On the Road... Pres. Robinson Visits Alumni, Conducts Choirs, Speaks

A large part of a college president's job is done "on the road"—traveling! Visiting alumni, lecturing, meeting people, answering questions about the college, reporting on recent building projects... all these and more become part of a day's work for the traveling president.

Such a life Westminster's president, Ray Robinson, led January 21 to February 3, with the added responsibility that only a music college president would get: conducting rehearsals or concerts along the way. His stated purpose in all of his meetings and visits was to talk about the future of Westminster Choir College and the future of church music in general. James McKeever, Westminster's Director of Alumni and Church Relations, joined Dr. Robinson Jan. 26 in Dallas and completed the trip with him.

Some of the highlights of the president's trip, which included Texas, Oklahoma, Florida, Georgia, and Washington, D.C., were:

A conference in Dallas, Texas, sponsored by the Word Publishing Co. (of Waco, Texas) to discuss the future of church music. Leaders in the field of religious music met with representatives of music publishers at the First Methodist Church of Dallas for this conference.

A visit to Tulsa, Oklahoma, and a rendez-vous there with David York, Director of Admissions for the Choir College, who was in town to visit alumni and prospective students. While there, Dr. Robinson visited the churches of Choir College graduates.

Alumni meetings in Dallas; Atlanta, Ga.; and Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., where alumni gathered to meet the new president and share with him in talking of common concerns in the fields of education and music.

Conducting combined choirs in First Presbyterian Church, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.

Speaking in Washington, D.C., February 2, at a meeting sponsored by the American Guild of Organists' chapter there: the annual Clergy-Choir-master Dinner.

Westminster Choir To Sing in Puerto Rico

The Westminster Choir is going to Puerto Rico in March for a series of concerts in that country. Details of the trip are being arranged as this Newsletter goes to press.
Student Efforts Yield
WCC Blood Foundation

An established program of blood-giving is now set up on the Westminster Choir College campus, due to the sincere concern and effort of several hard-working students.

The idea began around Christmas time, when representatives of the Mercer County Blood Center came on campus to give students, staff, and faculty of the College the chance to donate blood in their special program designed so that an individual's giving insures his family (if they are ever in need of blood) for 12 months. At this time, 38 units were given (a unit equals about a pint).

In January, after Christmas vacation, students felt they wanted to go even further with this; and, on their own, contacted the Mercer County Blood Center and incorporated the Westminster Choir College Blood Foundation, the trustees of which are Edward F. J. Eicher, Dean of the College; Miss Maud Thomas, Associate Professor of Music Education; and Edgar C. Thomas, Director of Planning and Development.

Following this, they had another blood drive, which yielded a total of 55 units. "This is a phenomenal percentage," said the Rev. North Barry Dancy, college chaplain, who has been working with the Mercer County program since last fall. He feels the student who initiated the formation of the Blood Foundation on campus, Harry Soloway, deserves much credit. Because of his and other student's work, this program is now set up and the Blood Center staff will visit the campus several times a year to receive blood donations.

As the Lights went on,
Our Choir was there:
Rockefeller Center, Dec. 11, '69

It was a wintry night when the Chapel Choir took part in the annual Christmas tree-lighting ceremonies at Rockefeller Center in New York City, Dec. 11, 1969. Here, G. S. Eysell, president, Rockefeller Center, Inc., (right) joins Robert Simpson, director of the Chapel Choir, and Ray E. Robinson, Choir College president, after the ceremonies. In the picture below, the choir is seen with the 70-foot balsam fir towering above them as they sing. (Photos, courtesy of Rockefeller Center, Inc.)
Summer Session 1970 is a combination of the old and the new at Westminster Choir College.

"The old" includes the Vocal Camps for high school students, the Organ Institute, the Choral Workshop (a new version of the Professional School held in past years), and the Royal School of Church Music. "The New" refers to the seven different music education workshops and the Church Music Workshop.

Charles Schisler, head of the Department of Music Education at the Choir College, is Director of Summer Session. The summer schedule appears on this page.

VOCAL CAMPS for High School Students
June 21-July 3
July 5-July 17
Robert Simpson, Director
Robert Carwithen, Macon Delevan, LoRean Hoddapp, Joan Lippincott, Herbert Pate, Diane Curry.

