ONE, TWO, THREE – SING! Princeton children provide a laboratory for Westminster Choir College students who are learning how to conduct children's choirs. Here in the chancel of the Westminster Chapel, the boys and girls run through a scale or two before tackling the anthem. Left, instructor Virginia Cheesman shows how to do it.

(From the December 26th issue of "Town Topics").

HOW TO TEACH

Sing, O Sing! If you want to learn how to conduct a children's choir you need children to practice on, and 75 Princeton youngsters are serving one afternoon a week as musical laboratory animals, so to speak, for Westminster Choir College students who are learning how to conduct a young choir.

These boys and girls were recruited early in the fall from the fourth, fifth and sixth grades of Borough and Township schools. Over 100 children brought their applications to a series of auditions, and the present Junior Choir was chosen from this group. The children have normal childish voices, the kind that might well turn up in any church choir.

They are distinguished only by ability to carry a tune and to feel rhythm, although one or two were a little shaky in the beginning even by these minimal standards.

Each Thursday afternoon, the Junior Choir Methods Class consisting of 49 Westminster students, meets in the campus Playhouse with the chattering, squirming lively collection of laboratory mice. The course has been given each year since 1955, by Miss Virginia Cheesman, organist and choir director of the Mt. Airy Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia.

Miss Cheesman has arranged her 75 children in four groups; G-Clef, Fermata, Sharp and Crescendo, and to each group she has assigned a student who teaches the words of songs and drills some of the slower ones on hitting that note squarely on its head.

The spirit of teamwork work is equally important to the learning of music, Miss Cheesman tells her Westminster students. They have worked out team games with points based upon attendance, picking out the musical symbols on a page of music, and so on.

To an observer at rehearsal, the team spirit—or spirit of some kind—is very much in evidence. The children plunge into vocalizing, they jockey with each other for the privilege of naming a song and they willingly repeat, repeat, repeat, until their director says it's all right.

In a recent Vespers service, several Westminster students put their lab work into practice, leading the children in simple songs and applying the techniques of direction that they have watched Miss Cheesman use: how to make a choir stand in unison, sit in unison and above all, sing in unison.

The success of the course can only be gauged in later years when its students have junior choirs of their own to lead. At the moment, however, its success can be partially measured by the report of one mother who says that a marginal daughter, barely able to carry a melody when she joined the choir in the fall, can now sing correctly without having her voice stick out like a small squeaky nail.

(From the October 25th issue of the "Princeton Herald")

TRUSTEES ELECTED
BY CHOIR COLLEGE

Bitner, Bristol, Johnson and Poe Among New Members of Westminster Board

FOUR MINISTERS CHOSEN

The election of nine members of the board of trustees of the Westminster Choir College has been announced by Dr. John Finley Williams, president of the institution. Four of the new members are residents of Princeton, four are ministers and one is a music educator.

The Princeton residents are Harry M. Bitner, of the Great Road, Lee H. Bristol, Jr., of Olden Lane, Tristam B. Johnson, of Greenholm, and John P. Poe, of the Great Road.

Three denominations are represented among the four ministers who are Dr. Frederick L. Christian, of the Westfield Presbyterian Church, a trustee and graduate of Princeton Theological Seminary; the Reverend Lynn Hough Corson, of the Hadfield Methodist Church, former pastor of the Princeton Methodist Church; Dr. Clarence W. Cranford, of the Calvary Baptist Church of Washington, president of the American Baptist Convention and a trustee of Bucknell University; and Commander Mark H. Thompson, a Navy chaplain, graduate of Princeton Seminary and former chaplain of Lafayette College.

The music educator is Professor John Milton Kelly, director of the department of sacred music of the San Francisco Theological Seminary, former member of the Westminster Choir College faculty and first director of the department of sacred music of the Presbyterian Board of Christian Education.

