NEW PRESIDENT OF WESTMINSTER CHOIR COLLEGE

Dr. William F. MacCalmont, Pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church of Akron, Ohio since July, 1945, made public to the Session and congregation of Westminster Church on Sunday, February 16, 1958 his acceptance of the invitation of the Board of Trustees of the Westminster Choir College in Princeton, New Jersey to become the second President of the Westminster Choir College.

Westminster Choir College is one of the nation's unique co-educational institutions and awards both Bachelors of Music and Masters of Music degrees. It offers a well-rounded academic, religious and music curriculum. Its purpose is to train young people for leadership in the church, as Ministers of Music, and also for service in Christian education. Its students come from many foreign countries, as well as from all sections of the U.S.A. Its graduates hold influential positions in schools, colleges and churches.

The College originated in Dayton, Ohio and was relocated in Princeton in 1933. Dr. and Mrs. John Finley Williamson, co-founders, President and Dean of the College, are retiring as of June 15, 1958 after a lifetime of devoted and inspired leadership that has built the College into a compelling force for the betterment of Protestant Church music. Dr. and Mrs. Williamson will devote their time and energy to the cause of church music in a world wide mission through travel and through work shops and clinics in this country and abroad.

The Westminster Choir, composed of a group of students selected annually from the College, has been touring on an international basis for thirty-six consecutive seasons. Their reputation as a choral group of excellence is world wide.

For the past twenty years the Westminster College Choir has given close to one hundred fifty performances of major works, with nine symphony orchestras such as the New York Philharmonic, under twenty outstanding orchestral leaders.

Dr. MacCalmont has been chosen as President of the Choir College because of his recognized leadership in the areas of administration, worship and Christian education. He is a graduate of Maryville College and Princeton Theological Seminary and received a degree of Doctor of Divinity from Wooster College.

He is serving presently as chairman of the Synod Committee of Christian Education of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.; and is immediate past president of the Princeton Theological Seminary Alumni Association. He was twice moderator of the Presbytery of Cleveland. In addition, Dr. MacCalmont has been active in serving on numerous community wide committees and projects.

Mrs. MacCalmont has been active in the College Club of Akron, Y.W.C.A., The Council of Church Women and is serving as Christian Education Secretary of the Cleveland Presbytery.

Dr. and Mrs. MacCalmont have two daughters, Louise and Carol. Dr. MacCalmont will assume his duties at the College as of June 15, 1958.
Editor's Column

Two items come to mind as I seek to comment upon and perhaps inform you of recent occurrences.

The fact that our Director of Placements and Alumni Affairs attended a national meeting of such professional men from 150 institutions of higher learning is very encouraging. WCC will now be known in a business sense to many of our sister institutions. Thanks to our own alumni, we are now represented, and with your continued support will not be taken from the roll.

The White House concert was to my mind one of the choir’s most significant. Here was a captive audience of dignitaries each of whom could use his influence as a power of good for the Choir College. We hope the concert went well. The effects might not be known for years, but at least seed has again been sown where there is soil.

1958-59 Enrollment

Many of the students are enrolled in Westminster Choir College because of the direct or indirect influence of the graduates in the field. Have you really made an effort to interest that talented, Christian, young musician in your church or community to come to Westminster in September? You know the qualities that make for a good Westminster student. This is most important and should demand the attention of every graduate.

Mr. John T. Clough

Columbus Boychoir Tour Schedule

April 8 - Durham, N. C.
10 - Sebring, Fla.
11 - Winter Haven, Fla.
12 - Naples, Fla.
14 - Apopka, Fla.
17 - Georgetown, Ky.
18 - Morehead, Ky.
20 - Clarksville, Tenn.

Recent Princeton & WCC News

First Presbyterian Church is negotiating for the purchase of a new Holtkamp organ.

Mattawilda Dobbs gave a splendid recital at McCarter Theatre in January. Citizens of the town, and students in residence, were taken to task by local music critic, Nathaniel Burt, for the poor attendance at the McCarter Theatre Concerts of the Juilliard Quartet.

The Cleveland Orchestra made its debut on one of the country’s top 4 when it played locally Feb. 10th.


