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Looming Large – What happens when you open the door to opportunity



Perspective

Cortlandt Bender

By the time you read this, the 2006 NACM Conference in Pasadena will be, figuratively, "right around the corner." And, as I write this, the movie, **The Chronicles of Narnia – The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe** is in theaters throughout the United States in time for the Christmas weeks.

The movie is not the book, of course, but it can reawaken memories if you don't have time to read it again, and you want to introduce this series to friends, family, and children. What I found was the challenge to us all in the metaphors of the wardrobe, the children, and the circumstances surrounding them.

Inside all of us are aspects of each of the children, which are drawn as fairly strong, one-dimensional characters at the beginning of the story. There is the optimist, the rule giver, the reasonable one and the skeptic. Each changes a bit as the story moves to its conclusion.

What does this have to do with NACM? The children

opened the door of a wardrobe. One of the children could have seen only clothes and a closet. However, she ventured forth through the back of the wardrobe into a new territory, into new relationships and into a reorganization of how the world could look and be for her. Her siblings came along for the ride and were transformed.

We in this organization have opened the doors of our choral world and if we are willing, can discover, along with our colleagues who are not choral musicians, a whole new world of church music and new friends. If we are willing to enter into the new worlds of music in churches and experience what is offered throughout the spectrum of worshipping congregations in the USA we might come out transformed.

Many of us are jaded about "quality," "level," and, that dreaded word, "taste." However, at one time in our lives we were on the receiving end of not meeting someone's standards of taste and excellence. I invite all of us to put aside our skepticism and enter into the reality that we aren't going to be the people behind church music in the future. We will be long gone and in our place will be people opening new doors to types and styles of music we/they thought would be too weird in the church.

Our job is to be transformed even as we do our work which transforms others. We can't do it if we are one dimensional in our work, or closed off to possibilities. Sure, our job is to strive for excellence, but that doesn't happen in a box. Excellence happens in many places and in many different ways in music, in art and in life. We need to be open to God's leading us.

Our journey to the conference this year will open the doors to some new ideas and bring us some of the best of what those of us who are choral people are striving to find. We will also meet new people. We will be inspired, we will be challenged and we will be tested and exhilarated. Bring all of your facets, your friends, and your staff (paid **and** volunteer) to the NACM 2006 conference in Pasadena. Invite friends and colleagues in ministry to experience Rutter's **Gloria**, workshops, repertoire sessions, performances by exceptional talent of all kinds and hear the word of God spoken and sung. ■



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Hymnals – Connection to the Past Hope for the Future



There has never been greater diversity in opinions, forms, and practices in worship in the North American Church. There are many reasons – some theological, some consumer driven, others cultural. Some reasons are driven solely by personal opinion and what one finds most “comfortable.”

The question of “to use a hymnal or not” is at the heart of the matter. Opinions range from “not in my church” to “we can’t worship unless we use the hymnal.” Some see hymnals as an obstacle to reaching the un-churched. Others see the manufacture of new hymnals as a way to keep publishing houses in business. Some individuals see buying hymnals as a waste of money. Like many things, these opinions need to be weighed and balanced against the total picture.

What is the total picture? First, a hymnal, especially a denominational one, is not the final end-all resource to shape, develop, and create worship services and expressions for people. By its very nature and constraints, it cannot be inclusive of all the valuable resources that are available to the church. A hymnal is not the Bible. I say that somewhat “tongue in cheek,” but in all sincerity. I have witnessed and experienced the introduction of two new hymnals in my denomination, and we will introduce a third in 2006. I have seen resistance to new hymnals that equals the determination to defend Scripture as God’s inspired Word. The hymnal is a resource developed by individuals who are not perfect.

Why is it important? A hymnal provides texts, liturgies, prayers, and creeds that reflect doctrinal and

Chapter News

SAN DIEGO

On Friday, January 27, the chapter will meet for a **Fellowship/Networking Lunch** at Marie Callender’s on Alvarado Road (south of I-8 and west of 70th Street), La Mesa.

The Chapter is seeking a **volunteer web master**. For more information, contact Lea Ann Walker <pwalker@cts.com>.

On Saturday, May 13, College Avenue Baptist Church will host **Choirfest**. There is no cost to participate in this event, except for the purchase of music. The event will begin with a massed choir rehearsal at 2 pm, and culminate in a concert at 7 pm with the CABO Orchestra as accompanists. Repertoire includes music by Mozart, Jernigan, Beck, Courtney, Rutter, and Hayes, among others. **For more information**, contact Rob Gowing (619) 287-4747, ext 220 <cabrgowing@cabco.com>.

A number of **open positions** are available. For more information, contact Keith Pedersen (619) 849-2308 <keithpedersen@ptloma.edu>.

Former NACM President **Myron Tweed** had heart by-pass surgery on October 26, 2005, and is recovering slowly.

