

# **IAMA Online Notes**

**Spring**  
**2015**

## **President's Message**

The IAMA Online Notes continues to be a wonderful vehicle for us musicians to keep informed about what is happening musically in our denomination. Once again Dan Shultz has pulled together a very informative newsletter that keeps us from feeling isolated in our own limited spheres of influence.

Harold Lickey, who died earlier this week, came to Walla Walla University my senior year there. It was with sadness that I learned of his passing a few days ago after several years of illness. My sympathies go out to his family and friends.

It was a surprise to hear that Mount Vernon Academy is being closed at the end of this school year. It was one of the main feeder schools to what is now Washington Adventist University when I was teaching there in the 1960s.

Congratulations to Linda Neel upon her retirement from Portland Adventist Academy. She was completing her master's degree in music at Pacific Union College during my first year of teaching here. She has become a legend in the Portland area, and we are proud of her as one of our PUC alumni.

It was great to see that Marvin Robertson is still so active in music at age 80. I really miss getting to see him and the other SDA music department chairs from across the nation at the National Association of Schools of Music annual meetings. It would be fun to get together this November in St. Louis again.

As you read through this report I am sure that each of you will learn something new. It is great that we are still updating the biographical

information, and I always find the information about openings and changes in positions at our schools of interest. So read on and see what is news to you.

***C. Lynn Wheeler, President, IAMA***

## **News**

### **Mount Vernon Academy Closes**

The oldest boarding academy in the church, Mount Vernon Academy, opened its doors in 1893. By the end of the first year the enrollment had grown to about 100. The school opened in buildings previously occupied by the Mount Vernon Sanitarium, which had closed in 1891. Ellen G. White, when consulted, had written in 1893:

Let the building be converted into a seminary to educate our youth in the place of enlarging the college at Battle Creek. I have been shown that there should... be located, school buildings in Ohio which would give character to the work" (EGW letter K35).

The day after this letter was written, J. N. Loughborough submitted a report to the General Conference in session advising the same action. Upon General Conference recommendations, the stockholders of the sanitarium voted to adopt this recommendation and to form a new corporation for the management of the Academy.

After operating on the secondary level for 12 years, the school was upgraded from an academy to a college, and during the next 11 years it offered four-year courses leading to B.S. and B.A. degrees as well as secondary work. In 1914 the Washington Foreign Mission Seminary in Washington, D.C., now Washington Adventist University, became the training college for the Columbia Union, and the school at Mount Vernon reverted to an academy.

Although attempts were made recently to raise \$3,000,000 (the amount needed to cover expenses for the school year), the effort failed and it was voted to close the school as of the end of this school year. About 1,400 persons attended the final alumni meeting held April 24-26. Graduation weekend is May 22-24.

Current MVA students who are members of the Ohio Conference have been informed that the Ohio Conference Finance Committee has approved Secondary Education Scholarships for them ranging from \$2,500 to \$5,000 for attendance at either a day or boarding academy.

David Nino, present music teacher, has been at MVA since 2009. He has accepted a position at Shenandoah Valley Academy.

Excerpted and paraphrased from Wikipedia, with information from *Adventist Today* and *Spectrum* websites, and *Adventist Musicians Biographical Resource*

## **Pacific Union College string quartet tours in Cambodia and Thailand**

The Pacific Union College String Quartet toured Cambodia and Thailand for ten days at the end of March. Quartet members requested that the focus of the trip be on mission and service rather than simply performing. With this in mind, they raised \$5,000 from local churches as well as friends and family to help fund the purchase of computers at the Takeo Adventist School and medical mission work at the Salt Ministries Adventist school in Siem Reap.

Once in Cambodia, they also gave music lessons to the students at the Takeo school since the school doesn't currently have an instrumental music teacher. Other performances were given at the Cambodia Adventist School and the Phnom Penh International SDA Church, as well as at the Royal University of Fine Arts in Phnom Penh. While in Thailand, the quartet performed at the Bangkok Mission Hospital and at the Asia Pacific International University.

