

Wall of Honor

American Choral Directors Association

Archie Jones

How does it feel to be the first president of ACDA? Archie Jones knew. Though he had much help from the other officers and members, it was Archie with his enthusiasm and organizational skills who provided the creative leadership that was so important in those early years. Theron Kirk said, "Never have I met anyone who knew and was liked by so many people all over the nation. Being with Archie for a few minutes was always refreshing and stimulating. What a wonderful quality."

Warren Angell

Warren M. Angell, a charter member of ACDA, was a famous educator, conductor, arranger, composer and pianist. For thirty-seven years he served as leader of the fine arts program at Oklahoma Baptist University, developing singers who, following his lead, served their churches and their schools. He made Oklahoma a singing state, a legacy that survived the Great Depression, the dust bowl and oil busts, and he helped spread the art of fine choral music throughout schools and churches of the land.

Morris Beachy

Morris Beachy joined the faculty of the University of Texas at Austin in 1957, and over the next thirty-six years developed one of the largest university choral programs in the country, noted for its diversity and high standards. At the time of his death in 2011, James Morrow, then UTA's Director of Choral Activities said, "Dr. Beachy was a consummate musician who set an extraordinarily high standard of choral performance and profoundly impacted choral conductors and singers not only in Texas, but throughout this country. His choirs always sang with a gorgeous tone and with a highly refined and expressive delivery of the text."

Horace Boyer

Horace Clarence Boyer was one of the most scholarly choral musicians in the United States. His versatility as lecturer, performer, author, conductor, and teacher was widely respected and honored. He served as a unique clinician in gospel music and African-American sacred music traditions. He was named curator of musical instruments at the National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution. He served as Scholar-at-Large and conducted the Fisk Jubilee Singers. He was author of many articles in many periodicals and was an editor for the New Groves Dictionary of American Music. He received many awards, including the Martin Luther King Heritage Award.

Sister Sharon Breden

Sister Sharon Ann Breden, C.S.J. was extremely influential in the elementary and secondary levels in California, both as a teacher and an administrator. She served ACDA in a variety of vital roles: She served as the National Repertoire & Standards Committee Chairperson for Women's Choirs and eventually chaired the entire R&S structure. Sister Sharon served two separate terms as Western Division President and was the Publicity Chair for three National Conferences. She also edited the ACDA Western Division's newsletter *Tactus*. The Western

Division dedicated its 2008 Division Conference to her. She loved ACDA and her courageous spirit enriched and inspired everyone with whom she came in contact.

Raymond W. Brock

Raymond W. Brock served in the ACDA National Office as the Director of Development and Administrative Associate. A man of great loyalties and affections, he believed in ACDA, and in the great unifying power of choral music. To that end, he developed new programs and worked to perpetuate existing ones. The Raymond W. Brock ACDA Choral Composition Commission and the Raymond W. Brock Student Composition Contest are major parts of the activity of ACDA.

Gene Brooks

For over thirty years, Gene Brooks served ACDA as National Executive Director. His leadership grew ACDA's membership significantly, and he oversaw the construction of two national headquarter buildings. During his tenure, increased national and international choral interest in schools, churches, and civic organizations led to the development of biennial conferences that regularly drew thousands of singing musicians.

Elaine Brown

Elaine Brown is known internationally for building bridges between people through the medium of choral music. "In a choir's voice, Elaine heard the sound of community." For nearly four decades she served as Music Director of Philadelphia's Singing City, a world-famous community choir she founded. Jane Skinner Hardester, an early Singing City associate said, "Here is a democracy that lives and breathes and sings. One is filled with a feeling that this is the way the world must be one day."

Noble Cain

In the mid-twentieth century, Noble Cain was known to thousands upon thousands of young choral singers. He did not write music for posterity but for the young people with whom he identified so easily. He was not a perfect man – he would scoff at the idea. But he was a man of great intellect, talent, spirit and love. Much of his choral conducting was done long before the structured rehearsal of today. He was constantly reaching for the ultimate goal as soon as possible.

F. Melius Christiansen

F. Melius Christiansen was a Norwegian immigrant who is considered the father of unaccompanied choral singing in the United States. He founded the St. Olaf Choir in 1911 (at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota) and shaped it into arguably the best-known college choir in the world. For nearly thirty years, he used an ethic of hard work to achieve perfect intonation, seamless blend, and crisp diction. ACDA of Minnesota recognizes Christiansen's inspirational contributions to the choral art by presenting an annual lifetime achievement award in choral music (the F. Melius Christiansen Lifetime Achievement Award) and through an endowment fund that was established in his name.

Olaf Christiansen

Olaf, brother of Paul, succeeded his father, F. Melius Christiansen, as conductor of the St. Olaf Choir. The straight tone that was used by his father was changed into what he called a

“controlled vibrato.” Olaf said, “...all St. Olaf students have striven for perfection, not for its own sake, but to eliminate distractions from the music and text and to make the religious message the central purpose of the concert.” Another time he wrote, “...songs, like love letters, carry additional meanings between the lines that are important to interpretation of the text.”

