

WCDA North East District

Christine Anderson, District Representative
Shiocton School District

As the new NE Representative I would like to say that it is a privilege to serve WCDA and I look forward to meeting many of you. This is yet another transition in my teaching career. Let me tell you a little of my own journey.

I began as a fresh UW-Madison graduate. A K-12 general/vocal music position in the small community of Shiocton lasted just one year. After having my first child three days after school released for the summer, I decided to set up a voice and piano studio. Four children, 50 private students, and 10 years later I took a part time kindergarten/middle school choral position in Pulaski which became a six-year elementary music position.

As much as I loved it, my desire to work with choirs caused me to begin searching the DPI site. Strangely enough, there was a position open in Shiocton for a middle and high school choral director. So here I am, back in Shiocton for the past eight years after a seventeen year break. I am fortunate to have found a place that I truly enjoy working.

So now it is a few weeks into our new school year and we are putting into practice the plans and ideas that were swirling in our brains this summer. We have taken classes, attended workshops, read new music, and prepared ourselves for the new year. All of that may prepare us, but in reality the year rarely goes exactly as planned. First, we are working with young people whose lives are filled to the brim with outside influences and activities —good and bad. Secondly, we teach a curriculum that touches the soul. On any given day these two elements may collide and provide an experience unique to our choir. Last year in my high school choir we experienced the suicide of a dear choir member, a marriage, a baby, and all of the emotions that go along with these life situations. In each case, music helped us travel through these events as a choir. Music that I had selected during the summer became relevant in ways I had never imagined. These events became part of that choir’s experience along with the trips, clinics, and concerts that were actually planned.

What am I trying to say?

I teach because I love music. I also teach because I love my students. *My goal this year and every year is to make sure that the music I teach is worthy of my students and to continually look for ways to connect that music to their lives in meaningful ways.*

Now that my four children have left the nest I am ready for this new transition with WCDA. *I have benefitted from the many opportunities that have been offered through this organization and look forward to encouraging the directors in my region to take advantage of them. I have found encouragement, confirmation, and challenges as I have attended **Singspiel** and **conventions**, sent students to **Singing in Wisconsin** and **All-State Choirs**. All of these events are created to help us as directors provide the most exciting and relevant programs possible for our students. Try something new this year! ■*

Life is one grand, sweet song, so start the music. -Ronald Reagan



Christine Anderson

NE DISTRICT REP
Christine Anderson,
Green Bay, canderso
@shiocton.k12.wi.us

NW DISTRICT REP
Cathy Reitz, Eau Claire
creitz@ecasd.k12.wi.us

CENTRAL DISTRICT REP
Dan Larson, Wausau
dlarson@wausau.k12.wi.us

Looking Ahead

—Tim Wurgler
WCDA liaison to WSMA
twurgler@wsmamusic.org



Tim Wurgler

The summer has passed quickly and preparations for another year continue as we look forward to the Wisconsin State Music Conference held each October in Madison. Now more than ever, the conference is an opportunity to meet and connect with colleagues, gain professional development through a wide variety of sessions and still have the opportunity to attend a number of quality choral performances. There is much to choose from as we strive to provide varied and pertinent offerings directed towards choral directors.

One of the highlights of the conference is the opportunity to attend the **2011 WSMA High School Honors Project Treble and Mixed Choir Concerts held at Overture Hall on Thursday, October 27th at 8 p.m.**, and the **Middle Level Honors Concert held on October 29th at 1 p.m. at the Madison Marriott Hotel and Convention Center.** These concerts are the culmination of preparations by the best choral musicians in the state, outstanding choral teachers acting as section coaches and directed by nationally recognized conductors.

These three components of the High School Honors Project gather on the University of Wisconsin–Green Bay campus for a 3-½ day camp that is as intense as it is rewarding. At the completion of the camp there is a “Works-In-Progress” concert followed by farewells, knowing that they will soon reconvene in Madison for the final phase at Overture Hall. Middle Level Honors students gather for the first time in Madison and meet fellow musicians who soon become fast friends and trusted musical colleagues. Following a day and a half of rehearsals, the music is honed to a high level and the performance given that afternoon is one of awe-inspiring music and chemistry among all involved.

David Thye, chair of graduate conducting at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, conducts the High School Mixed Choir this year.

Sigrid Johnson, professor of music at St. Olaf College in Northfield, conducts the High School Treble Choir.

Jayne Glocke, Penn State School of Music, conducts the Middle Level Mixed Choir.

All of these conductors bring a great deal of energy, enthusiasm and musical expertise to the Honors Project. The concerts will be an unparalleled experience for students and audience members.

The Section Coaches are chosen from music programs from around the state and are recognized as outstanding music educators and leaders. They will be more than able to meet all of the challenges presented by their respective directors and student musicians.

WCDA members who are serving as section coaches are:

High School Treble Choir:

Julie Stoffel, Assumption HS, Wisconsin Rapids, Coordinator and Soprano 2 Coach;

Kathy Alan, Winneconne HS, Alto 1 Coach;

Jane Schutt, UW-Milwaukee, Alto 2 Coach; and

Susan Lappin, East Elementary School in Baraboo, Treble Choir Accompanist.

High School Mixed Choir:

Andrew Haase, Hudson HS, Tenor Coach

Middle Level Mixed Choir:

Marcia Russell, Platteville MS, Choir Coordinator;

Dawn Kranz, Norway Schools, Soprano Coach;

Paul Gregg, Luxemburg-Casco HS, Tenor Coach; and

Bill Leahy, New Richmond MS, Retired, Bass Coach

The Middle Level Honors Project Chair is WCDA member **Doug Arendt**, John Long Middle School, Grafton. He has been a part of the Honors Project for a number of years and continues to show leadership in the project, his school and statewide. ■

For more information

regarding the 2011 Wisconsin State Music Conference or

for ticket information for the Middle Level Honors Project

Concerts, please visit the WMEA website at www.wmea.org.

For ticket information for the 2011 High School Honors Concerts please contact Overture Center or visit their web site at www.overturecenter.com.

Please visit the WSMA web site at www.wsmamusic.org to find more information on the High School or the Middle Level Honors Project.