



July / August 2011

# The Journal

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## 73rd Annual National Convention - July 20-22, 2011 RENEWAL-REVIVAL-RECHARGING: The Church Musician in a Changing Environment

### RENEWAL - REVIVAL - RECHARGING

by Linda White, Convention Chair



The banquet is prepared; the table is set; the feast is laid; come and dine!

It seems that every week a new invitation comes along inviting me to spend a part of my summer at some convention or other. And there are a lot of good looking opportunities out there. I encourage you to choose NACM this year.

Choose the one which offers you not only a fantastic headliner, but multiple opportunities for learning, musical growth and new music to sing. Choose the one which also offers you the opportunity to worship and to be spiritually fed. Choose the one where you can make lasting friendships, and spend time with peers and colleagues who are doing what you are doing week after week: musicians who will still be around later in the year when you need a sub or an answer (or a concert to attend!).

Come ready to learn and practice your craft, yes – but also to have fun and to worship together. And, if you know someone struggling along on his own, invite them to come with you. Lost your materials? Questions? Check out the May Journal at [www.nacmhq.org](http://www.nacmhq.org) or call the office. See you soon!

Linda White

P.S. Now that the season of ‘real’ music is winding down for most of us, don’t forget to dust off your ‘Un-Talent’! Fill those water glasses, tune up the cats or feed the bagpipes (sorry, Kevin), and email Jim Person with your un-talent show entry!

### PRESIDENTIAL PERSPECTIVE

by Helen Weed, NACM President



Well, here we are...another summer is here! NACM convention is just a few weeks away, and I am so excited to be able to host you here in Orange County at Calvary Church of Santa Ana. Jo Michael Scheibe is a consummate conductor and an inspiring man of faith. He will motivate us and give us tools to bring our “best fruits” of excellence to our King. I have several choir members coming to the convention, and I encourage you to bring choir leaders with you as well. It is so great to have others to share with after these incredible conventions—and it keeps me accountable to continue in excellence.

I will also have the privilege to “pass the gavel” to Peter Bates, our President-elect. Peter has already been working hard behind the scenes, and I know that he will bring that energy to the task of leading us. NACM has so much potential, and I don’t believe it has yet been fully realized—I’m very hopeful that Peter can help us “turn that corner” as I have tried to begin.

So, whether you direct a large or small adult, youth or children’s choir—play the organ or

← from p. 1

piano—lead your praise team—NACM has something to offer you, and YOU have something to offer us. It's in coming together and sharing with one another that we can grow. Hebrews 10:23-25 is speaking of worshiping together and keeping our faith, and I think it is very appropriate for us as well: "Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

Thank you for your encouragement to me, and let's keep "spurring each other on" as we follow His call in our ministries.

God bless you all, and I'll see you soon!

## CONVENTION HEADLINER

*We are honored to have internationally known, Jo-Michael Scheibe as the Headliner for our Convention later this month. Here is a review of his achievements. You will come away from the Convention with many practical applications for your choir program: conducting techniques, time management, music selection, etc. This opportunity is not to be missed and we are very thankful that he would make time for us in his packed schedule. Invite a friend. JP*



Jo-Michael Scheibe chairs the Thornton School of Music's Department of Choral and Sacred Music at the University of Southern California, where he conducts the USC Chamber Singers, teaches choral conducting and choral development, and supervises the graduate and undergraduate choral program. This month, he assumed a new post as National President of the American Choral Directors' Association. No stranger to the ACDA, Scheibe previously served as the organization's Western Division President (1991-1993), as well as National Repertoire and Standards Chairperson for Community Colleges (1980-1989). Ensembles under his leadership have sung at six national ACDA conventions (1985, 1991, 1993, 1997, 2003, 2007), as well as two national conventions of the Music Educators National Conference (1996, 2000), and various regional and state conventions. His 2011-12 USC chamber singers have been selected to sing at the National Conference of the National Collegiate Choral Organization in November at Fort Collins Colorado. They have also been asked to open the national conference of the Association of Choral Director in New Zealand in July 2012.

