

ECHO ECHO ECHO ECHO



'Vocal rest' and Mozart: singing the music-camp blues

By J. Peter Huggins
McQuaid Jesuit High School

An essay on the topic of "what I did on my summer vacation" takes on a new ring when you reveal, right in the first sentence, that you did something a little more creative — and structured — than archery, canoeing and short-sheeting your bunkmate's bed, so I might as well come out with it: my camp was a camp for singers.

For four weeks in July and August, I attended the New York State Summer School of the Arts Choral Studies Program, held at the SUNY campus in Albany. For a solid month, we learned not only how to sing but how to sing correctly. By the time our stay at camp was almost over, we'd learned a good deal as well about music in general.

We began this festival of learning on July 14, the first day of an experience I'll never forget. That morning, we were given room

assignments, sheet music and the keys to our rooms. We said goodbye to our parents before the day was over, and then began the process of meeting new friends and becoming acquainted with the campus.

Our classes were as interesting as the people teaching them. We began each day with three hours of choral rehearsal in the morning, followed, fortunately, by lunch, and then returned for music theory, music theater and music history. A schedule that may sound grueling was actually fascinating for a beginner like me.

In theory class, I learned about rhythm patterns, while musical theater class (just about everyone's favorite) taught us about improvisation and dialogue. In the process of learning how to present myself in a dramatic way, I found that I was beginning to gain more confidence in my actual singing.

While it was not, by far, my favorite class,

the history class did have its own style. Demonstrations of music from different periods gave us a much clearer picture of musical history than it would have been possible to express in a lecture.

While in Albany, we were given a wide range of musical experiences, from ballet to comic opera, from Whitney Houston to the Manhattan Transfer. The choral offerings were as culturally diverse as could be — which gave us all a good look at the possibilities that exist in music. We not only learned specifically about music, but also learned about how you can apply your own creativity to it.

Almost as important as the music, however, were the people I met there. Of 110 campers, I found about as many different types of people as I could imagine. Dorm living was as helpful to me as my voice training. Living with people outside your own family has a way of "scattering" a lot of preconceptions you may have formed about life in general. The camp experience was so intense that we couldn't help being really tested, and the friends we'd made seemed to help us through our difficult times.

By the end of the second week, I'd managed to come down with a virus that turned into a tidy and quite painful little throat infection. This, however, didn't take me out of things totally. During the second week, things in general began to relax, but not for long. Our instructors hardly let relaxation become our undoing. Noticing how far behind we were beginning to slip, they began to really drill us toward the end of the second week.

By the third week of camp, instructor

Brenda Hampden had written us brand new music, in the form of a gospel medley, as well as an arrangement of "The Greatest Love of All" by Whitney Houston. Our classes were cancelled so that we could add three hours of afternoon rehearsal to our already teeming schedules.

However, our basic enthusiasm for music was what kept us going in the final weeks. It was quite a thrill for all of us when our non-gospel music began to come together for us during the third week. Granted, we had a long week-and-a-half ahead of us, but we were still excited about it.

By the week of the performance, we were introduced to a wonderful new concept. In the midst of full days of rehearsal, we began to practice "vocal rest," during which you don't sing, talk or make any sound at all with your voice. I found myself on vocal rest throughout that Thursday and Friday, since my throat infection hadn't fully healed. Try saying goodbye some time when you can't use your vocal cords.

For me, the School of Choral Studies was the fulfillment of a dream: to sing in a big choral center with a truly great chorus under an excellent conductor. I learned a great deal from our conductor, Robert Boss; our accompanist, Kenneth Bowen; and teachers Janice Dixon (music theory), Kevin Deas (musical theater) and Andrea Ridilla (music history), not to mention voice teachers Cornelius Sullivan, Cecilia Dempsey, Michael Dash and Karen Williams.

By the time of our closing concert, I could truly say that, although summer camp was really more like summer school this time around, it really made my entire year.

Speaking Out

By Deana Manuse
Bishop Kearney High School

As the summer of '86 comes to an end, the reality of the approaching school year becomes more and more apparent. It seems as if July 1 was just yesterday. The whole summer was ahead of us, but now we ask, "Where did the summer go?" With only one week left of summer vacation, many have found that we are neither mentally nor physically prepared for the upcoming school year. Keeping this in mind, I have written a few suggestions that may cure those "Back-to-School Blues."

1) Start reading those summer reading books that you have set aside since June. Although reading the actual book is the best way to understand it, when you have five books to read in a week, "Cliff Notes" and "Masterplots" can be very helpful indeed.

2) Begin to shop for the dress code's regulation socks, shirts and ties. This is prime time for all the back-to-school sale bargains, which have been advertised since the start of July. Also stock up on looseleaf, folders and notebooks. You can give them three weeks until they are torn and mangled, and you are in desperate need of new ones.

3) If you are a second- or third-year language student, start to refresh your vocabulary and grammar. By doing this, you can avoid the anxiety and the embarrassment of not remembering the simplest of words during your first week back. This may even impress your teacher.

4) If you are a late-night television addict, take in as much as you can, be it

"The Honeymooners," "The Tonight Show" or "David Letterman." When school starts, you will be in bed long before "Stupid Pet Tricks" is on the air.

5) Set your alarm for 6 a.m. and start getting up early. Sleeping until noon is not tolerated in school (with the possible exception of during biology filmstrips).

