



Hugh Sanders

Material prepared by Charles Fuller

Biographical Sketch of Hugh Sanders by Charles Fuller

If there's such a thing as "quiet charisma", Hugh Sanders was the supreme example. He led with the quiet and unmistakable confidence of one who knew what was possible, knew what he wanted, and knew how to get it from those he led. He was a man of deep faith who loved people as much as he loved music.

Born March 10, 1935 in Portales, New Mexico, Hugh Sanders knew poverty from an early age. His hard-working father could neither read nor write and was only able to house his young family in a dugout. Later Sanders would seldom discuss those days and certainly never complained about lacking for anything as a child. Music and refined culture were certainly not a part of his early development. As a teenager he was befriended by several families in Portales who encouraged his musical and artistic development. Some of these were faculty families from the local college as well as the family of the local school superintendent. These families encouraged Sanders in his musical activities, but his greatest interest in high school was basketball.

After graduation from high school, Sanders headed to Abilene, Texas and Hardin-Simmons University. There he met the first of two people who would have the greatest influence on his life: Euell Porter. Euell Porter, the choral director at Hardin-Simmons recruited Sanders for the choir. Sanders, who was at Hardin-Simmons because of his basketball scholarship, wasn't sure at first. He scrutinized Porter carefully to be sure that he wasn't a "sissy" choir director. It was the beginning of a lifetime friendship marked not only by their love of choral music, but also their shared love of sports.

Porter almost literally adopted Sanders, often taking care of some of his personal expenses along the way. Such was their relationship that when Porter accepted the position of choral director at Baylor University in 1955, it was Sanders who helped pack the truck and went along helping, as was usual, with caring for Porter's invalid wife, Christine.

It wasn't long before Sanders met the next most significant influence on his life, his soon-to-be-bride, Rinky. In the summer of 1957 they had their first date at the

Southern Baptist Conference Center in Glorieta, New Mexico. Rinky was a fine musician and pianist and they would be partners as both parents and musicians, to the delight of both school and church people for years to come.

After their 1958 marriage, they traveled to Port Arthur's Thomas Jefferson High School for Hugh's first job. He had finished his Bachelor's degree and had nearly finished his Master's degree from Baylor by this time. After a year in East Texas, they headed back to the flat country and dry air of West Texas and Hugh became choral director at Pampa High School in Pampa, Texas.

His time at Pampa was marked by outstanding ratings for his choirs and invitations to sing for the American Choral Directors Association as well as the birth of son, Stan, and daughter, Stacie. During this time he served the Texas Music Educator's Association as Vocal Division Chair and President. It was during these years that the Panhandle of Texas had some outstanding teachers who would later go on to lead the profession. Bill Cormack, from Amarillo's Tascosa High School, would later lead TMEA as Executive Director. Lynn Whitten, at Dumas High School, would later lead the choral area at the University of Colorado to national and international prominence.

It was during this time that Hugh would be noticed by John Green, the fine arts dean at West Texas State University. Choral music at WTSU was led by composing and arranging legend, Houston Bright. It was the late sixties and Bright was in ill health. Green brought Sanders to WTSU for a year and then helped him to immediately take a leave in order to complete a doctorate at the University of Colorado. Two years later, Sanders returned to WTSU to head the choral program upon the death of Houston Bright. Thus began a fifteen-year string of success upon success, which included almost annual selection of the WT Chorale for performances for ACDA, MENC, TMEA, and other significant choral organizations across the country. During these years he and Rinky continued their church music careers at First Baptist Church in Canyon. Hugh also was asked to teach during the summer of 1975 at the University of Southern California as Distinguished Visiting Professor.

In 1978 WTSU named Sanders Dean of the School of Fine Arts. Sanders embraced the position, which he fulfilled in addition to continuing as conductor of the WT Chorale. He accomplished a great deal as leader of that school. The crowning achievement of his work as Dean was the formation of the Harrington String Quartet, endowed by the Harrington Foundation and a shared endeavor of

both WTSU and the Amarillo Symphony. During these years, the endowment of the School of Fine Arts grew from 15,000 to over 1.5 million dollars.

In 1984 his alma mater came calling. Baylor needed a new choral director and offered the job to Sanders as the Ben H. Williams Professor of Music. It was considered a coup for the university to secure a conductor of such renown to rebuild a rich choral tradition and they were especially grateful that this famous conductor was one of their own. He would soon assume the presidency of the American Choral Directors Association and was a charter member of the new International Federation for Choral Music.

The move to Baylor was followed by more invitations to sing for prestigious music groups, the most significant was the World Choral Symposium in Korea in 1990. During his career he conducted thirty-five all-state choirs and worked with countless schools and churches around the country. In 1993 Sanders stepped down as Director of Choral Activities to head the Baylor Institute for Church Music & Worship. TCDA named Sanders Texas Distinguished Choirmaster in 1997. Retirement followed in 2000 and he died at the age of 66 on August 31, 2001.

The legacy of Hugh Sanders is long and significant. He conducted all-state choirs all over the country, his choirs sang over and over for choral directors' conventions, and he was constantly in demand to do workshops and clinics for both school and church musicians. But the legacy that meant the most to him was the one he left with the people he would call himself privileged to have known, especially his former students. He left with them a legacy of excellence, kindness, beauty, and faith that he would have them give to their choristers to pass on to later generations, just like he passed it to them from his mentor, Euell Porter.

TEXAS CHOIRMASTER AWARD

The following is a speech given by Randy Talley, President of the Texas Choral Directors Association at the 1997 TCDA Convention.

Today, it is my distinct honor and privilege to present the prestigious Texas Choirmaster Award to a legendary choral director who has spent his entire career teaching here in Texas.

If you know this individual at all, you would assume that he was raised in a home where education was a top priority. Nothing could be further from the truth. He was raised in a dugout with a dirt floor, his mother washed dishes in a café, and his hardworking father could neither read nor write. After he graduated from high school, this tall, skinny kid from Portales, New Mexico received a college scholarship to Hardin-Simmons University, not as a music student, but as a basketball player. However, soon after he arrived in Abilene, he met a man who would change his life forever, Dr. Euell Porter. Dr. Porter convinced this young man that his future was not in basketball, but in choral music education. When Dr. Porter moved to Baylor University, he made it possible for his promising young protégé to go with him to Waco. Today, forty years later, Dr. Porter's most successful student is also his best friend, the man we honor today – Dr. Hugh Sanders.

Hugh Sanders first made his mark in choral music at Pampa High School. After eight years in Pampa, he moved to Canyon, Texas where he became the Assistant Choral Director at West Texas State University with Houston Bright. In 1970 he completed his doctorate at the University of Colorado and returned to WTSU. After the death of Houston Bright, Dr. Sanders became the Director of Choral Activities. His choirs in the 1970's at West Texas State are legendary. Dr. Sanders left WT in 1982 to become the Choral Director at Baylor University.

Dr. Sanders has served Texas as Vocal Chairman and President of TMEA. He was Southwestern Division President of ACDA, and in 1984 he was President of the American Choral Directors Association. He has received many awards and honors, far too many to mention, and he has conducted 35 all-state choirs. In 1958 Dr. Sanders married a young, bashful girl from Phillips, Texas who became his closest friend and strongest advocate. All of you know her as Rinky. They have two children, Stan and Stacie, and two grandchildren, Holly and Hunter, who are all with us today.

Dr. Sanders has had a profound influence in the lives of his students. I would like to read a few excerpts from letters written to Dr. Sanders:

“Thank you for making music come alive. I am learning to appreciate it and love it more every day because of you.”

“Of course there were many other trips and performances during my undergraduate years. Each was special. But what I will remember most is rehearsing. The 11:00 hour was the highlight of my day. Many rehearsals moved me. Thank you for challenging me.”

“You have put an indelible influence on me that has helped me make some very important decisions in my life.”

“I just can’t tell you how much we enjoyed the performance the other night. When the choir began to sing, I immediately began to cry. Hearing that first note brought back such wonderful memories. I could feel the excitement and energy. I could feel the oneness of the singers. My mind flashed back to MENC where we were singing Jesu Meine Freude. I remember you looked scared to death when we started. I saw the twinkle in your eye, and then we all knew we were at the right place at the right time. When the last cut-off swept the crowd to its feet, no one in the choir had a dry eye. I could say that I personally had my most profound religious experience.”

And finally, “I am so grateful to God that my brothers and I came to WT. What you taught us about directing a choir has been the foundation for everything we do in the classroom. Any success that we have achieved had its beginnings in what we learned singing in your choir.”

Hugh Sanders has achieved great things in his life. I have had the honor of knowing him as a teacher and as a friend. The following observations are what I admire most about him:

- He has achieved greatness without ego.
- He shows genuine love and concern for others. He is always the first to greet conductors following a concert, sharing a word of praise.
- And finally, he lives in the present, he doesn’t dwell on the past.

Dr. Sanders, I would not be here today without your support and encouragement

when I was a member of your choir. It is my great honor to present to you the Texas Choirmaster Award.

Music Professor Knows Life's Extremes By Linda Lawson, Baptist Press

Hugh Sanders spent the first three years of his life residing in eastern New Mexico in a home dug out of the sand. At age three, he recalls his mother shooting a rattlesnake trying to come into the coolness of the dugout.

Now, Sanders is the Ben H. Williams Professor of Music, director of choral activities and director of the Institute for Church Music Studies at Baylor. He also serves as minister of music at Seventh and James Baptist Church in Waco and recently completed a term as president of the American Choral Directors Association one of the most prestigious posts in the field of music. Sanders' life between two extremes bears testimony to the willingness of Christians to invest in a person in whom they saw potential.

"My dad never went to school. He couldn't read or write," said Sanders, who earned bachelors and master's degrees from Baylor and a Ph.D. in music from the University of Colorado at Boulder. At age three, Sanders' father traded his land for a two-room shotgun house and two city lots in Portales, NM. While their financial situation did not improve, Portales is a college town (Eastern New Mexico University) and his childhood included excellent teachers and friends whose parents were college professors. "The thought to quit school never crossed my mind," he said.

While living in Portales, Sanders frequented the home of the Portales school superintendent who had a son his age. "They subscribed to Life magazine and the Amarillo paper. I was never in their way. I was in the corner, reading," he recalled. This family, the Hunts, discussed politics and other issues at the dinner table, something Sanders had never experienced. They also bought Community Concert tickets for him during his junior and senior years. Through their investment in him, he saw some of the finest performing artists of the time. While Sanders was more interested in sports than music during his high school years, he did play the tenor lead in HMS Pinafore his junior year and then joined the choir for his senior year.

