

ICDA Notations

A Publication of the Indiana Choral Directors Association
Fall 2021: Volume 43, Number 1



Discover Your “Re”

Michael Hummel, ICDA President

There are few times in our lives when we are offered the chance to “re-start”. The first day of school, relocation of residency, college, marriage, job change are all events that shift people around and in doing so, provide us the opportunity to build new relationships, friendships and even help us “re”-establish our careers and lives. This year we all have the unique opportunity to “re”-start, “re”-think, “re”-shape, “re”-invent, “re”-tool, “re”-connect, “re”-load, “re”-set, “re”-new and “re”- focus our lives.

As we have embarked on another school year and season, it is my hope that you have taken time to “re”-consider what is most important to you, your singers, and your fellow choral music colleagues. By prioritizing your needs and “re”-establishing goals you will inevitably find yourself re-prioritizing your work, and hopefully “re”-newing your focus on what really matters. Ultimately this year, I hope that you have been able to “re”-connect with your love of choral music making in a meaningful way with others. There are major benefits of having re-starts in our life. The opportunity to make professional and personal adjustments that best serve our singers and ourselves can not be overlooked; especially in the times in which we currently live.

As current choral musicians, I know that many of you fully recognize the benefit of such a “re”-start. I hope that you have been re-invigorated by the opportunity of having a fresh start. I also ask you to pause for a minute to consider that there are some just beginning their choral music journey for the first time. As you think about your re-start I would encourage you to think about your fellow ICDA colleagues and friends who have made such an impact in your life. Many continue to find value in being part of the ICDA family, and I encourage you to reach out to a new teacher in your district or even to a friend who might have been part of ICDA in the past. We also don’t want to forget the many church music professionals in our state. We have so many talented and charismatic church choral music directors that would both benefit from being part of ICDA and also enhance ICDA through becoming a member. Many of you all have untapped circles of influence. Whether it be a teacher in your county or district, a music minister at a church in your town, or a past choir student of yours now in college studying music, there are so many individuals who could benefit from your personal and thoughtful invitation to join.

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As you consider reaching out, here are a few helpful reminders when discussing the benefits of joining ICDA.

- ICDA focuses on building excellence in choral music education through performance by participation in the ICDA All State Honor Choir and All State Vocal Jazz Choir. Performance opportunities have also been extended for performance at the IMEA Professional Development and ICDA Summer Conferences. In addition, through conference attendance, you can earn Continuing Education Units on an annual basis.
- ICDA provides a wealth of new music resources and reading sessions for members to access and experience. Whether it be new music presented at conference reading sessions by our highly experienced repertoire and resource committee members, or through online resources. ICDA members are connected with a multitude of helpful choral musicians, teachers, and church music ministers who are always exploring and finding new choral music gems. In addition, new members automatically have global privileged access to Musica International, an international virtual choral library.
- Peer support, connection, and camaraderie and with others who share your passion and challenges can be invaluable. Conferences, meetings, and performances all offer ways for busy teachers and church musicians the opportunity to connect in a personal way. It has never been more important than now to have a like-minded, caring, and positive thinking support structure. We all strive for connection and belonging. The past two years have been so difficult for all of us and the struggle still continues. Being part of a professional association dedicated to choral conducting and music making is an invaluable way to grow and receive much needed professional connections. It helps make us all better choral teachers and directors and gives us the opportunity to network and find support and friendship.

I hope that you have already found your inspiration and creative drive this year and that you have once again found true joy in “re”-engaging with your choirs in a true and meaningful way. If you are able to also encourage others, please don’t hesitate. We all need to be uplifted as we endeavor to provide our choirs’ meaningful music making opportunities. May you find great satisfaction as you inspire others through your choral music journey this year and may you be richly blessed this year as you discover your “Re”!

