

*From the Editor*

# Working Forward

*Sean Burton*

*“Hard work is not punishment. Hard work is the price of admission for the opportunity to reach a sustained standard of excellence.”*

*—Jay Bilas*

It’s a busy time of year...I’m just so overworked lately.” After listening to several versions of the aforementioned missive in recent weeks, and thinking it myself from time to time, I am compelled to posit a question. Isn’t it always busy for most professional musicians, especially those whose primary area of activity concerns the choral arts? On a personal level, working hard remains my mantra, though perhaps working forward is the more accurate expression.

To merely assert that NCCO is growing would be a gross understatement. Our organization is exploding and we will need even more engagement from the membership, with regards to *TCS*, and myriad other endeavors. Please consider yourself already invited to the party as we forge forward into the future.

Volume 5, Number 2 of *The Choral Scholar* features Matthew Bumbach’s guide to Josef Rheinberger’s Op. 64 Maitag: Ein lyrisches Intermezzo No.1 *Früh Morgens*, William Kempster’s assessment of Pierre de la Rue’s *Missa Pourquoi non*, James Brown’s study of Tarik O’Regan’s *Triptych*, and an interview with Craig Hella Johnson by Jos Milton. As always, the authors have provided

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# CHORAL SCHOLAR

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a wealth of information through their extensive original research.

Our work in music criticism continues to stimulate as well. Andrew Crow’s Book Reviews column, Peter Durow’s Recording Reviews column, and John Hughes’s Choral Reviews column all offer useful material for those of us in the sphere of collegiate choral conducting. To that end, if you have recently authored a book, produced a recording, or published a new performing edition, please send it to us for critical review.

A final note concerns engagement once more. When you receive an email, text message, or phone call seeking your individual involvement in NCCO, “Just Say Yes!”

*—Sean Burton*

