# ICDA Notations

A Publication of the Indiana Choral Directors Association Spring/Summer 2021: Volume 42, Number 3





## **Presidential Perspectives**

Kerry Glann, ICDA President

To paraphrase a favorite Lerner & Loewe song, "What a year this has been, what a rare mood I'm in. But it's nothing like

falling in love!" Indeed, I'm sure we are all eager to close the book on this most unusual year and never look back. It has been tiring, frustrating, saddening. We've learned and practiced perseverance, flexibility, patience, and hopefully a good deal of grace as we've done whatever we can to keep our music going during this pandemic year. So, can we please just take next year off?? Well, probably not. But it will surely feel like another rare mood — an uplifting one, maybe even overwhelming — when we finally return to 'normal' and we can sing and hear our choirs in their best voice again.

One opportunity for some normalcy arrives this June with our annual summer conference. Thank you to everyone who responded to our recent survey regarding conference planning. After thoughtful discussion of all options, the ICDA Board has approved holding an in-person conference with an option to attend most sessions virtually for those who prefer. One way or another, we hope you will join us June 28-29 at Tabernacle Presbyterian Church in Indianapolis. It will be

good to enjoy fellowship of choral directors from around the state once again!

Interestingly enough, another mood I've experienced this year is gratitude. I'm grateful my family and close friends have remained healthy (even when I got sick). I'm grateful my choirs were still able to perform and that my students and church and community choir singers faced down the restrictions and adjustments with good cheer and determination. Not even a global pandemic, it seems, can dampen the will to sing! And as I come the end of my term as ICDA president, I'm grateful to the dedicated individuals on our board for their

commitment to keeping ICDA strong and to each you, our members, for sticking with us during this challenging year and for continuing to serve our art.

What a year this has been! May we all have a more hopeful one to come.

## **Inside this Issue**

| President's Message   | 1 |
|-----------------------|---|
| Money Matters         | 2 |
| Lifelong Learning     | 3 |
| From the Editor       | 5 |
| Summer Conference     | 6 |
| All-State Honor Choir | 8 |
| Leadership Directory  | 9 |
|                       |   |



# **Money Matters**

Paula Alles, Treasurer

All-State Honor Choir income is mostly collected and some of the bills have been paid in advance. Thanks to the excellent planning of Anissa Bradley and Brian Adcock, we should finish with a comfortable financial margin.

We currently have \$2,744.32 in our ICDA checking account and \$49,148.75 in savings for a total of \$51,893.07. This is a bit higher than our totals last year at this time, but we still have most of our All-State Honor Choir bills to pay. Yes, we are a non-profit organization, but with the large

expenses involved in our two largest events each year, All-State Honor Choir and Summer Conference, it is a good idea to have a cushion to cover unforeseen expenses. It is also terrific to have the resources to consider new projects such as our free Virtual Summer Conference last summer.

Make plans now to register for the Summer Conference 2021 on June 28 –29. You may register and pay by credit card or you may choose to pay by check. Find out what other church, elementary, middle, high school, college and community choir directors are doing in these difficult times.

When your school or church secretary pays your dues for you, please ask her to send your membership renewal card with the check directly to the ACDA National Headquarters in Oklahoma City. You may also renew your membership online with a credit card. The ACDA website is www.acda.org. This will renew your national ACDA membership as well as your Indiana membership. If you are wondering why you haven't received your mailings, it could be that you forgot to update your change of address. You may do this online also.

If you have any questions about your membership, please feel free to contact me. My home e-mail is best: alles.paula@gmail.com. If you prefer to phone, call 812-631-2625. You may also contact the ACDA national membership chair at membership@acda.org.

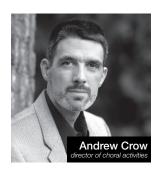


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To learn more, contact Andrew Crow, director of choral activities, at arcrow@bsu.edu.

bsu.edu/music



## **How Do We Measure Success?**

**Andrea Drury, Lifelong Coordinator** 

At this point in the year, all of us as choir directors are finding ourselves in different spots. Some of us may be at the end of a season that had few or no performances. Others of us may have navigated our way through a virtual performance. Many of us had to find new rehearsal and performance venues.

Others hoped they had enough brave and well choristers to sing a short concert. I definitely felt at times I was one of the mice in the book "Who Moved my Cheese" wondering if I was going to be the mouse who thrived or the one who became extinct.

As I began leading my chorus through this adventure, I began to analyze and process the obvious obstacles to work through such as masks, social distancing and singing together in person. But one of the obstacles that took me by surprise was how does one measure success through all of this. In normal years, if I and my chorus had a first rate performance and the audience raved, then it was a success. Performance was the scale. But with all of this going on, that was going to change and possibly disappear for a while.