Paul Christiansen

Paul Christiansen, son of the great F. Melius Christiansen, and brother of Olaf Christiansen rose to international prominence as conductor of the Concordia Choir of Concordia College, Moorhead, MN. Rene Clausen, who succeeded him as conductor of that choir said, “The gift of Paul Christiansen derives from his uncanny ability to create music that directly penetrates to the heart of its listeners.”

Walter Collins

In the course of his lifetime, Walter Collins managed to balance a unique combination of musical interests. He is remembered for his remarkable enthusiasm for life, for great personal warmth, a love of learning and an extraordinary dedication to choral music. He was a respected musicologist and editor. He was national president of ACDA from 1977 to 1979.

John Cooksey

John Cooksey conductor, teacher, author, music arranger, and clinician, was internationally known for his research that provided scientific evidence for the classification of the stages of male adolescent voice change. His desire to help choral conductors understand the intricacies of the male voice change resulted in numerous articles in the *Choral Journal* and hundreds of demonstrations at VoiceCare Network seminars, ACDA conferences, and other conventions throughout the world. Over his thirty-two year career, Cooksey led a variety of choral organizations at Cal State Fullerton, Memphis State, and the University of Utah where he instilled an energy and desire for his students to excel in choral performance and music education projects.

David R. Davidson

David R. Davidson was director of the Dallas Symphony Chorus and director of music and arts at Highland Park United Methodist Church. A native of Hamilton County, Ohio, Mr. Davidson held degrees in piano performance and music education from the University of Cincinnati, College Conservatory of Music. After working as a public-school teacher and church musician in Cincinnati, Mr. Davidson was music minister at Highland Park Presbyterian Church (1985 to 2003), when he moved to Highland Park United Methodist Church.

William Dawson

William L. Dawson, was the celebrated conductor of the Tuskegee Institute Choir. He was also a composer and arranger. “He had a lifetime crowded with contribution and accomplishment,” said Tuskegee Institute President Benjamin R. Payton. Dawson’s Negro Folk Symphony was given the premiere performance by the Philadelphia Symphony, under the direction of Leopold Stokowski. He is most widely known and loved for his arrangements of spirituals.

Harold Decker

A reporter from the Wichita, Kansas "Eagle" wrote, "Harold Decker didn't just write the book on choral music, he wrote two textbooks and countless articles and was known for expecting the

best from his students and audiences” A colleague said, “When you start naming names in choral music, it’s basically a Who’s Who. The place they went to get their doctorate was Harold. He was the first one to develop a doctoral program for choral conducting.” We revere him for his teaching and for his service to ACDA as National President and many committee assignments. He was the fourth person to be honored with the Robert Shaw Award.

William Dehning

William Dehning is best known for his time as conductor and chair of the choral music department at the University of Southern California from 1991 to 2007. While at USC, his choirs frequently performed at national and regional ACDA conferences and also won multiple international awards. He was an active member of ACDA and served as the California ACDA president. Dehning formed a semi-professional chamber chorus called the California Choral Company (1985-1995) that attained a reputation in Europe and the United States. He is remembered as a master rehearsal technician, a renowned interpreter of J. S. Bach, and as someone who possessed a larger-than-life persona as a conductor, teacher, mentor, and friend.

Brazeal Dennard

Brazeal Dennard was an educator, church musician, and conductor who championed the preservation and performance of music composed by African-Americans. The renowned Brazeal Dennard Chorale’s national conference performances, choral editions, and recordings were the means to promote this goal. Dennard’s music leadership – in the Detroit schools, on several White House committees and Michigan’s Council for the Arts, and as President of the National Association of Negro Musicians – was a model of selfless service.

Louis M. Diercks

Louis M. Diericks taught voice and conducted choirs at the Ohio State University. During that time he was also a minister of music. His religious writing included anthems, an oratorio, as well as several octavos. He wrote, “To understand the music, the art of the people, is to understand their culture, and the problems and the struggles with produced it, with understanding comes tolerance and appreciation, willingness to live and to help live.”

Walter Ehret

Walter Ehret, conductor, clinician, arranger, music educator, and publisher was an ACDA founding member and served as the first ACDA New York state president. He arranged choral music for major publishers using many pseudonyms over a fifty-year career and has over 2,000 publications in print. His choral ensembles performed in Carnegie Hall and Madison Square garden, on radio and television, at New Jersey and New York state music conferences and at the first ACDA National Conference in Atlantic City in 1960.

Eric Ericson

Few conductors have had more impact in the world of choral music than Eric Ericson. Renowned for his innovative teaching methods and choice of wide-ranging choral repertoire, Ericson conducted numerous acclaimed choirs, and founded the Swedish Radio Choir, an ensemble he conducted for over three decades. The recipient of many awards, he was celebrated for “pioneering achievements as a conductor, teacher, artistic originator and inspirer in Swedish and international choral music.” His reputation was built on a long list of commissions, recordings, teaching, guest-conducting engagements and touring. Eric Ericson established what has been called “the Swedish choral miracle.”

