Westminster Choir returns to Dayton
The church in which John Finley Williamson began Westminster Choir College, the Westminster United Presbyterian Church of Dayton, Ohio, will be 175 years old this year.

When the church was organized in 1799, the main street of Dayton was a dirt road, and Indians roamed the plains of the Midwest. The first meeting house of this small band of Presbyterians, a single-room, windowless log cabin, was constructed in 1800. The congregation has endured a major split and, 80 years later, a healing merger.

The first pastor of the new congregation was the Rev. E. W. Clippinger who had been pastor of the Third Street Presbyterian Church, where Dr. Williamson was minister of music, for two years prior to its merger with First Church. He resigned in 1922 and Dr. Wilbur C. Micke led the congregation until December 1925 when Dr. Hugh Ivan Evans became the pastor. Evans led the congregation through the next 25 years, years that saw the construction of a large church building and the formation of a school for the training of church choir directors that was to change the concept and the accepted norm for church music in America.

Though the ties between the college and the church from which it sprang have been loosened over the years, the Williamson era is an important aspect of the church's history, and with the college's 50th anniversary rapidly approaching, it is quite natural for our collective eyes to be turning toward the cradle of our birth.

So to kickoff a year-long series of special events at the church, the Westminster Choir and its conductor, Dr. Joseph Flummerfelt, were invited to present a public concert in the church's sanctuary on Saturday, January 19.
DAYTON ALUMNI and some who were in Dr. Williamson's church choirs met in Dayton, Ohio for a reunion that preceded a concert by the present Westminster Choir.
taken on the boat during the 1926 European tour; pictures of a nattily attired Cecil Stewart standing next to sports cars in England and Czechoslovakia. They sat around a long table reminiscing and enjoying each other's company, and were reluctant to discuss "business" when Alumni Director James McKeever brought the meeting to order.

Jim's concern, with the College's 50th anniversary only two years away, is how best to celebrate it, and how to involve these earliest classes. He explained how really important they are to the college (I found them to be a remarkably humble lot), that the college was interested in receiving any memorabilia for the archives (named the Dayton Room in honor of these early alumni), and solicited their help in planning the anniversary. They were interested in the project, of course, but any reference to those heady days of the 1920's brought forth a flood of stories. "Do you remember what Mrs. Talbott said when she heard that Dr. Williamson was planning to leave Dayton?" asked one. "The hell he is!" Laughter. "Sounds just like her," commented another. And the stories of Mrs. Talbott boiled up. One could only sit in wonder at the exuberance of those vivid memories.

President Robinson, whom many had not met until the reunion, told them about what the college was trying to accomplish, and explained how difficult it is to institutionalize an idea.

At the alumni dinner,** which was held in a large fellowship hall below the sanctuary, they continued their tales of the early days almost as if they had happened yesterday. (I sometimes have difficulty remembering what happened last month.) Their memories of the Paris Opera House where someone asked them how they got the pitch between numbers seemed especially vivid. Dr. Williamson refused to tell. I pressed them, suspecting that a member of the choir had absolute pitch. But even now, 48 years later, they were reluctant to reveal the secret. Clarence Farris, who sat next to me said, "You know, I was in the choir for a number of years before even I found out."

Three things of special interest happened at the dinner: Mark Hodapp and his wife were there to represent his mother LoRean who was unable to attend (LoRean is the only person who has been directly associated with the college throughout its history); Mrs. George Mead, daughter of Mrs. Katherine Houk Talbott, benefactress of the original choir attended; and a really amazing film was shown.

Because of an early childhood experience, Mark is quite famous in the folklore of Westminster Choir College. During Jim McKeever's introduction of him, he sat, it seemed to me, a little apprehensively, steeling himself against that all too usual introduction, and was visibly relieved when no mention was made of it.
Mrs. Mead, slender and well dressed, sat between Jim McKeever and President Robinson, an honored guest of the alumni association. She seemed honestly pleased to have been invited, and when introduced responded with a few gracious remarks and a humorous story about her mother. It seems that one day while shopping, Mrs. Talbott found an egg and placed it in her bosom to keep it warm. She forgot about it until the chick hatched and began chirping. A clerk who wondered where the sound was coming from asked, "What's that?" To which Mrs. Talbott casually remarked, "Oh, I'm just hatching an egg."

The film, which was shown on a rear projection screen, was taken between 1920 and 1926 by Preston Mayfield, a local man who pioneered aerial photography. It showed the groundbreaking ceremony, the laying of the cornerstone, the construction, and the dedication ceremony of the Westminster Church.

When they had a groundbreaking in those days, they made sure the ground was broken—no dignitaries plunging a garden spade into the earth. There was a huge steam shovel that scooped up an entire truck full of dirt leaving no doubt that construction was under way.

There was also a sequence showing the choir processing around the church, up the front steps, and into the narthex on dedication Sunday. It was a blustery, rainy day, but the choir seemed oblivious to the elements and to the surplices swirling up around their shoulders and heads as they march two abreast, absolutely in step—amazing discipline and concentration.

Dr. Williamson's conducting technique was revealed to be much different in those days than has traditionally been associated with Westminster. It was high and away from the body, and long notes were sustained with a rigidly held, motionless hand.

