

ICDA Notations



A Publication of the Indiana Choral Directors Association
Fall 2020: Volume 42, Number 1



Presidential Perspectives

**Kerry Glann,
ICDA President**

Not long ago, I received an e-mail from a long-time ICDA member. His message had nothing to do with COVID, but it got me thinking about what he's doing these days. This person has been teaching with distinction for decades, probably nearing retirement. Surely, he never anticipated that one of the latter years of his career would require an entirely new way of doing choral music. But I couldn't help thinking how fortunate his students are to have an experienced, passionate, and dedicated teacher like him to lead them at a time like this.

That sentiment applies to YOU – all of you – as well. I'm constantly impressed, encouraged, and often humbled by the things I see and hear choral directors everywhere doing to respond to our current situation in creative ways. No doubt, each of us has different circumstances, faces different challenges, and comes up with different ways of moving forward, but that fact that you are doing *something* is so important!

Our students, our church members, our community singers – they all still need the opportunity for expression and connection that choral music brings, and they still need us. So thank you for everything you are doing in large and small ways to keep our art and our spirits alive.

Other pieces of good news and appreciation:

●We welcome two new members to the ICDA Board this fall. Jennifer Kitzmiller from Hamilton Heights Middle & High School is our new District Representative for District 4, and Kyle Broady from Jeffersonville High School joins us as District Rep for District 8. All of our District Reps are charged with being the grassroots connectors between our members throughout each

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Money Matters

Paula Alles, Treasurer

All of the Virtual Summer Conference 2020 bills have been paid and we currently show a deficit of only about \$1,000. Of that, over \$400 was for Vocal Jazz music that will be used next summer. 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 all of our technical problems during our virtual conference. Thanks to all of you who attended via your computers. It was exciting to have over 800 attend from all over the world. It would be terrific if each of you would invite one more colleague to join ICDA and attend next year at the University of Indianapolis. 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 \$ 7,895.39 and \$34,069.76, respectively. This is very similar to the amount we had last year at this time.

Thanks to our newsletter editor, Chuck Bradley, for adding some new advertisers this year. If you know of a potential advertiser, please contact them and let them know.

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 2021.

Directors who have students participating in All State Choir, remember that all student fees must be paid with school checks or Booster Organization checks. Collect the money from your students and then send one check from your school.

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.



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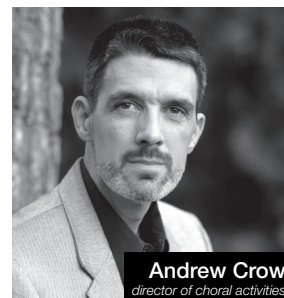
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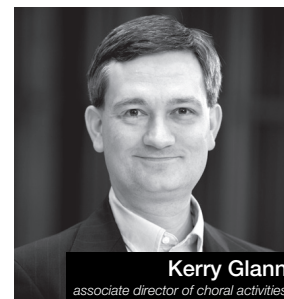
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Assistantships cover the major part of tuition and fees (for full-time credits), plus include a stipend as follows: Doctor of Arts degree: \$12,000, Master of Music degree: \$7,000.

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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

Glann, from page 1

district and the state-level organization. Reach out to them with news of what's going on in your area and ideas for how ICDA can serve you, and they will do the same. Remember, your ICDA District corresponds to your ISSMA Zone. (Check the ISSMA website for its zone map.)

- Our own Mary Evers has begun serving as the inaugural president of the newly formed Midwest Region of ACDA.
- ICDA's Virtual Summer Conference was a resounding success!! A huge "thank you" goes to conference coordinator Michael Hummel and his team of Dan Andersen, Andrea Drury, Sarah Kavanagh, Ryan Knight, and David Stone for imagining and organizing an event that exceeded all expectations. We hosted nearly 800 registrants from Indiana, across the United States, and around the world – including from Canada, the UK, Sweden, India, Hong Kong, Thailand, the Philippines, the United Arab Emirates, and Uzbekistan!
- ACDA's annual **SingUp!** membership drive runs September 15 through November 15. Now is a great time to invite a new colleague or an old friend to join ACDA, and we have some assistance available to encourage new members or anyone needing extra help in this difficult time. Contact your District Rep or me if you have someone in mind for membership, and we'll be glad to reach out.