Edwin R. Fissinger

A charter member of ACDA, Edwin R. Fissinger had an active forty-five year career as a conductor and composer. In addition to other genres, he composed 183 choral works that have been performed by numerous All-State Choirs and at division and national ACDA conferences. His career included positions at the American Conservatory of Music in Chicago, the University of Illinois, and North Dakota State University. Under his direction, the NDSU Concert Choir performed in many prestigious venues, including three ACDA National Conferences. One only needs to reflect upon the quality of Fissinger's choirs and compositions to understand his significant contributions to the enhancement of the choral art.

Robert Fountain

Robert Fountain served his art with energy and artistry. His Wisconsin choirs performed tours in both South America and Europe. He received praise from the New York Times for a performance at Lincoln Center and served as choral consultant at the University of the West Indies, Kingston, Jamaica. Under the sponsorship of the U.S. State Department Office of Cultural Presentation, his choir toured Romania and Russia at the height of the Cold War. He developed the graduate choral program at the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

David Griggs-Janower

David Griggs-Janower joined the faculty at the University at Albany in 1981 where he also conducted the University Chamber Singers. After arriving in Albany, David founded Albany Pro Music, a choral ensemble that eventually became one of the premiere ensembles in the region. David shared his deep love for music and his uncompromising commitment to excellence in its performance with APM for over thirty years. In 2002, he became the first recipient of the University at Albany faculty award for Excellence in Scholarship and Creative Activity, and later was awarded the same designation by the State University of New York.

Jester Hairston

In his own way, Jester Hairston was a musical missionary, taking annual tours sponsored by the U.S. State Department throughout Europe and Scandinavia. He introduced hundreds of choral groups to a uniquely American musical expression: the songs of the African American. His career included solo singing, choral conducting, both sides of the movie camera, acting, TV, arranging, composing, and serving as a clinician.

Curtis E. Hansen

A graduate of St. Olaf College, Curtis E. Hansen sang in the St. Olaf Choir under F. Melius Christiansen. After teaching music for one year in Wisconsin, Curtis joined the U. S. Navy. A commissioned officer, he led the amphibious D-Day landing at Omaha Beach in France (June 6, 1944), becoming a treasured American military hero. After the war, he was the choral director of the Brainerd (Minnesota) High School Choir, the first high school choir to ever sing at Chicago's Orchestra Hall. Curtis was the only non-collegiate choral director asked to serve on the steering committee of seven charter members, who founded ACDA in 1959, and he served ACDA as a National Vice-President. After working for many years at Schmitt Hall McCreary, he founded Curtis Music Press, publishing 100 of his own compositions and arrangements for choral and instrumental ensembles.

Jane Skinner Hardester

From coast to coast, Jane Hardester was known as a strong advocate of choral music for all humankind. Through her skilled conducting and teaching she was able to fulfill her belief that within every human there was a song. Her life work was to release that song. As a member and officer of ACDA, she was respected and loved.

Margaret Hawkins

Margaret Hawkins, choral director of the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra began her professional career as a high school choral teacher. Her choral career was marked by a long time association with the Milwaukee Symphony. In 1979 she debuted as conductor of the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra. She served on the board of Chorus America, and as a member of the National Endowment for the Arts.

Morris D. Hayes

Morris D. Hayes inspired others with his conducting and teaching. He taught at the University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire from 1966-1987 where his choral program received international praise. In his lifetime, he received many awards for his dedication to choral music. He was named outstanding music educator by the Wisconsin School Music Association in 1980 and received an award for distinguished service and leadership from ACDA in 1985. Three of his choirs sang at ACDA national conventions, a record for that time. He was the national president of ACDA from 1972 – 1974.

Julius Herford

Certainly one of the major influences in American choral music was due to one man: Julius Herford. He was of Germanic background and never lost his love of detail, knowledge, and discipline. Through his love of choral music, he imparted these qualities to his choral conducting students and they emerged, probably the best schooled choral musicians of their time. All of us, directly or indirectly, came under his influence.

Margaret Hillis

Margaret Hillis founded the Chicago Symphony Chorus. Through that and other choral related activities, she made choral performance a matter of public concern. Her rehearsal and organizing techniques and analytic studies have become legendary, as was her strength of character. She believed that, "...while joy, sadness, grief, impishness, and nobility can be expressed by instruments, vocal forces do it better."

Charles C. Hirt

Paul Salamunovich, Director of the Los Angeles Master Chorale said, "Charles inspired literally thousands of singers and countless choral conductors with his elegant personality and impeccable artistry." He is rightly described as one of the giants in the world of choral music. Hirt was a frequent guest and participant in international music events. He was also influential in the world of church music, locally and nationally. His service to his art included his presidency of ACDA. He was the first person to receive the Robert Shaw Choral Award.

Moses Hogan

Moses Hogan was a comparative newcomer to choral music. He was first an accomplished pianist, winner of prestigious contests, then later served as Artist in Residence at Dillard

University. He was the Artistic Director of the internationally-acclaimed Moses Hogan Chorale for which he arranged and composed. At the time of his death he had led the Chorale in an impressive series of concerts and in creating a popular discography. He breathed new life into a precious part of American music that charmed us all.

