



President's Message

An Exciting Summer Conference

Dr. Mark Zeigler  
President NY-ACDA

Dear Friends,

I hope all of you have had a wonderful year. I cannot believe it is almost over. Since summer is rapidly approaching it is time to begin to talk about the 2009 Summer Music Conference. Like last year, the conference will be held at the Crown Plaza in Albany, New York. The dates of the conference are Sunday, August 9th through Tuesday, August 11th (for more information visit NYSSMA.org or copy the following link into your web browser: <http://www.nyssma.org/files/4/SC%20Brochure%202009.pdf>. We have some amazing events and interest sessions planned and it is my hope that many of you will attend.



I am excited to announce that Dr. Kevin Fenton will be the conductor of the Director's Chorus this year. Kevin is Director of Choral Activities at Florida State University, and he will lead the Director's Chorus and the ASTA Director's String Orchestra in a performance of Antonio Vivaldi's "Gloria." Kevin will also present an interest session titled, "Nine Essential Elements of Rehearsal for Developing Expressive and Meaningful Performances." Be sure to sign up to participate in the chorus when you register for the conference. I know that you will thoroughly enjoy singing under Kevin's direction; he is an amazing conductor.

I am also excited to announce that for the first time ever, the conference will feature a Middle School Honor Choir. The first annual Middle School Choir will be directed by Dr. Lon Berry. Lon teaches vocal music at Spry Middle School in Webster, New York where he directs the 7th and 8th grade choruses and "Spry Select," a select mixed chorus. In addition to conducting the Middle School Honor Choir, Lon will also teach an interest session. If you are interested in more information, the contact person is Michael Murphy, the R&S Chair for Junior High and Middle School Choirs (Murphy@gateschili.monroe.edu). You can also go to the New York ACDA website for the most up-to-date news

The Children's Honor Choir will be directed by Nick Page. Mr. Page was a conductor with the Chicago Children's Choir from 1983 to 1986. He currently directs the Mystic Chorus of Boston as well as leading sings and workshops through-

out the Americas and Europe. He has guest conducted at many festivals and concert venues including Carnegie Hall. He is also the author of three books for teachers including his SING WITH US songbook (Hal Leonard) and SING AND SHINE ON (World Music Press). In addition to conducting the Children's Honor Choir, Nick will also teach an interest session.

As in previous years, the conference will also incorporate several reading sessions that will feature a variety of high quality choral literature including elementary, middle school, high school, men's and women's repertoire.

Finally, I would like to take a moment to thank all of the members of the New York ACDA Executive Board for their hard work, commitment and dedication to our organization. These folks have spent countless hours volunteering their time to support our organization. I sincerely believe that we have one of the finest executive boards in the country and I am deeply appreciative of all they do.

I look forward to seeing many of you in Albany. Take care and have a terrific rest of the year.

*Dr. Zeigler is an Associate Professor and Choral Activities Director at Nazareth College in Rochester, New York. He also teaches Music Education courses as well as graduate and undergraduate conducting.*

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## FSU's Kevin Fenton to Conduct Director's Chorus

Kevin Fenton, Professor of Choral Conducting and Ensembles at Florida State University, holds the Ph.D. from Florida State University, the M.M. from the Conservatory of Music at the University of Missouri in Kansas City and the B.M.E. from Friends University in Wichita, Kansas. Kevin conducts the University Singers and teaches graduate and undergraduate courses in choral conducting and choral literature. He is also the Artistic Director for the Festival Singers of Florida, based in Orlando.

His prior appointments include Director of Choral Activities at James Madison University and Virginia Tech, and on nine occasions, he has conducted ensembles in performances for state and regional conventions of the American Choral Directors Association and the Music Educator's National Conference. As a result of his positive approach to choral conducting, Dr. Fenton has served as a clinician for numerous workshops, honor choirs and clinics in twenty-six states throughout the country, including the ACDA Southern Division Honor Choir in 2008 and the Beijing International Choral Festival Choir with China's People's Liberation Orchestra as a part of China's Choral Conductor's Meeting in 2007. In 2009-2010 Kevin will be conducting all-state choirs in Alabama, Hawaii, Missouri and New York. Kevin's textbook *Foundations of Choral Conducting* (released in the spring of 2007) has been adopted by more than twenty universities throughout the United States, and he has also written articles appearing in the *Choral Journal*, the *Music Educators Journal*, and the *Bulletin for Historical Research in Music Education*. Dr. Fenton is a recipient of the Gamma Mu Chapter of Delta Omicron Music Professor of the Year Award and has been nominated for a Florida State University Teaching Award for Excellence for the past seven years.



