



**F M C F. MELIUS CHRISTIANSEN
ENDOWMENT FUND**
AMERICAN CHORAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION OF MINNESOTA

Your generous contribution will honor the name and philosophy of F. Melius Christiansen and provide significant encouragement to future generations of choral conductors from Minnesota.

∞ Dale Warland



The F. Melius Christiansen (FMC) Endowment Fund is indebted to members of the American Choral Directors Association of Minnesota (ACDA-MN) and other supporters of choral music whose faithful giving has allowed us to invest in the choral life of Minnesota. Since its inception in 1997 the endowment fund has received countless gifts from members and friends, and many members have made a commitment to the endowment in their wills and estate planning.

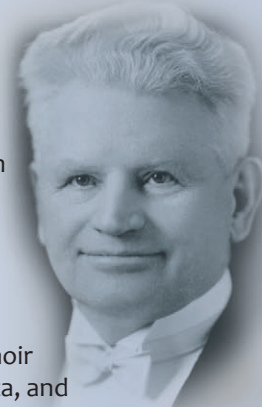
I invite you to make an annual gift to the FMC Endowment Fund and join more than 1,300 individuals, corporations and foundations that have already contributed. Donors to the endowment fund may designate a memorial gift for family members and friends, or may honor birthdays, anniversaries, retirements and other events with special gifts.

Thank you for your gifts to the FMC Endowment Fund that allow ACDA-MN to provide the “vibrant future for exemplary choral music” that every choral music professional desires. We are deeply grateful for your generous support!

With gratitude and appreciation,
Bruce W. Becker
Executive Director, ACDA-MN
F. Melius Christiansen Endowment Fund

THE INSPIRATION

The endowment’s namesake, **F. Melius Christiansen** (1871-1955), was a Norwegian immigrant who is considered the ‘father’ of a *cappella* choral singing in the United States. Christiansen founded the St. Olaf Choir in Northfield, Minnesota, and shaped it into arguably the best-known college choir in the world. For nearly thirty years he used an ethic of hard work to achieve perfect intonation, seamless blend and crisp diction.



The F. Melius Christiansen Endowment Fund recognizes Christiansen’s inspirational contributions to the choral art in Minnesota.

THE STORY

In the fall of 1996, ACDA-MN's annual fall conference was held on the campus of St. Olaf College in Northfield, and was designed to honor the legacy of F. Melius Christiansen, founder of the St. Olaf Choir, and celebrate the 125th anniversary of Christiansen's birth and his contributions to the choral art. The conference's closing concert was open to the public and an audience of more than 7,500 people attended. Following that event, ACDA-MN found itself in possession of monetary largesse from grateful concert-goers and sponsors. Those contributions were set aside by ACDA-MN's leaders to establish an endowment fund in 1997 with F. Melius Christiansen as its namesake. ACDA-MN sought to honor and sustain Christiansen's legacy and set a lofty goal for the endowment of \$500,000.

The ACDA-MN board busied itself envisioning ways to spend the interest generated from the endowment fund to guarantee a "vibrant future for

exemplary choral music" in the state of Minnesota. They determined that the FMC Endowment Fund's mission is to:

- Provide active Minnesota choral conductors with professional development opportunities
- Encourage talented young musicians to pursue choral conducting as a career
- Provide administrative support for ACDA-MN

During 2006, the FMC Endowment Fund Committee organized a second grand concert event (ten years after the first one in 1996) at Orchestra Hall in Minneapolis to celebrate the 135th anniversary of F. Melius Christiansen's birth. Two choral concerts were offered to over 5,000 audience members that again generated additional monies for the endowment fund.

While individual donations are the lifeblood of the endowment, two remarkable gifts stand out in its history.

After the Sixth World Symposium on Choral Music was held in Minneapolis during August, 2002, a check was presented to ACDA-MN in the amount of \$90,000 as a gesture of goodwill and as a 'thank you' for ACDA-MN members' assistance with this prestigious international choral music conference. In 2006, a one-of-a-kind \$100,000 matching gift to the endowment from the Minnesotan-based Wenger Foundation was announced. Endowment Fund committee members worked diligently to successfully raise \$100,000 by the end of 2007 to meet the Wenger Foundation challenge to generate matching monies.

The generosity of individual and corporate donors helped the endowment fund reach its original \$500,000 goal, and a new goal of \$1,000,000 has recently been established. In its first fourteen years the FMC Endowment Fund Committee has awarded scholarships to 166 Minnesota choral directors totaling more than \$93,000.

THE SCHOLARSHIPS

The F. Melius Christiansen Endowment Fund offers four types of scholarships to provide Minnesota choral conductors with professional development opportunities.

ACDA-MN Summer Dialogue Scholarships

ACDA-MN Summer Dialogue is an annual professional conference held every August in conjunction with the Minnesota All-State Choir camps. Membership in ACDA is not required. Undergraduate students and previous recipients are ineligible. Scholarships are awarded to Minnesota conductors in the following categories:

1. Scholarships (registration and shared lodging) for conductors with 0-2 years of experience
2. Scholarships (registration only) for experienced conductors who have never attended Dialogue

Conference Scholarships

National ACDA and North Central ACDA host national and division conferences, respectively, across the U.S. in alternate years. These conferences feature choral performances, workshops, choral reading sessions, and many opportunities for professional growth. Graduate students and collegiate juniors and seniors who are pursuing a career in choral conducting may apply for national conference scholarships of up to \$1,000 and division conference scholarships of up to \$750 to assist with registration, lodging, meals, and transportation. Applicants must be ACDA student members in Minnesota.