Lara Hoggard

Lara Hoggard was a man of many musical talents ranging from elementary school level to professional national and international choirs and orchestras. His choruses were heard regularly on NBC, ABC, and CBS. He lectured, edited, and led many musical organizations on both sides of the Atlantic.

Michele Holt

Michele Holt serviced as director of choral activities at Providence College from 1997 to 2009, professor in residence at the University of Connecticut from 2009 to 2012, and coordinator of music education at the University of Rhode Island. She served ACDA in leadership roles in Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts. She served as Eastern Region President (1996-1998) and National ACDA President (2005-2007). She served as executive director of Massachusetts MEA from 2009 to 2018, completing her appointment just before her passing. She was dedicated to the art of choral music, to nurturing her students and colleagues, and to her passion for the highest level of professional development.

Helen Hosmer

Renowned educator Helen Hosmer was a charter member of ACDA and served as vice-president from 1962 to 1964. She started one of the first study-abroad programs for music students in the United States. She commissioned and encouraged works from contemporary composers. Her reputation was such that she toured the world on behalf of the President's Intercultural Exchange Program, 1960-61. Her choirs were guest conducted by Nadia Boulanger and Robert Shaw in New York performances.

R. Wayne Hugoboom

ACDA's First Executive Director

Wayne described his unique relationship to ACDA in the following way, "I was in at its birth; I served as a wet nurse during those early years, feeding and burping it, and it became a member of our family. We gave up one room after another in our home as the youngster grew." Wayne served as Executive Secretary and Editor of the *Choral Journal* for almost 20 years. Even when necessity forced the office operations to move to a larger space, Wayne wrote, "my office and kitchen table are reserved for ACDA."

. . . So was his
heart.

Donald P. Hustad

Donald Hustad served for twenty years at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. The General Association of Regular Baptist Churches said, "Donald Hustad called his life 'the pilgrimage of a schizophrenic musician,' his way of describing the tension between the worlds of art music and evangelical church music. He made notable accomplishments as a performer, teacher, recording artist, composer, conductor, and hymnal editor. He would use his roles to reconcile the gulf between his two worlds."

Warner Imig

Warner Imig's contributions to the choral art will long be remembered. He became a faculty member of the University of Colorado in 1937 where he taught voice and choral music. Under his leadership, the College of Music had a reputation for outstanding performances of opera, Gilbert & Sullivan works, and musical comedy. As conductor of the University's Modern Choir, he introduced a widely varied repertoire that included classic, contemporary, folk and popular music. He served as the third national president of ACDA from 1962 – 1964 and was a founding charter member of the organization.

Kenneth Jennings

Kenneth Jennings was an acclaimed composer, arranger of choral music, and conductor. He was appointed to the faculty of St. Olaf College in 1953 and became the third director of the internationally renowned St. Olaf Choir in 1968. He earned his bachelor's from St. Olaf College, a master's from Oberlin College, and his doctorate from the University of Illinois. During his thirty-seven-year tenure at St. Olaf – the last twenty-two of which were as conductor of the St. Olaf Choir – Jennings established himself as a consummate artist. He led the choir on twelve international tours, which greatly expanded the choir's global outreach. Jennings was a teacher and mentor to many prominent choral conductors in the United States. After his retirement from St. Olaf in 1990, he served as a visiting professor and choral conductor at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minnesota, and the University of Arizona, Tucson.

Hall Johnson

Hall Johnson was a pioneering choral director, composer, and arranger. He was writing down slave songs sung by his grandmother at the age of eight. He established the Hall Johnson Choir in 1925 to preserve the oral literature and performance practices of the black folk tradition and to transform the Negro Spiritual as an authentic art form. The choir recorded for RCA Victor and was on the soundtracks of forty movies. Nationally known conductors Jester Hairston and Leonard DePaur were members of his choir. Johnson's compositions and arrangements such as *I've been 'Buked* and *Ain't Got Time to Die* are classics of standard choral repertoire. Marian Anderson wrote "Johnson's music was a gift of inestimable value that brought a greater understanding of the depth of the Negro Spiritual."

Elwood Keister

"Woody" was a co-founder of ACDA and served as second national president, (1961- 62) and is credited for naming the organization. He also held the positions of first vice-president and secretary treasurer. While president, Keister awarded the first ACDA choral composition prize, appointed state chairpersons, and granted the first ACDA honorary lifetime memberships.

Helen Kemp

Helen Kemp was one of America's foremost specialists in the training of young voices and a teacher and mentor to singers, music educators, church musicians, and conductors. In 1949 she founded the Choristers Guild and for years served as professor of voice and church music at Westminster Choir College. She served as guest conductor and clinician in all fifty states and around the world. In 2010, the ACDA Eastern Region initiated the Helen Kemp Award

honoring an individual who, through teaching, performing, and sharing, exhibits a lifelong passion and commitment to the choral art. Her mantra, “Body, Mind, Spirit, Voice: It takes the whole person to sing and rejoice” continues to be used by choral musicians of all ages.