The newly completed Temple in Princeton, dedicated Jan. 31st, welcomed the public to a meeting addressed by M. Harry Golden, erudite publisher and editor of the Charlotte, N. C. “Carolina Israelite”.

Welcomed back to campus were Alumni: Ted Huang ('49), Michael Toole ('51), Carl Stough ('49), Norman Clayton ('52), Virginia Hegemony Cooke ('41), and Hal Furr ('55).

The American National Chorus, directed by Hugh Ross, was heard by many Princetonians (but only 2 WCC people) who journeyed to Rutgers on an icy evening. This is the singing group of 55 paid performers touring the southeastern U.S. Each number was "staged"; the group travels with its own light panel; effective costumes, and a few props made the visual impression pleasant. 2 chorus members introduced each composition. TTBB numbers were the best received; in the SATB some solo voices were pushed beyond musical borders. If present plans materialize this will be a Community Concert attraction next year, promising to sing a completely different program each time it appears in a given local. (Ed’s note: This is professional competition; we left impressed but not thrilled.)

Contributions to the Alumni Fund for this year now total $1,042 from 75 persons. (Ed’s note: This is a marvelous beginning; the current campaign began Jan. 15th.)

The John T. Cloughs and son, Jack, are feeling completely at home on the corner of Hamilton Ave. and Horner Lane, 2 blocks from WCC. Climaxing special functions in their honor by Dr. and Mrs. Williamson, the Harold Hedgpeths, the Jim Richmonds, Mrs. LoRean Hodapp and Mrs. Ruth Baumberg was the reception given for them by Dr. and Mrs. Erdman on January 31st. Many of the Faculty and Trustees were in attendance.

Festival News from the Nation’s Capitol

All of our graduates will be happy to know that progress is being made in regard to our 1958 Alumni Festivals. At this writing there are 14 areas that are definitely planning to have a festival this year. Most of these are areas which have had festivals in the past but in some instances there are new areas. The areas which are definitely committed to the 1958 Festival are as follows, together with the coordinators:

Western Pennsylvania, Harold Reichard; New England Area, William R. Gable; Tennessee (Southern Appalachian) Chester Cable; Washington, D. C., William Wood; N. E. Ohio Area, Robert Morrison; Michigan - N. W. Ohio, Ben Lehn; Kansas City, Missouri, Robert Morrison; Michigan - N. W. Ohio, Ben Lehn; Kansas City, Missouri, William Guthrie; N. California, Wilbur Russell and Dr. John Kelly; Western and Central N. Y., Dr. David Fetler; Chicago, Robert W. Frazier; North Texas - Dallas - Fort Worth, Elza Cook; Oklahoma Area, John S. C. Kemp; Arizona Area, Richard D. Lupo; New Jersey (Princeton), John Clough.

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ALUMNI WEEK
APRIL 21st - 24th

Monday, April 21st
10:00 A.M. Executive Committee Meetings, Alumni Association and Alumni Fund
3:00 P.M. Joint Meeting of above groups
Registration of Alumni in Ad. Bldg. Lobby (no registration fee)
7:30 P.M. Social sponsored by Local Alumni - in new Men’s Dorm. Lounge;
Dormitory Open House

Tuesday, April 22nd
8:00 A.M. The College in session. (Mimeographed schedule copies available at registration desk)
9:00 A.M. Registration in Lobby
10:00 A.M. Chapel Service
10:30 A.M. Rehearsals: Symphonic and Westminster Choirs under direction of Warren Martin for New York performance of "Joan of Arc"
Chapel Choir under direction of Harold Hedgpeth. (The visiting youth will join the Chapel Choir. See Jan. NEWSLETTER for list of anthems.)
12:45-1:30 P.M. Princeton High School choir rehearsal under direction of Thomas Hilbish (M.M. '48)

Afternoon: The College in session
2:00 P.M. Business Meeting of Alumni Association and Alumni Fund
4:00 P.M. Forum (to be announced)
8:00 P.M. Graduate Class Concert
9:30 P.M. Informal Tea with the Williamsons and Faculty - Ad. Bldg. Lobby