Sanders then attended Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, Texas, where he

met Euell Porter, a professor of music who became his mentor. When he learned his scholarship would not be renewed his sophomore year, Sanders told Porter he would not be returning to Hardin-Simmons. Porter urged him to come back as a music major and pledged to help him get a music scholarship. Sanders, who prided him on being an athlete, had real doubts about the wisdom of a male majoring in music, but Porter told him the responsibility would be on him to make of a profession what he wanted it to be. "I've never been that aggressive to tell a student he ought to major in music," Sanders said.

When Porter accepted a faculty position at Baylor, Sanders went with him. Three times during Sanders' time at Baylor, he lacked the funds for a down payment for a semester – times when Porter helped him with a loan. "He'd reach in his billfold and hand it to me," Sanders recalled. He also got his first job as a minister of music in Smithville, Texas, a job that required a weekly round-trip bus ride in which he would arrive back on the Waco campus at 2 am Monday morning, four hours before he had to report for work in the cafeteria. "The church was an opportunity to become a practitioner of what I learned in class," said Sanders.

Throughout his career while teaching high school, at West Texas State University in Canyon and at Baylor, Sanders has served as a minister of music in churches. "When you face your church choir on Wednesday night, they couldn't care less how many degrees you have," Sanders said. "They want to know how to sound as good as we can sound for Sunday morning. I've benefited a great deal from that." In addition to teaching and directing choirs, Sanders has given priority to seeing that his choirs experience the discipline of performing before organizations of choral directors. "I love competition," he said. "I've found this can be healthy in helping students see what their potential is."

Looking back, Sanders said, "I never considered myself an underdog. Working with limitations I had to overcome has been good. God knew how to deal with me. I really enjoy my life."

REMEMBERING HUGH SANDERS

By Erwin DeBord

WTSU (now A&M) Class of 1984

My experience with Dr. Hugh Sanders was as a member of the WTSU Chorale in 1983. I was from a very small town in the Panhandle of Texas that had no school choir program. Fortunately, I was allowed the opportunity to sing solos at my

church and other community events that allowed me to express my love for vocal music.

I was a student at WTSU in the early 80's as a business major. A goal of mine was to eventually be a part of the Chorale there because of their incredible sound and sterling reputation. It was my thought that as a non-music major, it would be a challenge to get accepted. So I decided I needed to establish credibility for myself and joined the Collegiate Choir in 1982. Auditions for the Chorale were at the end of the semester and I knew this was my one chance to get in. I auditioned once and called Dr. Sanders to see if he would allow me to audition for a second time. It was important for me to let him know how seriously I wanted to be a member of the WTSU Chorale.

To my delight, I was accepted. It was one of the greatest musical experiences of my life. Dr. Sanders was such a gracious and gentle teacher and leader. Under his direction, I felt like I was learning and expanding my musical knowledge and understanding without really even being aware of it. I can honestly say that Dr. Sanders was the person who introduced me to the great music of the world. The penultimate experience of that year was the WTSU Chorale being the featured choir of the closing ceremonies of the ACDA convention. For one of our selections, the baton was turned over to the legendary Robert Shaw. As a strictly amateur singer and business major, all of this was a very heady experience. And for the final musical selection of that event, hearing the unison audience of great singers performing together was a sound I will always remember.

Dr. Hugh Sanders is a man who made a very big impression on me and contributed to an incredibly memorable year of my life.

REMEMBERING HUGH SANDERS

By Dr. Gerry Lewis
Senior Pastor, Eagle Mountain Baptist Church

Dr. Hugh Sanders was – for me – a teacher, a mentor, and a friend. As my teacher, he allowed me the opportunity to benefit from his skill and wisdom and, as a result, to develop and sharpen my own skills. He was instrumental in developing in me the skill of conducting a choir with clarity and creativity so that they are not just a group of individual singers, but also a choir making music as with one voice. From his teaching I also grew in my ability to sing as part of a

choir, blending my voice with those around me – sometimes in unison, sometimes in harmony, but always with an ear for the choir.

As my mentor, he allowed me the opportunity to benefit from his character and integrity. He invested time in me beyond the rehearsal time. Whether conversations occurred across his desk in his office or across his dining table in his home, he showed me how Dr. Hugh Sanders the esteemed choral conductor was simply one expression of Hugh Sanders the man. Those more personal experiences allowed me to see how the lessons learned in the rehearsal hall could transcend a choral performance and apply to life. He was both a member and conductor of the choir of community. The university community, the neighborhood community, the church community – in all these, he lived his life with an ear for those around him. And when he had opportunity to conduct, he did so with clarity and creativity that inspired the entire community.

I no longer make my primary living through music, but his mentoring has allowed me to put the lessons learned into practice as a pastor and community leader. As my friend, he cared about my life. He encouraged and supported a blossoming romance that led to my marriage that is now twenty years and still going. He prayed with me about life changing decisions. He celebrated my achievements through encouraging notes when miles and years separated our paths. He showed up unexpectedly when I was ordained to the ministry. He encouraged me with a smile and the embrace of a friend when disease had robbed him of his ability to put together the words of encouragement that he was always eager to share.

If I could influence and bless one fraction of the lives that were influenced and blessed by this one extraordinary man, I would consider my life to be well lived indeed.

REMEMBERING
By Kim Word Miller
WTSU Chorale 1979-1982
(Presently teaching Elementary Music at
Bushland ISD west of Amarillo, Texas)

The first time I ever met Dr. Hugh Sanders, I was a primary school student in

Canyon, Texas. His son, Stan, and I were the same age, and they lived just a street or two over. As I recall, the main significance of the Sanders' living in Canyon was that I had another neighbor to play with during the carefree months of summer! Little did I realize, as a child, what an impact Dr. Hugh Sanders and his family would have on my life as the years passed and I grew into adulthood.

One of my very favorite things about Dr. Sanders was his unassuming nature. Although he started out with such modest beginnings, once he reached the pinnacle of his success – he was never boastful or prideful, as some tend to become. He remained caring and gentle in his approach to life, and that meekness brought an unbelievable array of energy and focus to his conducting. He was able to evoke tender pianissimos, “playful” expressive phrases, or the most intense fortes from his choirs with such minimal effort – simply because of the qualities that were inherently Hugh Sanders. Singing in his choirs was truly an honor, and gave such fulfillment and joy beyond what words on a page could possibly convey. We were like family... and the music made us one.

My favorite memories of Dr. Sanders include the many times we all experienced together on tours. You could always bank on laughing hard, working hard and playing hard when you stepped on the charter bus! But, more than anything, you knew that you would experience the complete joy of music every time you shared a stage with Dr. Sanders. My greatest singing memory is when we all sang, “Give me Jesus” a cappella under the dome of our state capital on one of our tours. Truly, that's got to be what angel choirs will sound like in Heaven! It was unexpected, spontaneous... and beautiful beyond description. I treasure that memory forever.

Dr. Sanders left a huge legacy – musically as well as spiritually, for the betterment. I consider myself very blessed to have known him from childhood on through the years. The last time I saw him was when we gathered for his tribute at West Texas State University. What a wondrous event for everyone. To be able to give back to him the gift of music that evening was an indescribable experience. May it be that we all keep giving that very gift to others as freely and unselfishly as Dr. Sanders did. In so doing, his gift will be ongoing for generations to come.

REMEMBERING HUGH SANDERS

By Charles C. Hirt,
Chairman - Choral Organizations

I am pleased to make a statement concerning the qualifications of Mr. Hugh D.

Sanders to receive a Kent Fellowship, for I know the qualities that you seek in a recipient, and I feel confident that Mr. Sanders possesses them to a remarkable degree.

For many years I have been aware of the splendid contribution Mr. Sanders has been making to his chosen profession, not only in Texas, but also throughout the nation. I first came to know him when he was organizing chairman for the Texas All- State High School Chorus six years ago. I had been asked to serve as guest conductor of this chorus, in which capacity I worked closely with Mr. Sanders, and was able to observe the highly efficient way he handled the responsibilities of his office. During this time, several other qualities were conspicuously evident, e.g. his ability to evoke from students and faculty alike both respect and cooperation, his remarkably fine judgment in solving the inevitable problems that arose, and most of all his uncompromising dedication to music and to the teaching profession.

Subsequently, I have been privileged to observe Mr. Sanders in other activities where other qualities were demonstrated. For instance, in 1966 his choir was chosen both to perform and to serve as a demonstration group during one of my choral sessions at the Music Educators National Conference in Kansas City. His singers received the highest praise from the musicians present; not only for their technical excellence but also for the movingly sincere and artistic way they interpreted music from many stylistic periods.

Time and time again since then, Mr. Sanders has reconfirmed his creative musical ability and his desire to serve his profession. He is currently President of the Texas Music Educators Association, which is a great tribute to his leadership abilities. He is in constant demand as a clinician and guest conductor of festivals. He is generous with his fine talent, serving both his church as well as Music Education. Indeed, as President-Elect of the American Choral Directors Association, I plan to lean heavily on Mr. Sanders for future planning as we look toward the 1970 convention in Chicago. I predict that Mr. Sanders is going to make an increasingly important contribution to music on the national scene and will himself take leadership within the framework of professional organizations at the national level. I am confident too that this service will be greatly enhanced if he can be given the financial assistance through this fellowship to complete his doctorate at the University of Colorado. He has already been accepted into candidacy at that institution which confirms his capability to do graduate research of a high order. I, therefore, commend Mr. Sanders to you with considerable enthusiasm and with no reservations whatsoever.

REMEMBERING HUGH SANDERS

By Kerry Huffer
Director of Music
Boulevard Christian Church

Dr. Hugh Sanders was my choir director for the entire time I was in college at West Texas State University. I still remember him telling us we were “just singing”, as opposed to really “singing”. Since we were in West Texas, I’m sure we often forgot to sing properly and fell back to “just singing”. I still use that phrase with my choir at times even now. I am in Oklahoma, so it is still very appropriate.

I saw Dr. Sanders a few times after I graduated; we were both at a Christian Music conference in Colorado. He still remembered who I was and was very interested in what I was doing with my life and my music. I know I wasn’t a real standout in his choir, so I was impressed that he knew who I was. I greatly appreciated his interest and his encouragement.

Dr. Sanders had a passion for good music as well as for his students and his God. He was a man it would be worthy to emulate. I was glad I had the opportunity to learn from him. He is definitely someone worthy of recognition and honor.

REMEMBERING HUGH SANDERS

By Charles L. Fuller

He was a person who had a genuine faith. He never had to say much about what he believed. He understood that if your life didn’t reflect your values, nothing you could say could make up for it. He taught us by example that mere words are redundant to the volumes spoken by one’s actions and lifestyle. Christ was the center of his life and too important to be trivialized by empty phraseology and meaningless verbiage.

I tell my students that there are two kinds of conductors. There are conductors who use people to make music and there are conductors who use music to make people. There’s no doubt that Hugh Sanders, the master teacher, used music to make people and taught us to try to do the same.