This film, along with others of Dr. Williamson, will be shown in May at the Alumni Week banquet.
that Dr. Williamson had demanded, and about the dedication. "He drilled into us that it was our task to raise the standard of church music," one commented.) And the choir wondered if they would really measure up.

The audience was large, perhaps 1200 filling the nave (with the exception of a few seats near the back) and the balcony. A section near the center of the nave (In my estimation, the best place in the house) was reserved for the alumni.

James Porter, music critic for the Dayton Journal Herald, wrote, "It demands an extraordinary choral group to excite an audience in Dayton's Westminster Presbyterian Church—a church that has heard much illustrious music over many years.

"Often college choirs sing at their best in only one style," he went on, "or with one tone color. Flummerfelt not only produced the pure pointed lyric tone demanded by the Renaissance music of Palestrina, but also the 20th century music of Rossini was full-bodied and rich in rubato.

"The Sanctus from the Bernstein Mass was lively . . . displaying the diversity of this marvelously disciplined group. The "Wassail Song" arranged by Ralph Vaughan Williams . . . was a contrast to the Bernstein—both were superbly done.

"Especially moving was the modal spiritual, "Sometimes I Feel"—the singing of the soloist (Linda Pecan, a junior from Bernardsville, N.J.) produced a color reminiscent of the oboe.

"A memorable concert by a master choir!"

Betty Dietz Krebs of the evening Dayton Daily News commented, " . . . it was obvious that the blend of voice quality is exceptional, that singing is highly disciplined, and the choir is wonderfully responsive.

"For Poulenc's evocative Un Soir de Neige, the singers produced a marvelously cool, serene quality, especially appropriate to the wintry scenes created by the Poulenc score. In Brahms' Five Zigeunerlieder the singers proved they could also sing heartily.

"There was a purity of sound, a dispassionate quality in the Palestrina, while the Rossini excerpts from his Petite Messe Solenelle were fascinating for the drama and operatic quality they conjured up.

"A high point of Samuel Barber's Reincarnations was the beautiful ensemble work in the song called "The Coolin.'

Though the choir under Dr. Flummerfelt does not program the Luttikin "Benediction," a composition that is almost synonymous with Westminster, for this special occasion they sang it as an encore to close the program.

I was interested to read while in Dayton that the "Benediction" was not the hallmark of the pre-Ithaca choirs, but rather "Going Home," an arrangement of the slow movement from the Dvorak "New World Symphony."

According to Dr. Williamson, who was interviewed in 1930 when the choir returned to the Midwest for a series of concerts, "For five years we've had it on every program and we've left it off this year, but we've had to sing it every place we've been." He also said that "despite the fact that members of the choir have given it hundreds of times, it is not uncommon for three-quarters of them to be in tears when the song is finished."

The Dayton alumni were enthusiastic about the concert, commenting only that they wished there had been more religious music in English on the program.

This concert by the Westminster Choir, though perhaps the most significant, was only the first in a year-long series of special events planned to commemorate the anniversary.

In March there will be a performance of Benjamin Britten's Noyes Fludde. According to Robert Stover, organist-choirmaster of the church for the past 18 years, the production will include members of the adult and child choirs, a youth orchestra from community high schools, and members of the Dayton Recorder Society.

An area Handbell Festival will take place in April, and in May a performance of Mendelssohn's Elijah by a community chorus from 18 church choirs and soloists from New York City will cap the church's biennial Festival of Religious Art.

Homecoming, a service to which all past ministers and directors of Christian education will be invited, will be held in June, and during August there will be a Youth Music Festival.

From September 20 through 22 there will be a symposium on Christian education which will be moderated by Charles Shedd, a well-known Presbyterian author.

The Alpha and Omega Players, a theater group, especially well-known in the Midwest, which performs in bright make-up to simulate moving stained glass windows will be at the church in October.

The closing celebration will take place on Sunday, December 12, the actual anniversary of the birth. For this service, Jerry Hancock, organist-choirmaster at St. Thomas' in New York City, has been commissioned to compose a setting of the "Te Deum."
sanctuary which is stunningly beautiful. Though they are really not alike, I had the very strong impression that I was in a small version of the Princeton University Chapel, and I find it not impossible to speculate that Dr. Williamson’s affinity for Princeton as a third home for the college came from the striking similarity between the two buildings. High in the ceiling above the nave are exposed, dark wood beams. All around are fine examples of stained-glass work. At the front, above the choir loft and organ, a 1963 110 rank Casavant, is the Stoddard Memorial Window which was taken from the First Presbyterian Church, one of the churches which merged in 1919, to form the present Westminster Church.

(For those of you who are neither church historians or Presbyterian, the name Westminster has been closely associated with church history for more than 300 years. In 1644 the Parliament of England called together a number of ministers and laymen to consider a restatement of the church’s doctrines. These men met for several years in Westminster Abbey, London, and produced the Shorter and Longer Catechisms, the Directory of Worship, the Form of Church Government, and, most important, what has been commonly called the Westminster Confession of Faith.)

The Westminster Choir and Dr. Flummerfelt replaced Mr. Stofer and his 40-voice Westminster Choir at the 11 o’clock service on Sunday morning. They sang “The Last Words of David,” Vaughan Williams’ “O How Amiable,” the congregation joining with the choir for the concluding hymn, and “Turn Back O Man” by Gustav Holst.