Wednesday, April 23rd
8:00 A.M. The College in session
9:00 A.M. Registration in Lobby
10:00 A.M. Chapel Service with Dr. Charles R. Erdman and Graduate Choir
11:00 A.M. Concert by Chapel Choir under direction of Harold Hedgpeth - in Playhouse.
LUNCHEON - class reunions
4:00 P.M. Business meeting of Alumni Association and Alumni Fund
Color slides of Westminster Choir world tour.
7:00 P.M. Banquet honoring Dr. John Finley Williamson and Dr. Rhea Williamson. Song fest with Dr. Williamson (see Jan. NEWSLETTER for anthems)

Presentation of Westminster Choir

Thursday, April 24th
8:00 A.M. Class Breakfasts
College in session
(Possible dress-rehearsal attendance in NYC with Leonard Bernstein conducting orchestra and choir in "Joan of Arc" by Honegger.)
11:00 A.M. Columbus Boy Choir rehearsal - on their campus
8:00 P.M. N.Y. Philharmonic Orchestra and Westminster Symphonic Choir - N. Y. C., Carnegie Hall.
(see insert in regard to registration and tickets)

WESTMINSTER - AN INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE

Many students of foreign countries have entered the portals of the College, and have graduated during the brief span of this Institution's existence. This photo shows four of our Oriental students assembled in the lobby of the Administration building with the girls wearing the gowns of their native country.

Seated left to right:
EUGENIA KIM, Seoul, Korea. Eugenia has been in the U.S. for five years, came to Westminster Choir College from Whitworth College-Spokane.
ROBERTA HO, Malaya. Roberta was born in China. She has been in the U.S. for six years, and came to Westminster Choir College from Pomona College, California.

Standing left to right:
SAY-MENG GOH, Singapore. Born in China, Heard the Westminster Choir Concert in Singapore and became interested in coming to Princeton for study.
SUE LIU, Taiwan (Formosa). Came to Westminster Choir College from Alabama after three years in the U.S.
SUSAN KO, (absent from picture) Formosa. Formerly of Teachers University, Formosa.
THE ECUMENICAL HYMN
Arnold Leverenz ('47)

The language of the heart is by nature ecumenical. Music is the language of the heart. Let us use it in our worship services to lead human souls to the highest act of adoration as well as to create a fellowship of Christian love and oneness.

Since hymns are the most effective medium for the people's participation in worship, let us consider them as a part of the liturgy, as a means of expression and a means of fellowship. We all know that hymns are a medium of Christian doctrine. "It is more important to remember that in the mind of the plain everyday Christian, where feeling conditions reflection so strongly, the hymns he uses devotionally, and especially those he loves, do more to form his religious thinking than anything except the Bible." (L. F. Benson, The Hymnody of the Christian Church)

The word "liturgy" may bother some people. It ought not to do so. Liturgics is simply the study of the philosophy, history and administration of the public worship. "Theology deals with the knowledge of God: Liturgics is the application of that knowledge to his worship. 'God is a Spirit' is theology, 'They that worship in spirit and in truth' is liturgics - the heart of it." (Benson, p. 20). There is no such thing as a non-liturgical church.

Zwingli, in my opinion, was wrong in insisting that preaching and hearing sermons was the only worship. Even the Puritans realized the higher importance of prayer and praise.

I believe that if Calvin were alive today he would not hesitate to use good modern hymns, nor would he ignore our heritage which includes plain chant. He would see the stupidity of continuing to react against the use of the plain chant just because the Roman church is associated with this type of song. It is part of our heritage too. Calvin was banished from Geneva partly because of his insistence upon Psalm singing and would not return until singing was allowed. He was disgusted by Latin hymns only because they were not in the language of the people. He was equally disgusted by the amorous love songs which have no place in the worship service. I am confident that he would have modified his standard that dictated that all material for hymns must come from the Psalms if he could have seen a modern hymnbook with its hymns drawn from all nations, ages and denominations.