DR. HUGH SANDERS

By Barry Talley
Director of Fine Arts
Deer Park ISD

It is with great honor that I write to you on behalf of Hugh Sanders. I first met Dr. Sanders when I was in junior high as my brother Randy attended West Texas State University. It was more or less predetermined that I would one day be attending WTSU following in both my brothers' footsteps. I never regretted that taking place.

As a choral director, there is not a day that goes by that I do not realize that I had just used something that I learned from Dr. Sanders. My concept of choral tone, my attention to rhythmic accuracy (keeping that 8th note pulse), my attempts to always include everyone in the group and my careful approach to programming – all can be attributed to skills learned from Dr. Sanders.

While at WT, I was fortunate to sing at numerous conventions. Those performances are still vivid in my mind to this day. I have patterned my choral program at Deer Park to set similar goals. We have been fortunate to sing at several TMEA and ACDA conventions. Again, the influence of Hugh Sanders is present at every performance.

Dr. Sanders always savored the rehearsal. It was in rehearsal that magical moments often occurred – not the actual performance. I have told my choirs many times that what we do in rehearsal is what they'll recall years down the road. He believed that was true. We learned to listen to each other while we sang. I can remember a couple of his comments regarding that very thing. "Don't sing past your ears!"

That is such a simple concept but so important. The other comment he made to me once as we were listening to a choir rehearsing before a national convention. He leaned over as they were "hollering" through one of their songs and whispered, "It sounds as if the conductor has never listened to them in rehearsal." Those two statements sum up his simple but successful approach to choral tone – blend, balance, section sound, tuning, control of tone – all vital to the sound he wanted from our choirs and certainly a part of any recipe for choral success today. Dr. Sanders personified the word gentleman. He was not an ego-centered man.

I do not believe anyone who ever met him felt insignificant around him. He made you feel important. Once he met you he was always able to find something to inquire about you personally. He was a great recruiter at the university level and it seemed as if everyone he met he was still recruiting – even after he finished conducting. He recruited good people to be his friends and colleagues.

I am proud to say he was my college conductor and mentor. I view him as a model example to live up to. He was such an important person in the life of choral music in Texas and in the US. His legacy will live for many years through the students he taught and the students of those students.

REMEMBERING HUGH SANDERS

By Rebecca Dawson, M.M., Choral Conducting, WTSU

I first met Hugh Sanders in the home of Euell Porter in Waco in 1979. I was serving as secretary to the A Cappella Choir and had stopped by the choir room, along with my parents, to pay a visit to Dr. Porter one Friday afternoon. Dr. Porter appeared very ill and described symptoms related to a gall bladder attack. My father, a physician, offered to treat Dr. Porter's nausea and pain as he always traveled with his "black bag". Whatever Daddy gave Dr. Porter made it impossible for Dr. Porter to drive himself home, so we took him. Once there, we met Dr. Sanders who was waiting to take Dr. Porter to dinner.

My next visit with Dr. Sanders would be at my audition for the graduate program at West Texas State in the spring of 1982. Dr. Porter had learned of my plans to attend another state university and firmly recommended that I give WTSU and Dr. Sanders my consideration before making a final decision. Upon his recommendation, I flew to Amarillo, stayed with Charlie and Cindy Fuller, and auditioned for Dr. Sanders. Within six weeks of graduation from Baylor, I changed my plans for graduate school and made arrangements to attend WTSU and work with Dr. Sanders.

This decision was affirmed beyond my wildest expectations. Dr. Sanders had secured an endowed lecture series in choral conducting from Amarillo's Harrington family. During the two years I attended WTSU, key scholars led choral conducting master classes with the graduate students and conducted major works prepared by Dr. Sanders. We were so blessed to have worked with Donald Neuen,

Paul Salomonovich, Charles Hirt, Weston Noble, David Thorsen, Charlene Archibeque, Howard Swann, and Lynn Whitten.

I was also so thrilled to be part of the WTSU Chorale that was selected to be the Honor Choir for the final concert at the 1983 ACDA Convention in Nashville. The proverbial icing on the cake was that Robert Shaw was the guest conductor. In rehearsals, Mr. Shaw sensed our initial nervousness and remarked that he would put down his baton if we'd relax and sing as Dr. Sanders had trained us. Needless to say, that concert went exceedingly well.

As I prepared to graduate in the spring of 1984, the WTSU family learned of Dr. Sander's opportunity to serve as Baylor's Director of Choral Activities. While many were saddened by this prospect, I was delighted that Dr. Sanders would be returning to his choral "roots" to carry on the tradition established by his mentor Euell Porter. Selfishly, I was glad that he would be working in Waco so I could visit with him more frequently upon my travels through central Texas. I especially enjoyed singing under his leadership on Sunday mornings as I paid return visits to my college home church of Seventh and James.

From 1984 to his passing, I enjoyed staying in touch with Dr. Sanders. I appreciated not only the standard of choral musicianship but also the sincere friendship maintained by Dr. Sanders and his lovely wife Rinky. Both of them nurtured students in whatever way was needed to help us be our best. Today, I consider each of them "family".

I think of Dr. Sanders frequently – as I actively teach, listen, analyze and ponder the beauties of choral music. I hope to modestly honor his memory in my own teaching, conducting and music making.

REMEMBERING HUGH SANDERS
By the Dean at Ouachita Baptist University
Division of Music, Bernice Young Jones
School of Fine Arts

Excellence. Devotion. Commitment. Involvement. Faith. Integrity. These are all terms we use often when a special mentor passes from the scene. When we use them to describe Hugh Sanders they are used without the least hint of exaggeration. While his later years were marked by the onslaught of unfortunate

illness come too soon, he still stood for these ideals we all share as choral conductors.

In 1980 I went to West Texas State to be Dr. Sanders' graduate assistant and then Associate Choral Director. He was always both mentor and friend and I never knew which I treasured more. After my roles as husband and father, the highest and most undeserved privilege my life has been to be mentored and befriended by both Euell Porter and Hugh Sanders. My wife, Cindy, and I first met singing in one of Dr. Porter's choirs and we spent our first two years of married life in Canyon as I did graduate work at West Texas State. Our lives are forever entwined with the Sanders family because of those days of support, encouragement, and Christian example lived out before us as a young couple.

To say that Dr. Sanders was a great conductor is simply redundant. The honors, accolades, and awards came to him before and after each of us studied with him. The world already knows that he was a great conductor. But he was so much more. Hugh Sanders attracted students to choral music in Pampa, at West Texas State, and at Baylor with his unwavering commitment to excellence. But he captured our hearts and our loyalties forever with his person. Some of the personal traits that Hugh Sanders cultivated which helped him to become involved with the singers in his chorus were: professional integrity, unassuming humility, personal commitment, gentle courage, boundless grace, genuine compassion, subtle but irrepressible humor, limitless persistence, and – may we call “feeling the eighth note” a personality trait?

A special type of communication and involvement occurred in Hugh Sanders' choirs. And the exciting communication was not just musically expressive and not just between conductor and singer or between singers and audience, but it occurred deeply between singers. The power of his influence even transcended student generations. Some of my most treasured friends and colleagues are people with whom I never sang a note, but with whom I share the influence of Dr. Sanders' mentorship.

REMEMBERING
By Royal R. Brantley
Professor of Theatre
West Texas A&M University

Please allow me to offer this letter of support and testimony as TCDA works towards honoring the late Dr. Hugh Sanders.

First, Dr. Sanders was a strong recruiter. I'll never forget the WT Chorale coming to Canyon High School to sing for us. After their concert, Dr. Sanders approached me and asked me to come to WT. Not even my dad, the late Royal L. Brantley, had attempted to recruit me. Dr. Sanders was the only WT faculty member to make this invitation. I was honored. As I recall the conversation, it is a strong reminder that young people want to be noticed and invited. Dr. Sanders knew this and he invited and encouraged many young people to attend WT.

Second, though I was only a music major for a semester, I remained in the WT Chorale during all my student years at WT. This is a tribute to the quality of instruction and leadership that Dr. Sanders brought to the Chorale. Yes the fun and fellowship were remarkable but who can forget the sounds that were made and the lives that were touched with our performances. We practiced and practiced and Dr. Sanders required our focus and effort every second of the process.

Finally, towards the end of Dr. Sander's tenure at WT he was appointed dean of the college. Despite this heavy administrative load, he continued to lead the Chorale. And, amongst controversies and questions (the life of an administrator) he was still able to seek students out and talk to them one on one. In fact, towards the end of my senior year, Dr. Sanders took me to the "V" for a coke. Yes, we were discussing a university issue; however, his regard for my well-being and his consideration for my family were memorable and touching.

As time goes on, I'm more and more aware of Dr. Sander's impact on my life. As educators, we must realize that this should be our mission. Yes, our students need knowledge and artistry; however, to survive in today's world, they need character. Dr. Sanders offered all of this to his students and I consider myself lucky to have been a part of his academic and musical efforts.

REMEMBERING HUGH SANDERS
By Gene Brooks
Executive Director – American Choral
Director's Association

Hugh Sanders was a legend in the American choral-directing world. Many felt his positive influence as a musician, educator and friend and I consider myself very fortunate to be one who knew and worked with Hugh Sanders.

Many remember the long series of very successful choirs that Hugh developed at each school or university where he served. I remember most his friendship and guidance which he provided to the American Choral Directors Association and to me personally.

Hugh Sanders served his profession in long series of leadership positions in the Texas organizations, as President of the ACDA Southwestern Division and as the President of American Choral Directors Association during the period 1985-1987. Under his strong personal leadership, ACDA experienced a period of tremendous growth. Hugh was very instrumental in the growth of our international membership. His leadership skills also contributed to the successful building of an addition to the ACDA headquarters. At every step in the progress of the organization, Hugh's leadership could be recognized. Most important was the strong belief in the organization and the benefits it would provide to its members throughout the choral music community.

Hugh Sanders was a true leader in our art, not just by the positions and the great choirs that he developed, but by the positive attitude and spirit which he managed to pass on to so many in the world of choral music.

Dear Hugh:

Until I saw your name in the current issue of the ACDA Journal I had not realized that you were now at the head of the Southwest Division. Congratulations on this latest honor! I am sure that you are finding much to do – and I'm equally sure that you are doing it well.

I hope that all is going nicely with your schoolwork and with each member of the Sanders family. Perhaps our paths will cross one of these days; certainly, I will expect to see you in Dallas at the time of the ACDA convention.

Please remember me to your family and friends on the faculty at West Texas. Best wishes for a fine year.

Sincerely,
Howard Swan

Dear Dr. Sanders,

I am deeply honored and very pleased for this opportunity to express to you my profound gratitude for all you have done for God's Kingdom through the art, education, and ministry of choral music. Your influence on my life, my profession, and my faith is a lasting treasure. The years I was privileged to walk with you as a student were filled with life-long memories and eternal moments, such as the Music Educators National Convention concert in Anaheim, California, and my personal favorite, a church concert at Hyde Park when I was privileged to sing the "Sanctus" tenor solo. I will remember as well an A Cappella Alumni Concert at a homecoming when we sang Randall Thompson's "Peaceable Kingdom". The "Alleluias" still resound in my heart and soul.

