
Music and Dreams

On Wednesday night's Gala Opening Session, the Jacksonville Children's Chorus gave the convention members a beautiful exhibition of difficult and well-executed choral music for young voices. They showed their versatility, singing songs in different languages and styles, and showed great precision in their execution of difficult harmonies.

The most poignant piece on the program was the "Trilogy of Dreams," where Rollo A. Dilworth set poems by Langston Hughes to music that expresses and emphasizes their stirring meaning. Conductor Jeffrey Clayton prefaced the piece by saying, "If there's anything that can motivate young people... it is a new dream, a new vision." With their performance, these children epitomized this idea, and perhaps gave us another important argument for music education in our schools. When given a goal, children can achieve great things that were never thought imaginable. Vision can cross social, economical, and geographical lines to create amazing results. Music can give people everywhere a new vision and the means to connect and build something great that connects and motivates us all.

by Anne Marxhausen, *Mu Gamma*



Jacksonville Children's Chorus
photo by Mike Cierski, *Gamma Nu*

Share Your Convention Photos Online

Are you taking digital photos during Convention? Share them online with everyone! A Shutterfly album has been created just for us. Log on to <https://www.shutterfly.com/signin/viewSignin.sfly?fid=084dc8474b3f1b7d749ad1f587b3cc4b> and use password "convention." In case you need it, the first name is Mu Phi and last name is Epsilon. The album name is 2008 Jax Convention. Let's load that album with lots of great photos – who knows, yours could be in the next *Sterling Notes* or even the next *Triangle*!

Fanfare for the New Renaissance

Composer **Carol Worthey** (*Los Angeles Alumni*, ACME) wrote "Fanfare for the New Renaissance" especially for convention pianist **Mary Au** (*Mu Nu*, *Los Angeles Alumni*) to play at Wednesday evening's gala opening. The piece is based on Carol's earlier work for brass ensemble, by the same title, which won a Special Recognition Award and received its world premiere at the Florence (Italy) Biennale International Contemporary Art Exhibit in December 2007.

Carol writes of her composition:

The piece moves from one harmonic vista to another, from chordal passages to contrapuntal, as if turning corners to see surprising views, or traveling through time into the future to a new Renaissance made real. The mood is hopeful, celebratory, bold – and yet each chord has a subtle added note or two that is important for the listener to hear. The brief middle section is lyrical and the coda is *maestoso*. I modeled the a-b-a form after Richard Strauss's "Fanfare for the City of Vienna," bold and brassy at start and finale, with a graceful middle passage as if stopping at a Viennese café for a brief respite. In the middle section of my fanfare, I revisit Florence, cradle of the Old Renaissance, stopping to admire the graceful beauty of the city and pay it tribute. Then it's back to the "future Renaissance" at the end, *maestoso* and big.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Resolutions Deadline Change

Please note a revision to the program book, page 59, Resolutions: "All motions are to be submitted in writing as "resolutions" to the Resolutions Committee Chair, no later than **10:00 a.m. on Friday, August 1, 2008.**"

Province Meetings and Photos Thursday Morning

Province meetings are scheduled at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday. All except host provinces Atlantic and Southeast will meet in the Ballroom; those two will be in the Amelia Room. District Directors will facilitate province meetings, with Collegiate Advisor Martha MacDonald advising. Delegates from each province will be called out of their meeting in turn for province photographs. Professional convention photographer Ken McCray will take the photos in the foyer just outside the ballroom. International Editor Melissa Eddy will facilitate the photography process.

Sterling Notes

July 31, 2008

Kick-off to the 2008 Convention!

Old friends and new acquaintances came together yesterday through long car rides and delayed flights for the start of the 2008 Mu Phi Epsilon International Convention. Alumni, allied, and collegiate members from all over the country met to start a five-day journey that will lead to new friendships and a larger and more vibrant musical community. The convention, normally held every three years, is a chance not only for collegiate members to find out what is being done in other chapters, but for alumni and allied members to meet and share their experiences with one another.

The convention started off with a wonderful recital including local performers and long-time members. Chris Fry, our first performer, began by explaining the exciting re-activation of the Delta Eta chapter at the University of North Florida/Jacksonville. There will be three new candidates from Delta Eta (Angelique Perretta, Mike Evans, and Hannah Sharron) initiated on Saturday at 10:00. The re-activated chapter started off the recital with Chris Fry on piano, performing Brahms's Rhapsody in g minor. Then Angelique Perretta sang powerful renditions of Dvorak's "Song to the Moon" and Puccini's "Chi il bel sogno." The recital also included some selected Richard Stoltzman arrangements performed by Anne Ormand on clarinet and Karen Madson on piano. The afternoon performance concluded with Arietha Lockhart's uplifting performance of Mozart's famous "Alleluia" from *Exsultate, Jubilate K. 165*.

The day continued with a meet and greet for all new and old members of Mu Phi, as well as the opening Gala, with a performance by the Jacksonville Children's Choir under the direction of Jeffery Clayton. The Gala also included fabulous music performances with Melissa Voshell on flute and Anne Richie singing standards ranging from Mahler to Lerner and Loewe's "My Fair Lady." The night eventually came to an end with David Champion leading the collegiate members to the lobby for performances from the Mu Phi songbook.

by Will Gunn, *Lambda*

DOTs: Daily Observations from a First Timer Day One

- Everyone is wearing purple!
- Walking through the airport and recognizing Mu Phi Epsilon members without having met them before is neat party trick.
- It's a small world – your best friend's mom sang in choir with the person you just met.
- Everyone is still a little shy about singing the songs, just like you.
- A talkative nature MUST be a requirement to be a Mu Phi.
- Singing in the lobby of a hotel should be mandatory for admission to music school.
- How many hands did the people in the receiving line shake? 200? 2000?!?
- All these beautiful voices – they are so spectacular to hear.
- I should look into that Mike Mower man – he can write some pretty cool music.
- There's so much to do! And so much to see! I'm excited for tomorrow!

by . . . ?



Collegiates' singing fun!
photo by Mike Cierski, *Gamma Nu*