Dr. Fenton is an active member of the American Choral Directors Association and served as Southern Chair and then National Chair of the ACDA College/University Repertoire and Standards Committee from 1999-2006. He is currently President-Elect for Florida ACDA.

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### Soloists Needed for Vivaldi "Gloria"

Soloists are needed for this summer's Director's Chorus performance of the Vivaldi Gloria. They are to be "predetermined and come to the conference prepared. There are four:

1. Laudamus Te (a duet for two sopranos)
2. Domine Deus (solo for soprano)
3. Domine Deus, Agnus Dei (for alto solo and chorus)
4. Qui Sedes ad Dexteram (for alto solo)

Kevin has requested that the two soprano solos for the duet "Laudamus Te" come from the same area and be willing to meet a few times prior to the conference.

It is short notice, but if you are interested in performing for any of these solos, please respond to Mark Ziegler (NYACDA President) immediately at:

[mzeigle8@zimbra.naz.edu](mailto:mzeigle8@zimbra.naz.edu)

# NYACDA Sessions at the 2009 Summer NYSSMA Conference

## **NYACDA Executive Board Breakfast Meeting**

Sunday, August 9<sup>th</sup>  
9:30-11:30 AM

## **Open Rehearsal - Middle School Honor Choir**

Dr. Lon Beery, Conductor  
Sunday, August 9<sup>th</sup>  
10:00-11:00 AM

## **CONCERT - Middle School Honor Choir**

Dr. Lon Beery, Conductor  
Sunday, August 9<sup>th</sup>  
12:00 PM

## **Men's Reading Session**

James Niblock, Clinician  
Sunday, August 9<sup>th</sup>  
1:00-1:50 PM

## **Women's Reading Session**

Penelope Cruz, Clinician  
Sunday, August 9<sup>th</sup>  
2:00-2:50 PM

## **Director's Chorus Rehearsal**

Dr. Kevin Fenton, Conductor  
Sunday, August 9<sup>th</sup>  
3:00-5:00 PM

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## **Middle School Reading Session**

Michael Murphy, Clinician  
Monday, August 10<sup>th</sup>  
9:00-9:50 AM

## **INTEREST SESSION**

Nick Page, Clinician  
Monday, August 10<sup>th</sup>  
10:00-10:50 AM

## **INTEREST SESSION: "Nine Essential Elements of Rehearsal for Developing Expressive and Meaningful Performances"**

Dr. Kevin Fenton, Clinician  
Monday, August 10<sup>th</sup>  
11:00-11:50 AM

## **KEYNOTE SPEECH: "The Connected Teacher"**

James Jordan, Clinician  
Monday, August 10<sup>th</sup>  
1:00 PM

## **Director's Chorus Rehearsal**

Dr. Kevin Fenton, Conductor  
Monday, August 10<sup>th</sup>  
2:15-4:30 PM

## **Combined Director's Chorus & Orchestra Rehearsal**

Dr. Kevin Fenton, Conductor  
Monday, August 10<sup>th</sup>  
4:45-6:00 PM

## **CONCERT - Director's Chorus & Orchestra**

Dr. Kevin Fenton, Conductor  
Monday, August 10<sup>th</sup>  
7:30 PM

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## **INTEREST SESSION**

Dr. Lon Beery, Clinician  
Tuesday, August 11<sup>th</sup>  
9:00-9:50 AM

## **High School Reading Session**

Heather Baird, Clinician  
Tuesday, August 11<sup>th</sup>  
10:00-11:30 AM

## **Open Rehearsal - Elementary Children's Honor Choir**

Nick Page, Conductor  
Tuesday, August 11<sup>th</sup>  
1:00-2:00 PM

## **Elementary Reading Session**

Daniel Bromsted, Conductor  
Tuesday, August 11<sup>th</sup>  
2:00-2:50 PM

## **CONCERT - Elementary Children's Honor Choir**

Nick Page, Conductor  
Tuesday, August 11<sup>th</sup>  
3:00 PM

Summer Conference  
registration materials  
can be found at  
NYSSMA.org  
**Online deadline - July 24<sup>th</sup>**