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Money Matters

Paula Alles, Treasurer

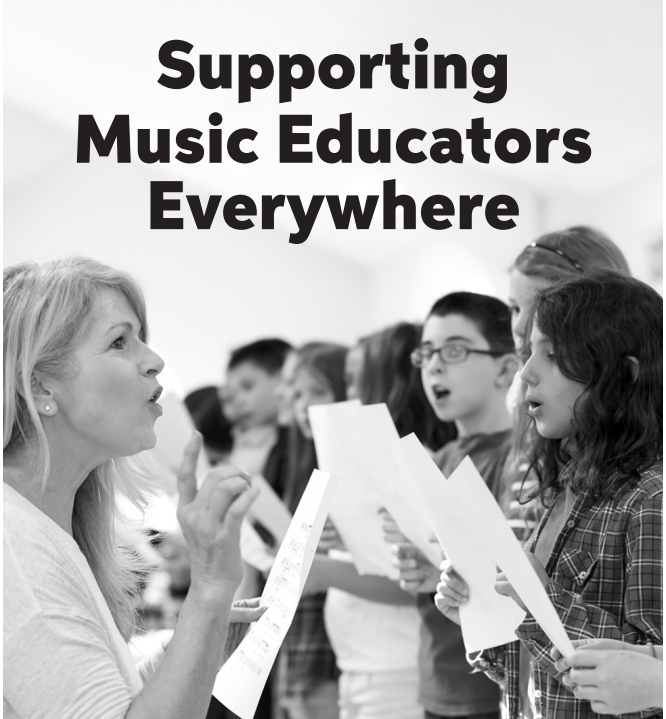
The Summer Conference 2021 bills have been paid and we currently show a profit of nearly \$2,000. Many thanks to Michael Hummel and to Melissa Walsh for their excellent planning for this year. Thanks, also to Ryan Knight, who set up our Zoom portal and fixed our technical problems during the virtual part of our conference. Thank you to all of you who attended in person and via your computers. When we divide the expenses of excellent clinicians among many conference attendees, it is easy to provide better and better conference experiences for all of us.

Currently our balances in checking and savings accounts are \$11,570.67 and \$29,561.58, respectively. This is about \$2,000 less than the amount we had last year at this time.

Many of you pay your annual membership dues in the fall. Your membership expires during the month in which you joined or last paid your dues. As a friendly reminder, many of your colleagues' dues are being paid by their schools, music booster organizations, or churches. It might be worth investigating. You may join or renew online at www.acda.org. Reach out to new choral directors in your areas and invite them to enjoy the many benefits of membership in ICDA/ACDA. Invite them to attend Summer Conference 2022.

Questions about your current membership status are welcome at any time. E-mail (alles.paula@gmail.com) is best for me. You may also email the national office directly at membership@acda.org.

Our St. Joseph, Jasper church choir began singing together again on Memorial Day weekend. We wear masks and keep one empty chair between singers when seated. Our county continues to report about 40 new Covid cases per day. We are designated an orange zone. After singing together in church for the summer, we closed the building to continue a \$10 million restoration and refurbishing project on our 141-year-old church. We currently have scaffolding around our 230-foot bell tower with men visible walking around the top of the tower as they make repairs. While the church is closed; our masses continue in Kundek Hall in our Parish Center. Our choir sings from a balcony and our parishioners enjoy the cozy feel of our smaller space. We continue to wear masks and maintain as much social distancing as possible. I will keep you posted on our progress.



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Selecting Literature Dan Andersen

Welcome back to school/church everyone! I hope your year has gotten off to a great start. I am excited to be back with full classrooms, without masks (both for the time being I'm afraid!). I know that picking literature is on our minds, in fact most of us probably spent much of our summer doing the work that will set us up for success throughout the year. This process has always been exciting for me. I get to hear all the new releases by my favorite publishing companies.

Speaking of publishing companies, I want to challenge all of us before I continue with the purpose of the article. Please purchase as much new music as you can afford this year. The pandemic has been very hard on the publishers, composers/arrangers, those who print the music, and on the local dealers (like Beth at Sweetwater). Many of you were not able to do much singing in your schools or churches, and if you did, you more than likely used music from your library. Now it's time for new beginnings! There is so much beautiful, challenging, entertaining, stunning new choral music out right now! Please challenge yourself to look for new music to help our choral community get back on its feet!