Mr. Bitner, a trustee of Franklin and Marshall College, is a former general manager of the Hearst Newspapers and television and radio station owner. Mr. Bristol, director of public relations of the Bristol-Myers Products Division, is also an organist, composer and writer. Mr. Johnson, co-manager of the Princeton office of Laidlaw and Company, is acting mayor of the Borough. Mr. Poe is president of the First National Bank of Princeton, chairman of the Hun School board and president of the United Fund.

NEW ARRIVALS DEPARTMENT


Sharon Louise, to Mr. & Mrs. James Bailey, Nov. 5, 1957, 450 E. 20th St., N.Y.C., N.Y.

Karen Ann, to Mr. & Mrs. ('55) Robert Olsen, Dec. 13, 1957, 1 Boulevard, New Rochelle, N.Y.

Carl Malcolm, to Mr. & Mrs. ('53) John Ziegler, Dec. 31, 1957, 8803 Weldon Drive, Richmond, Va.

RECOMMENDED MUSIC

To Zion Jesus Came - David H. Williams, Church Music Review, No. 2330, H. W. Gray Co., $.18. For Palm Sunday or Children's Day. Combined Youth and Adult Choirs - easy, singable kind of anthem that both choirs and congregations enjoy.

Prayer of St. Francis - David S. York, Mercury Music Corp., MC 236, SATB, $1.20. The very best setting of this beautiful text this writer has found. Divided tenor and soprano parts. Medium difficulty.

At The Name of Jesus - Jacob Gallus (Handl) (1550-1591). Concordia Publishing House MS 1051. $.18. Suggested for January 1 or general use. "At the name of Jesus let every knee be bended, of things in heaven, of things in earth and under the earth; let every tongue confess that Our Lord and Saviour is Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father." Early music as indicated by period of composer's life. Simple harmonic structure, but difficult to put across unless your choir really tunes.

Worthy Art Thou O Lord - Willan, Concordia MS 1015. $.18. Words from a Sarum antiphon to the Magnificat, for Easter. Easy, effective - massive chorus effects.

Mary Krimmel, Organist-Choir Director
First Presbyterian Church
Princeton, N. J.

ARNOLD LEVERENZ' COLUMN

(Ed's. note: Lack of space prohibits the inclusion of this article. It will appear next month. Time, however, is of the essence in the concluding remarks which are published here-with: "I have been asked to give a lecture to the theological students at Princeton Seminary on "The Relations between a Minister and his Minister of Music". Do you have some words of wisdom on this subject which you would like to get off your chest? They may be words about relations as they are or the way they should be. I must prepare this as soon as possible and would appreciate your comments. I shall be careful to give credits where they are due. My address is: Arnold Leverenz, Plainsboro, N. J.")
NEWS FROM EVERYWHERE

William and Eunice Carneross ('53) and their children Chris, Tom, Eric and Julie.

From Bob & Mary Elizabeth Emery ('52) came a nice Christmas letter telling of their work this Fall. In October the youth choirs, handbell choir and a brass ensemble gave a half-hour telecast over Pittsburgh, Pa.'s KDKA.

The 152 voices of the 6 choirs of Phillips Memorial Baptist Church, Cranston, Rhode Island, directed by Margaret Dow ('49) presented a Christmas Vesper Service of Tableaux on Dec. 15th.

J. Lyman Congdon ('35) directed the "Messiah" performance of the Community Chorus in the 1st Reformed Church of Chatham, N. Y., also Dec. 15th. 91 singers participated.

One of the unduplicated Advent anthems done was the Latrobe, Pa. Presbyterian Church's performance of "There Shall a Star" by Mendelssohn, directed by H. Wells Near ('52). (Ed's. note: this is the 1st chorus from the uncompleted "Christus", and is found in the gray volume of the Concord Series. Perhaps many of you heard it on Christmas Eve performed on the radio by the Magnavox Choir.)

From Cecil Lapo ('41) came a beautiful 20 page booklet, illustrated by 24 photographs, entitled "A Visit to St. Luke's". The accompanying text traces the history of this great Oklahoma City Methodist Church, gives important dates and interesting facts, and describes the various facilities and appointments illustrated.

