

The Kendor

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President's Message Brent Merritt

In March, I was privileged to have the opportunity to attend the ACDA National Convention in Chicago. As anticipated, the conference was chilly, but absolutely tremendous! If you have never attended a regional or national conference, you are missing out on some truly life-transforming experiences. I enjoyed experiencing performances by choirs from all over the world singing with such precision and passion. I'm fired up just thinking about it! From elementary, middle school, high school, college, church, community and professional choirs...they were *all* just incredible. I even got to sit in the front row during the performance of *ELIAS (Elijah)* under the baton of Helmut Riling...what a THRILL! Of course, I think the most outstanding performance of the conference was given by our own

University of Kentucky Men's Choir, under the direction of Dr. Jeff Johnson. They were phenomenal! My own students in the various Honor Choirs were also equally thrilled with the opportunities they had to work with their directors and to sing with such gifted musicians from all across the nation.

Among all the incredible sessions I attended led by the "rock-stars" of the choral world, let me tell you a bit about one that stands out for me. The session was hosted by the legendary Alice Parker, and was simply called "Melodies that Sing." I really didn't know what the topic of the session was, (I assumed it was regarding great literature selection) but I knew I should take advantage of this opportunity to see Alice Parker in action again. When I arrived, I discovered the demonstration choir, *Joyful Noise*, was made up of thirty-five adults, ages 17-67, with physical and neurological challenges. Many of these choir members had Down Syndrome, which immediately made me think about my three year old son, Will. Directed by Allison Fromm, with assistance from Alice Parker, Nick Page and others, these choir members showed the entire audience how PURELY JOYFUL singing CAN and SHOULD be! I was absolutely blind-sided...I wept, and wept some more...in fact, I'm a hot mess right now just thinking about it. Since March, I've been on a mission researching and planning a new opportunity in music for our students with special challenges in my own school and community. I came home absolutely on fire to make certain ALL our children have the opportunity to experience the joy, community, acceptance and teamwork that can come from making music together. I'm looking forward to chatting with anyone who has experience working with a group like this. Bring your notes to share during the Summer Conference or just shoot me an e-mail!

In other news, my head is swimming with details for all the end-of-year events at school, events at church, events with my family - lots of baseball and swimming (no pun intended) going on right now - work to do on the house and in the yard, work to do on both of the cars, and of course, planning the upcoming Summer Conference and Church Choir Retreat!

President's Message, continued from page 1

David Brunner is our headliner at the Summer Conference in Louisville, July 18 & 19, and I am really excited to learn from him. We have planned an outstanding conference to hopefully address the needs of our diverse membership. Since we don't all have the same exact needs and/or interests, I've tried to create a conference that has something for everyone. When it is all done, I hope you can all come away excited that this conference had something to offer you...that it inspired YOU in some way...that it lights that fire in your belly and sends you back home with a mission!

I know many of us are church musicians. Please consider sending YOUR church choir members to our KY-ACDA Church Choir Retreat which is running in conjunction with our Summer Conference. It begins on Sunday evening, July 17, and concludes with the Music in Worship Service on Monday evening, July 18 at 7:00 p.m. Craig Courtney, our Music in Worship clinician, will direct this event and will send your choir members back home with 7 or 8 newly learned selections.

In addition, please plan to attend the Barr Awards Dinner and meeting on Monday evening before the Music in Worship service; send your reservation in with your registration.

Finally, I'm honored to be serving as your KY-ACDA President. As I look at the list of past-presidents, I find that I'm seriously not worthy to be on the same page with them. Be gentle as I'm learning the ropes. See you in Louisville this July!

Brent

**Upcoming KY-ACDA Events
-Mark Your Calendar-**

Summer Conference

Highland Baptist Church, Louisville
July 18-19, 2011

Fall Convocation/All-State Chorus

Lexington
November 4-5, 2011

Southern Division Conference

Winston-Salem, North Carolina
February 29-March 3, 2012

Robert K. Baar Choral Excellence Award

This award was named in honor of Robert K. Baar, outstanding master musician, retired from Murray State University, who developed KY-ACDA's Summer Choral Workshop.