As I tell my students at the end of every class these days, "Stay safe, stay healthy, and hope to see you again soon!"

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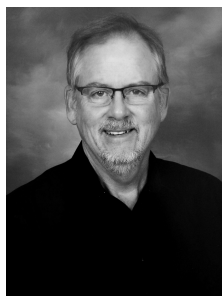
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From the Editor

Chuck Bradley, Notations Editor

I hope you enjoy this issue. I don't have to tell any of you that it has been a tough year for everyone. I am personally grateful for every moment that I can work with my students even under less than ideal conditions. Music Education is our family business...we had 4 choral music teachers at a small family gathering recently. It was the best professional development that I have had in a while. All of our discussion concerned the ideal set-up for rehearsing in auditorium seats, what type of masks to use, and adjustments to our normal choral music routines. My hope is that you are finding your way through this and finding ways to make meaningful connections.

I'd like to thank our advertisers Ball State University, DePauw University, Sweetwater, Bethel University, and Anderson University. This publication is dependent on their support.

I'd also like to thank Michael Dean, Sarah Kavanaugh, and Kyle Hartzog for contributing to this issue. We welcome all submissions that would be of interest to our members.

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“United In Song”

Connection Through Creativity During COVID-19

On March 9, Kyle Hartzog invited area colleague, Sarah Kavanagh, to lead a clinic with his choral students as they polished their spring repertoire. This was a week in which many student ensembles across the state were preparing to perform at ISSMA Organizational Contest and IMEA Festival & Clinic. Little did they know how that week would end. It was also unclear how this simple collaboration would impact them and their students in the coming months.

The singers at Covington had been working on “Give Us Hope” by Jim Papoulis. To broaden the clinic experience, Sarah connected with Jim over FaceTime to help Kyle’s students deepen their understanding of the piece. Sarah shared, “As directors, we have all experienced when an ensemble has mastered the foundational mechanics of pitch, rhythm, and text, but the singers lack the appropriate storytelling in their music making.” Connecting with Jim ignited a curiosity and excitement that transformed the way they shared the message of the piece. “We had originally prepared the piece for our annual Choral Festival in the fall, but I felt there was still so much more that we could have done with the piece. Having the expertise of not only Kavanagh, but also Jim was an amazing experience to witness,” Kyle explained.

As March ended, the words “Give Us Hope” became a phrase everyone could relate to deeply as the global pandemic spread. Countless musical organizations across the world became silent. Schools, churches, and local businesses closed. What began as an extended Spring Break for many transitioned into a time of remote learning. Isolation led to loneliness. Uncertainty led to fear. Many people faced financial hardship, illness, and loss. Singing was suddenly categorized as a dangerous activity. Due to these new challenges, it became clear that a great amount of caution and creativity would be needed as directors move forward.

Jim Papoulis has empowered young people for years by composing with children from all over the world in songwriting workshops. This past spring, he quickly adapted and began offering 90 minute virtual workshops through his Foundation for Small Voices. In a post on the foundation’s social media, Jim shared, “together, we can connect, celebrate and heal through creating.” Sarah reached out to Jim expressing interest in scheduling a virtual workshop for the fall. They had previously collaborated in a live songwriting workshop in 2017 and she was in the process of writing a grant to fund another three-day workshop with Jim in 2021.

As Sarah scheduled the virtual workshop, she invited Kyle and his students to participate with her and her students from North Montgomery. On August 26, a group of incredibly thoughtful

young people with hearts and minds burdened by the current state of our world came together to compose “United In Song” with Jim over a Google Meet. The workshop began with Jim asking a series of questions. He asked students about their musical preferences, what matters to them, and how they want to shape their music to match the message of the piece. Students wanted to address topics ranging from acceptance and equality to mental health and depression. By the end of their time together online, approximately half of the song was complete. A framework for the remainder of the piece was developing. Jim spent the next few days finishing the lyrics, harmonies, sheet music, and practice recordings for Sarah and Kyle’s students.