Source: Rachele Berthelsen Davis, Chair, PUC Music department

### **Segue**

#### **Ricky Little**

Vocal/Choral Program, Union College, Lincoln, Nebraska  
See write-up under Personal Notes  
IAMA website & AMBR 473

#### **Dan Lynn**

Retiring after 30 years at Union College  
See write-up under Personal Notes  
IAMA website & AMBR 484

#### **Emmett McCutchenne**

Music, Portland Adventist Academy, Portland, Oregon

#### **Linda Neel**

Retiring from Portland Adventist Academy after 44 years of teaching at the secondary level. See write-up under Personal Notes.  
IAMA website and AMBR 585

#### **David Nino**

Choir, Shenandoah Valley Academy  
IAMA website & AMBR 598

#### **Giovanni Santos**

Instrumental Music/Wind Ensemble, La Sierra University, Riverside, California  
IAMA website and AMBR 747

**Gary Wilcox**

Music, Chisholm Trail academy, since 2013

**Ed Mohr (Academic Dean)**

Interim Chair, Music, Pacific Union College

## **Personal Notes**

**Ricky Little**, new choir director at Union College, most recently was a faculty member at Morehouse University, where he was an associate professor. He previously directed the Aeolians at Oakwood University from January 1989 to 1994. During his time at OU, the Aeolians toured extensively, appearing numerous times, singing on Good Morning, America and Breath of Life programs.

They also sang before the Prime Minister and Governor of Bermuda while touring there and were the featured group at the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Negro College Fund, at which President Bill Clinton was the featured speaker. Little, a baritone is an acclaimed singer, having performed in 18 countries and over 20 international music festivals.

A graduate of OU and a member of the Aeolians while a student there, Little completed an M.A. and a D.M.A. in vocal performance at the Ohio State University and completed studies in opera performance in Graz, Austria. He performs in and is a soloist with the American Spiritual Ensemble, a highly select group of 16 to 20 singers, all soloists in their own right.

**Dan Lynn** is retiring after serving as choir director since 1986 at Union College, the longest tenure of any choir director since the school was founded. Both of Dan's parents were music teachers at Kearney State Teacher's College, now the University of Nebraska at Kearney. He completed degrees at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln; Hartt School at the University of Hartford; and the University of Colorado, Boulder.

While at UC he has directed the Collegiate Chorale and the Unionaires, doing the latter for over half of the years since its founding in 1954. During his tenure at UC the Unionaires toured coast to coast and extensively in the Midwest.

In 1995 he created The Octet and in 2007 expanded the group and renamed it The Twelve. These two groups also toured regionally as well as in Russia, Canada, and Alaska. Dan served as chair of the music program from 2001 to 2005. A reunion of students who had sung under him for 27 years was held during Alumni Weekend in 2012, an experience he found to be "a very emotional one for all of us and a treasured once-in-a-lifetime memory."

**Linda Neel's** record 31 years as music teacher at Portland Adventist Academy has been celebrated throughout this school year, beginning with surprise guests at her Christmas concert, which included every principal she served under while at the school. During the concert all testified to her effectiveness and shared stories and memories about her time and her many successes while she worked under them.

Known as “Linda the Legend” in recent years, she led the band to nine state championships over a period of 18 years and the choir to numerous top four standings. She was recipient of the Zapara Excellence in Teaching award in 1992. She is also an international award-winning athlete who taught physical education classes at PAA for many years.

A French horn player, Linda attended Union College and graduated from Pacific Union College. She began teaching at Milo Adventist Academy in southern Oregon, where in addition to teaching music and PE, she served for two years as assistant girls' dean. This was her first experience in working at a boarding school and although it was in a beautiful rural setting and she enjoyed working there, she found the professional demands at times overwhelming.

Six years later, she accepted a teaching position at Portland Adventist Academy, a day school. The music program was in disarray and student participation was minimal. She later described the challenge and how she met it in an article about ensemble competition written in 1991:

There were fourteen students in the band the year before I came. Kids would skip the concerts. In the spring concert held the year before I came, they had only one trombone player, and he went to a ball game the night of the concert instead of coming. They were just barely hanging on.

I came and started visiting homes in June, knocking on doors and visiting as many homes as I could during that summer. We started a summer band with adults and kids, which also helped get the program off the ground. We ended up with 34 when school resumed.

We went to a small school band festival that Columbia Christian College sponsors. It's not a competition, except that if you want to play first chair, you must audition. Our kids walked in the door and just went and sat at the end of their sections. They didn't think they had a chance to have first chair. Finally, one of the flute players decided she would audition. She walked back into the room just beaming from ear to ear - she had gotten first chair. Some of the other kids decided to go ahead and try. Every student who auditioned succeeded, and we ended up with six or seven first chairs.