2 **Lea Ann Walker** has taken over as San Diego Chapter

Window on Worship

theological positions and understanding. If a hymn or chorus or a prayer does not represent or express where your denomination is theologically, then you should not use it. It has been said that “worship defines our theology and theology defines our worship.” When we use materials that do not express our beliefs, we do our people and ourselves a disservice. Denominational hymnals should help us in that area as we discern appropriate worship materials for our settings. They help to identify us theologically.

A hymnal connects to the past and the saints who have gone before. Some would say this is a reason not to use them, but today’s Church is not a “Lone Ranger.” Whether a member of a denomination or independent, the Body of Christ is connected to those who have gone before, those here now, and those yet to come. The doctrine, faith, and beliefs expressed throughout the centuries by the Church Fathers and Mothers supersedes any ideas of cultural relevance, independent thinking or consumer mentality.

The hymnal is a tremendous resource for the present as long time believers and “newbies” worship together and recognize that worship is more than simply being about “me.” It includes all who bow their knee before Christ. Finally, the hymnal, along with a myriad of new expressions, styles, and forms can and should be a major influence and foundation for the future as we continue to worship God “with hearts and hand and voices.”

President from Sue Caldwell, who has regretfully resigned.

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY

On Saturday, January 28, 2006, Los Angeles and San Fernando Valley chapters will host the 5th annual **Choral Taste of LA**. The all day choral reading bonanza features ten area composers, including Emma Lou Diemer, Michelle Weir, and Walt Harrah, presenting their own works. The event will be held at Westwood United Methodist Church, and costs \$45 (\$55 at the door), including a master chef-catered lunch. Only those who pre-register are guaranteed a music packet. **For more information**, contact Jim Raycroft (818) 367-1939.

ORANGE COUNTY

On Monday, February 6, the chapter will have a **Pastor’s Panel**. Several local pastors will be asked what they expect from the Music/Worship Leader on a Sunday morning. The event will be held at First Presbyterian Church, 191 N. Orange Street, in Orange. **For more information**, contact Francisco Calvo (714) 538-2341.

The Chapter is pleased to announce that **John Carpenter** has been selected as the new Chapter President, and **Francisco Calvo** is the new Program Chair.

Gloria!

July 12-15, 2006

Conference 2006 ~ First United Methodist Church ~ Pasadena, California

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of church musicians

Since 1938, NACM members have formed a network of people helping people across geographical, denominational, and stylistic boundaries. Our common goal is to support and encourage the excellence of music and worship ministry in the church.

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Charles Bruffy Headlines Conference

Charles Bruffy is one of the most highly respected and sought after choral conductors in the nation. He has been Artistic Director of the Kansas City Chorale since 1988, and Artistic Director of the Phoenix Bach Choir since 1999. Under his direction, both choirs continue to merit critical national acclaim, including appearing as featured performers at national conventions of the American Choral Director's Association, and being featured on NPR's Performance Today and The First Art. He has conducted performances in venues such as the Sydney Opera House, and Smetana Hall in Prague. He has been a featured soloist on Robert Shaw Festival Singers recordings, and was featured in the New York Times as one of Robert Shaw's successors. Mr. Bruffy will lead the Conference Choir and Festival Orchestra in presenting John Rutter's Gloria at the Friday evening concert.



Concerts

Concerts each evening are a highlight of the event. America's Tenor™ **Steve Amerson** will headline Wednesday evening's concert. Thursday night is the annual Choral Festival, featuring outstanding invited church choirs. The Conference Choir and Festival Orchestra will perform the **Rutter Gloria** Friday evening, sharing the program with the Chamber Choir. Concert are open to the public.



Steve Amerson

Roundtable Lunches



Roundtable lunches are held on Thursday and Friday. The Roundtables are organized based upon areas of interest and geography.

First United Methodist Pasadena is Host

Gloria! will be headquartered at First United Methodist Church in Pasadena, California. First UMC has been serving Pasadena and the San Gabriel Valley since 1875. Pasadena is centrally located in the Los Angeles basin, close to downtown, beaches, and amusement parks. Lunch on Thursday and Friday are included in the cost of registration.



Driving Directions

First UMC is found at 500 E Colorado Blvd
Pasadena, CA 91101.

From the 210 East, exit Los Robles and turn South (right). To reach the church, turn East (left) on Colorado. To reach the church parking lot, turn left on Converse Alley (half a block south of Colorado).

From the 210 West, exit Lake Avenue and turn South (left). Turn West (right) on Colorado Boulevard, and you will find the church on the corner of Colorado and Oakland. To access parking, pass the church and turn south (left) on Los Robles. Turn left on Converse Alley (half a block south of Colorado).