Thank you, Dr. Sanders, for being the consummate Christian gentleman, while possessing the acclaimed musicianship, which caused you to stand tall and, likewise, become revered worldwide. Your investment into the church, the Body of Christ, will always be dear to my heart. Like Euell Porter, you know the value in embracing the local church and seeking out young men and women to encourage and equip. I pray that your legacy will continue at our beloved Baylor School of Music as the necessity and unswerving efforts to reach Godly, committed young musicians must always be a pursuit.

I do thank God in all my remembrances of you and Rinky. May God in His divine

and merciful nature grant to you and return to you in full measure that which you gave so unselfishly to your students, your churches, and schools of music.

With sincerest gratitude and admiration,

Stephen T. Carrell
Minister of Music, First Baptist Church in San Antonio

Dear Dr. Sanders,

It was good to see you and Rinky at TCDA. It seems like there is never enough time to sit down and catch up on all the news at convention. I did get to talk with Rinky for a while, so I am caught up on the grandkids! I told her that I would send you a CD of the Talley's convention performances of last year. I hope you enjoy it. Mar Records was awfully nice to put all three choirs together for us.

As I get older (I turned 40 this past year!), I find that I spend more time thinking back over the good times I've had. So many of those great memories involve the WTSU Chorale and my choir director for six years, Dr. Hugh Sanders. I am so grateful to God that my brothers and I came to WT. What you taught us about directing a choir has been the foundation for everything we do in the classroom.

Any success that we have achieved had its beginnings in what we learned singing in your choir. I am forever in your debt for the education I received just by being a part of the Chorale. I guess the highlights of my college experience would include the TMEA and ACDA performances, the England trip in '76, the Diemer recording, and the retreat to the Baptist campground my first year in Chorale (there were two freshman girls that made the retreat interesting!). I looked forward to choir every day. I missed it terribly when I left WT. In my own teaching, I try to recreate for my students the same positive experience I had singing for you.

Personally, you filled a void in my life at a time when my own father was not involved. You and Rinky will always be very special to me. Thank you for all you did for me.

With deepest respect,

Billy Talley
Choir Director, Tascosa High School

REMEMBERING HUGH SANDERS

By Karen (Skinner) Smith

As a pastor's wife who is involved in different areas of church music, I am one of many who feel music more deeply because of Dr. Hugh Sanders. Whether with a children's choir, or with a contemporary worship song or choral piece, his influence is felt in the way that music is communicated – with deep purpose, integrity, and excellence.

Dr. Sanders influenced the level of my musicianship profoundly, but more than that, his influence challenges me as a person to continue to reach for excellence in every area of life. I look forward to one day singing beside him in heaven's chorus, perhaps even under his direction again!

REMEMBERING HUGH SANDERS

By Eileene Moss

Director of Choirs at Crockett Middle School

Director of Panhandle Singing Women

Without the friendship, encouragement and musical direction of Dr. Hugh Sanders, I probably would never have pursued a career in music. I first met him when I was an eighth grade student at Robert E. Lee Junior High School in Pampa, Texas.

He and his wife Rinky and their son Stan moved into the house across the street from us. Their daughter Stacie was born the next year. Over the next four years I served as his accompanist for the Pampa High School A Cappella Choir and church youth choir. The impression that most stands out in my mind was that he taught us to love music through the pursuit of excellence in performance. He took us to SWACDA my junior year and then to MENC my senior year, two phenomenal accomplishments even by today's standards.

One funny incident, which I shall never forget, was when we were rehearsing "Bill Bailey" for Spring Festival. I had missed the introduction two or three times, probably because I hadn't practiced it. He made me play it fifteen times in front of the whole choir. Humiliating? Not at all! We respected him so much we would have gone through fire for him because we knew he loved us and demanded the best we could produce.

Mostly because of his and Rinky's encouragement, I entered WTSU as a music major in the fall after my graduation. The next year he came to WT as assistant director of choirs. I was elated. He stayed one year and then took a sabbatical to do doctoral work in Colorado. He and Rinky came back to Canyon just in time to sing and play for my wedding.

When I returned to graduate school, Hugh encouraged me and mentored me to pursue my master's degree in choral conducting, something I had always wanted to do but wasn't sure I could as a piano major. He believed in me and taught me to believe that with God's help I could do anything.

Now, some thirty years later, I'm still directing choirs and loving my teaching so much that I refused to retire when most of my colleagues have left teaching. My life would have been much different and not nearly as rewarding had it not been for the leadership and mentoring of my dear friend Hugh Sanders. Hugh and Rinky will always have a very special place in my heart.

The Influence of Hugh Sanders By Charles Nelson

How is influence measured? Who has the greatest influence and why? There are those who, because of a dominant physique, or resonant voice, or an overpowering presence, stand out in a crowd. There are conductors who, with a flashy baton technique or caustic tongue "whip" choirs and orchestras and bands into "shape". I believe that influence is best measured by the result of that influence.

From the time he began his choir-directing career in West Texas, Hugh Sanders exhibited an insatiable desire to learn. He attended clinics, he quizzed more experienced teachers about vocal and choral techniques, he took every opportunity to learn. His choirs improved as he grew. His work was recognized and he soon found himself head of choral activities at West Texas State University in Canyon. Not only was he recognized as an outstanding choir director, but he became an outstanding administrator (the two are not necessarily compatible). Following his tenure at WTSU he went to Baylor University in Waco, where he remained until his untimely death.

He served all his professional music organizations with the same fidelity he served

his students. He was well known and well respected by his colleagues across the country. Beyond the state level he served as President of the American Choral Directors Association. His love for choral music was infectious. It is well established that he was unusually successful in developing young men and women who went into the field of choral music and distinguished themselves with the excellence of their work.

It was not only his devotion to music that attracted and inspired his students, but his dedication to the highest principles and moral and ethical standards. We are grateful for all Hugh Sanders contributed to choral music in Texas.

HUGH SANDERS

By Kenneth Shore

6th Grade Choir Director – Dumas Junior High School

Dr. Hugh Sanders is one of the greatest choral directors who ever lived. I was fortunate to study with him while attending West Texas State University. His work ethic was above reproach. Rehearsals were energized and well planned. He really took the time to get to know all of his students. I truly believe that his influence in my life led me to the classroom. I would highly recommend him for the “Heritage Project” in which the Texas Choral Directors Association would honor him for being an outstanding choral director of Texas’ past.

REMEMBERING HUGH SANDERS

By Vicki McFarlin Gibbs, Associate Choral Director

Plainview High School

It is an honor to be able to add my name to those students who sang and studied with Dr. Hugh Sanders. I attended West Texas State University during the early years of Dr. Sanders’ tenure there. I was privileged to be a member of Dr. Sanders’ first West Texas State TMEA Honor Choir. What an experience! It is a memory I cherish and relive to this day. We didn’t just sing – we soared. It is a sound and an experience I listen for and strive for when I stand before a choir. That is part of the artistry that was Hugh Sanders. To sing for Dr. Sanders was to experience choral music at its best. He taught us to accept no less than the best from ourselves and from any choir we would be responsible for in the future. And he gave us the tools to reach for that high goal.

I learned many lessons from Dr. Sanders just by his example. He was a life long learner. He never stopped striving to be better. That made a huge impression on this very young university student. And, because of having seen that trait in Dr. Sanders, I try to apply it to my own life personally and as a teacher. Dr. Sanders demanded much from his choirs, but he gave much. He cared about his students and helped many beginning choir directors in new careers. I count myself in that number. The term mentor truly applies to this man. He was teacher and friend.

Through the years I was privileged to be able to stay in contact with Dr. Sanders and even now I cherish the friendship of his wife Rinky. It is always a joyous occasion when some of his former students gather and reminisce. We laugh much and sometimes become quiet and reflective. And we count ourselves blessed to have known and studied with this quiet, unassuming giant among Texas Choral Directors.

REMEMBERING
By Gerald Langner, D.M.A.
Associate Professor of Choral/Music Education
University of Saskatchewan

It is my honor to share my thoughts about Dr. Hugh D. Sanders because he had a profound effect on my life that reaches past the limit of his life and still impacts me presently. Dr. Sanders was full of focus and energy. He was strong of character and was a leader who commanded respect by his presence and example without ever having to demand it. He was never willing to settle for less than the best effort and he was a master at drawing a high level of commitment and personal performance from within groups of singers – some of them soloists whom he had to teach to listen and blend; some of whom were average singers who under his direction could cooperate chorally to make a musical choral line that would move all who heard.

He was passionate about life and about his deep faith in God, and that flowed through him most noticeably in the way he conducted choirs. Dr. Sanders had a quick dry wit and a twinkle in his eye. He could have a choir laughing out loud and then draw them back to intense focus in a second. Dr. Sanders had an approachable humility that drew students to him personally, too. He always made time for people and treated individuals with respect.

I was blessed with the opportunity to sing under his direction not only at the then

named, West Texas State University, but also in his church choir and college ensemble at First Baptist Church of Canyon, TX. Dr. Sanders and Rinky complemented one another and made preparing for worship fun, serious, and soul moving, all packed in a Wednesday night rehearsal.

Some things that I've taken away from Hugh Sanders:

- His sense of musicianship and basic honesty to the music.
- His way of energizing rehearsals and making them always seem exciting.
- His sense of adventure: some of the pieces he "took on" are still very much daunting to me today.
- His way of making his singers feel "worthy" and giving them a sense of belonging to something much greater and more noble.
- His way of making us use our intelligence when rehearsing and singing.

Dear Hugh:

Congratulations, regarding your receipt of the Texas Choirmaster Award... what an honor! I read a copy of the speech given by Randy Talley and it helped fill my gap of information regarding your career path and many successes achieved since you directed me in choir (Pampa High School – Class of '61). I have enclosed copies of pictures ('61) that you possibly will recall of my twin brother (Jack), my wife-to-be (Sue Barnett) and myself. Sue and I have been married now for 34 years and have 3 children and 8 grandchildren.

I consider your leadership and coaching to be a significant influence in my life as I left Pampa High School to prepare for my life's work. I completed a BS Degree in Mechanical Engineering at Texas Tech in 1965 and joined TU Electric upon graduation. I have had a very rewarding career in the electric power generation and lignite mining business... 32 years... all with TU Electric.

Sue and I have lived in Colorado City, Monahans, Fort Worth, Fairfield, Henderson, and now in Duncanville where I office in downtown Dallas. I have been an officer of our company for the last 10 years and currently am Sr. Vice President of Fossil Generation (responsible for our gas and lignite-fueled power plants). Now you know who is at the other end of your electric service wire coming to your home in Waco! Thanks, for your electric service business over the years. Twin brother, Jack, also earned a BSME degree at Texas Tech and has a

great career as a corporate officer of SYSCO, a nationwide food system distributor headquartered in Houston.

