NEWLY SELECTED CONDUCTOR OF WESTMINSTER CHOIR

Mr. Harold Hedgpeth

Rarely, if ever, has a young man been so unconscious-ly, but so surely prepared for an appointment as has Mr. Harold Hedgpeth, the newly selected Conductor of Westminster Choir and the successor of Dr. John Finley Williamson, founder of the Choir. Dr. Williamson has been the one Conductor of the choir since its inception in 1921 and has toured in all parts of the United States, Canada, Europe and in 1957 completed a tour around the world in cooperation with the American National Theatre and Aca-demy, an agency of the State Department.

This year upon his retirement as President of Westminster Choir College and as Conductor of Westminster Choir, it was no surprise to those close to the situation that Dr. Williamson unhesitatingly appointed Mr. Hedgpeth who, it seemed, began his preparation for this very post some thirty years ago. For as a young man he entered Westminster Choir College as a student and for four years he was a member of the Choir, touring Europe with it in 1929. Since 1934, he has been a member of the faculty of Westminster Choir College teaching voice and conduct-ing, and in 1950 he was appointed Conductor of the Chapel Choir of the College - a choir composed of freshmen. In spite of the fact that this choir is made up of new stu-dents just out of high school, Mr. Hedgpeth each year molds it into a choir so much in demand that it gives nu-merous concerts each season within commuting distance of Princeton.

Since 1935, Dr. Williamson has appointed Mr. Hedg-peth Musical Director of the Westminster summer Vocal Camp held each year on the campus and enrolling some 250 high school young people from all parts of the coun-try.

Mr. Hedgpeth is an excellent singer although he pre-fers to make others sing. During the last several years he has sung many major choral works with the Westmin-ster Symphonic Choir with the New York Philharmonic and Philadelphia Orchestras. He, for five times, was soloist, taking the part of the Evangelist in Bach's St. Matthew Passion with the Philadelphia Orchestra under the direction of Leopold Stokowski.

ALUMNI FUND ANNOUNCEMENT

In order that the report to be made April 21st by the Alumni Fund be as complete as possible, we are solicit-ing your contribution for this fiscal Alumni year for the last time. Books will be closed as of April 15th, but checks or other money forms postmarked on that date will be included in this past year's receipts. As of March 14th, a total of $3,035 has been received from a total of 308 contributors.
**RECOMMENDED MUSIC**

*The Lord is King! Lift Up Thy Voice* - S. Drummond Wolff Concordia HA2018
For Eastertide or other festivals. Accompanied - ideal for High School Choir or for an easy adult anthem. Tune: *O filii et filiae* 15th cent: French melody.


*Oh Hold Thou Me Up* - Benedetto Marcello. Concordia Ch 1046. S.H. or T.B. Junior or Junior High.

*Jesus Priceless Treasure* - Bach. Three movements from the Cantata "Jesu Meine Freude". Oliver Ditson Co. No. 14424. Translated by Catherine Winkworth. These can be used separately or together to make an especially interesting anthem.

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

**COLLEGE TO BUILD PRESIDENT’S HOUSE ON CAMPUS**

On February 21st, the Trustees of the College voted to build a President’s residence on the campus. The house is to be a simplified Georgian Colonial design and will be placed in the southeast corner of the campus, facing the front gate. The preliminary sketches call for a large entrance hall, living room and dining room arranged for easy handling of large groups; a study, kitchen and toilet room, all on the first floor. Second floor will have four bedrooms, three baths and ample closet space. Plus the usual utility rooms, the basement will have a large recreation area with toilet facilities. A two car garage will be attached to the house.

Financed from a grant given to the College a year ago for the start of the Life Science Program, the house will cost an estimated $75,000. The donor has given permission for a portion of these funds to be used for a President’s House and in so doing, the College wishes to make clear, that in no way is the Life Science program being impaired, and it is expected that further funds will be forthcoming for the Science program.