The Vocal Camp to be held at Toccoa Falls Institute, Toccoa Falls, Georgia, from June 14-June 25 has been canceled due to scheduling difficulties at the Institute. Note new and final dates of Vocal Camps on Choir College campus.

MUSIC EDUCATION WORKSHOPS

Orff Workshop June 22-26
Brigitte Warner

Multiple Arts Workshop June 29-July 3
Miriam Gelvin

Comprehensive Musicianship July 6-10
Walter Reinhold

Guitar in the Classroom July 13-17
Roland Raffaele

Electronic Music in the Classroom July 13-17
Virginia Hagemann

Kodaly Workshop July 20-24
Arpad Darazs

Humanities Approach in Music Education July 27-31
Marguerite Hood

CHURCH MUSIC WORKSHOP July 12-17
James McKeever, Director
Mabel Boyter, Thomas Dunn, Daniel Pinkham

CHORAL SEMINAR July 20-25
Roger Wagner, Director

ORGAN INSTITUTE July 26-Aug. 1
Joan Lippincott, Director

Faculty and Recitalists:
Lee Bristol, Jr.; Robert Baker, Clyde Holloway,
David Kraehenbuehl, James Litton, Donald McDonald, Lawrence Phelps, Eugene Roan, Lionel Rogg, Alec Wyton.

ROYAL SCHOOL OF CHURCH MUSIC August 2-7
Francis Jackson, Director

Sue Ellen Page - WCC Junior - Writes Anthems, Earns Scholarship, Wins 1969 Carol Contest

Sue Ellen Page, a junior voice major in music education, has been awarded a $500 scholarship for outstanding work with children's choirs. The scholarship was given her from the Ruth and Leslie Jacobs Memorial Fund by the Chorister's Guild, an organization of church musicians aimed at helping its members with practical, new ideas for working with music and choirs in the church.

Suzie has written three anthems for children's choirs which have been published by the Chorister's Guild, the first one in June, 1968, after her freshman year at Westminster Choir College. She said that the music comes first and then she looks for a text to fit it, but usually cannot find just the right one—and so, writes her own.

Studying music education now, she plans to go into the junior high level of teaching after graduation, with the eventual goal of training adults to teach children in music. To achieve this, she wants to work on her Master of Music degree at the University of Southern California.

It's easy to see how Suzie got interested in music as a way of life, for both her parents are ministers of music at the Orangewood United Presbyterian Church in Phoenix, Arizona, her home. Her father, Robert Page, earned his M.M. from Westminster Choir College in 1955. She has grown up with music and sought activities herself, such as working with the children's (continued on page 4)
The 1969 Casavant Organ was officially dedicated February 8 in ceremonies conducted in the Casavant Recital Studio. Following the short service, Mrs. Joan Lippincott, Head of the Organ Department of the Choir College, played the first recital in the dedicatory series.

Her program included works by Dietrich Buxtehude, J. S. Bach, Malcolm Williamson, François Couperin, Olivier Messiaen, and Franz Liszt.

In addition to Mrs. Lippincott, participants in the dedication were Dr. Ray E. Robinson, president of the Choir College; Dr. Lee H. Bristol, Jr., former president; and the Rev. North Barry Dancy, Chaplain of Westminster.

The second recital in the dedicatory series will be April 5 at 8 p.m. and April 6 at 5 p.m., William Whitehead, organist. Mr. Whitehead is on the Choir College organ faculty.

Sue Ellen Page and President Robinson

(continued from page 3)

choirs in her home church before going away to college. In addition, she has worked with the summer seminars of the Chorister's Guild for several years. She said that the purpose of these is to keep people up with new ideas in church music. Guitar playing and singing have usually been her roles at the seminars—last summer in Lansing, Michigan, and this coming summer in Hawaii.

Suzie sings second soprano in the Westminster Choir. Her first two years she sang as a soloist at the Wayne Methodist Church in Wayne, Pennsylvania.

At Christmas time, Suzie earned another honor—winner of the annual student Christmas carol contest. Traditionally, each class selects one of its members as a representative to compose a Christmas carol or anthem; these compositions are then judged by a faculty committee, and a winner chosen. Suzie's piece "Noel" (with words by Beloc), was given first prize for Christmas, 1969.
Remodeling Done
In Williamson Hall

On the outside, Williamson Hall may look as it has looked for many years, but on the inside, changes are being made.