I realize you have taught thousands of students since our paths crossed many years ago and it's likely you won't recall me and that's not important now. What is important is that I take an opportunity to say "THANK YOU!" for the exemplary leadership you gave that made a difference in my life over the last 37 years. The "core values" that were a part of your choir lesson plans at Pampa High have obviously served you and those you taught very well over the years. Our company's stated core values now are as follows: EXCELLENCE / INTENSITY / ETHICAL CONDUCT / INNOVATION / RESPECT... these have most certainly been on your list all along!

Hugh, thanks again for all you have done to spur your choir students on to achieving their maximum potential in life!

Sincerely,
John H. Carlson

Dear President Reynolds:

I have just returned from San Antonio where I attended the Annual Convention of the Texas Music Educators Association. I had the pleasure of attending the concert presented by the Baylor A Cappella Choir, conducted by Dr. Hugh Sanders, and joined the hundreds of music teachers who applauded this outstanding concert.

In the past 500 years the choral art has been a significant part of the cultural development of the western world. I know you are pleased to have on your faculty Dr. Sanders who is doing so much to see that this tradition is not lost. His work in Texas schools has been so outstanding that his influence has grown beyond our borders and extends throughout the United States.

Congratulations upon your success in the continued quest for excellence.

Sincerely yours,
Charles Nelson

Dear Dr. Sanders:

I cannot tell you and the choir what a thrill it was for me to be able to hear your performance at TMEA in San Antonio last week! It was particularly impressive knowing the kind of audience you had – choral directors are generally so critical because they are so well acquainted with the abilities of the students and with the music. There was absolute silence during your performance – it was as if people were afraid to breathe for fear of missing one single note!

The wonderful blend, the distinct enunciation, the variety of dynamic levels, excellent soloists and a most interesting program selection combined to produce a time that was absolutely magic! Having the opportunity to get acquainted with some of the students later as they sang for Trinity Baptist Church was just icing on an already wonderful cake!

Thank you for using the great gift that God has given you to inspire and educate and encourage our future musicians. That is what Baylor is all about!

Sincerely,
Babs Morrison
The Independent Traveler

Dear Hugh:

Please convey my congratulations to the Baylor Choir for their excellent performance at the Texas Music Educators Association Convention. Your programming was superb as always. The choir sang in a most engaging and expressive manner.

If you plan to come to Lubbock in the future, please let us know. We would be pleased to have the choir sing during the 12:30 – 1:30 time for the Texas Tech University Choir.

Best wishes to you and your continued success at Baylor University.

Cordially,
Donald Bailey,
Director of Choral Activities

Dr. Sanders:

I just wanted to write to tell you again how very much I enjoyed your performance at TMEA. Your example of excellence through the past years has given myself and other directors a goal to work toward. Your concert came during a time in the school year that is conducive to burnout and depression and I know you understand these feelings. The genuine communication of music that Baylor achieved was just the lift I needed and I know I speak for many others. If at any time your choir will be in our area or anywhere near us please let me know so that if at all possible my choir and I and other school choirs could have the joy of hearing your group. I feel junior high and high school choirs could benefit so much if they were able to hear other choirs more. This seems less and less possible as time and reforms go by. I do not know in exactly what way TCDA members are needed to work at ACDA but I do know there was a request made at TMEA about this. If I could help in any way at the convention in March I would count it an honor to be able to do so. I know this letter arrives at a very busy time for you but I needed to say thanks for all you've given to music and music education especially in Texas. You will always have a standing invitation at Lincoln Jr. High, San Angelo, Texas.

Respectfully,
Candis Rodgers
Lincoln Jr. High Choral Director

Dear Baylor Choir:

Just a note to tell you how much we enjoyed your music during church at Trinity last Sunday. You were magnificent and added so much to our worship service. Every time we get around young people (and Brett & Mike stayed with us) we are encouraged about the future. If you are the hope of our tomorrow, the United States will be in good hands!

Continue to share your music and go out and be leaders in your world. God bless you all – and come back!

Sincerely,
Harry & Edith Garwood

Dear Dr. Sanders and Choir,

I just wanted you to know how much I appreciated your concert last Friday at our TMEA convention. Your choice of literature and execution of style and musicality was tastefully performed. I especially enjoyed hearing and seeing "Come Soothing Death", as my A Cappella Choir performed that work, with your help, last year. I was glad to see two former students, Jeanie McCray and Scott Montgomery, in the choir. It is good to see this type of people continuing quality choral music. Thank you again for such a superior quality performance. Good luck as you continue this year.

Sincerely,
Stan McGill
Garland ISD

Dear Hugh:

Congratulations to you and your students for a very beautiful performance at TMEA this past week. I must admit to you that knowing so many of your choir members as I do I had an added measure of interest and pride in them as they sang. Please convey my thanks to them for a job well done.

I have to feel some degree of pride and pleasure that our Baptist Universities and the commitment to musical excellence were so fully represented in this past convention. I am pleased that Joe Irwin gave us all the opportunity to appear before the Vocal Division of TMEA.

I would like to see a time in the future when we could pool the musical resources of all our Baptist schools. I discussed this briefly with Bob Blocker and would love to share some thoughts about it with you at a future time.

I will look forward to seeing you at ACDA in a few short weeks. Congratulations once again for a beautiful performance.

Sincerely,
Lloyd F. Hawthorne
Hardin-Simmons University

Dear Hugh,

Just a short, informed note to thank you and your ensemble for your great contribution to our convention. Attached, you will find a copy of a letter from Sir Daniel. He was most impressed by your work! Of course, it was no great surprise for us Texans – who have appreciated your artistry for so many years. Thanks again for your fine efforts.

Sincerely,
Joe Irwin
Vocal Chairman, TMEA

Dear Hugh:

I want to thank you for bringing the A Cappella Choir to Hyde Park Baptist Church. I had the joy of hearing nearly all of your concert Wednesday evening. Unfortunately, I had to leave at the very end to meet a city council member downtown in his office.

I am so proud of Baylor and the great work you and many others do. God bless you in your ministry and service. If ever we can help you, please let us know.

Sincerely yours and His,
Ralph Smith
Pastor – Hyde Park Baptist Church

Dr. Sanders,

It was so nice to see you while I was in Waco taking my technology courses. I also enjoyed singing with the choir. I wish I could have spent more time with you and Rinky. You are two of my most favorite people. You had such an impact on my life and the direction I took after high school. I will never forget the day you asked me what I was going to do after high school. When I said I did not know, you responded with, “Why don’t you teach?” I remember laughing because I had never seen myself teaching.

Then you told me that I had more knowledge now than when you entered Baylor as a music major. Because you took five minutes to talk to me I chose teaching.

You will always have a special place in my mind and my heart. You have been such a huge influence on so many lives! There is no way to calculate the number of people who have been directly and indirectly touched by your word or work. I just want to thank you and let you know how much I appreciate what you did for me in high school as well as after college. I shall never forget yours and Rinky's impact on my life.

Well, I have to go for now. I guess I'll see you in San Antonio next week. I hope you and Rinky are there. I always look forward to see the both of you.

Love,
Jerry Baxter

Dear Dr. Sanders:

Greetings! I hope your recent trip to Korea was successful, as I'm sure it was. I know that success must have helped this semester get off to a better start than ever. My work has been successful so far. My students are great, and they continue to improve (my mother warns me that pride goeth before a fall).

Something I have come to realize is that often as students, we thrive upon the praise and compliments we hope to receive from our teachers. Sometimes it seems our only purpose for survival is to receive that pat on the back, that smile of confidence, or a "job well done." As a teacher, I realize now how much time I spend giving praise to my students, and how little praise I get in return – except for the fact that they continue to improve. This made me realize how much I coveted your compliments (which I received), and how little I acknowledged what you gave me. Now is the time.

I want you to know how much I appreciate everything you did for me. First, you gave me responsibilities. You trusted me. That meant more to me than any other single contribution anyone has ever made. It was through this trust that I learned to respect you and learn from you. You offered me and the other Baylor students such incredible advice on choral music, and set good examples on how to deal with students and other musicians. I hope some of these qualities have been engrained into my mind so that I will deal with my students and colleagues in a positive manner.

I would be remiss if I did not say my two years at Baylor were by far the best two

years of my life. Besides the vast knowledge I gained from you about choral music, I also gained the experience and confidence necessary to become a successful choral director. You also gave me the opportunity to be on stage a great deal as your accompanist. You gave me the opportunity to be the accompanist for Baptist All-State, and at Glorieta, and Europe, and... the list seems endless. What I am trying to say is, I owe this all to you and your willingness to share your musical world with me, and for that, I thank you.

Before I close, I simply want you to know I truly appreciate you and the guidance you gave me. You have been instrumental in my success as a musician.

Gratefully your student, colleague and friend,
David L. Means
Choral Director
Carroll High School
P.S. Give my regards to Broadway (I mean Rinky).

Dear Hugh and Rinky:

Joy and I very much regretted that we were unable to join you for your Retirement Reception last Friday afternoon at the Armstrong Browning Library. Unfortunately, we had "fourteen things" already scheduled that took us on through the Bonfire/Pep Rally at 10:00 pm that evening.

I hope that the two of you know how much we have admired and appreciated you during your tenure at Baylor. Hugh, you have made a decided difference in our Choral program, and more particularly, our Church Music program. And, the two of you have always been willing to participate and to assist in any way to further Baylor's purposes and goals – with your perennial leadership during our Christmas Dinner, always a particular highlight for us and for everyone present.

Thank you for your friendship, for your dedicated services, for your love for others (particularly Euell Porter) and for those things that matter most to followers of Christ.

Most cordially yours,
Herbert H. Reynolds
Chancellor
Baylor University

Dear Hugh:

A few days ago I viewed the video of the wonderful Canyon celebration of your ministry there. Some people long to have buildings named for them or statues as stone shrines but the most important legacy a person can leave is a human one. Jesus never gave his energy to institutions or buildings. He touched the lives of people who carried on his work. You have followed well the example of the Lord you serve so well.

One of those who directed the choir at the West Texas State celebration commented that as a director you were known for the “blend, balance and tuning” you achieved with your choirs. It struck me that that is an apt description of your life; the blend of all of life into a sacred fabric, balance between work, family and ministry and living in tune with the Spirit of God.

I am confident that the experience at West Texas could be repeated everywhere you have served. Every testimony, public and private, that I hear about Hugh Sanders stresses extraordinary musicianship but even more, Christian compassion. Hardly a week goes by that someone at church does not ask about you or speak warmly of your ministry here.