The Church Parking lot is accessible through Converse Alley off Los Robles. Additional Parking is available on Evenings and Sundays in the Amalgamated Bank Parking Lot (adjacent to the church lot) and the Kaiser



Lot across the street from the Church parking lot on Green street. Street parking is limited and monitored Monday through Saturday. Please note the many one-way signs!

Conference Pastor

Dr. Todd Johnson will be Conference Pastor. He is on the staff of the Brehm Center for Worship, Theology, and the Arts at Fuller Seminary. He has been on the faculties of the Institute for Pastoral Studies at Loyola University, Chicago, and North Park Theological Seminary. Dr. Todd Johnson also pastored at Broadway Covenant Church in Rockford, Illinois, and at the Evangelical Covenant Church of South Bend, Indiana. In addition to preaching at worship services, Dr. Johnson will be available for consultation with any conference participant.



Dr. Todd Johnson

July 12-15, 2006

NACM's Annual Conferences are partially offset through the generosity of corporate sponsors. We appreciate the support of these sponsors, and encourage our membership to communicate their appreciation directly. Sponsors, as of press time, include ACFEA Tour Consultants, Creator Magazine, and Fred Bock Music Company.



creator



Arriving by Air?
The closest airport is Burbank which is serviced by many major airlines. LAX is within reasonable driving distance.

Lodging

A special block of rooms has been reserved at the Pasadena Hilton. Prices start at \$175 plus tax, and include breakfast each day.

To make reservations, call 800-HILTONS and use the reservation code: NACM Group Rate. Other lodging in the surrounding area is available.

Conference features Rutter Gloria plus Youth and Chamber Choirs

Conference Choir

The Conference Choir is made up of all participants at the conference...typically at least 150 singers. The Conference Choir will rehearse and perform the Gloria by John Rutter under the direction of Charles Bruffy. Please bring your own score if you have one. NACM will have scores for sale at the conference.

Any singer who wishes to participate in the Conference Choir can do so, for a small fee, even if the singer does not wish to attend any other conference sessions. Look on the Registration Form for "Conference Choir Only" fees.

Chamber Choir

The Chamber Choir will provide a more in depth encounter with Charles Bruffy. 24 singers (18 years or older) will be selected by the competitive application process. Participants will receive scores in advance of the conference, and are expected to arrive prepared to work at performance tempo. The conference registration fee will be waived for successful applicants. All participants will be responsible for their own housing, travel and meal costs. Check in for the Chamber Choir participants will be at noon on Wednesday, July 12. A more detailed schedule will be sent along with acceptance notification. All sessions are mandatory.

Please complete the application form and return with the following:

1. A current typed or word-processed resume
2. Audition recording (high quality cassette or CD) with the following items in the order shown:
 - a. *Identification of yourself by name and the voice part for which you are auditioning*
 - b. *Beginning at, for women, G above middle C, and for men, G below middle C, and breathing as necessary, sing an ascending chromatic scale on "ah" to the upper limit of your range. Return to the G, and repeat the process on a descending chromatic scale.*
 - c. *A solo of your choice, preferably sostenuto, so that you might illustrate the quality of your voice in music which is comfortable*
 - d. *An excerpt from the Mark Hayes Te Deum at the tempo ♩=80. Sop: mm. 264-272 Alto: mm. 248-256 Ten: mm. 256-264 Bass: mm. 272-280. All excerpts are available in pdf form at <www.nacmhq.org>. All tapes must be enclosed in cassette boxes and CDs in jewel cases*
3. A non-refundable fee of forty US dollars (\$40.00), payable in US funds and drawn on a US Bank. Make checks payable to NACM. Please send materials with registration form.

Youth Choir

All applicants must be between 14 and 18 years of age. Participants will receive scores of the work in advance of the event, and are expected to arrive prepared to work at performance tempo. The Choir will lead our final worship service under the direction of **Dr. Paul Plew**. For more information on Youth Choir Auditions, please contact the NACM office <info@nacmhq.org>. We gratefully acknowledge the generous support of William H. and Mary Lou Mullin for this project.



Paul Plew



Youth Choir 2005 - Allan Petker Director

Reading Sessions

Reading sessions of new materials will be held Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. In addition to general sessions, this year's conference will include multiple reading sessions. Packets of materials are included in the registration fee for those who register by June 20. Registrations received after June 20, or on-site registrations, are not guaranteed to receive music packets. You will be asked to indicate your preference as part of your registration process.



J. Paul Williams

J. Paul Williams served churches in Oklahoma, Texas, and Arkansas for 35 years before becoming a full time Lyricist-Composer in 1992. A frequent clinician and conference speaker, he has over 500 songs published with 25 publishers, the last 300 of which have been as lyricist only, collaborating with over 30 composers. He is a "nut" about music being written for children and for their "head voice" where all the beauty is!



