



I Chose It; I Love It!

Billy Talley, TCDA President

I love being a choir director. If I could go back and start all over, I think I would still choose to be a choir director. But there are times when my job is not much fun. There are times when I have to be the bad guy with my choirs. There are times when I get so busy with choir performances that I feel I don't have a life at all. Let's face it: there are times for all of us when we just need to get away from our jobs and take a mental health vacation. And this is why God invented music conventions! Is there a choir director in the state of Texas that is not ready for TMEA? I can hardly wait to gather in San Antonio and reconnect with so many like-minded colleagues. Before the TMEA Convention kicks off, your TCDA Board will be meeting to put the final touches on what promises to be an amazing TCDA 2014 Convention on July 27-30.

I hope you will start making plans now to join us in San Antonio this summer. There is something for everyone, whether you are a church musician or school musician, elementary teacher or university professor, retirement age or just beginning your career as a director.

Highlights for the 2014 TCDA Convention include:

- Doreen Rao conducting this year's Elementary Honor Choir
- Church Festival Choir under the direction of Dr. Loyd Hawthorne performing this year's Commissioned Work by composer Dan Forrest, who will accompany the choir
- Performances by the Ken Davis Chorale and the San Antonio Chamber Singers
- Workshops by many of Texas' finest choral directors
- Thirteen new music reading sessions

And something new for 2014: there will be a Mozart "Requiem" Sing-In where you, the members of TCDA, will be the choir! We are working with members of TODA and TBA to comprise the orchestra. Dr. Jerry McCoy will serve as conductor for this venture. So dig up your score of the Mozart "Requiem", dust off the cobwebs on those vocal cords, and plan to sing with us. This opportunity came as a direct result of a suggestion in last summer's suggestion box (yes, we do read those). When the Board met in the fall, we decided this was a long overdue performance opportunity for our members. Imagine, TCDA members performing a major work at the TCDA convention. Thank you, Thomas Juneau, for the idea. I hope this will become an annual event for TCDA, with a different major work each year.

So put July 27-30 on your calendar and plan to be in San Antonio for the TCDA 2014 Convention. Now is the time to talk to your booster clubs for some travel money. For those who are part-time church musicians, see if your church has some extra money in a travel fund to help you get to TCDA. Have a garage sale and clean out your equipment room of all those old choir shirts, fundraising items that didn't get sold, and reel-to-reel recorders that you won't be using again. Find a way to get to San Antonio this summer. We need you! And you will be a better teacher because you came!