Scheibe's artistic collaborations include choral performances with Luciano Pavarotti, José Carreras, Salvatore Licitra, Maria Guleghina and Kenny Loggins, as well as preparation of choruses for Sir Colin Davis and the London Symphony Orchestra, Franz Welser-Möst and the Cleveland Orchestra, Michael Tilson Thomas and the New World Symphony and conductors Jahja Ling, Edoardo Müller, James Judd, Max Valdez, Thomas Sanderling and Alain Lombard, among others. Recordings of ensembles under Scheibe's direction have been released on the Albany, Cane, Naxos, Arsis and ANS labels.

A champion of contemporary music, Scheibe regularly commissions and performs new works of choral literature. He has helped to launch careers of promising young composers and to promote music by international composers largely unknown in the United States. Music publishers Walton, Colla Voce Music and Santa Barbara distribute the Jo-Michael Scheibe Choral Series internationally.

Scheibe returned to USC in 2008 after a 15-year tenure as director of Choral Studies at the University of Miami's Frost School of Music (1993-2008), as well as previous faculty appointments at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff (1985-1993), Long Beach City College (1978-1985), Vintage High School in Napa, California and Huntington Beach High School. Scheibe received his D.M.A. from the University of Southern California and his B.A. and M.M. degrees from California State University at Long Beach, where he was presented with the distinguished alumnus award.

Scheibe has served as music and artistic director of several community choral organizations, including the Master Chorale of South Florida, the Tampa Bay Master Chorale and the Long Beach Master Chorale. He has directed music ministries in churches as well, most recently at Coral Gables Congregational Church, where he conducted the Chancel Choir and Vocal Ensemble, which appeared at the 2002 ACDA Southern Division Convention in Nashville. A member of Chorus America, the International Federation of Choral Music, and several other professional and education organizations, Scheibe is in frequent demand internationally as a clinician, conductor and adjudicator for choruses at the university, community college, community and secondary levels.

**NACM Members: Copy this Journal and send it to a choir director in your area with a note of invitation. Full Schedule in the May "Journal." Help promote the NACM Convention!**

## WINDOW ON WORSHIP

by Dr. Wallace Horton



“Worship: The Hub of Spiritual Transformation”

As worship leaders and planners I’m sure that you all spend a lot of time thinking about what happens in worship. You have hopes, dream, and expectations regarding the content as well as the end result. Each

of us is hopeful that the pastor will have a strong message, that the choir anthem(s) will go well and that there are no surprises that might detract from our carefully planned service.

If those things occur and no one comes up to us after the service to register a complaint or give a negative opinion we probably feel that we have had a good morning of worship.

As I think about that response, I’m reminded of two songs that were popular back in the 60’s and 70’s, “Is That All There Is?” and “What’s It All About, Alfie?” If all that we are looking for in worship is to keep things running smoothly and avoiding negative comments, we are missing the mark.

I spoke at a church in Maryland this past Saturday on the topic of . . . you guessed it . . . worship. At the break, one man came up to me and shared his reasons why he comes to worship. One was that he wanted to see his friends. The second reason was to hear a good sermon. He told me that he usually accomplishes his first objective. However, he said that he rarely achieved the second objective. Then he went

into an editorial tirade about the sermons of the pastor who, by the way, was also in attendance at this workshop. When an opportune time came to interject a response, I shared with him that it would probably be a good idea for him to share his concerns with the pastor. You can imagine where the conversation went from there!

My point in mentioning this is to highlight what worship isn’t. While we often hear that worship is not about us, but rather it’s about God, it is also important that depending upon your theological understanding of God’s role in worship and God’s action in the sacraments/ordinances/memorials, there is a power that changes us when we participate in worship. It really is a life-changing power.

At Prince of Peace we say that “Worship is the hub of spiritual transformation.” If you’ve read Dallas Willard’s book, “Renovation of the Heart,” you’ll have a good understanding of what we mean by spiritual transformation. Our understanding of who we are and what God’s purpose for us is, is a big part of spiritual transformation. This change can, and does take place in worship when we meet God in a personal and powerful way.