1994: Robert K. Baar
1995: Marilyn Schraeder
1996: Gary Anderson
1997: Shirley Wilkinson
1998: Robert Ellis
1999: Carl Smith
2000: Frank Heller
2001: David Brown

2002: Stephen Bolster
2003: Shelia Miller
2004: Bradley Almquist
2005: Arthur DeWeese
2006: John Stegner
2007: David Davies
2008: Kent Hatteberg
2009: Heather McCormick & George Murphy
2010: Elaine Shirley

The 2011 award recipient will be presented during the dinner meeting/award ceremony at the KY-ACDA Summer Conference.

SUMMER CONFERENCE JULY 18-19, 2011

The clinicians for the KY-ACDA Summer Conference held at Highland Baptist Church are in place. The headliner clinician is Dr. David Brunner. He will have four sessions with us on Monday and Tuesday, July 18 and 19. Craig Courtney, composer, arranger and editor with Beckenhurst Press, will lead the Church Choir Retreat July 17 and 18 (**NEW** this summer) and *Music in Worship* session and service Monday afternoon and evening, July 18. You won't want to miss these two days!

Registration form can be found on the KY-ACDA website at www.kyacda.org/events

Early registration must be postmarked by June 15th.

Summer Conference Schedule

Monday, July 18

- 8:15 a.m. Registration
- 9:00 Dr. David Brunner, Session 1: Commodity, Integrity, Delight: Selecting Age and Skill Appropriate Repertoire
- 10:15 Choral Music Reading Sessions:
- KY-ACDA Children's Honor Choir – Darrell Parks, Children's Choir R&S Chair
 - KMEA All-State Chorus SATB Choir
- 10:45 Dr. David Brunner, Session 2: Emotional Geographies
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch break (Past President's Lunch and Division Lunches led by R & S Chairs)
- 1:35 Choral Music Reading Sessions:
- KY-ACDA MS/JH All-State Chorus SSAA Choir – Sam Coleman, Middle School/JR High R&S Chair
 - KMEA All-State Chorus TTBB Choir
- 2:05 Craig Courtney – Music in Worship Session
- 3:15 Audition Workshop & Idea Swap
- KMEA All-State Audition Workshop – Ryan Marsh, former KMEA State Choral Chair
 - Music in Worship Idea Swap
- 4:00 Concert/Clinic – Kentucky Youth Chorale, Julie Ann White, director
- 5:00 KY-ACDA Dinner at Highland Baptist Church/Business Meeting & Awards Ceremony
- 7:30 Craig Courtney – Music in Worship Service in Sanctuary

Tuesday, July 19

- 8:30 a.m. Registration
- 9:00 Dr. David Brunner, Session 3: The Thinking Ear: Finding the Expressive Impulse
- 10:15 Multicultural Music Reading Session
- 11:00 Technology in Music & Audition Workshop
- Technology in the Music Classroom/Choral Rehearsal: Roland Corp.
 - KY-ACDA All-State Chorus Audition Workshop – Sam Coleman, Middle School/JR High R&S Chair
- 11:45 Lunch break (R & S Chairs Lunch)
- 1:30 p.m. Choral Music Reading Session & Idea Swap
- KMEA All-State Chorus SSAA Choir
 - Elementary & Middle School Choirs Idea Swap
- 2:15 Dr. David Brunner, Session 4: When Words Sing: The Importance of Text to Unlock Musical Expression
- 3:30 Choral Music Reading Session & Collegiate Meeting
- KY-ACDA MS/JH All-State Chorus SATB Choir – Sam Coleman, Middle School/JR High R&S Chair
 - KY-ACDA Collegiate All-State Choir Meeting
- 4:00 Conference adjournment

2011 KYACDA SUMMER CONFERENCE CLINICIANS



David L. Brunner is acclaimed as one today's most active and versatile conductors and composers. His wide and varied expertise embraces all ages in professional, university, public school, community, church and children's choruses. Dr. Brunner is Professor of Music and Director of Choral Activities at the University of Central Florida, where he conducts the University Chorus and Chamber Singers, teaches courses in conducting and music education, and coaches composition students. His choirs have appeared at state and divisional conventions of both the American Choral Directors Association and the Music Educators National Conference.

Well known for his compelling and dynamic work with singers of all ages, David has conducted women's, mixed and men's All-State and regional honor choirs throughout the United States at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. An inspired teacher, he is also a popular clinician at choral festivals and educational workshops in thirty-four U.S. states, Canada, the U.K., Europe, Australia and Japan.