Senior Pastor Dr. William Schram, who came to the church only three weeks before the concert, prayed with the choir before they went into the service. “I don’t remember much of Dr. Williamson,” he said, “but as a small boy growing up in this church, I do remember being held on his knee when I was a member of the Cherub Choir. I couldn’t sing a note, but it just seemed like being in the choir was the thing to do.”

Dressed in his purple and gold Presidential robes, an engraved silver medallion hanging about his neck, Dr. Robinson delivered the morning sermon, “The Westminster Idea: Serving Mankind Through Music.”

The service concluded with the Westminster Choir singing the “Benediction” from the narthex. A lady who had come up behind the choir while they were singing, stopped one of the members. “I just sang with you,” she said, “so I guess I can now claim to have sung with the Westminster Choir.” (I had a similar experience last summer in Italy, when the choir allowed me to sing Bach chorales with them—indeed, it’s already on my resume.)

As the choir waited in front of the church to board the bus for its next concert in Alliance, Ohio, it began to rain. This special weekend had accomplished a great deal. It had gotten the church’s anniversary year off to a fine beginning, and the ties between the two institutions had been tightened. There is already a preliminary discussion underway to involve the church personnel in Westminster’s 50th anniversary celebration in 1976.

**In addition to Dayton alumni, other alumni who attended the Alumni Dinner: Elizabeth Byerly Davies ’43, Terry Madeira Harsney ’66, Jonne Stanford Hart ’49, Robert Johnson ’30 (Coordinator), Lillian Darvesh Johnson ’59, Elizabeth Leeds ’65, Marlise Lewis ’73, Paul Long ’70, Pat Witherell Matchette ’47, William and Mary Renneckar Mathis ’72, James McKeever ’48, Robert Rockabrand ’59, Sara Steele Rockabrand ’61, Douglas Slusher ’99, David and Nancy Stone Wehr ’56, and David Stanley York ’46.

Be Tax-wise In Your Giving and Estate Planning

There are many ways informed alumni can save their heirs tax dollars: provide more spendable income now; provide more security for a spouse or family and make a significant gift to their college.

For those who are interested in learning more about this, we have available a publication entitled “Economy of Giving”. This publication, four issues each year, contains valuable information on wills—advising of the five events that you outdate your will or estate plan.

1. Death of someone named in the will
2. Marriage or divorce affecting yourself or a beneficiary
3. Change in beneficiaries’ health or financial status
4. Large increase in your estate’s value
5. Changes in federal or state law

If you would like to receive “Economy of Giving” send a note of request to the Director of Development, Westminster Choir College, Princeton, New Jersey 08540.
Westminster Offers 12 Summer Workshops in California

Westminster will be offering twelve one- and two-weeks music workshops and seminars in Southern California this summer; these are in addition to the 29 scheduled on the Princeton campus.

"We wanted to offer on the West Coast the same quality of exciting summer workshops that we have been offering in Princeton for four years," says Summer Session Director Charles Schisler. "From our experience in Princeton, we're convinced that, when you offer quality educational experiences, people will attend them. You know, we had almost 1,000 attend the 28 workshops we offered last summer, and that's about all we can accommodate. So the logical move," he explained, "is to begin offering workshops in other parts of the country."

According to Mr. Schisler, "Westminster's Summer Session is absolutely second to none in the country, and we have every reason to be optimistic for the future."

The California Summer Session will be held at the Army and Navy Academy in Carlsbad. "It has its own private beach, and should be quite an attraction," states Mr. Schisler. Registration is being handled by Robert Carl, class of 1957, and President Robinson, himself the moving force behind the expansion in 1970 of Westminster's Summer Session and an old hand at summer sessions from his years at the Peabody Conservatory, will be the Director.

Of special interest among the Princeton workshops is an Art Song Festival Week which will bring to the campus for a series of recitals and master classes Elly Ameling, Bethany Beardslee, Jerome Hines, Martial Singher, and Eleanor Steber, and the annual Choral Institute which this year, in addition to Charles Hirt, Alice Parker, Joseph Flummerfelt, Roger Wagner, and Robert Shaw, will bring to the campus for the first time Wilhelm Ehmann, founder and director of the Westfälische Kantorei, Daniel Moe, professor of choral conducting at the Oberlin Conservatory, and Morris Hayes, president of the American Choral Directors Association and a specialist in the male chorus.