World Symposium on Choral Music Scholarship

The International Federation for Choral Music hosts a World Symposium on Choral Music (WSCM), a prestigious international choral festival, every three years. ACDA members who have been active choral conductors in Minnesota for at least five years may apply for a scholarship of up to \$3,000 to attend the WSCM.

Graduate Study Scholarships

ACDA-MN supports the continuing education of Minnesota choral conductors by offering scholarships for graduate study in choral conducting. ACDA members who have at least two years of conducting experience in Minnesota may apply for a \$1,000 scholarship for part-time graduate study or a \$3,000 scholarship for full-time graduate study.

Your generous gift to the endowment fund will help to ensure that the choral art, so powerfully expressed in the life and work of F. Melius Christiansen, will not only continue, but be broadened and amplified by future generations of Minnesota choral conductors.

✎ René Clausen

THE IMPACT

Meet Nicole Thietje. Following her graduation from the University of West Florida in 2008 she moved to Minnesota and was hired as a choral director in New Prague, Minnesota. Nicole joined ACDA-MN and applied for a scholarship to attend ACDA-MN's 2009 Summer Dialogue, an event that proved to be life-changing for her:

“After moving to Minnesota following the completion of my undergraduate degree, one of the first things I did was join ACDA-MN. I found out about Summer Dialogue and other events via the ACDA-MN website. I applied for a FMC Endowment Summer Dialogue scholarship and was incredibly grateful to be awarded one.

Attending Dialogue was an invaluable experience. As a new resident to the state of Minnesota, it was wonderful to meet so many directors from all over the state. I had a wonderful and enlightening experience and gained a great sense of pride to be a part of the ACDA-MN organization. I feel that the scholarship was not only an incredible gift, but also a show of support and encouragement from the organization, which as a new conductor, was greatly inspiring. The FMC Endowment Fund afforded me a unique opportunity to grow and learn, and then take that knowledge back to my students, and for that I am deeply grateful.

I feel blessed to be in a state with such a rich and vibrant choral community and to be a part of an organization that supports its members and choral music in many different ways, including the FMC Endowment Fund.”

Nicole's experience exemplifies the way in which ACDA-MN and the FMC Endowment Fund assist young Minnesota choral directors through scholarships and learning opportunities.



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The FMC Endowment Fund is an
immeasurable gift to Minnesota's
choral community.
∞ Mark Potvin

THE IMPACT

Meet Mark Potvin. A 2010 Graduate Study Scholarship from the F. Melius Christiansen Endowment Fund allowed Mark to work on a master of music degree in choral conducting at St. Cloud State University where he conducts the Men's Choir.

He received his undergraduate degree from Luther College, Decorah, Iowa, and is currently the director of choral activities at Princeton High School, Princeton, Minnesota. He is also the artistic director and conductor of the East Central Minnesota Chorale in Cambridge, Minnesota.

Mark was named ACDA-MN's Outstanding Young Choral Director in 2008 and has served as editor of ACDA-MN's award-winning newsletter, *Star of the North*, since 2009. He eloquently states the case for the F. Melius Christiansen Endowment Fund:

“The FMC Endowment Fund is an immeasurable gift to Minnesota's choral community. By promoting lifelong learning for ACDA-MN members through various scholarships, its impact is powerful, substantive, and enduring. As a recipient of a graduate study scholarship I was able to immerse myself in full-time studies at St. Cloud State University and take a temporary hiatus from the day-to-day business of teaching and managing a high school choral program. The result was a more meaningful learning experience that included time to process and to reflect upon my coursework. I returned to teaching eager to share my new discoveries with students and to incorporate a deeper understanding of choral music into all my conducting and teaching endeavors.”

Mark's Graduate Study Scholarship is one of the many benefits that the F. Melius Christiansen Endowment Fund provides young Minnesota choral leaders.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone (____) _____ Email _____

Please check if you are a member of ACDA

YES I wish to support choral music in Minnesota!

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500

Other: \$ _____

My check is enclosed, payable to: FMC Endowment Fund

I will contribute by credit card online at: www.fmcendowment.org

My employer will match my gift. I will provide the necessary paperwork.

Please send information about including the FMC Endowment Fund
in my will or estate planning.

This gift is a TRIBUTE:

in memory of _____

in honor of _____

Please include name and address to whom TRIBUTE acknowledgement should be sent:

If mailing, please send to:

F. Melius Christiansen Endowment Fund
ACDA-MN
Bruce W. Becker, Executive Director
12027 Gantry Lane
Apple Valley, MN 55124

ACDA-MN is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization. All gifts to the association and to the F. Melius Christiansen Endowment Fund are tax-deductible.

THANK YOU!

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FMC F. MELIUS CHRISTIANSEN ENDOWMENT FUND

AMERICAN CHORAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION OF MINNESOTA



ACDA-MN will celebrate its 50th anniversary during 2011-2012. The festivities will culminate in a weekend of Golden Anniversary concerts on November 16-18, 2012.

The Star of the North Festival Concert Series, sponsored by the FMC Endowment Fund Committee and ACDA-MN, is designed to raise funds for the Endowment Fund and showcase selected choirs from throughout the state of Minnesota.

THE MISSION

The American Choral Directors Association of Minnesota is committed to providing resources and leadership that will guarantee a vibrant future for exemplary choral music in Minnesota. To advance this cause ACDA-MN established the F. Melius Christiansen Endowment fund to:

- Provide active Minnesota choral conductors with professional development opportunities
- Encourage talented young musicians to pursue choral conducting as a career
- Provide administrative support for ACDA-MN

Choral music is indeed vital to the fabric of life in our region—Minnesota is known as ‘choral country’! I support the work of ACDA-MN through the F. Melius Christiansen Endowment Fund because I know it guarantees that Minnesota will always deserve its reputation for choral excellence.

✪ Philip Brunelle