Colleen Kirk

ACDA’s First Female President

Colleen Kirk served as ACDA national president from 1981-1983 and may well be known best for her pioneering role in shaping ACDA’s National Standing Committee on Repertoire and Standards. She spent fifty years devoted to choral music. She worked closely with Harold Decker in developing the doctoral program at the University of Illinois. She was the author of numerous articles and co-authored *Choral Conducting: Focus on Communication* with Harold Decker. Her leadership in church music inspired generations of singers and conductors. She was the sixth recipient of the Robert Shaw Choral Award.

Theron Kirk

Theron Kirk, composer, conductor, choral musician, and administrator was ACDA national president from 1968 - 1970. He served his term in office during a period of phenomenal growth of the organization, and the Association’s separation from MENC. He was a prolific composer who wrote more than a thousand works for chamber choir, symphony orchestra, vocal solo, organ and carillon, as well as a one-act opera. His high standard of leadership set standards that continue today.

Lee Kjelson

Lee R. Kjelson was an internationally known choral scholar and conductor. For more than 20 years he was Director of Choral Activities at the University of Miami. His choirs performed at national and international festivals. He was popular lecturer and clinician.

Allen Lannom

Allen Lannom significantly influenced singers and choral directors throughout the country for over fifty years. He taught voice at Boston University School of Music and he conducted public school, university, community and church choirs. Lannom’s contribution to the choral community includes the initiation of a program allowing high school students and their conductors to perform with his Masterworks Chorale and the inauguration of a series of church choral concerts incorporating professional orchestras.

Diane Loomer

A native of St. Paul, Minnesota, Diane Loomer taught in the United States and Germany before relocating to Vancouver, where she made an indelible contribution to choral music in Canada. She created the prizewinning *Chor Leoni*, one of few men’s ensembles in Canada, and co-founded (with Morna Edmundson) *Elektra*, a women’s chorus known as an international champion of contemporary music. She also founded *EnChor*, a choir for older adult singers. Through live performances, recordings, and her own arrangements, Diane won great acclaim for her choral skills. She was the first woman in Canada to conduct the National Youth Choir and was awarded the Queen’s Golden Jubilee Medal for her significant contribution to Canada’s culture.

Norman Luboff

Joy seems to be the primary descriptive word for composer, conductor, arranger, publisher, international concert artist, musical scholar, teacher, and friend, Norman Luboff. He shared this affection with us and we are all better for that.

Harvey Maier

Harvey Maier's life was devoted to music and ACDA. He was a composer of choral music, and works for voice and piano. Beginning in the early life of ACDA he served as national treasurer for 12 years and during that time carefully built a financial foundation that continues to serve our institution to this day.

Paul Manz

As a composer, cantor, and organist, Paul Manz made significant contributions to church choral music. A life-long teacher and parish musician, his music was shared with the greater community through imaginative choral compositions and especially via his creative and energetic leadership of hymn festivals nationally. His choral compositions are sung throughout the world, especially his much-loved anthem, "E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come." Many volumes of his organ improvisations on hymn tunes are standard repertoire for thousands of church organists nationally and internationally.

G. Russell Mathis

A charter member of ACDA, G. Russell Mathis was national President during the transfer of the National Office from Tampa to Lawton, Oklahoma. His extensive research of early ACDA activities predated the establishment of the Archives. As ACDA's "unofficial" historian, he designed the criteria for the Wall of Honor and served led the WoF committee for eight years. On the faculty of the University of Oklahoma for 28 years, he served as Director of Choral Activities, Voice Department chair, and an Assistant Vice-Provost. Mathis had "a delightful wry sense of humor" plus his leadership and vision strengthened ACDA in its early years.

Brock McElheran

Brock McElheran enjoyed a well-deserved reputation as an international choral conductor and teacher of conducting. He was respected for his meticulous preparation of choirs for major festivals in Canada and the United States. He was a pioneer in performance of *avant garde* music.

Douglas McEwen

During his long and successful career as educator and performer, Douglas McEwen prepared and conducted choruses and orchestras around the world. He was a guest conductor for sixty all-state choruses across the USA. He served as Director of Choral Masterworks for America's Youth In Concert held in Vienna, Austria.

Gian Carlo Menotti

An American composer of Italian birth, Gian Carlo Menotti was probably better known as a writer of opera than of choral works. Owing to his own well-knit lyrics and librettos, his theatre pieces and choral compositions remain interesting to all listeners. He was a talented composer who won many prestigious awards, a successful Broadway composer, and a developer of

international music festivals. He wrote “Jacob’s Prayer,” the 1997 Brock Commission work which premiered at the ACDA National Conference in San Diego, California.

Daniel Moe

Daniel T. Moe made significant contributions to the field of choral music as a conductor, composer, educator, and author. His teaching career included choral conducting posts at the University of Denver, the University of Iowa, and the Oberlin College Conservatory of Music. He was featured often as guest conductor for all-state choirs around the United States. After retiring from Oberlin, he became artistic director of the Key Chorale of Sarasota, Florida, after six years as their guest conductor. His books, *Problems in Conducting* and *Basic Choral Concepts*, were widely used in college conducting courses, and his sacred choral compositions have received extensive performance by church and college choirs.

