



NOVEMBER 15, 2008
RHODES CENTER
OHIO EXPOSITIONS CENTER, COLUMBUS

The Dream

For more than fifteen years I'd dreamed of leading a festival where a few members of the Cardinal Chorale could be a demonstrating ensemble - in a peer relationship, or one where I could take several Youth Choir staff members, either of which would help accelerate the learning curve.

Thanks to a grant from the Columbus Symphony, the generosity of the Ohio Expo Center, the willingness of the participating choral directors and their talented singers, and the support of the Cardinal Chorale and the Youth Choir staff, the dream came true on November 15, 2008.

It was quite a day: learning to sing together as a new ensemble, creating community, working on Garry Cornell's new choral fanfare composed for the Festival concert, laughing, sharing meals together, and learning about caring for the gift of a lifetime - the human voice. We shared ideas and techniques in rehearsals and in master classes, in educator roundtables over lunch and dinner, and in impromptu demonstrations and concerts.

The Plan

Provide a quality, one-day choral festival that is organized around an energized schedule of full and sectional rehearsals, culminating in a concert for parents, families, and Youth Choir fans. The event will include some features unique to a festival:

- share friendly peer mentoring by members of the Youth Choir's Cardinal Chorale
- provide master classes for educators while singers are in part rehearsals
- offer four educator roundtables for sharing and discussion over the two meals
- make Continuing Education Units available for music educators
- experience community building with students in rehearsals, at breaks, and over shared meals
- model a team leadership approach: all staff members "on the same page"
- demonstrate a model for teachers to consider as they plan their own choir retreat or clinic
- provide the opportunity for the singers to learn and premier a choral fanfare for the concert, and to meet the composer

Other Goals

- Introduce singers, teachers, and parents to our "campus" - the Ohio Expo Center
- Introduce all singers and some teachers to the Youth Choir staff, the Cardinal Chorale, and the Youth Choir's methods of rehearsal
- Reinforce the ties between teachers who have recommended students in past years.
- Introduce some college senior choral music education students to the Expo Center and the Youth Choir
- Through a demonstration concert and a part in the evening concert, introduce all Festival participants, teachers, parents and other concert goers to the musical excellence of the Cardinal Chorale, the Youth Choir's traveling contingent

The Festival In Pictures



After registration, the singers gathered in the auditorium for a warm up.



For the first two rehearsals, the Cardinal Chorale was interspersed with the Festival singers to model and demonstrate.



Mr. Snyder taught master classes for educators on recruiting and interpreting the score.



Morning and afternoon part rehearsals were led by members of the Youth Choir staff.



Composer Garry A. Cornell led singers in his new choral fanfare, "Let All Sing!" - especially composed for the Festival.



Lunch and dinner were times for meeting new friends, for laughter and community building.



Singers from each school gathered for a picture before the evening concert.



The Youth Choir's Cardinal Chorale sang the first part of the concert.



The Festival Choir was comprised of 57 singers from 14 schools. They made us proud!



The two ensembles joined for the Festival's finale, and wowed each other and the 239 listeners in the enthusiastic audience.

Festival Income and Expenses

INCOME:

Columbus Symphony Grant	\$2,100.00
Participant Fees	\$1,455.00
All-Ohio Youth Choir	\$1,726.70
AOSFYC Alumni Association	\$ 300.00
Charles R. Snyder	\$1,000.00
	\$6,581.70

EXPENSES:

Meals - Cox Catering	\$4,415.40
Commissioned fanfare	\$ 464.64
Programs and folders	\$ 391.29
Postage	\$ 158.01
Appreciation gifts (teachers and staff)	\$ 133.61
Office help	\$ 400.00
Friday evening snack/Saturday morning snacks	\$ 301.99
Miscellaneous expenses	\$ 316.76
	\$6,581.70



Festival logo created by Thomas J. Kulewicz

Photography: Karen A. Hildreth and Linda K. Snyder

What They're Saying...

Educators:

“My kids really enjoyed it, and I loved hearing the Cardinal Chorale again. Thanks for putting it all together.”
~ *Lisa Springer, the Wellington School, Columbus*

“I was rejuvenated for my choral program and learned some valuable things. Also, I enjoyed watching my students be stretched to interact with other students.”
~ *Jonathan Krull, Madison Christian School, Groveport*

“The day was fantastic! The musical literature was a good variety and the students were appropriately challenged. I especially appreciated the spirit of “family” amongst the festival students and the Chorale.”
~ *Sherry Adams, Lakota High School, Kansas, Ohio*

“Thank you for the invitation to bring some of my students to the All-Ohio Choral Festival. I felt it was a great day for my singers, and I had a fun time exchanging ideas with other choral directors. In short, it was a very positive experience for all.”
~ *John S. Long, Pickerington High School Central*

Senior Music Education Students:

“It was a wonderful experience. I especially appreciated how personal and helpful you and the rest of the staff were during the master classes and roundtables.”
~ *Megan Ring, The Ohio State University*

“My favorite part of the day were the master classes. The Festival offered a great representation to students and directors alike of a day in the All-Ohio Youth Choir.”
~ *Jodi Van Dyke, Muskingum College*

“The Festival was a unique opportunity for young singers to experience the finest quality of music, teaching, and community.”
~ *Joshua J. Jones, Bowling Green State University*

Festival Singers:

“This experience gave me a chance to work with a highly experienced choir and thus expand my own abilities.”

“It was a great experience and the challenges were fun to overcome together.”

“I enjoyed getting to meet new people and getting to sing with people who are all serious about music.”

“I met a lot of new people and had fun all day.”

“The Festival staff was awesome!”

“I can't stop thinking about yesterday. It was one of the best days of my life. I can't believe we pulled off 10 songs! It was simply amazing. My school cannot wait until next year. Thank you again for a wonderful day!”

Major funding for the Festival was provided by the Columbus Symphony Music Educator Awards, sponsored by the McGraw-Hill Companies, with support from AEP, Battelle, and Nationwide.