California Workshops

**JUNE 17-21**

- **Choral Arranging** — Alice Parker
- **Choral Conducting** — Elaine Brown
- **Church Music Symposium**
  - (Music for the Small Church) —
  - Helen Kemp, John Kemp, Ray Robinson
- **Introductory Kodaly** — Katinka Daniel
- **Organ Week For High School Students** —
  - Joan Lippincott, Donald McDonald
- **Vocal Pedagogy** — Herbert Pate (June 16-28)

**JUNE 24-28**

- **Childrens Choirs** — Helen Kemp
- **Handbell Workshop** — Robert Ivey
- **Introductory Orff** — Brigitte Warner
- **Organ Master Class** — Catherine Crozier, Harold Gleason, Joan Lippincott, Donald McDonald, Ladd Thomas
- **Practical Studies For The Choral Musician** —
  - John Kemp

**Vocal Camp For High School Students**

- **June 16-28**

Write: Robert Carl
Westminster Choir College
Summer Session
P. O. Box 960
Carlsbad, California 92008
Princeton Workshops

JUNE 17-21

Bach Motets — Wilhelm Ehmann
Harpsichord Festival Week —
Cale, Kipnis, Leonhardt, Valenti;
Bannister, Challis, Dowd, Herz
Introductory Orff — Brigitte Warner

JUNE 24-28

Art Song Festival Week —
Ameling, Beardslee, Hines, Singher, Steber
Choral Repertoire — Daniel Moe
Introductory Kodaly — Aden Lewis
Music In Special Education — Robert B. Smith

JULY 1-5

Fundamentals Of Choral Conducting —
Charles Hirt
Humanities Approach In Music Education —
Miriam Gelvin
Introductory Orff — Brigitte Warner
Recorder Workshop — Page Long

JULY 8-12

Advanced Kodaly — Arpad Darazs
Choral Arranging — Alice Parker
Intermediate Orff — Brigitte Warner
Male Chorus Repertoire — Morris Hayes
Vocal Pedagogy — Herbert Pate (July 7-19)

JULY 15-19

Advanced Choral Conducting —
Joseph Flummerfelt
Advanced Orff — Brigitte Warner
Childrens Choirs — Helen Kemp
Church Music Workshop — John Kemp

JULY 22-26

Approaches To Ethnic Music — Lena McLin
Guitar Workshop — Roland Raffaelle
Handbell Workshop — Robert Ivey
Renaissance Choral Literature — Roger Wagner

JULY 29-AUGUST 2

Music In The Open Classroom — Mary Hoffman
Organ Week For High School Students —
Joan Lippincott, Eugene Roan
Seminar For Music Administrators —
Ray Robinson
Robert Shaw Workshop (July 29-August 10) —
Verdi Requiem,
Handel Israel In Egypt, Mozart C Minor Mass

Vocal Camps For High School Students
June 23 - July 5 • July 7-19

Write: Charles Schisler
Director of Summer Session
Westminster Choir College
Princeton, New Jersey 08540
January Utilized to Mount Super Admissions Campaign

From A Report to the Westminster Board
By President Ray Robinson

The major concern of presidents and boards of trustees of private colleges in the mid-1970's is enrollment. This is especially true of those small private liberal arts colleges and professional schools which have little or no endowment and depend for their fiscal stability on tuition and student fees to account for more than fifty percent of their annual budget.

In November of 1973, we assembled a Task Force on Admissions. Our challenge to the Task Force dealt with ways in which the month of January—essentially free due to the new Interim scheduling—could be utilized to mount a super admissions campaign.

The Task Force established its raison d'être upon the dictum that "the quality of an institution is in direct proportion to the number of students interested in the institution." The programs developed by the Task Force were designed to foster a large pool of new names to be contacted as potential students at the College, thereby improving the quality of the student today. Eight major areas of thrust were designated, listed here in their order of importance.

Alumni: The (fall) Newsletter carried a special announcement and return card which solicited the names of three students whom the alumni might consider prime prospects for the College. Special dinners for alumni and potential students were planned in certain "cluster" areas, where the College would be represented by members of the faculty or administration, and in several cases, by choirs. Some 32 such alumni clusters have been established.*

In areas where the alumni population is sparse, efforts have been made to have these alumni contacted by members of the Alumni Executive Board or by Alumni Fund agents to enlist their support.

High School Contacts: Three concerts have been arranged in high schools in Pennsylvania and New Jersey by the Westminster Choir. These performances are to take place at the close of the Winter tour, and will involve a gathering of a number of high school choirs at each location. Thus, the audience for each concert could be expected to include a high number of the type of individual who would attend Westminster.

A dozen faculty members from the College were selected to travel during the month of January to visit both the "cluster" Alumni meetings, and to meet with high school guidance counselors and choral directors on an informal basis.

Westminster Students: The Director of Student Services wrote an appropriate letter to all members of the student body, enlisting their support in identifying prospective students for the College.

Westminster Vocal Campers: The Secretary to the Director of Admissions conducted a telephone campaign to former participants of the Summer Vocal Camp. From a list of 200 such prospects, 50 have expressed interest in receiving materials, and 10 have expressed an interest that could be termed definitive.

Church Choir Directors and Organists: The Director of Church Relations and Placement compiled an exhaustive list of church choir directors and organists to whom he has sent a personal letter soliciting their support in identifying new names.

The Head of the Organ Department sent personal letters to former participants of the High School Week for Organ Students, inquiring about their interest in the College.

Westminster Sings and Invitational Choral Festivals: The Chapel Choir has been the chief participant of Westminster Choirs in this recruiting effort which was initiated last year. Several high school choirs are invited to perform separately on a designated festival day, at the close of which the massed forces combine with the Chapel Choir to perform under a Westminster conductor. Their value lies in the opportunity to observe and hear a group of Westminster students in person, and to share in the thrill of performing with a Westminster choir.