## Nick Page to Conduct Elementary Children's Honor Choir

Nick Page is a composer, conductor, author, and song leader. From 1983 to 1986, Mr. Page was a conductor with the Chicago Children's Choir and he currently directs the Mystic Chorale of Boston as well as leading sings and workshops throughout the Americas and Europe. He has guest conducted at many festivals and concert venues including Carnegie Hall. He is the author of three books for teachers including his SING WITH US songbook (Hal Leonard) and SING AND SHINE ON (World Music Press). His articles have appeared in numerous music journals (as well as his essays in the "Choral Family" section of this website). Nick has over fifty published choral pieces from Hal Leonard, Boosey & Hawkes, Transcontinental, and World Music Press. He has a Music Education degree from Ithaca College and a Masters in Education from Lesley College.

Nick Page has been surrounded by singing all of his life. Every Saturday night his family would gather around the fire to sing folk songs, pop songs, spirituals, and rounds--songs in harmony. Nick does not see these early experiences as being old fashioned or from a distant past, long ago replaced by television. Instead, he sees these experiences as being necessary for growth, both as an individual and as a member of society.

Believing that there should be no separation between the talented and the untalented, Nick Page makes his living as a song leader. He works with children who have an inborn love of singing and he works with adults, many of whom have lost their love of singing a long time ago. Nick renews the love. He also works with educators, both classroom teachers and music specialists. The main themes in his teacher workshops surround the perspectives of multi-cultural and multi-sensory learning, particularly with the aid of singing.

Nick Page completed his Masters in Education in 1993 (Lesley). His undergraduate degree was from Ithaca College (1975), where he majored in Music Education. While at Ithaca, he composed his first full work called, "Comic Requiem, Son of Faust" which he presented to a full house. After college, he taught at all levels K-12 and he continued to compose and arrange choral works as well as musical comedies.

In 1983, he moved from his native New England to Chicago where he worked as a conductor and Training Units Director with the six hundred strong Chicago Children's Choir. The experience changed his life. He became intoxicated with the worlds of Black Gospel and Jewish liturgical music. The passion of the music drove him to study more music of great energy, particularly the choral styles from diverse cultures. He studied the South African Mbube choral style with Joseph Shabalala of the group Ladysmith Black Mambazo. He studied jazz and pop choral styles with Bobby McFerrin and Richard Greene from The Bobs. He studied Ethnomusicology, particularly the music of Africa and India.

In 1987 he took a workshop with Ysaye Maria Barnwell of the woman's singing group Sweet Honey in the Rock. She created an amazing singing ensemble from a group of people, most of whom had never sung before in their lives. This, plus the way she brought the culture behind the music into total focus, was an inspiration for Nick Page. He had returned to New England by then. He began leading sing-a-longs for people of all ages. He has traveled across North America leading what he calls POWER SINGS with adult groups, elementary, junior high, and senior high school students as well as at many colleges.