Most of us never think about you without thinking about Rinky; it is as if in the best Christian sense the two are one – Hugh and Rinky. She has the marvelous gift of compassionate empathy. She is not only a master cook but is also a master counselor who brings one into the presence of God with her comfort. She has touched many in her own right.

I count it one of the high privileges of my own career that I served with Hugh and Rinky. I often worried about the quality of a sermon on a given Sunday but I never worried about the music under your direction. I am fully aware of the fact that many of those who came to Seventh came because of your musical offering to the glory of God. I love your music, I love your ministry and I love you.

I continue to remember you in my prayers. May your experience each day be tender mercies of God.

Sincerely,
Raymond Bailey - Seventh & James Baptist Church

Dear Rinky and Hugh,

Receiving your picture of our time together in May at WT was such a treat! I don't have words to express how special this picture will be. It prompted me to finally write this letter that I have been intending to write since that may weekend.

Words are inadequate for describing what you mean to me. I'll never forget the both of you inviting the Odessa boys to go home with you after church that first Sunday evening we were in Canyon in the fall of 1972. You established in our minds very quickly what was most important to your family as we sang the Doxology while standing around the table and holding hands. Your feeding us and teaching us to play racquetball made those first days away from home so much easier. Rinky, through the years you always made it so fun to be wherever you were. It was such a joy in later years to get to share church life with your parents. They, too, were always so encouraging and good to me.

Dr. Sanders, there is no man for whom I have more respect, especially as a Christian and as a musician, than I have for you. The choral experiences we shared forever spoiled me. Anything short of excellence is unsatisfying. You took us chorally to a level higher than most people even know is possible. The musical memories will never be replaced or forgotten. I often wish it were possible to recreate those days and again experience those magical musical moments. You have left behind an incredible choral heritage. That heritage is seen in the number of men and women now standing in front of their own school and church choirs, trying to motivate those choirs to emulate the excellence to which we all became accustomed. Many of the choir directors in Texas who are the most highly regarded name you as the greatest choral influence in their lives.

I think, however, that you have established an even greater spiritual heritage. You lived your faith before us consistently and unashamedly. You were a quiet but steady influence on all who sang in your choirs. I couldn't help but notice during that weekend in May how many of those present were now pastors or ministers of music or were married to someone in the ministry. It seemed like everyone mentioned at least being involved in his or her local church. This, too, is part of your legacy. You have made a profound impact eternally!

As the two of you come to mind in the days ahead, I will pray for you, using

Philippians 1:3-4 as a starting place. "I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for you, I always pray with joy..." I love both of you dearly!

Kim Broadstreet
First Baptist Church
Ponder, Texas

Western Union Telegram

Congratulations on being selected President of Texas Music Educators. I am proud of you and know things will go well for you. Send one copy of the double choir number you spoke of by Bruckner.

Euell Porter

Dear Dr. Sanders and Rinky:

Wasn't last Friday's recognition of you by TCDA a special event as well as a very special time for many reunions? I was so grateful to have been there. I had an experience that prompted a focused reflection over many of my thoughts of our years knowing you, and I wanted to share some of those thoughts by way of expressing my personal appreciation for both of you and the impact you have had not only on my life and musical career, but also on Jay and, consequently, on Neil.

LaDawn West Weeks said to me, "Where do you fit in all of this; WT or Baylor?" My answer, after a couple of seconds of thought, was, "Both and neither." My relationship with you spans both places, true, but I was never an official student of yours either in the classroom or in a university choir. Regardless of that fact, you have been my teacher. Every time I have watched you rehearse a choir or sung for you in other settings I learned something that made me a better choral musician and conductor. I

have watched you with people, both in collective (choir) settings and individually and I have learned about communicating well, both on a musical and a personal level. You have indeed been my teacher, and I thank you for so many valuable lessons well taught.

I have observed and worked with many of your graduates who are in choral music careers, and I see your image before choirs. You have had such an impact on the world of choral music, not just through your great career but also through your

students being such an extension of you in so many ways. Wow! That is only one of the many reasons why the TCDA tribute to you was so well deserved.

I wish I could make a list of the many memories that come to mind. The list began when Jay first came to your camp at WT as a 7th grader, and that was a long time ago. I was really just beginning my work in choral music. The road from there to here is long and has many markers. Up to that point in time, “Hugh Sanders” was just a name that passed Dr. Porter’s lips rather frequently in my choral conducting class! Thank you for your interest in Jay and for the impact you had on him and his music. He carries you in his heart to this day. As a parent it is gratifying to see a teacher take the interest in your child that YOU feel he deserves, biased though that perspective may be. You looked past Jay’s quiet demeanor, drew him out, encouraged and mentored – and cared. Thank you.

And then there are the times with Vicki: Working with her I saw daily your conducting mannerisms. We have shared lots of fun times when Vicki and I have been in the same place as the two of you. It’s been fun, huh?

Somehow the crossed paths over the years have phased us into a relationship of our own, and I’m glad for that. You have given me so many opportunities in working choir camps both at WT and Baylor, where, hopefully I have been able to do a good job for you, but where I have learned and grown and expanded my musical horizons and experiences. It was exciting to me to be invited, along with Kyle, to be on program for the Church Music Institute. Serving on the strategic planning committee for the Institute placed me as a peer in the company of so many “giants” in choral and church music that I was truly overwhelmed every time I looked at the faces around the table. My feelings are best described as awe, wonder, excitement, and a tremendous sense of inadequacy. I am deeply grateful for the experience. See, you are still teaching me!

I am saddened by the health problems you are experiencing, but I am buoyed by the depth of your faith. God has used you in so many ways to touch countless lives for Him, and your contributions to the Kingdom cannot be measured. I acknowledge, also, that in your quiet and humble way you would never, ever consider that as a hallmark of your life. Nevertheless it is in a scope that is far broader than music. I am so glad I know both of you and that we are truly friends. That is a great blessing to my life for which I am eternally grateful. That has happened in spite of the fact that I am not “one of your kids” from either university (ha!).

I must not overlook the joy of knowing your family. I finally met Stan face-to-face at the reception. He is a delightful gentleman, and they are a sweet couple. Knowing Stacie has always been a delight, and I understand with the heart of a “grand” how Holly and Hunter light up your lives, not forgetting to mention that Cary fits right into your precious family.

May God continue to light your path every day and give you the special grace of His presence and strength in all situations.

I love you both.

Carol Pack

Minister of Music – First Baptist Church, Spearman

Dear Hugh:

I’m so sorry that this letter will not arrive in time to be bound into your commemorative letter book. I have been out of town for most of the last two months and have just now found Donald Bailey’s letter on my desk.

However, how could I let you “celebrate” your rich career without putting in my two cents worth? My first memory of you was, of course, in the infamous “Four Flushers.” I never knew you or even which one was you, but I thoroughly enjoyed the show as a freshman at Baylor. When I heard that you had been chosen for the choral position at Baylor, I asked, “Who is that?” and the answer was, “Remember, he was one of the Four Flushers.” Well, that was good enough for me.

How was I to know then the pure joy you brought to music and the graceful and fluid movements that communicated every nuance of the music to the choir. I enjoyed the results each time your Baylor choirs performed, but I enjoyed most the work of becoming the choir at Seventh and James. Your Christian testimony was clearly pronounced in your interpretation of the music. You turned “sangers” into choirs and never made us feel that we were anything but glorious. We sang our hearts out for you and the glory of God – I’m not sure which came first!

Of course we can’t even mention your career without mentioning Rinky as well. You are a partnership in every sense of the word. Your friendship is one of the richest blessings Gwin and I have enjoyed. Our prayer is that you will have the health to reap the well-deserved freedom retirement brings. Your work and

influence continue through all the lives you've touched. I'm glad mine was one of them.

With much love and best wishes,
Brenda Morris

Dear Hugh:

It is impossible to write a letter that properly gives the due honor for all of the accomplishments of your illustrious career. My first memory of meeting you was when you were the choral director at Pampa High School. Three years in a row you brought your fine choir to the High School Choral Festival at ENMU. I remember your choir being one of the finest choral ensembles I had ever heard. Even your repertoire stands out: Four Choruses from Catulli Carmina (Orff), Mary Wore Three Links of Chair (Clokey), Choose Something Like A Star (Thompson). Your choirs were hallmarks of excellence. Later, your choirs at West Texas State University were certainly nationally recognized at TMEA and ACDA for their model performance. Your work at Baylor continued to bring honor and prestige to your alma mater.

You have long been a role model and inspiration for my work in choral music. The standards of excellence in performance and repertoire have been a guiding light for many choral directors across the nation. I want to thank you for the outstanding example of your life, your commitment to choral music, the church, and to Baylor University. We shall forever be in your debt.

I pray that you will have God's richest blessings as you enter a new phase of your life. We shall all miss your work at Baylor.

With deepest admiration,
Donald Bailey
Acting Dean, Baylor University

Dear Hugh,

Congratulations on all of the successes you have had leading to your retirement at Baylor. Your career has run a wide gamut – from high school choral director to an overseas sabbatical to interview Europe's most successful choral composers, from being Dean of a School of Music to Director of Choral Activities at Baylor,

then next the Director of the Church Music Institute. All of this plus holding an endowed professorship – wow!

And now as you retire from teaching, my hope is that your wide host of friends will keep you busy with your new music-publishing endeavor. That your health will improve so that you can enjoy these friendships is my prayer.

Sincerely,
Herbert Colvin

Dear Hugh,

Congratulations on the completion of your teaching career at Baylor. I still remember when we came to Baylor in 1984; I believe that we, along with the others who came that year (Theresa Ford, Steve Heyde, Mike Jacobson, and Scott Herrington), went with our spouses to Robert Blocker's house for a welcoming dessert early in the fall. Dori, who had done some choral conducting work, got into a conversation with you, and was very pleased and impressed with your thoughtful comments, observations, and interest in her.

That was the first of many encounters that I had with you, and it was typical – you have been unfailingly courteous and generous with your thoughts and time. You've always seemed to me to be a true southern gentleman, and it has always been a delight for me to spend time with you.

Thank you for your collegiality, and please accept my very best wishes for the future.

Sincerely,
Jim Bennighof

Dear Dr. Sanders:

I would like to offer my congratulations and best wishes on your retirement. Your warm smile and soft voice always brightened the hallways as well as my day each and every time we spoke. I've always admired and respected your gentle way of getting the job done. Whenever I hear the choirs sing, I will remember your part in building the vocal program at Baylor.

You are a wonderful person and a good man on both a professional level and a personal level. I wish you warm and beautiful days ahead, with lots of quality time spent surrounded by the love of your wonderful family!

With loving respect,
Betty Bradford

Dear Dr. Sanders:

I have truly enjoyed working with you over these many years, and you have my utmost respect and admiration. Your wonderful, sterling qualities are equaled by your professional strengths and career.

It was wonderful to have the opportunity to visit with you and keep up with how your children and grandchildren are doing. I also enjoyed hearing about the family gatherings and all the delicious food. I still remember lunch at your home and the wonderful rolls.