Nina Nash-Robertson

Nina Nash-Robertson was born in Ireland. She began her tenure at Central Michigan University in August 1982 and retired as the director of choral activities in 2017. During her thirty-five-year career at CMU, she directed the Concert Choir, Chamber Singers, and Festival Chorus, in addition to teaching choral literature and conducting. CMU choirs toured China twice, Europe five times, and appeared at Carnegie Hall in New York City four times. She served as president of the Michigan chapter of ACDA. Among her many accolades, Nash-Robertson was awarded the 2013 Maynard Klein Choral Award by Michigan ACDA, recognizing her artistic excellence and lifetime of leadership in the choral music field and a CMU Excellence in Teaching Award.

Ronald Nelson

Ronald (“Ronnie”) A. Nelson was a conductor, composer, church musician and children’s choir expert who served for thirty-seven years as director of music at Westwood Lutheran Church in suburban Minneapolis. Nelson built a choral program that included hundreds of singers in nine choirs; regular performances of cantatas, passions, oratorios and musicals; summer music camps for children and youth; and a Saturday morning choir school that became a model for other choir schools and choir school curricula. Over 175 of Nelson’s compositions for choir, congregation and organ were published by fifteen American publishers and one Swedish publisher.

Weston Noble

Weston Noble was a highly accomplished and honored American music educator and conductor. He was the Johnson Professor Emeritus of Music at Luther College, after a fifty-seven-year tenure as a conductor and teacher at Luther. He received acclaim from across the country and the world as the conductor of the Luther College Nordic Choir (1948-2005), the Luther College Concert Band (1948-1973), and as guest director for more than 900 all-state bands, orchestras, choirs, and festivals across four continents. He was a charter member of ACDA, and in 1994 the ACDA North Central Region established the Weston H. Noble Award for Lifetime Achievement. Noble was the recipient of ACDA’s prestigious Robert Shaw Award.

Robert Page

Robert Page was best known for his meticulous preparation of choral/orchestral performances that resulted in forty discs issued on major labels and either Grammy nominations. His nineteen-year collaboration with Temple University Choirs and the Philadelphia Orchestra conducted by Eugene Ormandy produced many recordings and a Grammy. As assistant

conductor of the Cleveland Symphony Orchestra and Chorus (1971-1989), Page won a second Grammy. In 1979 he also became director of the Mendelssohn Choir of Pittsburgh. During his distinguished career, Page conducted performances with three opera companies, nine European orchestras, and third American orchestras. He served a three-year term as president of Chorus America and was named Pennsylvania's "Artist of the Year" (1998). Following a twenty-five-year teaching career at Carnegie Mellon, Page was named "University Professor," the university's highest academic award.

Stephen Paulus

Stephen Paulus was one of the most prolific American composers of our time. He wrote over 600 works for chorus, opera, orchestra, chamber ensemble, solo voice, concert band, piano, and organ, which received premieres and performances throughout the world, and Grammy nominations and a 2016 Grammy Award for Best Contemporary Classical Composition. He composed over 400 works for chorus, and his poignant anthem, "Pilgrims' Hymn" (from his church opera *The Three Hermits*) was sung at the funerals of presidents Ronald Reagan and Gerald Ford. In 1973 Paulus co-founded the Minnesota Composers Forum, now known as the American Composers Forum, which has become the largest composer service organization in the United States. He also served as the Symphony and Concert Representative on the board of ASCAP from 1990 until his death. A graduate of the University of Minnesota, he was a recipient of National Endowment for the Arts and Guggenheim Fellowships.

Lloyd Pfautsch

Lloyd Pfautsch made an early life decision to be closely aligned with his faith and music, and he devoted his life to this. He was a long-time conductor of choirs at two Methodist institutions of higher learning and music. Through his conducting, teaching, and composing, he reached choral singers throughout the world, and with over 300 published works, he became known to many who never had the privilege of meeting him in person. He organized and conducted the Dallas Civic Chorus for 25 years.

Daniel Pinkham

Daniel Pinkham is one of America's most frequently performed composers. He wrote for every level of chorus. His large catalogue also contains many instrumental works, but it is for his choral writing that we treasure and respect him. There is a clarity and directness, a kind of musical truth that runs from simple to complex in his compositions. In 1995, he was chosen by members of the ACDA Endowment fund to compose Alleluia for the Waters which was sung by ACDA National Men's Honor Choir at the ACDA National Convention in Washington D.C.

Frank Pooler

Frank Pooler, choir director for twenty-nine years at California State University Long Beach, began his studies of choral music at St. Olaf College. After arriving at Long Beach, Pooler started the university's choral studies department as well as establishing its jazz studies program. He earned a reputation for his unorthodox style and his experimentation with avant-garde choral music. Frank Pooler is well remembered for translating contemporary Norwegian choral arrangements that were almost unknown in the United States at the time. Today he is remembered as choral conductor and arranger of more than five hundred compositions that bear his name.