There are six such events scheduled during the 1973-74 academic year. At each location, Westminster recruiting personnel will be on hand with appropriate material describing the College.

Student Teachers and Cooperating Teachers: Through the Head of the Music Education Department and his staff, Student Teachers—and through them, Cooperating Teachers—have been asked to provide us with the names of those who appear interested in music careers.

 Ministers: Ministers in student churches, those on our regular mailing list, and others contacted
by the Placement Office, are being alerted to our desire to have recommendations of potential students.

The experts have told us what we can realistically expect in numbers of available students: enrollments will continue to increase until about 1980, at which point a continuing decline will begin. The implications for Westminster are very clear.

Westminster's whole existence is predicated upon imaginative improvement in the admissions program. It is a challenge of immense proportions to which we must rise.


Composer Endows Scholarship

Composer Carl F. Mueller, FWCC 1937, has given $10,000 to the college to endow an annual scholarship to promote a greater interest in the development of compositional skills. The award, to be known as the Carl F. Mueller Scholarship in Composition, will be presented annually to a student in one of the upper three classes who has expressed a commitment to a life of service in the church and demonstrated an ability to deal practically with the needs of the contemporary church.

"I really have only one major concern," he wrote to President Robinson, "namely that the recipients are able and interested in producing choral and/or organ compositions of a practical nature."

Dr. Mueller himself has always striven to write music of a practical nature. According to The Anthem in England and America, he is "... one of the most prolific American anthem composers..." One measure of his popularity is evident in that three prominent publishers — G. Schirmer, Harold Flammer, and Carl Fischer — have brought out series of his works. It is doubtful that any other anthem writer has exceeded or even equaled him in total sales. (Of his more than 500 published compositions, the most popular, "Create in me a clean heart," has sold over 750,000 copies.) The article concluded, "What are the elements that have contributed to his success? Simplicity and variety are certainly two." Exactly the qualities he is hoping to encourage through the scholarship.

At 80 years of age, Dr. Mueller, who lives with his wife at Leisure Village in Lakewood, N.J., is still active as a composer. He is presently writing his fourth anthem series, to be published by Broadman Press, and a second collection of organ preludes on well-known hymn tunes will be released next May.
Fulfilling Their Mission
From the Alumni Director

“To mobilize behind education the full strength of organized alumni support,” is the mission which alumni strive to fulfill for their college or university. We have not yet mobilized our full strength, but I’m proud that the involvement of our alumni in various enterprises and programs of this college indicates they are fulfilling their mission to a greater extent than ever before.

Interim Program — As announced, this is the first year for our 4-1-4 program (four months of school, one month of specialized study, and/or vacation and then four more months of school). Our alumni involvement in this program began last fall at the regular meeting of our Executive Board, to which we had invited some class officers to attend. In the discussion, the students were very excited about related fields of endeavors in which Westminster grads became involved (publishing music, performance, professional chorus work, commercial music sales, commercial compositions, organ selling, editing publications, etc.), and wanted to know more about these opportunities. So, a letter was sent to the east coast segment of our alumni requesting those who had successfully established themselves in careers quite unrelated to those for which they had officially been prepared to state their field and indicate their willingness to have a student(s) visit to observe and discuss their work and how they prepared for it. We were rewarded with over fifty responses from alumni representing all the fields that we mentioned and then some. As a matter of fact, one person, in addition to his choral activities, was on the track coaching staff. A tremendous idea, and there may be those students who would like a similar opportunity. Actually, this program need not be limited to the interim period. In fact, Martha Cook, the President of the Student Council, who is working with me on this project, anticipates that there is every reason to think that students will take advantage of them at a later date in the semester.

Admissions Program — As indicated in the last Newsletter (December issue) we are asking your help in getting talented young people to our campus. The response was fine, and through “cluster programs” there are nearly forty “Westminster nights” set up in as many cities around the country by some really dedicated alumni. We at the college feel that this is an exciting program, and we look forward to receiving some really talented students. Hopefully, we will be overwhelmed by the number of candidates.

Alumni Fund — I am pleased to report that our alumni giving is a little bit ahead of last year. In fact, there are several classes which have already exceeded the amount they gave last year. We are not at our goal by a long shot, but both Ike Linhares and I feel very much encouraged by the efforts to date. It is interesting to note that there are more alumni who are making up their pledge by regular installment giving, in fact, some give on a regular monthly basis. This is indeed a good way to give and becomes most meaningful to our support program.

As you can tell from the lead story of this issue of the Newsletter, the Dayton Celebration was really quite an event. There were many facets to this program, all of which are very nicely covered in the article.

It was successful and meaningful from every standpoint and covered a broad cross section of our Westminster Choir College family. There were representatives from the Dayton, Ithaca, and, of course, the Princeton period.

What are the implications of an all consuming event such as this? My reaction was that there was a great sense of history — renewal and rededication. Perhaps even more, there was a feeling of pride in the institution as it was founded and in the way it had grown. The strength of any institution rests very much with the accomplishments of its alumni and indeed here was another source of pride and mutual respect that spanned the years of Westminster’s existence.