It is the regret of many of the trustees and alumni, that such a house could not have been built for the Drs. Williamson long ago. Needless to say however, they were instrumental in bringing this action to a conclusion and rejoice with us that we will be able to have our President housed on campus, and in a manner of which we can be proud.

The house will be ready for occupancy by early September.

The Finance Committee of the Board of Trustees have presented Dr. and Mrs. Williamson with a retirement compensation plan amounting to 60% of their regular combined salaries. A survey of such plans indicated 50% to be the normal figure. In deference to the many years of leadership and devotion, the Committee recommended the additional amount.

It was also announced by the Board that the Westminster Choir College facilities would continue to be made available to Dr. Williamson for the Professional Summer School and the Youth Clinic.
NEWSLETTER

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 Adm. 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)
8:30 A.M. Registration in Lobby
9:00 A.M. Conducting Techniques & Vocal Methods - Dr. Williamson
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"
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 - Richard Alford & Cecil Lapo lead discussion on the National Federation of Methodist Musicians
8:00 P.M. Graduate Class Concert
9:30 P.M. Informal Tea with the Williamsons and Faculty - Adm. Bldg. Lobby

Wednesday, April 23rd
8:00 A.M. The College in session
8:30 A.M. Registration in Lobby
9:00 A.M. Conducting Techniques & Vocal Methods - Dr. Williamson
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
3:00 P.M. Lecture: "Life Science at WCC" - Dr. Edward L. Bortz
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. Beautiful Saviour - Christiansen. Praise to the Lord - Christiansen - Augsburg Publishing. The Four Freedoms - York, 312-40296 - Theodore Presser Co.
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.
The First Presbyterian Church Choirs of Middletown, Ohio

- William B. Giles ('49) Director.

The group above is the Senior High and that below is a group of 4th-5th-6th grade girls, known as the Melody Choir. In addition, there are Primary School Choirs (75 children), Crusaders Choir (4th-5th-6th grade boys), Carillon Choir (30 7th-8th-9th grade girls) and two adult choirs, numbering 24 and 28 respectively.

RECENT ARRIVALS’ DEPARTMENT

Karen Elise, born to Jane & Sterling Granger ('52), Oct. 21st; 4025 Steele Rd., Memphis 7, Tenn.

Laurie Lou, born to Mrs. Luther (Jean B.) Turner ('49), April 24, 1957.

David Lou, born to Mrs. Luther (Jean B.) Turner ('49), April 24, 1957.

Trey Anne, born to Lorena & Ike Linhares ('52), Dec. 12th; 362 Mt. Prospect Ave., Newark 4, N. J.

Dorothy Margaret, born to the Paul Halsteads ('43), 103 Ave. B., Latrobe, Pa.

Ann Rhoades, born to the Foster Hotchkiss ('52), Jan. 6th; Milledgeville, Ga.

Pamela Kay, born to Barbara Bair ('51) Hodges, December 7th; 619½ W. Central Ave., La Habra, Calif.


NATIONAL FESTIVAL NEWS
FROM THE NATION’S CAPITAL

As many of you know, the writer accepted the job of National Coordinator for the Affiliated Westminster Choirs’ 1958 Festival with much trepidation and no little concern as to his own ability to “do the job”. There were many obstacles to overcome, not the least of which was the fact that the job wasn’t started until the Fall Season was well under way. However, as it has turned out, most of the misgivings were ill-founded, and though it is true that activities were started at a very late date, the results are proving most gratifying. In looking back over the past few months, one must come to the conclusion that our Westminster grads are really “on their toes” and that when they set their minds to a task, they usually come up with the results. Actually, the job of National Coordinator has proven to have so many rewarding features, in the way of getting acquainted in so many sections of our land and hearing from our grads as they send in copies of programs and special services, that this writer feels most fortunate to have had the opportunity to enter into this wider service.