Without going back to the Old Testament we can mention several historical people and occasions in connection with hymning as a response (Continued on Page 6)
NEWS FROM EVERYWHERE

Brantley Greeseon ('52) is now teaching at St. Mary's College, St. Mary's, Md.

From Harriet and Bill Guthrie ('52) came a nice letter telling of his work at Texas Southern, in Houston, and hers at 2nd Presbyterian Church, where Bill also directs the adult choir. Spurgeon (5 yrs.) and Mark (1 yr.) complete the family circle.

440-A (Ed.'s note: ! ! !) Tranquerah Road, Malacca, Malaya, is the address of Ruth Anne and Bill Zimmerman ('52) who sent a heartwarming Christmas greeting letter. Bill is now a faculty member of Trinity College, teaching in Malacca, Kuala Lumpur, and Singapore. Karen Louise was born on June 1st. They will be back in the States for a furlough beginning Sept. of this year.

Sterling Granger ('52), working as a civilian for U.S. Naval Air Station in Memphis, Tenn., writes of the 6 choirs for which Jane ('52) is organist. The production of Stainer's "The Crucifixion" was recorded on TV film-tape last Easter.

Nena Williams' ('44) husband, Bill, has been promoted to position of Chief Design Engineer for Walworth Valve Manufacturing Co., which necessitates their moving from Sewickley (Ed.'s note: Pa., my hometown) to Boston, Mass.

Eastman School of Music, Rochester, N. Y., announces the first tour (N.Y., Pa., Md., and Washington, D.C.) of the "Eastman Singers" directed by Dr. David Felter ('50).

Dick & Eva Raub ('55), now at 1st Presbyterian, San Angelo, Texas, write of the wonderful Alumni meeting of the Southwest Chapter in Dallas, where John Hawkins ('39) was host. Next meeting is planned for Wichita Falls after Easter.

From the Hanford, Cal. "Sentinel" came clippings of the splendid performances of the "Messiah" led by John C. S. Kim, ('53) who led the Community Chorus. Rev. Kim is the minister of Harlow Memorial Presbyterian Church. The performance one day later, in the church, featured the church's own choir and soloists. (Ed.'s note: Hurray! Both performances included both choruses: "And He shall purify" and "His Yoke is Easy" . . . it can be done . . . we have proof of two doing it.) The Hanford Community Group has also done the "Creation" by Haydn, both in the hometown and in Corcoran, Cal.

Cleveland Institute of Music featured a Faculty Recital, by George Vassos ('52), who gave the premier performance of "The Hollow Men" by fellow faculty-member Donald Erb to a text by T.S. Eliot. George also sang a group of French songs, contemporary English songs, and a group of Hugo Wolf songs. The program was repeated at Ashland College.

A most attractive Christmas-cantata-type program arrived from the Jim Mellors ('51) and Walt Michels ('54) of El Dorado, Ark. who jointly were responsible for the production of the 2nd annual "Amahl and the Night Visitors" (Ed.'s note: Jim is immensely involved in civic progress, serving on numerous boards and committees. WCC with pride learns of her alumni efforts in successfully assisting a community to raise itself by its own bootstraps.)

The WCC concert at Kent State U. on Feb. 4th was described as "magnificent" by George Arkwell of 1st Methodist Church, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio. 42 of the church choir personnel accompanied the Arkwells. Also seen at the performance were Nelson Larabee ('50), Robert H. Foulkes ('42), Elwin Haskins ('40), and Robert Gottwald ('50). (Ed.'s note: George is the first full-time Minister of Music, that Westminster Choir - not yet a college - sent out. Teaching for 11 years at the School of Methods at Ocean Park, Maine, a Baptist School, he now heads the music ministry at Cuyahoga Falls' 1st Methodist, with 8 choirs of 576 total membership singing under his direction.

Meeting at this church will be the Northern Ohio Alumni Chapter on Feb. 22nd . . . a group particularly active with festivals each year covering Jr., High School and Adult Choir age groups. The Westminster spirit and tradition are particularly well exemplified in their first product.)