“United In Song”

Where do we go from here

Crawling through the unknown

Trying to reach through loneliness and shadows

No matter where you’re from

Our journey’s just begun

As we yearn to hear all voices

United in song we rise

United in hope we bring a feeling of love

That will lift up all our voices

United in song we sing

Jim shared toward the end of the workshop, “It’s tough sometimes in life right now. I’ve had 49 concerts cancelled so far. Now I’m cancelling into January. I was supposed to go to Uganda for fifteen days in October, I was supposed to go to China for twenty days, I was supposed to go to all these states--everywhere. It gets me depressed sometimes, but then I sit down and write music and do a Zoom call with people like you and I think, ‘You know what? The world’s gonna be okay.’ There’s a really good human spirit out there and I think we can all evolve and grow from it.”

Students began rehearsing “United In Song” the week before Labor Day. They will soon record themselves singing their individual voice parts to send back to Jim. He will mix the student recordings together in his studio to produce a virtual ensemble recording in the coming weeks.

“I’m thankful that you [Jim] took your time to help us write a song together. It turned out great and I can’t wait to get to perform this as a group,” shared a 12th grade student from North Montgomery. “Thank you for giving us this experience because it made me feel really good today and I really needed that,” shared another senior from NMHS. A 7th grader from Covington told Jim during the final moments of the workshop, “You have inspired me to work harder than I ever have in music.” Jim graciously accepted the compliment but encouraged this young man to work hard in all of his pursuits. “During a time in which field trips cannot be scheduled, this was a remarkable enrichment opportunity. Jim is as kind as he is talented. Our students were inspired by that too,” Sarah explained.

You can find out more about Jim Papoulis and his work by exploring the links below:

- <http://www.jimpapoulis.com/>
- <http://foundationforsmallvoices.org/>
- <http://becauseofmusicfilm.com/>

Hal Leonard recently released “The Jim Papoulis Song Writing Workshop for Choirs.” This is a curriculum Jim developed especially for music teachers to use with their students. He has produced different instrumental templates that are intended to have songs written, recorded, and mixed with them with the goal of creating a virtual ensemble recording. It is a flexible curriculum that can enhance instruction for all grade levels, remotely or in person. The curriculum is available for purchase on Hal Leonard’s website. To inquire about scheduling a live workshop with Jim, you can send an email to smallvoices@gmail.com.



Submitted by Sarah Kavanagh & Kyle Hartzog

Sarah Kavanagh is the director of choirs at North Montgomery High School in Crawfordsville, Indiana. She is also director of music at Grace Lutheran Church in Lafayette, Indiana. Sarah serves ICDA as Area 3B All-State Co-Chairperson and as District III Representative.

Kyle Hartzog is the music director at Covington Middle School and Covington Community High School in Covington, IN. There he teaches choir, band, and music theory. He also serves as the director of the Wabash Valley Area Band.





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District VI Report

Michael Dean, District Representative

"You always do what you want to do. This is true with every act. You may say that you had to do something, or that you were forced to, but actually, whatever you do, you do by choice. Only you have the power to

Unprecedented. Uncertain. Fluid. Three mysterious and vague words that perfectly express our current state and have come to elicit exasperated groans and eye-rolling. But these very same words also provide all of us with opportunities and choices. Opportunities that can allow us to expose the most resilient and creative aspects of our personalities as educators. Right now, today, and every day that follows, we have the opportunity to make the choice to embrace our new reality and all of the possibilities that come with it.

In our high school weight room, there is a banner supplied by the U.S. Army National Guard. Upon a field of gray digital camouflage, the slogan "Embrace the Suck" is emblazoned in bold lettering so that no one might mistake the message: it is only by challenging and conquering the aspects of our lives that make us most uncomfortable that we are able to grow beyond our current capabilities.

By embracing the "negative" aspects of hybrid and digital learning, we have the opportunity to connect with our students on an individual level that can be more difficult to achieve in the traditional choral model. Through more direct feedback being given to students who may be singing solo literature or by evaluating 16 measures of an alto's harmonic counterpoint, we have the opportunity to help each student to improve personally as a singer. With students being out of the classroom and working on their

own individualized time and pace, sometimes-neglected standards such as music literacy and sight-singing can easily become driving forces of the choral curriculum.