The brightest spot in our 1958 Festival picture is the fact that at "home" in Princeton, a wonderful example is being set for all of us over the country where not one, but two festivals are to be held. The first one, on April 20th, is to be a Children's Choir Festival to be held in the Princeton High School Auditorium with Miss Virginia Cheesman as guest conductor. The second one will be held on May 4th, again in the High School Auditorium, and is to be divided into two sections, a Hymn Festival and an anthem Festival. There are to be two guest conductors for this event, Dr. Williamson will conduct the first part and Elaine Isaacson Brown will conduct the anthems. All of us over the entire length and breadth of our great land will be eagerly awaiting the success of these two fine Festivals, and no doubt, some will want to follow suit another year in the matter of the Children's Festival.

A complete report of the 1958 Alumni Festivals will be prepared for presentation at the Alumni meeting in Princeton during the week of April 21st. Suffice it to say at this point that there are 16 Area Festivals definitely scheduled (three in the great state of Texas).

Congratulations to all of you wonderful grads who are doing such a splendid job in your chosen field. We know how hard it can be at times, and how discouraging, but bear in mind that there never was a beautiful sunset without clouds.

Whit Hall ’33
Nat’l Coordinator
Westminster Festivals

Thomas John, born to Clarentine Smith ('54) Buz- zard, Feb. 17th; 1229 High St., Lancaster, Pa.

Robert John, born to Mr. & Mrs. Robert Wilde ('51), February 15th.
NEWS FROM EVERYWHERE

May 4th, in Princeton High School Auditorium, Dr. Williamson and Elaine Brown ('34) will guest conduct the Adult Choir Festival of alumni-directed church choirs.

Ruth Ingle - a member of the first Dayton Westminster Choir, and a member of the first faculty of the Choir College is now holding an important position in the Dayton School System as a Latin teacher. It hardly seems possible

Recent visitors to WCC campus included: Harold Oyan ('49), Anthony Falatric ('57), Donald Mathis ('56) and John Davis ('47).

This Summer's production of Paul Green's symphonic-drama "Lost Colony", at Manteo, N. C., will be musically-directed by Gilbert Piravano ('52). Albert Zempke ('56) guest-conducted the Montreal Symphony Orchestra last month.

We receive regularly the bulletins of La Iglesia Presbiteriana en Arecibo, Puerto Rico. The pastor, Luis Angel Toro, D.D., sang in the first performance of WC with the N.Y. Philharmonic. His son, Luis Jr., ('57) sang in the 100th concert.

From the Fountain Street Baptist Church, Grand Rapids, Mich. bulletin of Feb. 23rd we quote: "... Members of the Fountain Street Choir had an extra treat last night. They gave a reception at the church for the Westminster Choir following the concert. About 200 people attended, including WCC alumni from Grand Rapids, Flint, Lansing, and Detroit. After refreshments they adjourned to the Sanctuary where Dr. Williamson cast his magic spell with words and music. The Fountain Street Choir sang. At the close, all alumni and the choir members formed a large choir of about one hundred and sang Christiansen's "Beautiful Saviour," and the Lutkin "Benediction." The participants left the church with a glow that lasted for days and with the memory of having shared the beautiful experience."

Carol French ('57) is now assistant supervisor of Public School Music in Holden, Mass., and studies voice with Roland Hayes in Boston. Her sister, Virginia ('52) has been organist at Grace Episcopal Church in Cincinnati, Ohio for the past 4 years.

John Mizell ('51) in addition to his work with the choirs at Travis Park Methodist Church in San Antonio, Texas, sang the tenor role in Berlioz' "Roméo and Juliet", Bach's "Magnificat", and "Amahl and the Night Visitors", all with the San Antonio Symphony, at home and in Austin and San Angelo.

Leonard B. Martin ('32) Associate Professor of Music at Whitworth College, Spokane, Wash., will head the College "European Music and Humanities Tour" this Summer.