When the new Library-Learning Center opened last November, new classroom space also opened. Thus, the classrooms on second floor of Williamson were left empty. But not for long. Soon, carpenters came in and began putting up walls, taking down blackboards, putting in doors, nailing up paneling, and giving the walls fresh paint coats.

Finally, January 23 was proclaimed moving day, and the Business Office, Development Office and Alumni Office moved into their new quarters on the second floor.

Under the new arrangement, the former classroom at the west end of the building now houses Edgar C. Thomas, Director of Planning and Development; and James C. McKeever, Director of Alumni and Church Relations; and their secretaries. The Business Office personnel occupy the remodeled classroom at the east end of the building.

As more remodeling was done, the Registrar and Director of Public Relations moved into new offices. This leaves the first floor for offices of the president, Ray Robinson; the Dean of the College, Edward F. J. Eicher; and the Director of Summer Session, Charles Schisler.

The new Talbott Library-Learning Center: mid-winter scene.

40 Organ Majors Are Europe-Bound

Europe is the goal Feb. 27 for 40 organ majors and trip leaders who are going on the first Organ Study Trip sponsored by the Organ Department of Westminster Choir College. The trip will last until March 20.

As reported in an earlier Newsletter, the purpose of this trip is three-fold: historical, practical, and concerned with the future, for an understanding of the organ historically has its immediate reward in more authentic and meaningful performance, as well as in the functional design of future organs.

Mrs. Joan Lippincott, head of the Organ Department, is director of the trip; also traveling with the students will be Eugene Roan, assistant professor of organ; Lawrence I. Phelps, vice-president of Casavant Freres Limitee in St-Hyacinthe, Quebec, Canada, and also visiting lecturer in organ at Westminster; and Donald V. Corbett, who is associated with Casavant and is tour-coordinator for the trip.

The program of the study trip will include performance, study, and concerts. The trip is designed to bring students in contact with organs for which specific literature was written. They will have the chance to play assigned pieces on specific organs in the Netherlands, Denmark, Germany, Switzerland, and France—including the towns of Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Breda, Zwolle, Bremen, Copenhagen, Roskilde, Lubeck, Hamburg, Luneberg, Kassel, Göttingen, Frankfurt, Ulm, Munich, Wein- garten, Zurich, and Paris.
Open Forum Convenes

The second "Open Forum" of the school year took place January 7 in the Playhouse, with the topic being "The purpose of Westminster Choir College as it relates to Westminster's musical distinctives." As these "distinctives" rest on the College's approach to the vocal and choral areas, faculty from these departments were members of the panel.

This included Robert Carwithen, Herbert Pate, Howard Shaw, and Robert Simpson. College President, Ray Robinson, served as moderator, and the student panel members were Barry Ellison, junior; Eric Johnson, senior; Allan Knotts, senior; and Lynn Tulak, sophomore.

As before, there was student participation and discussion from the floor as well as presentations from the panel. A meeting like this "gives students here an open forum to say things. They've never had this before," Pres. Robinson commented. The purpose is to have students express opinions on matters before they become policy, he said. This is the "grass roots" level of policy-making at the College, he feels.

Charles Schisler Named Head of Music Ed. Dept.

Charles Schisler, who joined the Choir College faculty in September, 1969, has been appointed Head of the Music Education Department.

Mr. Schisler received the B.S. degree from West-chester State College in Pennsylvania and an M.Ed. degree from Temple University. He has studied with Karl Richeter at the Munich State Academy of Music in Germany and is presently a Ph.D. candidate at Indiana University. He taught for 11 years in the Pennsylvania public schools and came to Westminster from Peabody Conservatory where he was Director of Music Education.

Mr. Schisler is also director of the 1970 Summer Session at the Choir College.
All sizes cross the Choir College campus.

The new Women's Residence Hall--Applied Music Center can be seen in the background.

The maxi coat comes to Westminster.