Why is picking out the right music for our choirs so important? There are several reasons. One of the most obvious is that we need to match the difficulty of the literature with our choir. If we are doing 12 pieces with a choir this year, give them 3 songs that will really challenge them, 3 songs that they will learn quickly, and 6 that are right at their level. Too many pieces that are over their heads will cause frustration just like too many easy pieces will cause boredom. To me the most important thing that picking out appropriate literature will do for your choir is keeping your singers engaged. Keeping your singers engaged is imperative to excellent classroom management, and to efficient church choir rehearsals. The term "Authentic Engagement" is big in the current teacher evaluation rubrics. If your 7th grade boys are not actively engaged in something constructive, they will find something to do with their time....I would have! I have stories! This also goes for those tenors in the back row of your church choir during rehearsal. Come to think of it, that's me now! Sorry, Matt Kauffman!

What areas should we look at to help us find engaging music for our choirs. First, we should consider the text. Is it interesting? Is it meaningful? Is it silly or a novelty text? Is it in a foreign language? Next, consider the range and tessitura of the song. Then see if the piece is musically interesting melodically, harmonically, texturally, dynamically, etc. Consider the familiarity of the piece, whether it's a pop song, folk song with a familiar melody, or a hymn arrangement. Does the song connect with other subjects (African folk song if your 7th graders are studying Africa) or the sermon theme? These are all things that will help your singers connect with a song and stay engaged.

Finding the right literature for your choirs can be very time consuming. I added up the songs that I listened to one summer and it was over 1,200! Spending the time to find the right literature for your choirs will pay many dividends. Your singers will be more engaged, especially your young men. There

will be more buy in, which results in greater effort. They will allow you to “push” them a little more all the time. You will be able to give them more difficult literature and a larger variety of music. One of our jobs is to make sure we are providing them with a variety of quality music that will help them grow as singers, musicians, and people of the world. If we do this well, our students will run to our class like they run to lunch, and our church choir members will find fewer reasons to stay at home and miss rehearsals.

This will be a very important year to find the right music for our choirs. I think it's even more important than last year. First, many choirs were not able to meet in person and sing together. Many were in a hybrid situation, and those who were able to sing were singing with masks and social distancing. Secondly, our country is still in disarray and needs a tremendous amount of healing.

At our core, we are all educators, and choral music, at its core, educates. I believe we have an obligation, through appropriate, challenging, quality choral music, to educate and challenge our singers and our communities. We have an opportunity this year to help our country pick up the pieces of humanity one choir at a time. Have a great year making incredible music with the beautiful humans in your choirs!

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Repertoire and Resources Report

David Stone, Chair

Hello there! I hope that this year has started off well. We all are facing challenges in our situations but all of us are resilient and will be able to overcome anything that comes our way. I want to introduce myself and my team in the Repertoire and Resources positions of the Repertoire Specific area. My name is David Stone and I am currently the Choral and Handbell Director at Highland Hills Middle School in Georgetown Indiana. We are the feeder school to Floyd Central High School. I direct two mixed gender treble ensembles in 5th and 6th grade, one 7th and 8th Treble Ensemble, One 7th and 8th Cambiata/Baritone Ensemble, and two handbell ensembles daily. I have served as R & R chair for Children and Youth Choirs for the last 4 years and before that was the Men's Choir R & R coordinator for 4 years. I am excited to be back in the Repertoire Specific area. My goal is to help people find good, challenging and accessible music for their groups. Not just for the ISSMA lists but to help with finding repertoire that will work in all situations. I will be working in the area of Treble Choirs (SA, SSA, SSAA). Now I want to introduce you all to the rest of the Repertoire Specific team



First, let me introduce Kyle Barker. Kyle is a Choral Director at Carmel High School. He is the ICDA R & R representative for Show Choirs. Kyle's goal in this area is to provide resources for both new and veteran teachers on how to find quality arrangements/arrangers for their groups that can work and be adapted for all levels of experience. He adds, "It can be very frustrating to want to do pop and Broadway music with your groups and to seemingly only find music that either isn't exciting or is not written well for the group you have. But the good music is there, and there's a lot of it...and more and more, arrangers are starting to pay more attention to band charts, needs for dance breaks, etc...the process is getting better, and I'm really passionate about helping directors find good popular music that will encourage buy-in from the students and be of a quality that is educationally sound and beneficial to the students!"