Beverly Mercer ('53) having saved and planned while teaching at Wayland Baptist College, Plainview, Texas, is going on a music study tour of nine European countries this Summer.

1st Presbyterian Church, Uniontown, Pa., where John Gabbett ('50) is minister of music, will present Dr. and Mrs. Alexander McCurdy on Tuesday, April 15th at 8:15 P.M.

James Litton ('56) presented a recital featuring chorales #1, 2 and 3 of Cesar Franck in WCC chapel on Feb. 11th.

Har Sinai Temple in Trenton presented "The Bible in Song" - an evening of sacred music, Feb. 25th. On this occasion the choirs of St. Paul Methodist Church, Shiloh Baptist Church, Prospect St. Presbyterian, and Grace Baptist Church joined the Temple choir in celebration of the Temple Centennial, and appreciation of the Bible.

Cynthia G. Day ('57) became Mrs. William L. May ('57) Feb. 8th, in Princeton.
SYMPHONIC CHOIR

The singing schedule of the Symphonic Choir varies from year to year, depending on the requests which come in to the college from outstanding orchestral conductors when they are planning concerts which feature works for chorus and orchestra. This year's schedule is in some ways an unusually interesting one, since it includes performances of two modern works which have aroused increasing interest in musical circles in recent years.

On March 19th, the Symphonic Choir sang the "Carmina Burana" of Carl Orff with the Baltimore Symphony, Maestro Freccia conducting. Carmina Burana is a series of colorful settings of secular texts which have come down to us from the 12th to 14th centuries. The words are in Latin, old German and old French; the choral parts are alternately highly rhythmical or very grandiose or catchily tuneful in a sort of folk-song or dance-song manner; the orchestration is exceedingly brilliant.

On April 24th, 25th, and 27th, the Symphonic Choir joins the N. Y. Philharmonic (with Leonard Bernstein conducting) in performances of "Joan of Arc at the Stake" by the last Swiss composer Honegger - who is perhaps best known for his oratorio "King David". Joan of Arc is based on words by the French poet, Claudel. It uses soloists and narrators - along with the chorus and orchestra - to give a vivid and dramatic rendering of the story of the great French patriot and martyr, Joan of Arc.

While this is not primarily a choral work - the interest centering mainly on the spoken words of Joan herself and on the heavenly voices which are a part of her ecstatic visions - the choral parts are important, almost continuous, and full of contrast. The choir becomes by turns a host of Christian believers, a fanatic rabble, a crowd of fun-making peasants, atmospheric background, and so on. (As this is written, we are not yet informed as to the soloists and narrators which will be used since Mr. Bernstein has recently decided to perform the music in English rather than in the original French. If the same soloists are retained, we will have the pleasure of hearing Adele Addison, Leontyne Price and Martial Singher, among others.)

These performances of large choral works with major symphonies furnish the upperclassmen of Westminster with the opportunity to become acquainted with the personalities and methods of some of the world's most important orchestral conductors, and to gain a valuable insight into the workings of a large symphony orchestra - and also, of course, into the meaning and beauty of the music being performed.

Warren Martin ('36)
Graduate Department
Chairman

EDITOR'S COLUMN

My personal request to the Alumni is that each of you consider yourself responsible in this respect for the future of our college: if YOU send one student to Westminster, and if YOU urge others to do likewise, we will secure by September the Freshman complement we need.

As of February 16th, the college stands at a crossroads - the junction of past & future - a meeting place to which we have been brought, but from which we must go on alone.

The leadership of Dr. John Finley Williamson was strong - to the point where Alumni for 25 years let him do the work normally done by assistants & committees; a source of strength to which we will no longer have such ready access.

Alumni are now challenged to contribute an answer to the question endlessly asked, "What will happen if Dr. Williamson retires?". He is doing just that, and WHAT WILL HAPPEN depends on YOU.

Jay L. Smith ('52)

YOUR ADDRESS

If this address is incorrect in any form, please notify this office.