The 21st annual tour of the San Francisco Theological Seminary A Cappella Choir, will take it into 20 West-Coast communities. With its motto: "Music from the Heart of the Church", the choir is directed by Dr. John Milton Kelly ('30), who also directs the MarinChorale, which in past years has done the "Messiah" and "Creation", "3 Minor Mass", "Elijah" and is currently preparing the "German Requiem". Wilber Russell ('51) assists.

The family of James Camp ('51) will be moving from Oklahoma City to: Canadian Academy, Nada-Ku, Kobe, Japan! Jim and Lib have been accepted by the Board of Missions of the Methodist Church for work in this elementary and secondary school. Jim will be their first music-director and instructor and Lib will be their first dietitian. 20 nationalities make up the student body. (Ed.'s note: we solicit your prayers, that they may help to further the kingdom of God upon Earth.)

FESTIVAL NEWS

(Continued from Page 2)

WHAT ARE YOU doing to help this project become truly inspired? If there is not a festival in your area you are missing a splendid opportunity to provide an added incentive for your choir at a time of the year when interest is beginning to drag. We speak from experience for many have indicated that the Alumni Festival does that very thing. Register now!

Whitford Hall, Chairman
First Congregational Church
10th and G Street, N.W.
Washington 1, D. C.
RECOMMENDED MUSIC

The City Glorious - W. Lawrence Curry, H. W. Gray, No. 1109, $0.20. (Welsh tune Ton-y-boteI) Do you want something startling enough to wake up that congregation? Then try this anthem with a speech choir. We do our own editing (confidentially) and water-down a few spots that might seem a little too wild for such a conservative congregation as ours. However, if yours isn’t, and you can go all-out, I promise that this will prove a real change from the routine anthem.

To Zion Jesus Came - David H. William, H. W. Gray, No. 2330, $.18. (Ed’s note: extra information left out of last month’s review) This anthem combines familiar words with a new lilting melody quite easy enough for a Jr. Choir to enjoy singing. Inserted between the first and second verses of the hymn, “When, His Salvation Bringing”, we find the first verse of “All Glory, Laud and Honor”, thus giving the children a chance to learn both new and traditional hymn tunes. Dramatic, but easy singing.

The Sun Shall No More Go Down - Richard T. Gore, J. Fischer, No. 8782, $.25. Want something unusual for Easter this year? Here it is! Contemporary anthem of medium difficulty. Both text and music have a real message.

Father Most Holy - S. Drummond Wolff, Concordia HA2020, $.20. SATB, Trinity or General use. Rouen church melody. Another of those excellent, easy, melodious, effective anthems for High School as well as Adult Choirs. For special interest let entire choir or sections of choir take solo part. Can be arranged for SAAB if necessary.

O Mighty Lord, Our God - Heinrich Schutz, Mercury Music Cor. No. 18, $.20. For two medium voices and continuo; difficult but delightful. Suitable for High School girls’ ensemble or women’s chorus.

Hosanna - Gregor, arr. by Bitgood, H. W. Gray, No. 1345. Youth choirs enjoy this especially. Equally effective with junior choir in two parts, or two choirs from different locations in the church, or Adult and Jr. choirs combined.

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

THE ECUMENICAL HYMN

(Continued from Page 4)

to the hearing of God’s Word and uniting together in worship of Him. Christ associated the hymn with the Holy Communion, which is the most characteristic feature of Christian worship. The hymn He used was probably a well-known friendly song of brotherhood. We have Luke’s beautiful songs which we ignore too much in our so-called “non-liturgical churches”, namely: the Magnificat, Benedictus and Nunc Dimittis.

The early church was free and creative, and their Odes were joyful and never failed to include the word, “Hallelujah”. Their songs also contained a detached and mystical quality. Paul himself was a natural hymn writer. His ascriptions and doxologies are both liturgical and spontaneous.

Let us not forget that the spread of Christianity was the spread of a devotional conception of the private life. The essential thing was the spirit and the individual and family worship with public worship as an extension of these private devotions. We realize that this is something we must re-learn in this modern age.

There is another little thing, too, about which I have been questioned a good deal. Why aren’t more hymns being written today that speak to this particular time and situation? Are you writing hymns? Are you interested in having them studied and possibly having them included in a future hymnbook?