Second, I want to introduce to you our R & R for World Music. Dr. Madlen Batchvarova is a Professor of Music and Director of Choral Programs at Hanover College. Her goal for this area is to help Indiana choral directors discover the accessibility of world choral music. In the words of Hermann Steinherr - "The greatest significance of people is that no matter what their race and tribe, no matter what their color and religion they bond with each other is based on emotions, sentiments and feelings." She adds, "Including world music into the choral concert programs affords our choristers and audiences the opportunity to grow in awareness, understanding, and appreciation of the diverse human experiences in the USA and abroad. Knowledge of others is also knowledge of self."

Our third area is Vocal Jazz and will be led by R & R representative Mark Yount. Mark is the Choral Director at Martinsville High School. We are thrilled to have Mark working in this area as it is one of his areas of expertise. His goal for this year is to help choir directors know, that you don't have to sing Manhattan Transfer, or New York Voices to sing great jazz music with your students at ANY level. He adds "EMAIL ME

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PLEASE! I love working with people in this area. The best vocal jazz resources are not on J. W. Pepper. (Not that Pepper isn't great.) But there are lots of resources you probably don't know about."



Our fourth and final area is the R & R for our Men's Choirs. We are excited to welcome to our team Theo Hicks (soon to be Dr. Hicks). Theo is the Director of Choral Activities and Voice Coordinator at Anderson University. He has been involved with the Barbershop movement for many years in which he arranges for, sings with, and directs several groups. He is going to be a great asset to ICDA in this area. His goal is to further diversify our offerings for TTBB voices and encourage educators everywhere that there is great, attainable music for men's choirs, no matter the level. He adds, "Encouraging young men to sing can be a challenge - the hardest part is often just getting them through your door. However, resources abound - there are men's groups that travel to schools to perform and encourage engagement, and there is great repertoire for men's chorus that can help spark excitement in your program. Reach out to me with any questions, I am always happy to help!"

We have a wealth of talent in our Repertoire Specific area. Do not hesitate to reach out to each of us with questions and suggestions. We are here to serve all of you in ICDA. Let's all have a great year, no matter what we may be given. All the best to you all!

Saint Mary's College Hosts 36th Annual High School Treble Choir Festival

Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame, IN, will host the **36th annual High School Treble Choir Festival** on Thursday, **November 18** and Friday, **November 19, 2021**.

This is a unique opportunity to provide your treble choir with exposure to other choirs of its kind, and to give the members a special event to look forward to that is geared especially toward them.

Each participating choir will be asked to perform three or four pieces. Please understand that this is not a show choir event, but a concert choir festival. There will be no competition as such, but each choir will receive written evaluations from two commentators and a third commentator will work with each choir for 15-20 minutes following their performance. This year's commentators are **Jeanette MacCallum**, founder and artistic director of Vox Grata Women's Choirs, Nashville, TN; **Leslie Manfredo**, former assistant director of choral activities at Illinois State University, and current adjunct professor at Roosevelt University, and **Phillip Swan**, co-director of choral studies and conductor of Cantala at Lawrence University, Appleton, WI. Choirs will perform for each other during the morning and afternoon sessions. The Saint Mary's College Department of Music will provide lunch for all performers. Each choir should plan to attend the entire day's events which will include a tour of the campus and a performance by the Saint Mary's College Women's Choir.

For more information or to be added to the festival mailing list, please contact Dr. Nancy Menk at nmenk@saintmarys.edu.



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Mary Beth Coolidge,
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David Mannell, Deborah Fights Hill,
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All-State Honor Choir

Anissa Bradley, Chair

I am excited to announce that Dr. Jessica Nápoles, from North Texas State University, will be guest conducting this year's honor choir. She has chosen the following repertoire:

Domine Ad Adjuvandum Me Festina by Martini
Always Keep this Close by Zachary Moore
Hearts Beat Together by Emilio Sole-Sempere
The Music of Stillness by Elaine Hagenberg
The World of Our Dreams by Jeffery Ames
Glory by Eugene Rogers

Auditions are currently being held in every Area. The Area Chair designates when auditions are and will organize rehearsals that will be held over the next four months culminating with the ASHC weekend on January 14-15 in Fort Wayne as part of the IMEA Professional Development Conference.