What appears to be the definitive brochure for a Wesley Hymn Festival has arrived from Frank Hunter ('50) who directed the massed choirs of 6 Oklahoma Methodist churches on Nov. 3rd. The service was prepared by Rev. Philip S. Watters of the Washington Square Methodist Church, NYC, and through the courtesy and sponsorship of the "Hymn Society of America", the "World Methodist Council", and the "Council of Bishops of the Methodist Church", was reprinted and used verbatim for the Muskogee District Hymn Festival. (Ed's. note: this, and the brochure from Cecil, will gladly be lent to persons desiring to use them.)

Helen Kemp ('41) assisted in the production of and composed the music for this year's Christmas pageant of Oklahoma City's 1st Presbyterian Church.

Ernest Bedell ('50) sent the annual Christmas brochure, 12 pages long, containing the four services of Erie, Pa.'s Church of the Covenant. This beautiful booklet is printed in green ink on white stock with red accents. A unique feature is the suggested "Christmas Order of Worship for Home and Family", incorporating poetry, scripture, prayers, candlelighting ceremony,

(Continued on Page 4, Col. 1)
NEWS FROM EVERYWHERE

(Continued from Page 3)

carols, meditation and benediction.

From William and Eunice Carncross ('53) comes news of their work in Alexander City, Ala., where Bill directs the five choirs at 1st Baptist Church, and the Community Male Chorus, while Eunice does honors with the four choirs of First Methodist Church and the Community Women's Chorus.

Carol Smith ('49) Bader and her husband Bob sent a lovely photographic Christmas card; they reside at 142 Broadway, Denver 3, Colo.

The last minute indisposition of Donald Bryant, conductor of the Columbus Boychoir, was nicely filled-in by Paul Ziegler ('57) and Robert Haley ('57) who substituted at the Plainfield, N. J. concert appearance Dec. 17th.

Mr. Bliss Wiant, director of music of the General Board of Education of the Methodist Church of America, spoke at the Thursday, January 9th WCC Chapel service. Returning to Nashville, Tenn. headquarters from a speaking engagement at Boston University, Mr. Wiant represents a denomination vitally concerned with the ministry of music. At one time he was professor of music at Yenching University, Peking, China. Two WCC graduates are council members of the National Fellowship of Methodist Musicians: Cecil Lapo ('41), President, and Richard Alford ('48), West Jurisdictional Chairman.

From James Berry ('49) at First Baptist Church of Austin, Texas, we received a 16 page Christmas Festival brochure, similar in format to Ernie Redell's. First Baptist's prints the hymn texts and anthem texts of the eight services. (It, too, will be gladly lent).

ALUMNI WEEK

If you know, you can plan and work toward Alumni Week – To inform you, this monthly column of news from Westminster College campus will say -------------- history making!

Alumni Office
From the Alumni Office where meetings have been held with Dr. Williamson, Carl Dahlgren, myself and others, and with a call being made to your president, John Milton Kelly, we are announcing partial plans for Alumni week.

Alumni Week – April 21-24
This date was planned especially for you while the college is in session. It will be a brief respite after Easter, and inspiration for the area festivals and the closing of your year's work.

(Continued on Page 6, Col. 3)

INITIAL THRILLS
AND NOSTALGIA

What are you doing to influence that talented, Christian, young musician in your church or community to enroll in the Westminster Choir College?

Many of the students and graduates made their decisions to enter full time Christian work, through the Ministry of Music, because of a visit to the Campus.

EITHER OR BOTH

Influence them to attend the Annual Vocal Camp which will be held early this Summer from June 22nd to July 13th (write the College for information) or bring them with you for Alumni Week, April 21-24.