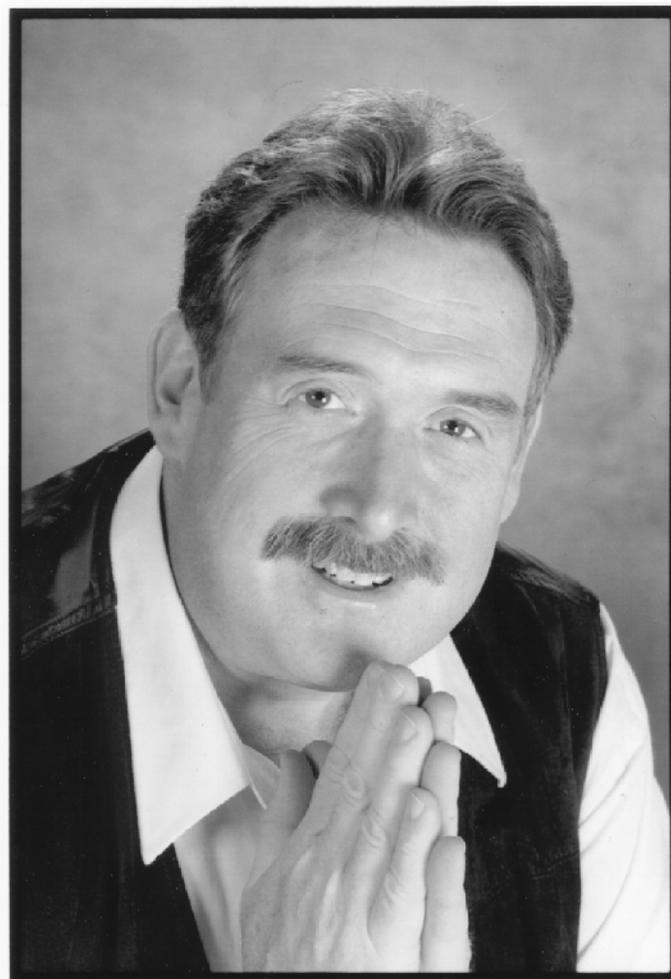


photo by susan wilson

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# How to Handle Middle School Choir Students Who Talk Too Much

Michael Murphy

NYACDA R&S Chair - Jr. High and Middle School Choruses

I know how to handle middle school chorus students who talk too much in rehearsal! Why? I talk. I talk a lot! Everyone who knows me, knows how much I talk. After my college choir director offered me the opportunity to become his assistant, he discovered how much I talk. He was wise and patient enough to try to teach me to give non-verbal directions to his choir. Non-verbal instructions aren't a good idea, they are a necessity. I finally figured out the secret. Any skill, technique or trick requires practice. Therefore, I decided to practice not talking. What happened from there took several years, but my students finally trained me how to give directions without talking.



I figured out that the starting bell for class was a G. As soon as the bell rang, I sang that pitch in falsetto on an "oo", pointing a pencil at my students drawing small, tight, clockwise circles. When I needed a breath, I took it. Eventually, my kids began singing the pitch. I didn't go any further until everyone was singing "oo". For those young men who will scream the tone, or do something to deliberately call attention to themselves, a simple stare held for 5 or 10 seconds longer than they feel necessary is quite effective! After a few weeks, I met with my section leaders before rehearsal and instructed them to begin singing the pitch at the beginning of class as soon as they heard the starting bell. The chorus learned to "instinctively" sing the pitch at the beginning of rehearsal. How Pavlovian!

About halfway through the year, my students automatically sang the pitch at the start of class. Can you imagine what that looks like when your principal comes in to observe? I recently had to convince a substitute that the kids weren't playing a trick on her at the beginning of rehearsal.

OK, I could start class without raising my voice over 75 students! Now, how to get them to stand in concert position? After "oo-ing", we began to play stationary follow-the-leader. I began one day without explaining what would happen, by clapping lightly. The clapping turned into tapping my thighs. I would simply stop with my hands at my sides. I then began slouching, and standing straight up, slouching, standing straight up. I looked at my students and included any of the movements that needed eliminating (adjusting hair, straightening clothes, looking at nails...) I was now getting students to stand in concert position, without ever having to tell them what they were doing.

I made sure my students learned Curwen hand signs. From there, I taught my students various warm-ups by Curwen-ing in rhythm. For vowels, I used that pencil again. A pencil held vertically became an "ah". A horizontal pencil became "uh". Going back to the "ah" position; I slowly pointed the

pencil at my chorus and drew small, tight circles. They instinctively knew to sing "oo". Moving the pencil in larger clockwise motions, the group somehow knew to sing "oh". Pointing to my eye became "I". From there, a big Cheshire Cat grin became "ee". All this without talking!

There are a few warnings...I've only told you of what worked for me. I didn't tell you about what didn't work. There isn't enough room in set of encyclopedias for that! I realized, and became comfortable with the idea that I would make mistakes in front of my students. Those failures were beneficial not only to me, but to my students. My students saw me trying, failing, making adjustments, trying, failing, making adjustments, trying again and seeing some success. You get the idea.