J. Clark Rhodes

The formative years of any organization, when there is no tradition on which to build, calls for a kind of leadership that J. Clark Rhodes supplied with great personal sacrifice and devotion. During his term as national president he developed guidelines that kept ACDA alive and growing. He was full of ideas that made for new and better ways of running the organization. His patience and kindness is a model for all of us.

Raymond E. Robinson

Raymond Robinson was an extraordinary administrator who, after a four-year teaching appointment at Cascade College in Portland, Oregon, became the dean of the Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore for six years. Robinson served as president of Westminster Choir College in Princeton, New Jersey, for eighteen years, where he promoted the famous Westminster Choir, revitalized the church music program and recreated a successful summer session. Robinson was a music critic and a scholar who was an authority on renowned composer Krzysztof Penderecki. His *Norton Anthology of Choral Music* and his classical choral editions were widely used by choral musicians in the classroom and in performance. As chair of ACDA's Publications Committee, he revitalized and increased its overall productivity. Robinson concluded his academic and performance career as head of the choral program at Palm Beach Atlantic University followed by his tenure as music director of the Palm Beach Symphony.

Paul Salamunovich

Grammy-nominated conductor Paul Salamunovich served the entire gamut of the choral art, ministering at St. Borromeo Church for sixty years, leading the Los Angeles Master Chorale for ten years, and teaching at a number of California universities throughout his career. He was acknowledged as an expert in Gregorian chant and has long been recognized for his contributions in the field of sacred music, most notably receiving a Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice, the highest laity award from the papacy in 2013 and a Papal knighthood in the Order of St. Gregory the Great from Pope Paul VI in 1969.

Hugh Sanders

Hugh Sanders is held in highest esteem by his colleagues. He was a superb choral director and teacher. From 1985-87 he served as ACDA's national president, and shepherded a huge growth in international memberships as well as overseeing the construction of an addition to the headquarters in Lawton, Oklahoma. He achieved great things, and did it with little ego. His love and concern for others shone in everything he did.

Leland Sateren

Leland Sateren, the son of Norwegian immigrants, was an internationally known choral musician, composer, conductor, educator, author and administrator. His influence impacted the choral field throughout the world. Among his many honors was the St. Olaf Medal, awarded to him by King Olav of Norway in 1971. Sateren was a man of strong opinions who brought integrity, high quality, and musicality to the Augsburg College Choir. He was known for his strong opinions, but was also known to willingly listen to new ideas.

Robert Shaw

Robert Shaw's contribution to American music was multifaceted. He was the first to tour America with his professional choir, bringing a musical message that was deeply meaningful. His singers and audiences were given a unique musical experience. He was a communicator, a master teacher, a dreamer who made reality from his dreams. He was the first major American choral conductor to earn recognition as a professional orchestral conductor. His long list of recordings proves that he was, and is, our standard of excellence.

Steven Stucky

Steven Stucky was a Pulitzer Prize-winning American composer whose work was widely commissioned by major orchestras around the world and who earned respect as a conductor, teacher, and author. Stucky was the artistic director of Ensemble X, a new-music ensemble he founded in 1997, featuring Cornell and Ithaca College faculty musicians. He received the prestigious Deems Taylor Award from the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers for his 1981 book *Lutoslawski and His Music*. Other honors included a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship in 1978, a Guggenheim Fellowship in 1986, and a Bogliasco Fellowship in 1997, and election to the American Academy of Arts and Letters and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Howard Swan

Howard Swan was a choral pioneer who believed that choral music and conducting was a serious art, a new idea in his time. His choirs were well-respected, but it was as a teacher that he achieved fame. Along with a few other greats of his generation, he transformed choral music and conducting into a profession. Until the end of his life he demanded commitment, dedication, and quality in the service of his beloved art. As Gordon Paine wrote, "He loved and understood people, and he knew how to reach straight into their hearts and minds – how to inspire them to perform beyond their potential."

Elmer Thomas

Elmer Thomas joined the faculty of the College-Conservatory of Cincinnati in 1966 where he built one of the nation's most distinguished DMA programs in choral conducting. The Conservatory Choruses under his baton sang with a keen knowledge of performance practices, individual choral tone, and an uncommon musicality. Thomas, who specialized in the works of Bach, Haydn and Britten, also served as conductor of the Cincinnati May Festival Chorus, and founded the Vocal Arts Ensemble. Never the conformist Elmer Thomas was a colorful, rugged individualist who enjoyed "fly" fishing, hiking jogging and golfing along with his musical endeavors.

Hugh Thomas

According to a colleague, Hugh Thomas "...had a love and passion for music and life that permeated everything he did. Everyone who sang under him was exposed to his enthusiasm, his brilliance, and his insight." He was associated with Birmingham Southern College for 46 years. Choirs under his direction performed in Europe and the United States. ACDA gave him a special lifetime achievement award.

Leonard Van Camp

Leonard Van Camp, choral conductor, writer, composer, scholar, was the first convention program chairman of the first ACDA national convention. Working with then national president

Morris Hayes, the two men constructed a program that has influenced every ACDA national convention since. He taught in public schools and higher education and was particularly aware of the effect of the rich heritage of sacred music which have given dimensions to what we teach and how we teach.