Wednesday July 12, 2006

- 11:30am Registration and Continental Breakfast
- 12:15pm Convention Opening Session
- 12:30 Reading Sessions (select one only)
- 1:00 Chamber Choir/Youth Choir (audition only)
- 1:30 Reading Sessions (select one only)
- 2:30 Reading Sessions (select one only)
- 3:30 Break/Visit Exhibits
- 4:00 Convention Choir Rehearsal
- 6:00 Dinner on your own
- 7:30 Concert

Thursday July 13, 2006

- 8:15am Registration and Continental Breakfast
- 8:30 Worship
- 9:30 Convention Choir
- 11:45 Roundtable Lunch
- 1:00pm Interest Sessions 601/602/603
- 2:00 Reading Sessions (select one only)
- 3:00 Break/Visit Exhibits
- 3:30 Interest Sessions 701/702/703
- 5:30 Dinner on your own
- 7:30 Concert Invited Choirs

Friday July 14, 2006

- 8:30am Worship
- 9:30 Interest Sessions 801/802/803
- 10:45 Reading Sessions (select one only)
- 12:15pm Roundtable Lunch
- 1:00 Interest Sessions 901/902/903
- 2:00 Break/Visit Exhibits
- 3:15 Convention Choir
- 5:30 Dinner on your own (Exhibits Close)
- 7:30 Concert Conference Choirs

Schedule

Thur 1:00 Interest Session choices include:

- #601 Biblical Foundations for Worship Ministry - Willmington
- #602 Children's Music Ministry - Williams
- #603 What does Media Ministry Mean in Today's Church - Odum

Thur 3:30 Interest Session choices include:

- #701 Defining Your Worship Framework - Willmington
- #702 Start a Fine Arts Academy at Your Church - Parker
- #703 Media Tech: Can One Person Do It All? - Odum

Fri 9:30 Interest Session choices include:

- #801 Opening the Door through Creative Worship Planning - Willmington
- #802 Downloading Church Music in the Digital Age - Amerson
- #803 How to write Lyrics - Williams

Fri 1:00 Interest Session choices include:

- #901 Work Smarter in the 21st Century - Burroughs
- #902 Planning and Producing Major Productions - Plew
- #903 Your Media Christmas Wish List - Odum

Saturday July 15, 2006

- 9:00 Plenary Session
- 10:30 Closing Worship lead by Youth Choir

Scheduled to Appear

Steve Amerson
Concert Artist
Los Angeles, CA

Christine Anderson
Voices in Bronze
Frazier Park, CA

Bob Burroughs
Brookwood Baptist Church
Birmingham, AL

Charles Bruffy
Kansas City Chorale
Kansas City, MO

Dr. Todd Johnson
Conference Pastor
Los Angeles, CA

John Parker
First Baptist Church
Keller, TX

Dr. Paul Plew
Youth Honor Choir
Santa Clarita, CA

Wade Odum
Fair Oaks Presbyterian
Fair Oaks, CA

Jan Sanborn
California State University
Northridge, CA

Dr. Vernon Sanders
Creator Magazine
Healdsburg, CA

J. Paul Williams
Lyricist
Little Rock, AR

Ed Willmington
Fred Bock Institute
Pasadena, CA

Fred Bock Award

NACM presents an annual award to a person whose career has been lengthy and notable in the field of church music, be it as a choral director, keyboardist, publisher, or organist/choirmaster. The inaugural recipient of the **Fred Bock Lifetime Achievement Award** was Paul Salamunovich. The 2006 award will be announced during the conference.

July 12-15, 2006

Registration Form

Name _____

Church/Institution Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Email _____

Registration Fees

Fees include admission to all concerts and worship services, plus pre-registered reading session music packets. **Also included is lunch on Thursday and Friday.**

Early Bird Rate (by 4/1/06).....	\$195	_____
NACM Members (by 6/1/06).....	\$225	_____
NACM Members after 6/1/06.....	\$250	_____
NACM Seniors/Students/Spouse	\$175	_____
Additional staff from the same church	\$175	_____
Non Members by 6/1/06 (includes dues) ...	\$265	_____
Non Members after 6/1/06 (includes dues) \$	\$300	_____
Convention Choir Only Participant*.....	\$100	_____
NACM members single day rate	\$100	_____
Non Members single day rate	\$125	_____

Total Registration Fee \$ _____

Chamber Choir Audition Fee\$ 40 _____

Youth Choir Audition Fee\$ 35 _____

Extra Banquet Guest Tickets\$ 15 _____

Extra Wednesday Concert Tickets.....\$ 20 _____

Total Payment Enclosed \$ _____

Deadline to register by mail is June 17, 2006

Registrations received after this date are not guaranteed music packets

On-site registration begins at 11:30am July 12



College Credit is available from The Master's College for an additional fee
*Convention Choir Only Participant fees include admission to all concerts and worship services, but no meals.

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