I learned that by reducing how much I spoke in class, reduced how much I had to discipline my students in the traditional manner. These days, I still talk a lot. I talk a lot to my students who want to come visit me in my room after school, or during lunch, or when they return from the high school. I am often asked by students, "How come you never yelled in class?" The answer was easy. I was too busy not talking!

*Michael teaches at the Gates-Chili Middle School, outside Rochester, NY. His duties include conducting the 7th & 8th Grade Chorus.*

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## Nick Page

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Nick founded THE MYSTIC CHORALE in 1990. The two hundred-member chorus presents concert/sing-a-longs where the audience is an equal partner in creating the music. They have presented concert/sing-a-longs on many cultural themes including South African, Central European, Celtic, Jewish, North American, Latin American, in addition to the annual Gospel sing that features both black and white gospel music. They have performed in Canada, Europe and New York and will travel to Costa Rica in July, 2004.

In addition to his many choral pieces and songs, Nick has written three musicals. The first two were for children, THE GIMME GIMMES and OLLY OLLY END FREE. His last musical was a three-act comedy, ATTACK OF THE WINDMILLS.

Mr. Page is the author of two how-to music books. The first, Sing and Shine On! The Teacher's Guide to Multicultural Song Leading (World Music Press), explains why singing and music are essential for learning and it gives detailed song leading instructions. The second book, Music As A Way Of Knowing (Stenhouse), shows how to use music to teach reading, writing, math, science, and social studies. Nick's articles on music have appeared in numerous choral journals.

# **A Bittersweet Time**

## **Welcome and Goodbye to New and Old NY ACDA Board Members**

*Mark Zeigler, NYACDA President*

One of the first responsibilities that a new President has upon entering office is to recruit a new Executive Board for their two-year term. This is a bittersweet experience, as on the one hand, it is exciting to welcome several new members to our Executive Board family, but on the hand, it means that a number of wonderful individuals who have worked so hard and given so graciously of their time will be resigning. To this end, I want to extend my warmest appreciation to the following Executive Board members, who will be completing their term and leaving the board in July:

Sue Fay Allen (Advertisement)  
Kathleen Keenan-Takagi (Membership Chair)  
Elisa Dekaney (R&S Chair for Ethnic and Multicultural Perspectives)  
James Niblock (R&S Chair for Male Choirs)  
Rae Jean Teeter (R&S Chair for Senior High Choirs)  
Tom Fitapaldi (R&S Chair for Two-Year Colleges)

I am so grateful to these individuals for all they have done for our organization over the last several years. They will be missed.

I want welcome the following new members to the New York ACDA Executive Board family. These individuals bring an exceptional amount of professional experience and knowledge to our organization and I am so grateful for their willingness to serve and to give of their time and expertise. I look forward to working with them over the next two years.

Carolyn Loken (Membership Chair)  
Michael Murphy (R&S Chair for Middle School Choirs)  
Diane Warner (R&S Chair for Senior High Choirs)  
Daniel Black (R&S Chair for Two-Year Colleges)  
Gerard Floriano (R&S Chair for College and University Choirs)  
Edward Schell (R&S Chair for Male Choirs)  
Jason Thoms (R&S Chair for Music in Worship)  
Kelly Hudson (Region 2 Representative)  
John Cuk (Region 5 Representative)

Finally, I want to thank the following board members who have either agreed to serve another term or have moved to new positions on the board:

Ann Mosner (Secretary)  
Ann Murphy (Treasurer)  
Susan Conkling (Vice-President)  
Michael Bower (R&S Chair for Boy Choirs)  
Craig Knapp (R&S Chair for Children's Choirs)  
Timothy Newton (R&S Chair for Community Choirs)  
Edward Reisert (R&S Chair for Women's Choirs)  
Judith Ranaletta (R&S Chair for Show Choirs)  
Carol Jacobe (R&S Chair for Jazz Choirs)  
Brandon Johnson (R&S Chair for Youth and Student Activities)  
Norm Zogaib (Region 1 Representative)  
Robert Dumas (Region 3 Representative)  
Heather Baird (Region 4 Representative)  
Casey Hayes (Region 6 Representative)  
Danielle McRoy (Region 7 Representative)