These successes affected how the students felt about themselves. One boy went home amazed and proud that they were going to have uniforms and look good. They began to feel pride in the organization.

Additionally, in the second year they started participating in state band competitions and began repeatedly to place first in their category. These successes led to a flourishing and growing band program that within the decade included over ninety members.

**More recently when talking about competing, Neel observed,**

I think that Adventists sometimes feel that the quality of our education isn't as good as that in the public schools, that we are sacrificing academic quality to create a better environment. The band and choir competing against the public schools and doing so well boosted the morale of the school in general and actually increased school enrollment. It also brought about the feeling that maybe we do have a quality program. If we are that good in music, we are probably just as good in other areas.

In hindsight, we got to play college level music we never would have attempted on our own. For the average kid who was really committed to music, it was a wonderful experience. The other side of that is that I am not convinced that music is about competition. Let the basketball team compete. Music is music, an aesthetic and emotional experience that can be diminished by making it competitive.

**Although she no longer teaches PE classes at PAA, she is an active athlete. Linda played racquetball competitively in several national tournaments at the masters level for several years and, at age 55, won the world senior championship at a tournament in Albuquerque, New Mexico, in 2004. Another sport she enjoys is kayaking, which she teaches and works as a guide in during the summers.**

Sources: personal knowledge; AMBR pages 585-588; Liesl Vistaunet, "PAA Celebrates 'Linda the Legend'", *North Pacific Union Gleaner*, February 2015, 19

***Marvin Robertson*, retired and now living in San Antonio, Florida, celebrated his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday in January. Chair and later Dean of the music program at Southern Adventist University for a record 33 years as well as director of several of the choirs during his time at SAU, he oversaw construction of the present music facility and completion of a world famous organ installation on that campus.**

**Additionally, Marvin achieved accreditation for the department with the National Schools of Music (NASM), was a co-founder of IAMA, and was a consultant for the establishment of the first Adventist music program at Zaoski Seminary in Russia, traveling to that country on eight different occasions as an advisor and with SAU choral groups.**

**He has continued to be active in music during retirement, most recently producing his 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> musicals with the students at East Pasco Adventist Academy in nearby Dade City, Florida: *Cinderella* in 2013 and *The King and I* in 2014. He also conducted the Chancel Choir at Port Charlotte Adventist Church from 1999 to 2006 and continues to conduct the Florida Hospital Zephyrhills Chorale.**

Sources: personal knowledge, AMBR pages 722, 3; Christmas Family letter, December 2014

## ***IAMA Biographical Resource Update***

**Over 500 copies of AMBR are now in circulation in 45 states in the U.S., 10 countries, libraries at all SDA colleges in the U.S., Canada, Australia, England, Mexico, and the Philippines, and in six non-SDA colleges. Most academy libraries now have copies. We are nearing the end of our inventory.**

A searchable CD of the book is now available for those who have access to Word 7. All who made a contribution in excess of \$50 or purchased the book for \$50 and did not subsequently receive a second copy at a reduced price can request a free copy. Those who purchased a copy for \$35 can obtain a copy of the CD for \$15, mailing included. A copy of the book is still available for \$35. Both the book and CD are available for \$50. Requests and/or orders can be sent to IAMA, PO Box 476, College Place, WA 99324.

## **Obituaries**

**Harold Eugene Lickey**

1924 - 2014

Biography at [www.iamaonline.com](http://www.iamaonline.com), AMBR, 750

**Roy (Robert W.) Scarr**

1922 - 2014

Biography at [www.iamaonline.com](http://www.iamaonline.com), AMBR, 750

**Robert Cheng-hai Tan**

1936 - 2014

Biography at [www.iamaonline.com](http://www.iamaonline.com), AMBR, 830

## **Contributions Solicited . . .**

IAMA works on a shoestring budget with typical annual expenses totaling \$600 to \$700. These include incorporation, website, and domain fees as well as mailbox, mailing, and research expenses (SDA history and biography projects). Until recently, we relied on dues to support activities of the association but now rely on donations.

Contributions of any size are welcome and should be sent to:  
IAMA PO Box 476, College Place, WA 99324

Thank you!