Can you remember that first experience of singing with the Westminster Choir? A similar experience awaits the youth who attend Alumni Week when they rehearse and sing with the Chapel Choir of 70 freshmen, using the following anthems:

Kyrie Eleison - Milton Dieterich
#1931 Boosey and Hawkes

Prayer - David York
312-40212 Theodore Presser Co.

What Kinder Shoes - Arr, Hall Johnson, CM 6209 Carl Fischer, Inc.
(Please Memorize)

WESTMINSTER GRADUATES

Of course, you will want to sing under the direction of the great maestro during Alumni Week, so refresh your memory or learn the following anthems:

Beautiful Saviour - Christiansen
Augsburg Publishing

Praise to the Lord - Christiansen

The Four Freedoms - York
312-40296 - Theodore Presser Co.
FULL SPEED AHEAD

Track Coach Without Track.

Matthew T. Gels, the amiable dean of Princeton University track and field who spent a quarter-century developing varsity standouts before his retirement in 1956, will return to Westminster Choir College next month to begin his second year as that institution's first and only athletic coach. Curiously, Gels once was a Princeton University coach who spent a limited budget, "but not a completely unnatural one, since I was in charge of a camp for youngsters for a number of years, and also I coached different intramurals at Lawrenceville School. If you like to coach young people and see them develop, then it's not hard to switch at all."

Elaborating a bit, Gels recalled his initial year at Westminster—a performance hailed by college officials—and admitted, "But I really enjoyed myself, in fact, I think my enthusiasm helped the program succeed."

Quite a One-Man Show. Enthusiasm was a prerequisite for the Westminster job, for athletics was a brand-new subject at the school which previously had excelled only through singing and instrument-playing. Gels was put on his own, left alone to run a one-man show. And his subject wasn't afforded much recognition; he was given a deserted, 4-foot-by-8-foot coal bin—sprayed with whitewash, to be sure—as his stockroom and office. "I naturally was asked to operate on a limited budget," the coach-of-all-sports observed, "but that kept it interesting. I marked off my own fields and prepared my own equipment. I even used two old javelins and stuck them in the ground as goalposts. Everything went well, I guess. This year, I've been promoted—out the old coal bin and into a larger room in Westminster's new dormitory."

Gels predicted that girls will predominate his program again this year (the ratio was 46-26 last year) and said he didn't mind because "they're more receptive." Not to mention the obvious reason, "I really got a kick out of the girls' enthusiasm last year," Gels recalled. "One of them, with a rheumatic heart condition, couldn't play games, so she attended each session just to call the roll. Another asked if they could play football, insisting she was well-equipped for that sport. Best of all, none of them seemed to mind the dirt mound in the middle of the soccer field."

Along with the above mentioned regular sports, the Westminster program will continue to include hiking. It will be held on Lake Carnegie in the winter and swimming at Hopewell quarry in the spring. Track, of course, will be omitted ("we haven't got a track"), but baskets will be rigged for basketball shooting and, per usual, some of the most talented distaff athletes will teach ballet swimming to University faculty children every Saturday morning.

Square Dancing "Wonderful." Upperclassmen, "who wish they'd had something like it when they were freshmen," will appear consistently whenever square dancing is scheduled by Gels. "We found square dancing is the answer for us when the weather is bad," he said, "and it's really wonderful exercise. For some of the students, it's their first experience with square dancing. Once they get rolling, they love it."

Gels is delighted his endeavors have met with such favorable reactions at Westminster. The devotion of his charges to the program has been all-important. But also convincing, as far as the college's officials are concerned, is the fact that, by the time health records were compiled last spring, the freshman class ranked ahead of the other three.

Summing up, the "track coach without a track" confessed that he likes his present position "because there's just enough to it to keep it interesting, with none of the pressures of head coaching at a big college." He doubted if Westminster will attempt intercollegiate athletics in the near future, though the intramural program may expand in the next few years.

When eager young students urge Gels to seek intercollegiate competition, he has this advice for them: "Remember what you're here for."

WASHINGTON CONCERTS

On January 16, 1958, the Westminster Choir gave a concert for the Cabinet and later sang at the White House for the President and Mrs. Eisenhower.