A question that we like to ask at Prince of Peace is, “Do you expect to be the same when you leave than when you came to worship?” Expectation is a huge part of worship. When we expect to meet God and see Him act in worship, we can be and are changed. The power of his life changing power is present and waiting to meet us.

God bless you in your worship!

## “A CHORAL TASTE OF LA” RECAP

by Ruth Ellin Drossel

The 10th annual “Choral Taste of LA” was held at Westwood United Methodist Church in March with another day of choral reading to quench a singer’s palate. Jim Raycroft, who annually chairs this event, led the day with a few of his compositions. . . . a prayer response using “Deep River” melody, his beautiful version of “Silent Night”, and a big band sound of “His Eye Is on the Sparrow” not only with piano, but with the bass guitar and bongos to help the mood! (Website: [www.singerslite.com](http://www.singerslite.com), e-mail: [jraycroft@ca.rr.com](mailto:jraycroft@ca.rr.com))

Bob Ralston (famed organist from the “Lawrence Welk Show”) led us at the piano with a few of his compositions. First was a 12 minute medley entitled “And All That. . . Gershwin” which would certainly be enjoyed by any community choral organization. Wonderful anthems, “God Is” (with mezzo solo) and “Abundance” thrilled the attendees. Website: [www.bobralston.com](http://www.bobralston.com), e-mail: [bob@bobralston.com](mailto:bob@bobralston.com)

Legendary Albert McNeil followed with a few of his always soulful spiritual arrangements, “Don’t Stay Away”, “All My Trials”

and “O Mary, Don’t You Weep”. Al also shared with us the differences between Spirituals and Gospels and suggested the reference to us “Heritage of American Music Spirituals”.

Sean McDermott brought beautiful sacred choral pieces using familiar texts, “Regina Mundi”, “As the Hart Longeth”, “Sanctus” “Tota Pulchra Es, Maria” and “Ave Maria”, which premiered at St. Peter’s Basilica in Roma Italy! ((Contact: [seanmcd@mac.com](mailto:seanmcd@mac.com))

Multi-talented artist Carol Worthey brought her wonderful “Glory in Excelsis Deo” and impressed us with a work in process: a “Choral Calendar” which is a collection of her poetry, one poem for each month of the year, and then put to her music! May, July, and October were presented to us. Website: [www.carolworthey.com](http://www.carolworthey.com), e-mail: [cworthey@worthgold.com](mailto:cworthey@worthgold.com)

Bettie Ross delighted us with a few of her choral settings: “We are the Movers and Shakers (‘Ode)”, “Soldiers of the Heart” by David Pomeranz, arr: by Bettie Ross, and “What Is Greatness?”, a work in progress with the lyrics by L. Ron Hubbard. (Website: [www.bettieross.com](http://www.bettieross.com), e-mail: [bettie@bettieross.com](mailto:bettie@bettieross.com))

The day ended with Matthew Brown, who presented his works →

← “recap” from p. 3

with recordings of his pieces: “Table Grace”, “Though Love be the Day” with lyrics by e.e.cummings, “O Magnum Mysterium”, “A Red, Red Rose” and “Sweet is the Song” which had a wonderful accompaniment that used the celeste stop on organ!

Wingate Greathouse, a composer who had been one of our past presenters, was our fantastic accompanist for the day. website:[www.greathousemusic.com](http://www.greathousemusic.com), email:[wingate@greathousemusic.com](mailto:wingate@greathousemusic.com)

David Larsen of “Taste is Everything” again satisfied our taste buds at lunchtime. (Contact: [www.tasteis.com](http://www.tasteis.com), e-mail:[tasteis@aol.com](mailto:tasteis@aol.com).)

We look forward to next year’s event! Please plan to join us! When date is confirmed, details will be in the *Journal*.

## THE BLESSINGS WE FORGET TO COUNT

by: Doug Lawrence



In 1954 Irving Berlin admonished us to “Count Your Blessings Instead of Sheep.” As it turns out...actually, it was always about the sheep!