It was a very special pleasure to have Mrs. George Mead, daughter of Mrs. Talbott at the dinner. She provided, in a real sense, that special touch which made everyone present feel the involvement of her mother in supporting the ideals set down by John Finley Williamson. Her remarks about the early days, and Ray Robinson’s presence, representing the future, generated a sense of confidence among all present. There was the feeling that no one was actually alone, but that many forces were at work supporting and guiding our college.

In two short years, we will be celebrating our 50th anniversary. How do we mark this occasion? Certainly we would honor those who were involved from the beginning, as well as those who have brought fame to our name. There should also be some reasonable goals set, some of which might be achieved and announced at the point of celebration, and others which
might be initiated at that time.

The Executive Board of the Alumni Association has appointed Bill Fuller, Emma Bercau, and Lou Filer as a committee to discuss the program and plans for this occasion, and we will be meeting later this month. How about an expression from the alumni at large as to how we might celebrate this great occasion. Please jot down your ideas and send them on to me. Do it now.

Also, make your plans now — Princeton in ’76. The Dayton people are already discussing this and are talking about hiring their own bus and having it pick up class members en route to Princeton. No doubt, there will be other ideas and plans brought forward, and when they are developed, we will let you know. Meanwhile, keep 1976 in your thinking. We hope you will come back.

James C. McKeever

Class Notes

1950

GEORGE KRUERGER has retired from the Indiana University faculty. George was brought to Indiana University by WILFRED C. BAIN ’31, Dean of the School of Music. He served as chairman of the Choral Department and played an important role in the development of the school to its present position of world eminence. Under his leadership, the Choral Department grew from three small organizations in 1948 to twelve separate groups by the time he relinquished the chairmanship in 1972. In recent years, he has been director of Music Placement Services. In 1958 George was the guest conductor of most of the most distinctive honors at IU, the “Leather Medal” given annually by Sigma Delta Chi, journalism fraternity, to the faculty member judged to have made the most outstanding contribution to the University. In 1967 he received the Alumni Merit Award of Westminster Choir College for distinguished service in music education. In addition to Westminster Choir College, George was educated at Earlham College and Cleveland Institute of Music.

1954

ELAINE ISAACSON BROWN began her twenty-sixth season with the Singing City’s choir as a concert dedicated to the memory of John F. Kennedy. The event took place at Sts. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Philadelphia on November 21, 1973. The musical feature was the Durufle Requiem. This concert was reviewed most favorably in the Philadelphia Inquirer.

1955

H. CALEB CUSHING has retired as Minister of Music at Greensboro Memorial United Methodist Church, Roanoke, Virginia. He served United Methodism for thirty-six years. During this time he was on the Lynchburg College faculty and the faculties of Campbell College and Shenandoah Conservatory. He was a founding member and former president of the Virginia Fellowship of Methodist Musicians. Though retired, Caleb and his wife, WINIFRED BLOUNT CUSHING ’35 are still busy singing, directing, and teaching. “Kay” is a lay speaker in the Methodist Church.

1958

GEORGE LYNN was guest conductor at the Texas All-State Junior College Choral Festival and was guest conductor at the Westminster Choir College Alumni Festival in Grand Rapids, Michigan in November. He conducted a concert of his chamber music compositions presented at Loretto Heights College. Included were works for piano, violin, clarinet, and voice in different combinations. In December he conducted the Messiah at Loretto Heights College with orchestra and combined choirs of the college and the Colorado School of Mines. He has completed a commission of a band composition celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Colorado School of Mines. In January he will visit Harding College to direct a composition workshop and has also been commissioned to write an A Cappella composition for their 75th anniversary.

1947

DAVID V. WILLIAMS completed his Doctor’s Degree at the University of Tulsa in 1973 and is now serving as Registrar and Director of Admissions and Records at American Christian College in Tulsa. He also serves as Minister of Music on a part-time basis at Yale Avenue Christian Church in Tulsa.

1952

HARRY R. HOOK, Music Director at the First United Methodist Church, Albuquerque, New Mexico, has been honored by having his choir as one of four vocal groups to be featured on the 1975 United Methodist Series of the Protestant Hour radio program. Harry also directs the Albuquerque Civic Chorus, sponsored by the city Parks and Recreation Department, the forty-voice French’s Boy Choir which performs with the Santa Fe Opera Company, and has recently been asked to prepare the Symphonic Chorus in Shostokovich’s “Song of the Forest” which will be presented with the Albuquerque Symphony Orchestra in April.

1958

RICHARD H. BREWER has been appointed Chairman of the Pfeiffer-Community Council on the Arts at Pfeiffer College in Misenheimer, North Carolina. This council will sponsor the first Stanly County Choir Festival at Pfeiffer College in March and in April an Educational Festival of the Arts. The latter event will include all types of musical performances which are indigenous to the North Carolina area and also an arts and crafts exhibition.

ANNA L. ROYER is now teaching elementary vocal music in Susquehanna township, which is a suburb of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. She resides at 3816 Locust Lane, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17109.

1959

MELVIN C. KERN received a scholarship from the Mary Helen Richard Institute of California to attend a four-week session on “Education Through Music” at Chatham, Ontario, Canada. Through this program, the attempt is to develop the whole child by involving all his senses musically. Melvin is elementary music consultant-teacher for the Lake Oswego School District and directs the Sanctuary Choir and English Handbell Choir of the Lake Oswego United Church of Christ.