After mulling this over and staring at my chorus through my computer for many months, I realized my measurement of success had to adjust. Trust me, it was tempting to say well let's wait for next season, but I had singers relying on me to keep this going and to fulfill at least some part of why they sing. So it dawned on my one night during a virtual rehearsal. I looked at the faces and realized there were people ranging in age from their 20's to their 80's all online together. This was a success and possibly a miracle. We had all figured out the virtual platform and connected many generations of singers through it. There were people singing all by themselves at home. It came to my attention later that this was a success, because they were building part independence and had not had a chance to grow in this way before. We got to talk about our lives and how we were coping. This was a success, because it was the connection we were missing out on every Monday night rehearsal or perhaps never took the time to share. We got to express how much we missed each other and singing by the people in our sections. This was a huge success. My chorus is very kind to each other, but I doubt they would have realized or expressed how much they missed singing with each other if it had not been brought to their attention through this year.

I could go on and on with examples, and I am sure and hope you have ones of your own you could add. But the point is, the measurement of success for many of us was performance, and this year it was placed on the back burner and sometimes not even on the stove. This was painful, but allowed or forced other parts of what we do to become the focus. So even though the concert halls and churches were more quiet this year, we still had success, because we carried on and found things in ourselves that we had forgotten, learned something new or both. I hope soon choir concerts and performances will be returning with new vigor with sold out audiences, and that we do not forget but continue to use the new ways we measured success during this time to enrich our performances.

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From the Editor
Chuck Bradley, Notations Editor

As I put this issue of Notations to rest, I wonder. I wonder what the Summer and Fall will bring, I wonder if we will be back to normal. I feel that what we once considered normal will never return and that we will, we must embrace our new reality.

This spring I have been excited that we have been able to resume some forms of live performances, that we have been able to perform for audiences (though limited) again. I know that the very idea of performing re-energized my students, which in turn helped to re-energize this very veteran teacher.

This summer ICDA is carefully getting back to what was once normal by meeting for Summer

Conference and hosting All-State Jazz and All-State Honor Choir. Please support these endeavors this summer in any way that you can. These uncertain times and our new realities make every decision by leadership incredibly difficult. Give them grace and positivity as we move forward.

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## **Summer Conference Update**

Michael Hummel, President Elect

GREETINGS, ICDA MEMBERS! So much has happened in our lives over these past few months; finding new paths in our work, quarantines, masks, a vaccine that some of you are starting to get, hope is on the horizon..... With that I am very excited to announce that the ICDA Summer Conference will be both a live in person conference as well as virtual. The conference this year will take place June 28th & 29th at Tabernacle

Presbyterian Church in Indianapolis. This event will feature excellent interest sessions by nationally and internationally recognized clinicians, including:

- Elaine Hagenberg, Full time composer and arranger. Elaine has music in print with various publishers including Oxford University Press, Hal Leonard, G. Schirmer, and Hinshaw Music. Currently, she publishes her sacred anthems with Beckenhorst Press and her concert music independently through Elaine Hagenberg Music.
- Dr. Jason Max Ferdinand, Full Professor, Chair of the Music Department, and Director of Choral Activities at Oakwood University where he conducts the Aeolians of Oakwood University.
- Eric Whitacre, Grammy Award-winning composer and conductor, Eric Whitacre, is among today's most popular musicians. His works are programmed worldwide and his ground-breaking Virtual Choirs have united singers from more than 145 countries.

In addition to our headliners, the conference will include an exciting and diverse array of interest sessions, and a reading session. We will also be celebrating our Indiana high school jazz musicians as they will perform as part of the conference Monday evening the 28th at Beech Grove high school. Because the conference is only 2 days and in a different location, we are able to offer it for a discounted price. The conference is only open to 75 in person registrations so don't delay on registering for this special event.

Regardless of how difficult the last two years have been it is a great time to be an ICDA member. Our organization has been hard at work this year to offer you a conference that will be of great value and benefit.

ICDA is continually looking for ways to best reach our membership. I hope that you are able to find something within our upcoming Summer Conference. However, if you find we are missing something that speaks to your professional needs, please do not hesitate to reach out to me and let me know what we can do to help. Ours is a great, vast and varied network of choral directors—seasoned, new, tried-and true, fresh, creative, and everything in between—and I have no doubt we can find a way to point you in the right direction or work to incorporate something new into the mix. As always, feel free to email me at mhummel@plainfield.k12.in.org.

It has my pleasure to serve as your President Elect and my privilege to work on your behalf.





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## All-State Honor Choir

Anissa Bradley, Chair

It's very exciting to think that in less than a month, the 2021 All-State Honor Choir will have officially rehearsed and performed their program in Indianapolis. There have been bumps in the road, just like we all have experienced, over the past year. Thank you, Area Chairs and Directors, for bearing with me as changes had to be made regarding auditions. Thank you to the ICDA Board for your support and trust as we had to make difficult decisions while keeping the students and their safety in mind as

we progressed. Thank you to our Alliance partner, IMEA and Lane Velayo, for your part in making this event a reality. It is my understanding that we are one of a handful of all-state groups from around the country that were able to perform in person.

There have not been any announcements about what 2022 will hold for the ASHC. As soon as I know something definite, I will let the Area Chairs know so information can be distributed.

The All-State Jazz Choir Concert will be at 7 p.m. at Beech Grove H.S. on Monday, June 28th. Guest Directors will be Mark Yount and Dan Andersen. Open to anyone and admission is free.

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