Roger Wagner

Roger Wagner was born in France and came to the United States when he was seven, beginning a lifetime association with France and the U.S., the art and the music. He intended to become a priest, but at the age of seventeen, he decided to pursue a career in music. He studied music five years in France before starting his career as choir director and organist in the U.S. He organized various choral organizations in the California area, setting new standards for choral performance through touring and recordings of both choral masterworks and folk songs. He worked to further the cause of professional choirs and was a leading figure in the development of ACDA.

Fred Waring

Fred Waring was known to generations as “The man who taught America how to sing.” For nearly seventy years, his fans were awed by his contributions to the music industry via vaudeville, movies, radio, recordings, Broadway, television, and the concert stage. He was a prolific composer and a successful publisher. Waring was recognized as one of the nation’s most influential educators. To encourage better singing techniques, he organized the Fred Waring Choral Music Workshop, where he taught and supervised his staff of “working and show- business professionals.” He was honored by ACDA. His list of recordings numbers well over one hundred.

Wendell Whalum

Wendell Whalum was an composer, author, organist, and educator. He was the legendary director of the internationally-known Morehouse College Glee Club in Atlanta, Georgia. The Glee Club performed numerous times with Robert Shaw and the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, on ACDA conferences, and on a State Department tour of five countries in Africa. Whalum had the ability to provide powerful concertized settings of spirituals, honoring their beauty and power. His well-known arrangements include *Sweet Home & The Lily of the Valley*. His deep religious heritage was demonstrated by his service as an organist/choirmaster in several Atlanta churches. He possessed a rare mixture of intellect, common sense, and humility, a sense of humor, incisive wit, and indomitable spirit.

Lynn Whitten

Lynn Whitten was the third member of the University of Colorado College of Music faculty elected National President of ACDA. His international support, praise, and love for music educators was unconditional.

Sir David Willcocks

Sir David Willcocks was a noted British organist, conductor, and composer whose influence extended throughout the world. As a young musician, he sang in the choir of Westminster Abbey and became organ scholar at King’s College Cambridge in 1939. He served in the British Army and was honored for his military service in WWII. As director of music at King’s College, Cambridge, for seventeen years (1957-1974), Sir David arranged carols and created descants sung by the young trebles in King’s College choirs and made numerous recordings. He

became director of the Royal College of London and also conducted the London Bach Choir for thirty-eight years. After retiring from the Royal College position, Sir David edited music for Oxford University Press. Among the North American universities honoring him with doctoral degrees are Luther College, St. Olaf College, Westminster Choir College, Trinity College (University of Toronto), and the University of Victoria (British Columbia).

Earl Wilhoite

Earl Willhoite was a founding member of ACDA and developed into one of the prime choral directors, conductors, arrangers, and editors in the Fred Waring choral enterprises. He started his career in the public schools of Oklahoma, where he developed prizewinning high school choruses. Willhoite formed and conducted the Shawnee Choir, which was the recording choir of Shawnee Press Publications. His skill as a choral musician, combined with his knowledge of the business of publishing and preparing choirs for performances on the radio garnered him respect.

Harry Robertson Wilson

Harry Robert Wilson was an ACDA Charter Member and an early officer. He was a pioneer music educator and a prolific author as well as a composer and conductor. Under his leadership, music education became a profession.

Betty Woods

Betty Woods was a teacher, scholar, and writer for and about choral music. Her belief in the universal worth of singing led to a philosophy that there is a difference between good and evil, between a marginally accomplished job and one well done, and a belief that we will do best through the careful study and practice of the human singing voice.

Robert Young

Robert H. (Bob) Young made substantive contributions to choral music as a composer, conductor, and author. As a composer, with a primary focus on setting texts by British poets and authors, he crafted an impressive body of unaccompanied choral works. For thirty years, the Chamber Singers at Baylor University presented distinctive choral concerts under his direction, particularly those performed in the unique acoustical space provided at Armstrong Browning Library. *The Anthem in England and America*, of which he was co-author, has been widely used as a reference for information on church choral music. His choral legacy lives through the large number of students he mentored.

Stephen Zegree

Stephen (Steve) Zegree was a noted vocal jazz specialist whose arrangements are widely used by vocal jazz ensembles. For thirty-four years, Zegree led The Gold Company at Western Michigan University, where he was the Bobby McFerrin Distinguished Professor of Music. *Downbeat* Magazine inducted Zegree into its Jazz Education Hall of Fame in 2012. A prolific arranger, Zegree published with several American music publishing companies, and he also wrote two popular books on teaching vocal jazz. A passionate educator, he coached and mentored many successful jazz, pop and Broadway artists and others who went on to promote vocal jazz in secondary and post-secondary schools. He founded the Steve Zegree Vocal Jazz Camp, which modeled excellence in performance and teaching of vocal jazz. He was also an adept pianist, performing with the Western Jazz Quarter and recording four CDs with them. In

2007 he prepared the focal ensemble that won NBC TV's "Clash of the Choirs" television program.