

THE chorister

Associated Male Choruses of America

Volume 24 - Number 4

December 2001

Dedicated to the extension of Male Chorus Singing, Enjoyment, Fellowship and Service in North America - Established 1924

Good Singing, Good Fellowship, Public Service

The Magi, as you know, were wise men – wonderfully wise men – who brought gifts to the Babe in the manger. They invented the art of Christmas gifts. Being wise, their gifts were no doubt wise ones, possibly bearing the privilege of exchange in case of duplication. And here I have lamely related to you the uneventful chronicle of foolish children in a flat who most unwisely sacrificed for each other the greatest treasure of their house. But in a last word to the wise of these days let it be said that of all who give gifts these two were the wisest. Of all who give and receive gifts, such as they are the wisest. Everywhere they are the wisest. They are the magi.

The Gifts of the Magi; William Sidney Porter (O. Henry)



Copyright © 2001 United Feature Syndicate, Inc.

DRABBLE reprinted by permission of United Features Syndicate, Inc.

This poem was written by a Marine stationed in Okinawa Japan. It was submitted by Steven Butz through George Pecor.

'T WAS THE NIGHT BEFORE
CHRISTMAS, HE LIVED ALL ALONE,
IN A ONE BEDROOM HOUSE MADE OF
PLASTER AND STONE.

I HAD COME DOWN THE CHIMNEY
WITH PRESENTS TO GIVE,
AND TO SEE JUST WHO IN THIS HOME
DID LIVE.

I LOOKED ALL ABOUT, A STRANGE
SIGHT I DID SEE,
NO TINSEL, NO PRESENTS, NOT EVEN
A TREE.

NO STOCKING BY MANTLE, JUST
BOOTS FILLED WITH SAND,
ON THE WALL HUNG PICTURES OF
FAR DISTANT LANDS.

WITH MEDALS AND BADGES,
AWARDS OF ALL KINDS,
A SOBER THOUGHT CAME THROUGH
MY MIND.

FOR THIS HOUSE WAS DIFFERENT, IT
WAS DARK AND DREARY,
I FOUND THE HOME OF A SOLDIER,
ONCE I COULD SEE CLEARLY.

THE SOLDIER LAY SLEEPING, SILENT,
ALONE,
CURLD UP ON THE FLOOR IN THIS
ONE BEDROOM HOME.

THE FACE WAS SO GENTLE, THE
ROOM IN SUCH DISORDER,
NOT HOW I PICTURED A UNITED
STATES SOLDIER.

WAS THIS THE HERO OF WHOM I'D
JUST READ?
CURLD UP ON A PONCHO, THE
FLOOR FOR A BED?

I REALIZED THE FAMILIES THAT I
SAW THIS NIGHT,
OWED THEIR LIVES TO THESE
SOLDIERS WHO WERE WILLING TO
FIGHT.

SOON ROUND THE WORLD, THE
CHILDREN WOULD PLAY,
AND GROWNUPS WOULD CELEBRATE A
BRIGHT CHRISTMAS DAY.

THEY ALL ENJOYED FREEDOM EACH
MONTH OF THE YEAR,
BECAUSE OF THE SOLDIERS, LIKE THE
ONE LYING HERE.

I COULDN'T HELP WONDER HOW MANY
LAY ALONE,
ON A COLD CHRISTMAS EVE IN A LAND
FAR FROM HOME.

THE VERY THOUGHT BROUGHT A TEAR
TO MY EYE,
I DROPPED TO MY KNEES AND STARTED
TO CRY.

THE SOLDIER AWAKENED AND I HEARD
A ROUGH VOICE,
"SANTA DON'T CRY, THIS LIFE IS MY
CHOICE;

I FIGHT FOR FREEDOM, I DON'T ASK FOR
MORE,
MY LIFE IS MY GOD, MY COUNTRY, MY
CORPS."

THE SOLDIER ROLLED OVER AND
DRIFTED TO SLEEP,
I COULDN'T CONTROL IT, I CONTINUED
TO WEEP.

I KEPT WATCH FOR HOURS, SO SILENT
AND STILL
AND WE BOTH SHIVERED FROM THE
COLD NIGHT'S CHILL.

I DIDN'T WANT TO LEAVE ON THAT
COLD, DARK, NIGHT,
THIS GUARDIAN OF HONOR SO WILLING
TO FIGHT.

THEN THE SOLDIER ROLLED OVER, WITH
A VOICE SOFT AND PURE,
WHISPERED, "CARRY ON SANTA, IT'S
CHRISTMAS DAY, ALL IS SECURE."