Best wishes to you as you enter this new phase. You will be missed so much, but we will look forward to your friendly visits from time to time.

Fondly,
Sarah Brewton

Dear Hugh,

I am pleased to write on behalf of the Ensemble Division on this, the occasion of your retirement. It is an occasion for mixed emotions as we joyfully wish you the best in your future endeavors and reflect back with admiration on your accomplishments and anticipate the void that your absence will leave.

For sixteen years, as the Ben H. Williams Professor of Music, you brought a national reputation and the highest degree of excellence to the choral program at Baylor. Your dedication and selfless commitment to music have served to enrich our community and have been a source of inspiration for students and faculty alike.

Now, largely due to your efforts, the program continues to grow and flourish. As you look forward to this next stage of your life journey, we gratefully acknowledge all that you have meant to Baylor, to your students, and to your

colleagues. We are deeply honored that you have shared your life with us and we wish you happiness in your retirement.

With deepest regards,
J. Christopher Buddo

Dear Hugh,

It seems like September of 1955, when we arrived at Baylor, was just yesterday. Those years at Baylor were very special. I congratulate you on your 16 years of service to Baylor and on your retirement. Enjoy!

Hugh, you have been a good steward to the talents God has given you. You have held the standard high for your fellow classmates and your students. We are better because you have shared your pilgrimage with us. Thank you for your care of and attention to Dr. Porter through the years. Your care of his needs is a worthy example of humility and love.

Thank you for your contribution to church music. You are an honor to our God-called profession. And most of all, thank you for your friendship.

Most sincerely,
Kenneth Coates

Dear Dr. Sanders,

My choral experience began with Pop Hopkins, Miss Barkema, and Dr. Sternberg (Mozart: "Marriage of Figaro"). It continued with Dr. Porter, who took me to Westminster Choir College and Dr. Williamson. Then at Columbia University was Harry Robert Wilson. My many years with Robert Shaw in the ASO Chorus and Ensemble was the equivalent of my "doctorate".

As a life-long choral music fan, congratulations on a brilliant career – both at Baylor and before. You have set a high standard of excellence for us all.

All the best,
Frank Boggs, Director
The Georgia Festival Chorus

Dear Hugh:

Although at the time of retirement colleagues are reluctant to say goodbye, it is with a sense of appreciation and respect that I honor your contributions to Baylor University and particularly to the School of Music with a few words. Your contribution to your profession has been long and fruitful. You have brought the joy of singing into the lives of thousands of people and you have been a caring mentor to countless students.

We in the School of Music are most grateful that you came to us when you did and that you chose to finish your distinguished career at Baylor. Many are the performances remembered that introduced new comparisons and old, new sounds and old and always with thoughtful preparation. One of your most memorable characteristics that was always a part of your professionalism was your humility. You have developed excellence in your choirs with a big heart and a love of the singers' art.

The future holds promise as the past holds fond memories. Best wishes to you, Rinky and your family as you go forward with your plans. We will miss your smile and certainly your sense of humor that in times of joy and stress have meant so much to us.

Sincerely,
Michael Ard

Dear Hugh,

It seems just yesterday that you returned to lead the choral program. I want to thank you for your fine support of the Vocal Division and your careful nurturing of our young singers. You have really made a difference in our music program.

The Church Music Institute has flourished under your leadership and Baylor 21 has fulfilled a need of our constituency. I truly appreciate your hard work and dedication.

You and Rinky mean a great deal to us and I hope that you sense our love for you.

Sincerely,
Carolyn Baden

Dear Hugh,

Although my time at Baylor has been relatively short I wish to add my congratulations and best wishes to those of your host of other friends on your upcoming retirement. You have served long and well as a faculty member in the School of Music and your presence will be missed.

I have enjoyed getting to know you and working with you here at Baylor. I appreciate your confidence in me as we chose students to sing at graduation and other special events. Thank you for your good spirit and for your dedication to good teaching and good music making. Best wishes for a happy retirement.

Sincerely,
Jack H. Colderon

Dear Hugh –

Several decades after our classes with “El” and your performance in Bartered Bride (remember, “Save our Souls!! The beat is loose!”) I’m writing to wish a pleasant retirement for you.

You’ve been in my thoughts with Milburn Price, Bob Wortman, Leland Fox, Joe Scancello and Mary Joliff since then. I even knew you were in Canyon for a time. I also remember your flute-playing wife, Rinky. I’ve been involved in college teaching and administration most of the time and much time in travel. Miriam and I went separate ways in ’67. Our son Philip is with a law firm in mid-town Houston with a home near NASA and three young sons.

I’ve been fortunate to perform in many groups including the Austin, Denver, and Henri Mancini orchestra – even owned a solid gold flute for many years. Best wishes for your retirement.

Don Griffis

Dear Hugh,

It is a pleasure to express my deep appreciation for your remarkable career in

choral music. Your impact on many, many lives, and on music education in Texas is significant. I am proud you are part of the Baylor family. I wish you and your family the very best.

Sincerely,
Leta Horan

Dear Dr. Sanders,

I have many wonderful memories of my years singing with Baylor A Cappella Choir. I can never enumerate or thank you for them all, but be assured that each of them helped to shape me into the musician that I am today. The tours and concerts were great experiences, but all paled in comparison to the intimacy of our rehearsals.

Mostly, I would like to thank you for the literature. It was the music and your commitment to its excellence that I will most remember. Below, I've highlighted some of my favorite moments singing with you at Baylor:

1. The Combined Men's Chorus at TMEA – I never experienced a greater feeling of pride than I did following that performance.
2. The Chichester Psalms – That was and still is the most worshipful music experience of my life. I was so thankful that we toured this piece – it was a great privilege to sing it so many times. I also appreciated your patience with us as we learned the piece. It was difficult, and we complained endlessly at the beginning of the process. You knew that the piece was special and kindly encouraged us to stay with it! Thank you for pushing me and never accepting any less than my very best.
3. The Visions of Saint John – Still my favorite of all time!!!! My all time GREATEST musical experience. I can still hear David Means playing it on the piano. I never sang with greater passion or emotion. You wrote a note on my program that said, "I will always remember 'Visions' the way you sang it, Pat." I still have this in a scrapbook and will keep it forever. I am still impressed that you took the time to write each of us a personal note, and even knew which was my favorite piece. Thank you.
4. The Paper Reeds By the Brook – Even several years after I graduated, you gave me the gift of one of the great musical experiences of my career with this piece – in rehearsal no less! I will never forget the rehearsal of the alumni choir for your retirement. After a brief warm-up, you started with this piece in its entirety – there were tears everywhere. No one spoke, and you said something simple and

appropriate for us all. I did not get to sing The Peaceable Kingdom with the A Cappella Choir, but its performance at TMEA in 1987 was the inspiring factor that led me to transfer to Baylor the very next fall.

I am so very blessed to have been in your choir at Baylor. I wish you and Rinky all the best in your retirement. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

Pat Antinone ('91)

Dear Dr. Sanders,

It is with great joy and happiness that I remember my years under your directorship in the Baylor A Cappella Choir. I was privileged to be a member of A Cappella from the years of 1985 to 1988 and count these years among my finest of choral experiences.

I still remember the day I first came to know you. As a transfer student, I was a little nervous about coming to Baylor and I didn't know anyone in the music school. You met me out in the hallway and were so very kind and welcoming. I auditioned and was placed in A Cappella. You had a gift for making me feel welcome to Baylor.

There are too many memories to list but a few highlights from my years in A Cappella are: "Sanctus" with Steven Carroll as soloist, "Trois Chanson," Mozart's "Vespers", "Best of Rooms", enjoyable rehearsals in Roxy Grove, Mass choir Christmas performances, and especially singing to "In This Very Room."

I will never forget some of my travels with you as well. Disneyland, San Antonio, and of course the sensational tour of England and Wales. I will always remember our marvelous meeting with John Rutter. What a joy to sing, "For the Beauty of the Earth" in his presence sitting in the hotel hallway!

Thank you so very much for your wonderful Christian leadership. I will always be grateful for the knowledge I gained of choral music and will always hold you in the highest regard as a director, a teacher, and a friend.

With much appreciation,
Allison Ercholz Lehr
BME 1988

Dear Hugh and Rinky:

Bill and I would like to extend to both of you our best wishes on this momentous date of your retirement, Hugh, from the daily involvement in the affairs of Baylor University. I know that for creative people such as you, "retirement" only means that now you may have more time to devote to other endeavors and activities which are close to your heart (perhaps a little more time for grandchildren, etc.).

It has been a privilege to have been part of your lives both at school and at church. Your caring, committed pursuit of excellence as musicians and the enormous affection you pour out on those around you are an inspiration to us all. Thank you for your music, your friendship, and the gift you have brought to us all.

Your contribution to Baylor University and the loyal and tireless years of excellent teaching has been greatly appreciated by us all.

Our very best wishes to you.

Fondly,
Thelma Cooper

Dear Hugh,

As junior faculty members at Baylor, we have been very gratified to be a small part of the legacy you have created. Your reputation as a leading choral director has been inextricably linked with the pursuit of excellence in music at Baylor. Wherever we go, to TMEA conferences or ACDA gatherings, your name is mentioned as one of the leaders in Texas choral music. In the Baptist community, we hear you named as a representative of the highest level of music offered in the church. Your founding and leadership of the Church Music Institute at Baylor proved your dedication to that purpose.

As a Minister of Music you have been a source of inspiration to countless numbers of people. Students and families have been called to take part in your work, and certainly the power of the Christian message has been conveyed through your stewardship.

Thank you for all you have done in the name of our school, for excellence in

choral music and in service to God. It has been a privilege to be counted among your colleagues.

Sincerely yours,
Robin Fisher, Assistant Professor of Voice
John Cozza, Director of Accompanying

Dear Dr. Sanders,

It is with great fondness that I write this letter for your retirement celebration. As best as I can remember, it has been 21 years since we met at Dr. Porter's house one afternoon as my dad and I brought him home because of a bout with his gall bladder. Dr. Porter recovered from that flare-up, but he had another fit when he found out I had been accepted for graduate work at Sam Houston State; he pulled me into his office and said that I didn't need to go study with Bev Henson; I needed to go to WT to study with you. So, I hopped on a plane, flew to Canyon, bunked with Charlie and Cindy Fujer, and auditioned for you. Then, I had the privilege of working with you and all the Meadows professors (Paul Salomunovich, Don Neuen, Weston Noble, Charles Hirt, Howard Swan, et al), performing with Robert Shaw at the Nashville ACDA, and touring Austria and Hungary. What a great two years!

I was so proud when Baylor pursued you as their candidate for the choir program. It just felt right for you to step in to fill Dr. Porter's shoes at both the university and Seventh and James. I especially liked it because all my "choral family" now was linked to the school and church and loved so much.