A big change related to the weekend in Fort Wayne is the closure of the Ramada that we have previously stayed in. The housing, meals, and rehearsals will now be at the Hilton Garden Inn North/Home2Suites. That unfortunately means that the choir had to be reduced to 200 students because of rehearsal space.

Covid continues to be a concern. At the direction of the ICDA Board and with guidelines coming from ACDA, masks will be required for any in-person singing related to All-State.

Many thanks to Brian Adcock, ASHC assistant chair, for helping with this daunting task of organizing All-State! And especially to the 16 Area Chairs, some who have been in service to ICDA in this capacity for more than twenty years, a big "thank you for what you do"!



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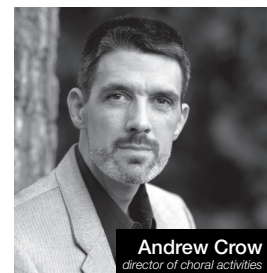
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Andrew Crow
director of choral activities



Kerry Glann
associate director of choral activities

To learn more, contact Andrew Crow, director of choral activities,
at arcrow@bsu.edu.

bsu.edu/music



Jessica Nápoles, ASHC Conductor

Jessica Nápoles is Professor of Choral Music Education at the University of North Texas. She teaches undergraduate coursework in choral methods, conducts the Concert Choir, and mentors graduate students in research. Dr. Nápoles served as Interim division chair for Conducting & Ensembles in 2019-2020 and Interim division chair for Music Education in Fall of 2020. A native of Florida with a Cuban-American background, Dr. Nápoles taught middle school chorus in the public schools of Miami and Orlando, FL.

She received her Bachelor of Music Education, Master of Music Education, and PhD in Music Education from the Florida State University. Prior to her appointment at UNT, she taught at the University of Utah for 11 years.

Dr. Nápoles is an active conductor, clinician, and adjudicator, frequently engaging in guest conducting opportunities locally, regionally, and nationally. She has conducted All State and honor choirs in Arkansas, California, Delaware, Florida, Idaho, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, New York, Oregon, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Wisconsin, and Utah. She has conducted the Southern, North Central/Central, and Western division honor choirs for the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA). In 2019, Dr. Nápoles made her Carnegie Hall debut as choral conductor for the WorldStrides OnStage Honors Performance Series. She was asked to return in 2020 and again in 2021.

In addition to her conducting invitations, Dr. Nápoles is a well-known researcher, with numerous publications in journals such as the *Journal of Research in Music Education*, *Bulletin of the Council for Research in Music Education*, *Journal of Music Teacher Education*, *Update: Applications of Research in Music Education*, and the *International Journal of Music Education*. She is currently serving 6-year terms on the editorial boards of the *Journal of Research in Music Education*, the premier research journal in music education and the *International Journal of Research in Choral Singing*, the ACDA research journal. Her research interests include music teacher education, testing practitioner practices empirically, expressive conducting, and teacher talk. She has presented at conferences on these topics nationally and internationally.

Dr. Nápoles is meaningfully engaged with the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) at the national level. She is currently a member of the Research Standing Committee. Additionally, she served as Assistant Conference Chair for the 2019 Kansas City Conference and previously as the Honor Choir Coordinator for the 2015 conference in Salt Lake City and the 2017 conference in Minneapolis. Additionally, she served as Assistant Conference chair for the 2021 virtual conference and the 2019 Kansas City Conference, and previously led the writing team in drafting a COVID-19 task force for ACDA.



From the Editor

Chuck Bradley, Notations Editor

Thank you for reading our new issue of *ICDA Notations*. I'm always looking for new content, so if you are itching to share with our readers...this is the place.

Also, thank you to all of our advertisers. Without them we would not be able to print and mail this publication.

All-State Honor Choir Area Chairs

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