

From the Editor

Finding Courage

Sean Burton

“It’s none of their business that you have to learn to write. Let them think you were born that way.” —Ernest Hemingway

As the seemingly endless hustle and bustle of the academic life settles in, let us consider this famous quote by Hemingway. For some, the writing process might conjure up visions of solitary artists dashing off inspired masterpieces at all hours of the day and night. While we likely know certain colleagues with those magical gifts, the more prevalent mode of sharing informed ideas with the written word remains an effort of consistency, and hard work, plain and simple.

As college and university practitioners of the choral arts, the ever-increasing demands upon our time are of paramount concern. After all, what commodity is more precious than our time? But at the end of the day, or perhaps better at the beginning of the day, we must find courage to share our scholarship with others—in writing.

The repository of knowledge among the NCCO membership is staggering. However, its impact becomes limited if we rely solely upon the oral tradition! To that end, my charge concludes with an invitation to consider contributing your work for publication consideration in *The Choral Scholar* without delay.

Volume 4, Number 1 of *TCS* contains scholarship by Timothy Westerhaus, Katherine FitzGibbon, and R. Ryan Endris. Westerhaus

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urges us to explore Ildebrando Pizzetti’s *Messa di Requiem* as an exemplar of twentieth-century neo-Renaissance compositions. FitzGibbon asserts Max Reger’s Requiem settings deserve our attention and are not merely derivative works of a Brahmsian nature. Endris provides us with an analysis of American Transcendentalist philosophy and musical symbolism in Dominick Argento’s *Walden Pond*.

Fostering original research remains the primary goal of *TCS*. However, setting the standard for authoritative criticism merits priority in our discipline as well. The initial Choral Review column for *TCS*, edited by Steven Grives, features David J. Recca’s assessment of the recent Carus-Verlag edition of J.S. Bach’s *Singet dem Herrn ein neues Lied*, BWV 190. Future issues of *TCS* will incorporate a Book Review column edited by Andrew Crow and a Recording Review column edited by Peter Durow.

On another note, my heartiest thanks to the NCCO executive board for their willingness to appoint me to this position and, more importantly, to continue supporting *TCS* as an essential enterprise of the organization. Lastly, the NCCO membership owes a debt of gratitude to Greg Brown, Brett Scott, and Anne Lyman for their work on *TCS* during the interim periods between chief editors. They made time to keep the journal alive and I will endeavor to do them justice by helping you find your courage.

—Sean Burton

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