I'm a war-scarred worship guy who fought the good fight, lost and won, and daily thanks God for the lessons learned on the

front lines. In retrospect, however, some of the losses were the actual wins—blessings, really. I wouldn't have thought so at the time, but it's true!

Here's what I give thanks for...

### Dysfunctional Congregations

As a consultant, I frequently hear committee chairs and pastors talk about how dysfunctional their church seems to be. The very first thing I tell them is, “Praise God!” If we weren't a dysfunctional breed, why would we even need the church. After all, our only strength is in our weakness—n'est-ce pas?

It is alarming to observe the church trying to be perfect—have perfect worship leaders, pastors, children's programs, lighting design, sound design, the right “feel”, and also have “a language of faith for the 21st century!”

We're talking about excellence here I suppose, and I absolutely believe in it! What's difficult to swallow, however, is the flawed thinking that if we do everything just right, our sheep won't stink. All we, like sheep, stink—period.

Our imperfections and admission of those imperfections is where our real health probably lies. Why would anyone want to go to a church where everyone and everything is perfect? Most people's sense of neediness and failure is large enough already—who needs a church to reflect just how imperfect we already know we are?

One pastor I know often called his staff his motley crew. Sheep tend to like it when the shepherd doesn't elevate himself.

### Critics

Nobody I've ever met likes critics. In my 40+ years of being a concert baritone soloist with orchestras around the globe I was reviewed hundreds of times. My colleagues used to say, “Oh, I never read the reviews!” They lied! We all look at the

nasty letter, the angry email. We listen to the scathing voice-mail from the disgruntled parishioner. It's just human nature. We also say, “I'm willing to receive constructive criticism.” Hey, all criticism is constructive. if you peel back the toxicity and get to the truth part that can be useful. Aren't sheep just supposed to follow the shepherd around and never say anything baaaaaad? No, that's not how it works. We're human and we will always disagree, but that doesn't mean real learning can't take place in the swirl of an angry diatribe.

One woman, Joanne, in my former church (God has since ensconced her in one of his many mansions) had a serious issue with applause in our church. She took every opportunity to let me know exactly how she felt. I fought it for many years—then I listened. Ultimately we decided together that sheep often follow our lead as shepherds, but, as sheep are wont to do, they often stray. Our job is to go get them, not pass legislation. We never talked about applause again.

### Failures

I blew up at my choir one night. I had been telling them the same things for weeks and we were about to tour Europe with an hour's worth of memorized music. I was really, really tired of reminding them of the same stuff night after night and I just blew. Big mistake! Oh, choir directors do this all the time (very dramatic and all that), but my timing was bad and I probably overplayed my feigned disgust that particular evening.

The outcome? I spent the next 3 months trying to make it up to them. My technique of getting a good product simply didn't work and I had let impulse take away my good judgment momentarily.

So, the sheep seem to respond best to good modeling, not screaming and yelling. Lesson learned. Failure is not the worst thing in the world if it keeps you from making the same mistake over and over! Count your blessings!

*You can find more of Doug's writing at [churchcentral.com](http://churchcentral.com) and [creatormagazine.com](http://creatormagazine.com)*

*Doug Lawrence, internationally recognized speaker, author, and advisor, helps churches assess and improve their skillfulness in creating engaging worship experiences. You may reach him at [dlawrenceconsult@mac.com](mailto:dlawrenceconsult@mac.com). Or call 650.207.8240 for information. Doug now teams with the [slingshotgroup.net](http://slingshotgroup.net) to place extraordinary worship leaders in extraordinary churches.*

## WHAT IS PUBLIC WORSHIP?

By Howard Swan

*From the Archives – May 1951 “Journal.”*

The title of this article should have been amended to read “What is Public Worship – In the Opinion of an Earnest Choirmaster!” Theologians have endeavored without success to formulate a positive definition of worship, a philosophy that would do for all people at all times. A mere musician can speak only of the way that he sees the worship service from his corner in the choir loft.