1955

BARBARA OWEN has been elected Dean of the Boston Chapter, A.G.O. She is still with the C. F. Niemeyer Inc. of Gloucester, Organ Builders and has just completed ten years as organist and director of the First Religious Society (Unitarian) of Newburyport, Mass.

1956

THE REVEREND FRED-MUNRO FERGUSON is curate at St. Luke’s Church, Catskill, New York and has become the newly appointed conductor of the Choraliers. His first performance with the group was in December at the First Reformed Church, Hudson, New York.

1957

JANET OBEZT HOFMEISTER is now teaching music at Beauvoir, National Cathedral Schools, Washington, D.C.

1958

JUDITH WALKER COOLEY returned in August from Tehran, Iran after two years. While in Tehran, she served as soprano soloist with the Community Church and also gave recitals in the area. During the past season, Judy has performed soprano solos in the Vivadi Gloria and the Saint-Saens Christmas Oratorio. Her address is 6521 Barnard Way, Virginia Beach, Virginia 23462.

1959

BETH SMATHERS CHRISTIE is teaching part-time at the Atlanta Speech School where she works with the deaf children and those with learning disabilities. She is also soprano soloist at the Emory Presbyterian Church in Atlanta.

MARY JOE HOWARD is on the voice faculty at Auburn University at Auburn, Alabama.

RICHARD IZQUIERDO is on the faculty of the Choral Department, Head Tackle Coach, and Athletic Director at George Wythe High School in Richmond, Virginia. His address is 3292 First Avenue, Richmond, Virginia 23222.

1959

THE REVEREND CARL KNITTER and wife Sandra announce the adoption of a baby girl from Thailand in June. Minister Knitter is Chaplain at the Naval Communications Station Chapel on Guam and is also directing the choir. Their address is
The public debut of the orchestra under his direction will take place February 3 with the Summit Chorale at Drew University.

ROBERT A. DAVIDSON is now in his seventh years as President of Westminster Choir College in 1969, Dr. LEE H. BRISTOL, JR. has continued active in the fields close to his heart: the Church, Music, and Education. He served five years as Vice Chairman and Executive Secretary of the Episcopal Church Music Commission and General Editor of 'More Hymns & Spiritual Songs' a new official supplement to the Episcopal Hymnal 1940. He is editor of a three volume series of hymn-tune preludes for organ to be published by the Harold Flammer division of Shawnee Press. The collections will include pieces by among others Gilbert Martin, Warren Martin, Mathilde McKinney, and Alec Wyton. (Volume I has just come out.) Dr. Bristol serves on nine boards including the New York Philharmonic, Hamilton College, and The Royal School of Church Music. In September he played the premiere of the new Malcolm Williamson Organ Mass of a Medieval Saint in a recital at St. Thomas Church in New York City. He will preach at daily noonday services at St. Bartholomew's Church, New York City (March 25-29, 1974) and at the Church of the Epiphany (April 1-5, 1974). On May 12, he is scheduled to preach at Evensong at Westminster Abbey in London and lead a noonday Hymn-Sing at the Abbey the following Wednesday noon, May 15.

1970
KENNETH V. BROWN, JR. is teaching elementary music in the Monroe-woodbury School District and is Choir Director at the Monroe Presbyterian Church. His address is 33 A Tanager Road, Monroe, New York 10950.

MARGARET FAUBION KOHLER and husband Paul announce the birth of David Paul Kohler on August 16, 1973. David Paul Kohler is pastor of the Quincy Presbyterian Church, Quincy, Washington. Their address is 315 T Street, S.W., Quincy, Washington 98848.

Since his "retirement" after more than seven years as President of Westminster Choir College in 1969, Dr. LEE H. BRISTOL, JR. has continued active in the fields close to his heart: the Church, Music, and Education. He served five years as Vice Chairman and Executive Secretary of the Episcopal Church Music Commission and General Editor of 'More Hymns & Spiritual Songs' a new official supplement to the Episcopal Hymnal 1940. He is editor of a three volume series of hymn-tune preludes for organ to be published by the Harold Flammer division of Shawnee Press. The collections will include pieces by among others Gilbert Martin, Warren Martin, Mathilde McKinney, and Alec Wyton. (Volume I has just come out.) Dr. Bristol serves on nine boards including the New York Philharmonic, Hamilton College, and The Royal School of Church Music. In September he played the premiere of the new Malcolm Williamson Organ Mass of a Medieval Saint in a recital at St. Thomas Church in New York City. He will preach at daily noonday services at St. Bartholomew's Church, New York City (March 25-29, 1974) and at the Church of the Epiphany (April 1-5, 1974). On May 12, he is scheduled to preach at Evensong at Westminster Abbey in London and lead a noonday Hymn-Sing at the Abbey the following Wednesday noon, May 15.

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The Choral Workshop this year will be conducted by Westminster’s Director of Choral Activities Dr. Joseph Flummerfelt. He will discuss and rehearse the Persichetti Mass and Stravinsky’s Symphony of Psalms.

The Banquet, which will again be held in the Nassau Inn, will feature some old films of Dr. John Finley Williamson, and there will be a presentation of Merit Awards to three more distinguished alumni.