David Brunner's music resonates with imagination, lyricism and vitality. His compositions have been performed worldwide by children's choirs, middle and high school singers, college, community and professional choirs. The New York Times has referred to him as a notable figure in choral music, a "prolific choral writer whose name figures prominently on national repertory lists." (24 April 2003).

David Brunner has been Composer-in-Residence at the Summer Arts Institute of the University of Michigan and the Choral Music Experience Institute at Northern Illinois University, the Hartt School of Music, Queenswood School, England, St. Andrew's Scotland, and Cardiff, Wales. He joined a prestigious list of American composers when he was named the Raymond W. Brock Commissioned Composer for 2000 by the American Choral Directors Association (*The Circles of Our Lives*) and that year was also asked by

the Copland Foundation to contribute new adaptations of several of the *Old American Songs* to Boosey & Hawkes' Copland 2000 series.

He is the recipient of yearly ASCAP awards since 1997 and is published exclusively by Boosey & Hawkes, Inc., which has released nearly one hundred of his compositions. He is also editorial advisor for Boosey & Hawkes popular *Conductor's Choice* series and has served on the editorial board of the *Choral Journal*. His articles appear in both the *Choral Journal* and *Music Educators Journal*. He has also contributed chapters to *Teaching Music Through Performance in Choir, Volume III*, GIA Publications, Inc. (2010) and *The Choral Director's Cookbook: Insights and Inspired Recipes for Beginners and Experts*, Meredith Music Publications (2006).

Brunner holds degrees from Illinois Wesleyan University and Northwestern University in choral music education and conducting and the Doctor of Music Arts in Choral Literature and Conducting from the University of Illinois. In addition, he has studied with Robert Shaw, and with Helmuth Rilling in conducting master classes at the Oregon Bach Festival. Dr. Brunner is a Past-President of the Florida chapter of the American Choral Directors Association.



A native of Indiana, Craig Courtney began playing the piano at the age of three and the cello at the age of eleven. He received a Bachelors and a Masters degree in piano performance at the University of Cincinnati, studying piano under Raymond Dudley and chamber music under Walter Levin of the LaSalle Quartet. During that time, he was a member of the Pi Kappa Lambda Honorary Music Society. Following a three-year stay in Milan, Italy, where Mr. Courtney studied the piano with Ilonka Deckers, performed for the Associazione Musicale "Gustav Mahler", and worked extensively as a vocal coach, he was invited to join the music faculty of the famed Mozarteum in Salzburg, Austria, serving as piano teacher and accompanist for the woodwind and brass department.

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It was during this six-year period, while serving in the music ministry of the Salzburg International Baptist Church, that Mr. Courtney began directing a church choir and composing sacred choral music. In 1985, his compositions came to the attention of John Ness Beck, through the publication of his octavo, *Thy Will Be Done*, initiating a close working relationship between the two men which continued until Mr. Beck's death in 1987. In making plans for the ongoing of Beckenhorst Press, Mr. Beck appointed Craig Courtney to assume his responsibilities as staff composer and editor.

At this point in time, Mr. Courtney's published works include more than two hundred choral octavos, nine vocal collections, a piano solo collection and six extended works for choir and orchestra. Compositionally, Mr. Courtney combines his training and background as a pianist, a cellist, a vocal coach, an accompanist and a choral director to create words that bear his unique style.

In demand throughout the country as a choral clinician and featured composer, Craig Courtney now resides in Columbus, Ohio with his wife, Susan, and his fourth son, Nathan.



Church Choir Retreat

Church Choir members from across the Commonwealth will unite their voices in glorious harmony this summer at the KY-ACDA Summer Church Choir Retreat. The event will be directed by conference clinician, Craig Courtney. Participants will be introduced to new choral works.

Beginning on Sunday, July 17th with a series of sectional rehearsals led by some of Kentucky's finest choral musicians, full rehearsals under Mr. Courtney's direction, the choir will prepare anthems for the annual KY-ACDA Summer Conference "Music in Worship" service held Monday, July 18th.

Church Choir Retreat participants may also elect to register for conference events for Tuesday, July 19th. Site of the Summer Conference and Church Choir Retreat is Highland Baptist Church, Louisville. **Registration form** can be found on the KY-ACDA website at www.kyacda.org/events

CALL FOR ARTICLES

If you would like to include an article, upcoming choral event,
or segment on a previous event in the Fall 2011 issue of

The K conductor

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