For his work as educator and musician, Dr. John Finley Williamson has received international acclaim and numerous honorary degrees. Regarded today as one of America’s outstanding choral authorities, he is recognized as a pioneer in establishing standards of excellence in American choral music in churches of all denominations, and in our schools and colleges as well.

At a time when the paid quartet was the accepted thing in church music, Dr. Williamson organized a volunteer choir in the Westminster Church, Dayton, Ohio, which attracted attention beyond the confines of the church and the city for the exceptional quality of its work. Professional concert managers became interested, and Westminster Choir became one of America’s notable concert attractions.

In the thirty-seven years since its first tour, Westminster Choir has appeared throughout the United States, Canada, Cuba, Europe, Asia and the Orient, singing always under the direction of its founder. No other choral group has sung so long under the leadership of the same conductor. (The present personnel of Westminster Choir, incidentally, is selected by annual try-outs from among the student body of Westminster Choir College.)

Over the years, Dr. Williamson received so many requests for leaders trained in his choral techniques and musical philosophy that he established a school where such training could be made available. In this enterprise he had the collaboration of his wife, the former Rhea Parlette. Together they created Westminster Choir College, located in Princeton, New Jersey, and licensed by the New Jersey Board of Education to grant the degrees of Bachelor of Music and Master of Music. The student body of the College is co-educational, inter-denominational, inter-racial and international in character. The purpose of the college is to train its graduates to use their musical abilities as a ministry to the welfare of others. For most, this purpose is achieved in the service of the church, though some have gone into community, industrial, educational and therapeutic musical positions, with the same desire to serve others rather than merely to acquire personal fame.

Dr. Williamson says of his wife that she has been his constant inspiration, his best critic and his tireless partner in all the developments of his career. An educator rather than a musician, she has received several honorary degrees for her contributions as co-founder with her husband of Westminster Choir College.

She has gone on every tour of Westminster Choir, has sat through thousands of concerts and smiled down endless miles of receiving lines. Yet, in spite of all the demands of her professional duties, she has found time to raise three children and manage a charming home where a cordial welcome has always awaited any guest, whether one of the musical great or one of the newest and greenest of the freshman at the college.

Since its founding, Dr. and Mrs. Williamson have served as president and dean, respectively, of Westminster Choir College, and have taught for many years on its faculty. This June, they retire from an active association with the college. But, though they themselves acquire an emeritus status, their influence and inspiration will remain a very potent active force on the campus and in the lives of the faculty, students and alumni.

(Continued on Page 4)
WESTMINSTER CHOIR COLLEGE WINS NATIONAL AWARD

Remarks of Mrs. Ronald A. Dougan, of Beloit, Wisconsin
President of the National Federation of Music Clubs
Broadcast of the New York Philharmonic Orchestra
April 27, 1958

"It is a great privilege to present the $1,000 award
which the National Federation of Music Clubs annually
offers to the individual or organization accomplishing
most for American music overseas during the concert year,
as part of this broadcast. It is particularly appropriate,
since the award winner is the Westminster Choir, and Dr.
John Finley Williamson, who conducted its tour of the
Far and Middle East and Europe is here to receive it. I
am grateful to Mr. Fassett, the Columbia Broadcasting
System and the New York Philharmonic Orchestra for the
opportunity.

"May I preface my presentation by saying that the Na-
tional Federation of Music Clubs has always been a
staunch champion of American music. For throughout its
60 years of existence, through awards, commissions and
competitions, it has fostered creative talent and helped
enrich American musical literature. Our 5,500 clubs pre-
sent many American works and it is estimated that our
traditional month-long Parade of American Music results
in the purchase and performance of more than 200,000
American compositions annually.

"Having worked so long for the performance of Ameri-
can music at home, it was logical that we should ultimate-
ly turn our attention to other countries.

"The award for overseas performance to be presented
today was established as an added incentive to touring
artists and conductors, and a supplement to efforts made
by our government and others to bring deserved recogni-
tion and prestige to our native culture.

"Fine reports of accomplishments were received this
year, but none matched those of the Westminster Choir. In
147 concerts in 22 countries, the Choir familiarized audi-
cences of between one and two million with American
works, some performed 60 times each. In 14 concerts at
the American Trade Fair in Thailand it sang for 1,000,000
people.

"In judging all entries, consideration was given not
only to the number of works and performances, but to the
quality of the music. In all these respects the Westmin-
ster Choir excelled. It therefore gives me great pleasure
to present this $1,000 check to you, Dr. Williamson, in be-
half of the National Federation of Music Clubs and its
International Music Relations Department - a deserved
recognition of your Choir’s outstanding service to Ameri-
can music abroad."