**Known SDA Music positions for 2015-16 school year**  
*Summary/Status/New listings*



For more detailed information on unfilled positions, see  
[www.iamonline.com](http://www.iamonline.com) SDA Music Positions

## **Union College** <sup>(1)</sup>

**Assistant Professor of Voice**/closed

## **La Sierra University** <sup>(2)</sup>

Assistant Professor, Tenure Track

**Director of Wind and Percussion Studies**/closed

## **Portland Adventist Academy** <sup>(3)</sup>

**Music Director**/closed

## **Gem State Academy** <sup>(4)</sup>

**Music**/tentatively closed

## **Oakwood University** <sup>(continued from last year (5))</sup>

**Assistant/Associate Professor of Music Ed.** /open

## **Maplewood Academy** <sup>(6)</sup>

**Music**/closed

## **North Asia-Pacific Division** <sup>(7)</sup>

**Elementary School Music**

Taipei Adventist American School in Taipei, Taiwan is looking for a music teacher for grades 1-8 who can also possibly teach some ELL. They will organize two main music programs for the year, one in December and one in May. You will need to have a four year degree plus state or denominational certification. For further information you can check out our website at [www.taas-taiwan.com](http://www.taas-taiwan.com). Please send resumes along with a cover letter and references by email to the principal at [principal.fullmer@taas-taiwan.com](mailto:principal.fullmer@taas-taiwan.com).

**Resumes Due By Jul 31 2015**

**Contact:**

Elliot Fullmer



64 Lane 80 Zhuang Ding Road

+88.622.861.6400

[principal.fullmer@taas-taiwan.com](mailto:principal.fullmer@taas-taiwan.com)

## **Loma Linda Academy** <sup>(8)</sup>

**Music/closed**

## **Spring Valley Academy** <sup>(9)</sup>

**Choir/Open**

Spring Valley is a flagship school that places a heavy emphasis on excellence in the performing arts. This position offers a tremendous opportunity for a choral teacher who desires to transform student lives and impact the wider community through great music instruction and performance. This position entails direction of elementary, middle, and high school choirs.

Specific expectation for the SVA Choral program include the following:

being able to teach and inspire children at different developmental levels,

build excellence in the program by teaching private vocal lessons to students who have a desire to excel,

select music that students love to sing,

planning and completing annual HS choir tours that build enthusiasm for performance among students, -

Plan annual middle/high school performances in constituent churches.

Plan and present annual musical/theatrical performances –

Work collaboratively with the SVA Band director to build a cohesive music department. –

Participate in the planning and design of the new SVA Chapel/Performing Arts Auditorium. –

Be an advocate for the SVA music program by networking with constituent pastors, music ministers, and performing arts supporters in the community.

### **Experience**

The successful applicant will have a track record of success as a choral director in the school setting. He/she will have demonstrated an ability to inspire students

to greatness and the competence to get them there. Applicants must be fully certificated Seventh-day Adventist teachers.

### **Contact**

**Kate Baldwin**

**1461 E. Spring Valley Rd. Dayton, OH 45458**

**Phone 937-433-0790**

**Email [kabaldwin@springvalleyacademy.org](mailto:kabaldwin@springvalleyacademy.org)**

## **Orlando Junior Academy** <sup>(10)</sup>

**Music/closed**

**[educationresumes@floridaconference.com](mailto:educationresumes@floridaconference.com)**

## **Milo Adventist Academy** <sup>(11)</sup>

***Music (Immediate Response requested!)***

Milo Adventist Academy, located in rural southern Oregon, is looking for a person who can provide a high quality music program. It is a full-time music position with teaching in that area only. The teacher is responsible for directing a mass choir, select choir, handbell choir, band, and small string ensemble as well as for giving music lessons.

### **Experience**

The successful applicant will have a track record of success as a music teacher. Applicants must be fully certificated Seventh-day Adventist teachers.

### **Contact**

**Randy Thornton**

**Phone: 541-825-3200 #3151**

**541-915-2950 (cell)**

**Email: [randythornton@miloacademy.org](mailto:randythornton@miloacademy.org)**

**Respond by no later than June 15 . . .**

## **BulletinBoard**

**60<sup>th</sup> General Conference Session**

**San Antonio, Texas**

**July 2-11**

**Send us your reactions to the music at the GC Session and  
they will be shared in the online autumn issue of *Notes*  
[shulda@charter.net](mailto:shulda@charter.net)**

***You are invited to send links to  
performances by yourself or your  
ensembles . . .***