ONE LOOK AT MY WATCH, AND I KNEW
HE WAS RIGHT.
"MERRY CHRISTMAS MY FRIEND, AND
TO ALL A GOOD NIGHT."

**Some valuable information from
Bill Bates**

New Executive Elected:

President: Norm Goodling (Michigan)
First VP: Tom Rayner (Ontario)
Second VP: George Pecor (Wisconsin
Upper Michigan)
Third VP: Joel McLay (Upper Midwest)
Treasurer: Norb Lehmann (Upper Midwest)
Executive Secretary: (Bill Bates)
Past President: Joe Love (Ontario)

Student Choruses:

AMCA now has two student chorus members - the Statesmen of the University of Wisconsin and most recently, Vision of the Detroit High School for the Performing Arts.

Lake Erie District:

This district has dissolved due to the withdrawal of three of the four member choruses. The George Stone Singers continue as AMCA members having accepted the New York Penn District's invitation to join with them.

**Lansing Sing, April 24,
25 & 26, 2002**

Plans are progressing. Guest performers/clinicians booked are "Cantus" and "Three Men and a Tenor". They will perform on the Friday evening. The International Board will inspect the Sing site at our next meeting to take place in Lansing, Michigan on June 7th and 8th. Choruses planning to attend may book their rooms on the web site beginning January 1, 2002.



**Music News from the
Reviewer and Contest
Chair**

Hal Leonard will publish a "Book of Songs" with the content recommended by our Reviewer & approved by the Board (see Minutes for song list).

First prize in this year's contest goes to Willard S. Fast's selection "Song of Thanksgiving". It will be available as soon as a publisher has been arranged. Theme for 2002 submissions will be "folk-style music".

From our Web Site: "Chorus Nooz"

Topic: Milwaukee Male Chorus
Comments: From: "thepeddler"
Date: Sun, 2 Dec 2001 02:22:30 -0600

The Milwaukee Chorus will have done 6 concerts in the last two weeks, including the National Anthem at Marquette Basketball, Christmas Concert at the Governor's Mansion, Madison.

Merry Christmas to you and your family.

MMC

Burt Spurrier

DT

12/02/01 05:51 (EST)

Why not visit the site and give us all some of your views and news?



The Associated Male Choruses of America

**Editor
Dan Plunkett
28 Ameer Drive
St. Catharines, Ontario
Canada
L2N 3S8
905 646-1445
dplunkett4@cogeco.ca**

Some Advertising

- [AmericaFest International](#)

Should your choir be making application to this wonderful festival?

["AmericaFest 2002"](#) will bring together male voice ensembles from all over the world (also at St. John's University, July 30 - August 5, 2002).

Info from a [Morton](#) mailing (31 May 2000):

["AmericaFest 2000"](#) is an international festival for choirs. This year (2000) is located at [St John's University, Minnesota](#), USA from June 27 until July 3, 2000. Widely regarded as the world's premiere festival for male voices.

(2000) This year the International Choir is the Australian Boys Choir and Vocal Consort, led by Noel Ansell. No stranger to travel himself, Noel Ansell has written a lovely setting of the Australian poet, C.J. Dennis's poem "The Traveller" for SSAA choir. The poem mentions strange places - Burrumbeet, Beetaloo, Ballarat and Gundagai - which do in fact exist. Although harmonically simple, the metrical changes involve 7/8, 6/8, 3/4, 12/8, and 4/4 will keep a choir on its toes.

The King Singers will also be there.

Link to information about this and other events on the AMCA web site.

It's Better to Give Than Receive!

Kathleen Healy of Minnesota was buying some jeans in a store when she found a money clip in the change room. She turned it in but refused to take any reward from the owner. Eventually, she accepted a box of chocolate from the store. When she unwrapped it, she found it contained a ticket worth \$15,700 (Canadian) in a contest run by the makers.

The Globe and Mail (December 7, 2001)

Full Slate of Field Editors

The Chorister is grateful that we have field editors from every district. Please contact them with ideas, pictures, stories and jokes.

New York-Pennsylvania District Field Editor

Ric Addenbrooke

Tel: (716) 778-9412

Email: rica@pce.net

Ontario District Field Editor

Tom Mousseau

Tel: (905) 354-5630

Email: dplunkett4@cogeco.ca

Upper Midwest District Field Editor

Norbert Lehmann

Tel: (715) 834-1081

Email: nlehm10033@aol.com

Email: lehmann@amcofa.org

Wisconsin-Upper Michigan District Field Editor

George Pecor

Tel: (414) 475-1927

Email: gepecor@aol.com

Email: pecor@amcofa.org

Michigan Field Editor

Don Peterson

Tel: (517) 655-3879. His

Email: kerberc@msu.edu.