"O, Wind, 
If Winter comes, 
can Spring be far behind?"
—Percy Bysshe Shelley

Kipnis, Pantomimist, 
Visits WCC Campus

French-born Claude Kipnis, the gifted mime artist, was on campus Monday, Jan. 26, for an evening lecture-demonstration. Many audiences around the world have received this artist of pantomime with great enthusiasm, and newspaper reviews have praised his talent. Of him the Detroit Free Press said, "Kipnis is an extraordinarily versatile artist who can make you believe anything."

He was born in Paris, studied with the famous mime Marcel Marceau, and began his performing career in Europe. In 1960 he went to Tel-Aviv, Israel, where he founded a school on mime, taught at the University of Tel-Aviv and the Conservatory of Ramat-Gan, and created a unique group with deaf-mutes at the Helen Keller Center. Presently, he is Artist in Residence at the University of Illinois and busy, also, touring the United States with his show—both as a solo and with his small company.

Arrangements for his appearance at the Choir College were made through the National Humanities Series of The Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation. William Fegan is president of the Series.

Choir College Hosts 
Fayette Singing Boys

The Fayette Singing Boys, from Chalk Hill, Pa., were on campus Tuesday, Feb. 3, for an evening choral concert. Conducting this group was David L. Craig, '61, president and music director of Cratin Choir School in Chalk Hill.

Two programs were part of this visit. At 11 a.m. in Bristol Chapel, Mr. Craig spoke on the topic, "Growling Boys—Who Needs Them?" Then, at 8 that evening, the Singing Boys presented their concert, including a variety of anthems, spirituals, and folk songs.

This group of young singers was formed in January, 1965, and is part of the total program of the Cratin Choir School. While in Princeton, they stayed at the Columbus Boychoir School.
Piano Lab Installed for Fresh Approach
To Keyboard Instruction

Starting this semester, beginning piano students at Westminster will be learning basic keyboard technique in an electronic Piano Laboratory, which operates on the same principle as a Language Lab. There are six full-size keyboards for the students and one keyboard and control panel for the instructor; through this, he can hear any one or two of his students and isolate their practicing from the others in the class.

Each student keyboard is equipped with its own built-in sound system, whereby the student wears headphones and hears only the music which he is playing. There is also the possibility of students working in pairs through their headphones—to play duets, for example. Some of the pianos also have tape recorders attached to them so that students can cut tapes of their own playing, or work from recordings.

Piano instructors George Sanborn and Miss Lois Young are teaching in the lab. Mr. Sanborn said its main use this semester is with students who do not have a working ability at the piano. He feels that there are definite advantages to group instruction in piano at this beginning level, especially now that those in the group can also be dealt with as individuals and can work individually under their headphones.

These keyboards can also be used like regular pianos, he said—that is, they can be adjusted so that their sound is audible for the whole class. In this way, the students can benefit from other members of the class—both their progress and their problems.

"We're trying to find out how we can best use the lab with our students," Mr. Sanborn said, "and it is experimental only in this sense." Its general effectiveness has been well proven, he feels.

He and Miss Young first checked into the possibility of a Piano Lab in April, 1969, on a visit to Peabody Conservatory where the electronic pianos were developed by Dean Boal, of the Peabody faculty, in conjunction with engineers from Baldwin Piano & Organ Co. Mr. Boal conducted a Piano Lab workshop last summer which Mr. Sanborn and Miss Young attended.

A further use for the lab at Westminster will be in the pre-freshman course Mr. Sanborn is teaching this summer. The first time for such a course, it is a 6-week session to help some incoming students improve their proficiency in piano.

The Piano Lab was installed in February in the large lecture room, C wing, of the Applied Music section of the New Women's Residence Hall.

"People Care What You Say!"
Roger Wagner tells Choir

"People care about what you say. They don't care about your voice," Dr. Roger Wagner told the Westminster Choir during his recent visit on campus. Thursday, February 5, he lectured and gave a master class with the students in this choir—conducting and teaching them in choral technique.

He was visiting the campus in order to meet with Pres. Robinson and others to plan for his part in the 1970 Summer Session as director of the Choral Seminar, July 20-25.

As part of the Seminar, he will conduct a performance of J. S. Bach's "St. John Passion," with orchestra and soloists, in which seminar students will participate.

Dr. Wagner resides in Los Angeles, Cal., and is the conductor of the well-known Roger Wagner Chorale.