Evelyn Underhill would state that the true worshipper “must come to adore God’s splendour, and fling himself and all that he is at God’s feet.” According to this writer, this is the only possible formula for worship. I suppose that we might term this the objective viewpoint in worship. If we accept such a premise we believe that our thoughts, or responses and our activities as a part of worship must be directed away from ourselves. We forget our own troubles, our own cares and needs, and worship becomes pure adoration for our Creator, our Heavenly Father, and our Savior.

The acceptance of the objective philosophy of worship undoubtedly has been responsible for many of our churches returning to the use of liturgical forms. This has been evident even in those Protestant denominations whose stress here-to-fore has been on the pulpit, and particularly in the preaching from a pulpit. John Calvin, one of the founders of my own faith, damned most of the liturgical practice of his time and forbade its use in his church. Four hundred years later we are finding that perhaps there is value to the worshipper in a set order of service.

Is this adoration of God, this deliberate attempt to forget self, all that should be in worship? I think not. Surely there is a place for the subjective point of view. I must believe that God is interested in me. I must praise and thank Him, yes; but, also, I must be repentant and I must resolve to do His will for me and I must do what I can to bring about His kingdom on earth. Certainly, the triumphant Crusaders of Luther and Wesley were built upon such a philosophy and belief. Worship, then, must affect me, as I sit in the pew. I must be stirred emotionally so that I resolve to be more like Christ, so that I resolve to do His will among my fellow men.

In my opinion, a public worship service must combine these elements which are subjective and objective. When a service is built only from the one or the other point of view that which we wish to happen in the minds and hearts of the individuals in our congregation simply does not take place. The minister and choirmaster must understand just where

and how in the service of worship each element may be used. If the Choirmaster has one ideal and purpose for his music and that ideal is not known or understood or agreed to by his minister, the music in that church will not achieve that which it should do, and accordingly the worship service itself will fail. On the other hand, if there is understanding and harmony as to the purpose of a worship service there is a start made towards giving to a congregation that which they need, and inwardly desire to have in their worship experience.

May I conclude, then, by stating my own creed as it is concerned with those characteristics which make for an ideal service of worship:

- The perfect worship service must contain certain moments when there is mystery, devotion and adoration of God. These are the objective periods in the service.
- The ideal service of worship has a place for a contemplation of self – for a consecration of self to nobler purposes. This is the subjective part of the service.
- It must always be beautiful, for in this service we are offering our sacrifice to God, and because this beauty will appeal to man.
- Our ideal service must be simple. That which we are trying to do must be understood by all.
- There must be an element of unity in this service, which may be accomplished in one of three ways:
  - Perhaps each item in the service can be related to the sermon topic. Or again an “over-all” theme can be developed which embraces all items of the service of worship.
  - Or the worshipper can be carried through those emotional experiences which from earliest times have been regarded as necessary to real worship. I speak of the mood of awe which is felt in the presence of God.
  - Then follows our adoration of Him, and then our feeling of repentance and contrition as we look at ourselves. As the service proceeds we are moved to thank God for his mercy and goodness, and finally we consecrate our lives to His service.

*Howard Swan (1906-1995) is a “founding father” of the Choral Conductors Guild (now NACM). He was Director of Music at Pasadena Presbyterian Church and Music Professor at Occidental College and CSU Fullerton. JP*

## NACM 73rd Annual Convention July 20,21,22, 2011 REGISTRATION FORM

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(includes Thursday dinner, Friday lunch and banquet and music packet)

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1010 N. Tustin Ave. / Santa Ana, CA 92705  
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Close to 5, 22 and 55 freeways. 55 South, off at 17th,  
turn West to Tustin Ave. South on Tustin 2 blocks to  
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**Non-Member Fees**

(includes 3 meals, music packet and one year membership)

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Circle Day(s) Th Fri Sat

Addl Banquet Tickets \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$22 \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL NON-MEMBER FEES** \_\_\_\_\_

\*Spouse/Partner rate does not include music packet

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