ALUMNI BALLOTS

Last November, one thousand ballots were mailed out with the Newsletter to graduates of Westminster Choir College. The one hundred twenty ballots that were returned were counted in the Alumni office and the results are as follows:

The three elected officers are: Grier Davis, BM '48, MM '51; Cecil E. Lapo, BM '41; Marvin Reecoher, BM '38

The one elected Graduate Trustee is: Adele Addison, BM '46

The President (for second term was elected unanimously) John Milton Kelley, BM '30

The balloting was extremely close!

THE AREA FESTIVALS

Interest in the Area Festivals is mounting and Whit Hall, Chairman, hopes to have a full report of progress in next month's "Newsletter". How about that Festival in your area, have you listed it with Chairman Hall? If not, then why don't you take the lead in getting that Festival organized? Remember, things happen where there is enthusiasm.

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QUESTIONNAIRES

Those five page questionnaires are vitally important as a permanent part of your Alumni File, but are of no value until they are filled out and returned to the Alumni Office. Do it today!
WESTMINSTER CHOIR TOUR 1958

Fri. Eve. Feb. 21 Plainview, Texas
(Wayland Baptist College)
Sat. Feb. 22 Waco, Texas
(Baylor University)
Sun. Feb. 23 Rest
Mon. Feb. 24 Rest
Tue. Feb. 25 Shreveport, La.
(1st Baptist Church)
Wed. Eve. Feb. 26 Jackson, Miss. (Dansby Hall)
(Jackson College)
(Dauphin Way Methodist Church)
Fri. Feb. 28 To be filled
Sat. Eve. Mar. 1 Tuskegee Institute, Ala. (Logan Hall)
(Tuskegee Institute)
Sun. Mar. 2 Travel
Mon. Eve. Mar. 3 Raleigh, N. C. (Memorial Auditorium)
(N. C. State College Union)
Tue. Eve. Mar. 4 Asheville, N. C. (City Auditorium)
(Civic Concert)
Wed. Mar. 5 Rest
Thurs. Mar. 6 Morristown, Tenn. (High School Auditorium)
Fri. Mar. 7 Bristol, Va.
Sat. Mar. 8 Montgomery, West Va. (High School Auditorium)
(Upper Kanawha Valley Con. Assn.)
(West Virginia State College)
Mon. Mar. 10 Travel
Tue. Morn. Mar. 11 Shepherdsville, Md.
Tue. Eve. Mar. 11 Wilmington, Del.
Wed. Mar. 12 Princeton
Sat. Mar. 15 Oyster Bay, N. Y. (High School)
(Anthracite Concert Assn.)
(Inter-Community Music Assn.)
Fri. Eve. Apr. 11 Ridgewood, N. J. (Junior High School)
(Ridgewood College Club)
Mon. Eve. Apr. 14 Watertown, Conn. (Bingham Auditorium, Taft School)
(Taft School Watertown Concert Association)

ALUMNI WEEK
(Continued from Page 4)

Inspiration!
Every Alumnus asks for the inspiration of singing under Dr. Williamson's direction. The anthems to be used are appearing in another article of this edition —

History Making!
Dr. Williamson said recently, "I hope to be able to present the new President and Dean during Alumni week" —

Meetings
There is to be a very important Alumni Association meeting, and an Alumni Fund meeting which will be of vital interest to everyone who is concerned about the future —

Class reunions - 1938-1948
Class reunions are always looked forward to as a time to catch up, so to speak, with the news of former classmates — Further plans will be forthcoming either through the Newsletter or by letter —

Climax
The Westminster Symphonic Choir will be singing with the New York Philharmonic in Carnegie Hall - (See February issue of the Newsletter for detailed plans)

John T. Clough
Director of Public Relations
and Alumni Affairs

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER
Box 264
Princeton, New Jersey

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at the Post Office, Princeton, N. J.