Chick Davis ’54, who is assisting Carol Anderson with the plans for this year’s Alumni Week, will present a Service of Remembrance in Bristol Chapel. (The theme for Alumni Week is “Remembering With Gratitude Those Who Have Developed the College.”)

Other activities include student recitals, a report by President Robinson, concerts by both the Chapel and Westminster choirs (the latter in McCarter Theatre), a commencement for the class of 1974 in the Princeton University Chapel, and class reunions. This year we are especially honoring the classes of 1934, 1939, 1944, 1949, 1954, 1959, 1964, and 1969.

Alumni Week is May 29-31. Make your reservations now.

Alumni Notes

Nicholas Harsanyi was guest conductor of the Piedmont Chamber Orchestra and The Mozart Community Chorus in the forty-first presentation of the Messiah under the auspices of the Mozart Club, Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Alumni featured in this presentation were JANICE MORRIS HARSANYI ’51, soprano, ROSEMARY RUSSELL ’57, contralto, and RICHARD CUMMINS ’58, harpsichord.

G. STANLEY POWELL ’51, Minister of Music at Abington Presbyterian Church, Abington, Pennsylvania conducted two performances of the Hodie by Ralph Vaughan Williams with his two adult choirs, orchestra, and children’s chorus. Soloists for the occasion included LESTER ERICH ’72, tenor and JAMES C. McKeeVER ’48, bass.

LOUIS HOOKER ’58, Music Director of the New Jersey Schola Cantorum presented Handel’s Messiah Sing In, a unique song fest in which the audience is the singers and twenty music conductors participated in the concert. Those participating in the program were BRUCE CAMPELL ’68, ROBERT VOLBRECHT ’67, and JAMES C. McKeeVER ’48.

TIMOTHY SEITZ ’70 sang the role of King Kaspar in a performance of Aria and the Night Visitors at St. John’s Lutheran Church, Easton, Pennsylvania where JOHN FERGUSON ’68 is Organist and Choirmaster.

STANLEY SCHEER ’62, who is Head of the Music Department at Pfeiffer College in Misenheim, North Carolina and RICHARD H. BREWER ’52 were the leaders of a church music workshop sponsored by the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church.

Chapel Choir Spring Tour

If the snows have cleared by March, the Chapel Choir and its conductor, Associate Professor Robert Simpson, will be off on their annual spring tour which, this year, will take them to Delaware, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Michigan.

In addition to the concerts listed below, the choir of 45 freshmen will perform at several high schools along the way.

As the time for the tour draws closer, Alumni within commuting distance of each concert will receive further information.

The program will include compositions by Director of Admissions David Stanley York, Warren Martin, head of the theory and music history department, and George Lynn, former Music Director of the college, Leonard Bernstein’s Chichester Psalms, pieces by Vittoria, Palestrina, Purcell and Schütz, and a number of spirituals and hymn arrangements.

Wednesday, March 20
Concord Presbyterian Church, Wilmington, Delaware

Thursday, March 21
Westmont United Presbyterian Church, Johnstown, Pennsylvania

Requests for the 1974-75 Chapel Choir Tour are now being considered. Please direct all inquiries to Steven P. Sharp, Director of Church Relations, Westminster Choir College, Princeton, New Jersey 08540.
New Academic Calendar Instituted

Westminster has joined approximately 400 other colleges and universities by instituting a new academic calendar in which the first semester ends before Christmas and the second semester begins in February, leaving an Interim of one month (January) for students and faculty to engage in constructive structured and non-structured learning experiences. As a result, many Westminster students returned to classes in January this year and discovered a refreshing change of pace.

The new calendar (called 4-1-4 to describe how many months are in each academic unit) allowed students for the first time to enjoy Christmas without the thought of pending semester examinations, and, when fully implemented, will allow them, if they wish, to take advantage of off-campus, independent, and foreign study, field experiences, and new courses during the Interim.

During the first Interim, just ended, the college offered a junior theory course and a new elective course, "Piano Tuning and Maintenance." In addition, through a cooperative arrangement, 12 students took advantage of courses at Rider College in nearby Lawrenceville. One of the practical aspects of the new calendar is that activities such as the Westminster Choir tour and the biennial European Organ Study Trip were scheduled during the Interim rather than at spring break when, because of their length, classes had to be missed.

According to the Dean of the College, Peter Wright, who fostered on campus an enthusiasm for the new calendar and saw it through to faculty approval, "The college's first year program did not begin to tap the possibilities of the Interim concept which should serve to encourage self-discipline and initiative among students by emphasizing practical experience, discussion, and research. But as students, faculty, and administration become more aware of the possibilities for Interim study and experience, an expanded series of offerings, and the development of a variety of modes of instruction and changing attitudes toward learning will appear."

"WELL, THEY MUST HAVE a better music school than a football team," quipped President Nixon as he greeted Dr. Flummerfelt, who is a graduate of the University of Illinois, and the Westminster Choir. Huddled in an unheated shelter to the left of the main speaker's platform, the choir and Dr. Flummerfelt, his fur collar turned up against the December cold, sang on national television at the lighting of the National Christmas Tree. The ceremony took place at the foot of the Washington Monument on the ellipse across the street from the White House.