OBSERVATIONS

For the people in Princeton who live across the street
from Westminster Choir College it is an every-day sight to
see students keeping pace with a busy schedule of classes,
rehearsals and concerts. Residents near-by witness,
too, the Friday exodus of students. Suitcases in hand,
with a quickened pace to meet a bus schedule or to make
off in personal cars or car pools, they branch out to go to
churches for the weekend to put into practice the purpose
of their training. This is part of a busy, disciplined rou-
tine for the Choir College student.

To the newcomers to Princeton who live on Hamilton
Avenue and Harrison Street, that leads to highway #1, it
is quite a sight to see three or four bus loads travelling
down peaceful streets heading toward New York City. It
is not only the newcomer to Princeton but also those in
long time residence who query about this activity that
electrifies the atmosphere of a peaceful borough and town-
ship and so closely links us to the big metropolis.

This past month has made us aware all over again
that the Westminster Choir College had an important part
to play with the New York Philharmonic Symphony Orches-
tra as they prepare to sing in the dramatic oratorio "Joan
of Arc at the Stake" by Honegger.

On Monday, April 21, 1958, the famous conductor,
Leonard Bernstein, rehearsed the chorus of one hundred
fifty voices in the College Chapel.

Four buses were required to carry the singers to re-
hearsals in Carnegie Hall on Wednesday and Thursday
with presentations on Thursday night, Friday afternoon
and a final concert on Sunday afternoon that went over
the air waves to millions of listeners.

The students of Westminster Choir College have the
rare privilege of learning and producing these great works
under the competent direction of their own conductor,
Warren Martin of the College, and secondly, to be in re-
hearsal and in performance under the direction of a master
conductor with a world renowned symphony.

The School has been a part of one hundred twenty-six
appearances with various symphony orchestras in these
past thirty years. Princeton can rightly be proud of its
school of sacred music.

G. R. C.
Dr. John Milton Kelley, Dr. Rhea, Walter MacIver, Dr. Jack, Luella Conn, Dr. Erdman

Dr. Williamson breaks ground for another campus building

Dr. Rhea awarding the Senior Class Christmas Carol cup to Martha Laverty

Who's out there?

Dr. Charles R. Erdman, Dr. Williamson & Mr. J. C. Penney

WITH THE GREAT CONDUCTORS

Dr. Williamson & Massimo Freccia, conductor of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra

Leonard Bernstein, musical director of the N. Y. Philharmonic & Dr. Williamson

Dr. Williamson & Andre Cluytens, distinguished French conductor
THE DRS. WILLIAMSON
(Continued from Page 1)
Each week, hundreds of thousands of men, women and children throughout the world sing in choirs directed by Westminster Choir College graduates. As a tribute to the purpose of its founders, the college will continue to train its international student body to go out into all the world as consecrated ambassadors of song; of harmony and understanding among all races, creeds and nations of mankind.

D. W. H.

WESTMINSTER CHOIR TOUR STATISTICS
At the concerts by the touring choir (see photo) during the 1957-1958 season, many graduates were in attendance with members of their respective musical organizations. In Kent, Ohio the Williamson greeted 10 graduates; 2 in Ashland, Ohio; 10 in Grand Rapids, Mich.; 1 in Berrian Springs, Mich.; 3 in La Grange, Ill.; 1 in North Manchester, Ind.; 2 in Charleston, Ill.; 4 in Napererville, Ill.; 2 in Zion, Ill.; 9 in El Dorado, Ark.; 9 in Plainview, Tex.; 11 in Waco, Tex.; 11 in Dallas, Tex.; 6 in Shreveport, La.; 4 in Jackson, Miss.; 6 in La Grange, Ga.; 3 in Mobile, Ala.; 1 in Tuskegee, Ala.; 18 in Raleigh, N. C.; 6 in Asheville, N. C.; 12 in Morristown, Tenn.; 1 in Charleston, W. Va.; 10 in Wilmington, Del.; 3 in Oyster Bay, L. I.; and 2 in Malverne, L. I., a total of 143.

RECENT ARRIVALS' DEPARTMENT
Lillian Regina, to Mr. & Mrs. William Moore ('54), April 27th; 2109 23rd St., Lubbock, Texas.
Nancy Elizabeth, to Mrs. Ken (Patricia Page '51) Wight, February 24th; Princeton, N. J.
Carol Jean and Catherine Diane, identical twins, to Jean Orphan ('48) Nelsen, April 6th; 532 E. 126th St., Seattle 35, Wash.
Charles Allen, to Donna Postpichal ('57) Kishpaugh, April 8th; 402 Penn Oak Road, Flourtown, Pa.

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER
Box 264
Princeton, New Jersey

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