We also have the opportunity to better connect with one another on a professional and/or personal level. Choirs from far apart can easily connect with one another through exchange opportunities during which students, who likely would have never met, can connect and support one another. Mentorship programs can be fostered across educational levels within districts to help with developing a unified choral program from the beginning choral student all the way to the graduating senior. And as tired as we all are of Google Meets and Zoom meetings, this would be a fantastic opportunity for digital social hours to better connect with colleagues from across the state, whom we rarely see outside of a few conferences and festivals. Topics that may help to guide discussion can be specific, general, or even nonexistent. That's the beauty of these unprecedented times. We are able to write the script as we go along and there is nothing for our choices to be judged against. The greatest opportunity that we have is to gain is a stronger sense of community. It's easy to feel disconnected and as if we are on an island all alone. The truth is that we possess many life-rings that are simply waiting to be used. We just have to make the decision to throw them out there and grab on.

Unfortunately, having no prior experiences to guide us can also be quite intimidating and appear daunting. How are we supposed to make it all work when we don't know what to expect for tomorrow/next week/etc.? Trust your instincts. No one knows your students and your program as well as you do. And at the end of the day, you have no one else to answer to other than your administrators, your students, and yourself. It feels as if we are all first-year teachers again. And for our newest colleagues, I encourage you to be experimental so far as you feel comfortable. I distinctly remember walking into the building as a first-year teacher filled with anxieties ranging from whether I had effectively prepared to teach my students on that specific day all the way if I was actually qualified to be teaching. In the end, we have all been trained to do what we do as professionals. We simply need to rely on our training and to follow our instincts as people to guide our instruction during this new educational era. Have a vision for what you hope to achieve personally and what you hope for your students to gain from these opportunities and then stay the course. Be creative. Be resilient. Be the model of flexibility and adaptability for our students. If something doesn't work out the way you had hoped, pivot. Try a new angle. Your goal wasn't wrong, it may just need a different approach.

My wife, if you haven't had the opportunity to meet her, is incredibly wise and has the endless task of helping to keep me on an

even keel. One evening, while I was in the midst of being consumed by my professional insecurities, she hit me with a cinder block of wisdom by reminding me that, "Your daughter doesn't care whether your choir is competing in front of thousands of people for National Championships or if you are hosting concerts for dozens of parents in your own auditorium. She will love you and care about you no matter what you do." BAM. Reality: checked. We can apply this same concept to our own students. These young people have chosen to be your students. They believe in you. They trust that you are going to give them your best every day and that they will be better in the end because of it all. And as long as we do give them our best, we will all be fulfilled.

In the end, you are enough. The best that you have to offer your students is enough, no matter what that may be. We cannot worry about what others are doing and if we should be trying to do the same. Comparison is the thief of joy and, right now, our world needs joy more than anything. One day, things will return to "normal." Students will flood our classrooms eager to make music together. They'll randomly drop by our classrooms to share and overshare the things in their lives that matter most in that moment. Parents, friends, and loved ones will return to fill our audiences and hear beautiful choral music. Until then, we have endless opportunities at our disposal. We just have to make the choice to act.

Michael Dean is Choral Director at Beech Grove High School



All-State Honor Choir

Anissa Bradley, Chair

The I.C.D.A. executive committee met on September 21 and determined that an All-State event in January is simply not feasible due to the continually rising case numbers of COVID-19 at this time. In conjunction with I.M.E.A., an alternative in May is being considered, as well as a possible virtual option.

In light of this development, executive leadership has determined that it would be best to postpone virtual auditions scheduled in October until a more concrete plan has been developed so that students have a clearer idea of what they are actually auditioning for.

I appreciate your patience and understanding with this continually moving target that we are all dealing with right now. Many states (and the national organization) are cancelling their honor ensembles this year, but your Indiana leadership is trying hard to offer some sort of alternative to students who have seen so many things taken away from them these past several months.

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