6) Run once a day from your doorstep to the bus stop. This will prepare you for the days when you wake up late and have to make a mad dash to catch the bus. Keep in mind that if you miss the bus, you will have to walk three miles to school in either rain or snow.

7) I suggest, for any high school student whose school has more than one floor, to run up and down his or her basement steps at least 20 times a day for the next week. This will get you in shape for the class changes from floor to floor, because as you and I know, no two classes in a row are ever on the same floor.

Important note: Make sure when following rules 6 and 7 to carry eight books; this will give you the true feeling of school and keep the arms in shape.

Seriously, when the first day of school arrives, a rat-race will begin for most students. Trying to juggle school, homework, sports and activities, along with a part-time job, while maintaining some form of sanity, sounds nearly impossible. It doesn't have to be, however. My best suggestion is to eat a good breakfast, get a good night's sleep and take it in stride. After all, we made it through last year. Although the subjects will be more difficult, all of us have grown and will be able to handle them.

Remember, school is what you make it. Get as much of it as you can, but have some fun with it along the way. Just think: Christmas vacation is only five months away!

Bishop Kearney anticipates 24th anniversary

Bishop Kearney High School will enter its 25th year in 1987. Festivities celebrating this milestone will begin in January.

The school begins this jubilee year with eight new faculty members: Sister Eileen Casey, art and history; Sister Bernice Staub, guidance; Sister Beatrice Pavlica, assistant librarian; Brother William McNamara, science; John Sims, math; Michael LaLiberte, religion; Michael Szatkowski, English and life skills; and Nancy Thompson, physical education.

Bishop Kearney studies prepare students for continuing study at the college level. Advanced-placement and college-level courses are offered in conjunction with Nazareth and St. John Fisher colleges, and BOCES programs are available to seniors. The new Regents' Action Plan has been fully implemented.

The Alumni Club, Parents Alumni Council, Parents Association and Sports and Band Booster clubs boast enthusiastic involvement. These Bishop Kearney support groups have had tremendous success and participation in their fund-raising and development projects.

Tuition at Bishop Kearney is moderate, and tuition assistance is available. Various academic and leadership scholarships are given to stu-

dents at all grade levels and to incoming students. For information, contact the school, (716) 342-4000, or visit at 125 Kings Highway, Irondequoit.

Mercy high school plans changes for coming year

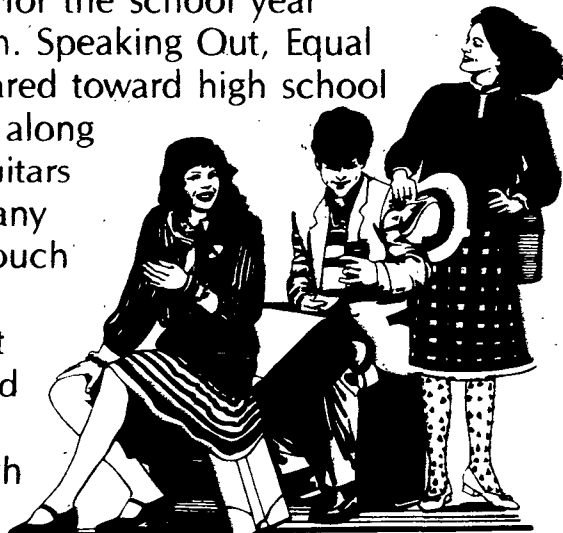
The students, faculty and administration of Our Lady of Mercy High School have great expectations for the coming school year. Changes and new directions are planned in the areas of curriculum and spiritual life.

For the first time in five years, Mercy will have a priest at the school five days a week to give the sacraments and provide spiritual guidance. Father Ray Fleming will assist Sister Maureen Servas in campus ministry.

The Campus Ministry Board plans the school's liturgies, provides for the spiritual growth of the students and organizes activities that promote care and concern for all people. The spiritual theme for the 1986-87 school year is "Be still and find out that I am God." This theme, chosen by the board, will be used throughout the year to illustrate the hopes and goals set by the school and its students.

ECHO...on the rebound!

Returning after a summer of fun to the Courier-Journal. ECHO...written by students for students will be back for the school year starting September 4th. Speaking Out, Equal Time and features geared toward high school students will be back along with the House of Guitars Trivia questions! Got any bright ideas? Get in touch with your school representatives and let them know what you'd like to see more of! Keep in touch... with ECHO!



HOUSE OF GUITARS

We received 15 correct entries identifying "You Really Got Me" as the first hit for the Kinks in 1964, and also the first Van Halen hit in 1978

The winner was Jennifer Giglia of St. Andrews.



MUSIC TRIVIA

This week's question:

From what song do the following 1970 Simon & Garfunkel lyrics come from: "When you're weary and feeling small?"

A:

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____
Zip Code _____
School _____

Rules:

Each week, the Courier-Journal, in conjunction with the House of Guitars will feature a Music Trivia contest. All you have to do to enter is answer the question, fill in your name and address and the school you attend (if applicable), cut out the coupon, and send it in to the Courier-Journal. If more than one correct entry is received, a drawing will be held and one winning entry will be drawn.

If yours is the winning entry, you will be mailed a coupon for a free album or tape of your choice redeemable at the House of Guitars, 645 Titus Ave. All entries must be received within seven days of this paper's issue date. Winning names and answers will be printed the week following each drawing.

The Courier-Journal
Music Trivia
1150 Buffalo Rd.
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