We had another great trip to Europe when you invited me to travel with a pickup choir from Baylor the summer Stacy married. I also recall a wonderful workshop you did with my choirs while I was teaching at Lon Morris in Jacksonville. Being in Waco certainly facilitated travel to East Texas!

Years past while I taught in Illinois, Mississippi, Michigan and Ohio, so our next visit would have been when you and Rinky attended our wedding in 1992. We appreciated your presence there so much. Since being back in Texas these past four years, I've enjoyed our "catch-up" visits at TCDA and TMEA. You and Rinky are the first folks I always look for at registration.

I have a lump in my throat as I write this part. So much of who I am as a conductor, teacher, and musician is directly linked to you. I'm very proud to have been one of your many students. I try every day to teach with the integrity you showed us on a daily basis. Thank you for all the wonderful learning opportunities, for the numerous "magic moments", for the day-to-day nurturing, and for the long-term friendship.

I hold you dearly in my heart. Best wishes for the future and I'll see you soon at TCDA!

With great love and affection,
Rebecca Reese Dawson

Dear Hugh:

In thinking about the past sixteen years, we must express our deep appreciation for all that you and Rinky have meant to this community, whether it be in Waco, at Baylor or at Seventh and James Baptist Church. Your leadership and presence have contributed greatly to improving all the areas in which you have been involved. We thank you for that.

On a more personal level, we will never forget our wonderful trip to England and Wales with your choral group from Baylor when we got to know you and Rinky more closely.

And finally, you have our lasting respect for the manner in which you have faced adversity in these last several years. We know that you did all you could for as long as you could, and nobody can be asked to do more than that. We love you.

Doris and David DeLoach

Dear Hugh,

Having just announced my own retirement from Baylor, I can sympathize with the emotions you are experiencing - some sadness at giving up a long association with your work at Baylor, but joy at the thought of being free to set you OWN schedule!

You have done an incredibly effective job. Baylor and Baptists all across the state

have been enriched by the unselfish way you have shared your considerable talents in the work of our Lord.

I especially appreciate the occasions when you shared with my preaching students at Truett. You are leaving your mark on scores of people - including me. Thanks. I and all your colleagues and friends are looking forward to the ceremonies honoring you this month. God Bless.

Cordially,
Russell H. Dilday

Dear Hugh:

It's been a long time since 1956 when I first entered Baylor as a freshman. Boy, was I a freshman - I was so excited to learn that I had been accepted into the A cappella choir with Dr. Porter. You were in the choir as an upperclassman along with Ralph and a few others. I looked up to you, especially, because Dr. Porter let you conduct the choir on many occasions. It was there that I decided to go into the music business.

Even though I was a lowly "slime" freshman, you and Ralph took pity on me and helped me through those tentative years and made me feel at home. The ultimate thrill was when you asked me to become a member of the THREE FLUSHERS. Singing with you guys was a thrill beyond expectation. Two of the funniest stories of that era were when we would entertain on choir tour and would sing "Tammy". Remember when Broadman "Broadie" Ware would make like he was so touched and moved by the song that he would fake a very audible sob session. It would make us so mad since Tammy was the only serious song that we had. Again, when Baylor ask the Flushers back to sing for homecoming and you and I were very dubious about coming and no one knowing us and thinking that we were silly old men. Ralph on the other hand was very excited and was very posi-tive that the audience would love us. Of course Ralph was right and we were a smash, especially with "Earth Angel".

Hugh, Baylor is a much better place having had you on the faculty for the past 16 years. I am so proud to be a graduate and to see the wonderful, positive changes that have been made there. Your commitment to excellence in everything that you have done in your life is certainly a credit to you and to Baylor.

I hope that you and Rinky have the happiest of retirements. Let's get together on a more regular basis.

Love to you and to Rinky,
Cody Garner
Professor of Voice

Dear Hugh,

Thank you for the contributions you have made to the Baylor University School of Music and to the lives of the many students, colleagues, and friends who have been privileged to share in your work. I am grateful to be one of those people. I remember as a new faculty member at Baylor your warmth and friendliness to me, and how lucky I felt to be able to work with you and learn from you.

During the years that we worked together here and at Seventh and James, I developed a deep and abiding respect for you as a person, a musician, and a teacher. I will cherish those years of working together, and the influences that you have had on my professional life.

I wish for you the very best in the years ahead. I hope that you will take great pride in your accomplishments throughout a remarkable and outstanding career. Your work will live on in the lives of many very fortunate people. Best wishes always.

Sincerely,
Georgia A. Green

Dear Hugh,

It is a pleasure to join the hosts of friends and colleagues in writing a greeting to be included in a book of commemorative letters. As a graduate of the Baylor University School of Music I have followed your tenure at Baylor with a great deal of interest and pride. Those of us who hold choral singing and church music dear to our hearts are indebted to you for your significant contribution to our profession. I am confident that to make reference to your "retirement" would be a misnomer. It might be better said "God bless you in this new direction", for you will surely continue to enlighten our understanding of church music and the choral art through your activities by your vast knowledge, understanding, and experience.

Congratulations on your sixteen fruitful years at Baylor University.

With warm regards,
Hal H. Hopson
Composer ('54 Baylor graduate)

Dear Hugh:

It has been a pleasure serving with you for the past sixteen years. I remember clearly the reception for new faculty that Robert Blocker had at his home shortly after our first semester at Baylor began. You, Jim Bennighof, Steve Hyde, and myself - along with all our wives - were there. I think it's remarkable that we have all made it through these many years in the same place. This fact speaks highly of Baylor and of the camaraderie amongst the faculty in the Music School. You will surely be missed.

Best Wishes to you and your family in your retirement.

Sincerely,
Michael N. Jacobson

Dear Dr. Sanders,

This is to congratulate you on your plans to retire. This has to be an exciting time in your life, remember this is the first day of the rest of your life so make the most of each day.

I have enjoyed knowing you the last four years; you are always so kind and polite. It is a joy to talk with you in the hall. Please come by and visit me if you are on campus. I know you will enjoy having time to spend with your family. I wish you happiness today and always.

You have made such an impact on so many students' lives; this should be a very rewarding feeling to know you have inspired so many students and colleagues. I wish you and your family good fortune and good health in the future, and may God bless you all.

Sincerely,
Karen Johnson

Dear Hugh,

What a pleasure it has been to serve on the Baylor University music faculty with you these past years. A double pleasure was the added bonus of your ministry through music at Seventh and James Baptist Church. Each Sunday we looked forward to the beautiful music ' which is such an essential part of worship there. It has also been a great joy to know you and Rinky and to count you both as friends.

Your abiding care, friendship, and love for our neighbor Dr. Euell Porter meant so much to him and to all who knew him. This was only one manifestation of your thoughtfulness in so many areas. Bob joins me in sending love and best wishes to you for many years of well-deserved retirement. He says that you're never as busy as when you retire. We both hope that you and Rinky will have the time to stop and smell the roses and the time to do together many things that you will enjoy. (We both recommend a relaxing cruise out of Houston or to Alaska.)

May God continue to watch over you in all you do.

Joyce Jones

Dear Hugh,

Congratulations on your retirement after an outstanding career as conductor and professor!

For over 45 years, I have admired and respected you. I have been privileged to be able to call you my friend. I have enjoyed the opportunities we have had to sing together and to visit. You and Rinky have been special friends.

Actually, beginning with days in Abilene as you began your student days at Hardin-Simmons, I have looked up to you. Of course, when the several of us "defected" to Baylor with Dr. Porter, I, as a freshman, was pleased to already know some of you upperclassmen.

Many memories flood my mine: learning that you were from Portales, New Mexico – the "city on the sea"; listening to and enjoying the "Four Flushers" (or "Three Flushers") singing Earth Angel, and other songs, Chapel Choir and A

Cappella Choir with tours and concerts; always knowing you with a special nickname that I had to force myself to quit using. The list could go on and on. More recently, I am most pleased that our Arlington children – yours and ours – have become friends and now sing in choir together there.

Your career has many high points, and over the years I have come across many of your students who have great respect for you. Several of these are, or have been, in my church choirs. Whatever lies ahead, you deserve the best. Thanks for your friendship; thanks for your faithfulness; thanks for your commitment to excellence in choral music. May God bless you and Rinky!

Your friends,
Suzie and Theiss L. Jones

Dear Hugh,

Gladys and I wish to congratulate you as you retire from office at Baylor University. We also wish you and Rinky a well-deserved time of 'togetherness' in your retirement years. Good health and enjoyment together, in contentment and spiritual nurture in living.

We remember you with much appreciation as the Minister of Music at Seventh & James Baptist church, where we are members. Week after week we were enriched by the excellence of your leadership in our community celebration of faith. The quality of the choir presentation always blended into the theme of worship; never merely stereotyped; ever an admixture of the classical with the pulse of the human heart; full of variation in creating community of faith, and celebration of hope and love. We will always be grateful to you for your enlivening presence in the pervasiveness of the choral contributions in the congregational enjoyment and expectancy of spirited worship. We miss you in your place of music leadership in our church.

Gladys and I also have appreciated your choral leadership among students and aspirant music teachers for the future. We will recall the impressive presentation at a music concert, when your students in movement and song gave a performed interpretation of a Zulu song, which was very impressive. As one who grew up among the Zuluspeaking people in South Africa, I was particularly impressed by your articulate insights into ethnic musicology. You seem to have the heart for the people of the world. Thank you sincerely.

"My dear friend, I hope everything is going happily with you and that you are as well physically as you are spiritually." III John verse 2 (Jerusalem Bible)

Gratefully,
Professor John N. Johnson
World Religions Phenomenology of Religion

Dear Hugh:

Words cannot adequately express my feelings and my appreciation for you and your contributions to the quality of life at Baylor and the quality of worship at Seventh and James. Certainly I have learned from you, I have been challenged by you, and I have benefited from your expertise and the quality of your leadership.

You and Rinky are dear people to Carolyn and me, and she joins me in wishing for you the very best that life has to offer in these years of retirement.

Sincerely,
Naymond H. Keathley

Dear Dr. Sanders,

When I received the letter about your retirement, I was reminded of so many great memories I had at Baylor because of your leadership with A cappella Choir. Not only did you strive for excellence, but you also put "heart" into your work; and you molded musical leaders for the future. As a result of being under your direction, I was exposed to great music I would have never considered using. Your influence on my musical career is without question one of the greatest factors in shaping my success.

From John Ness Beck's Visions of St. John, to the Rutter Gloria, to the Brahms Requiem, to the Martin arrangement of When I Survey the Wondrous Cross, to I could list many more. I am reminded of the vast repertoire of music we performed. I will never forget the time A Cappella was on our 1988 tour of Arkansas / Tennessee. We were singing When I Survey the Wondrous Cross at a Baptist church in Memphis. Tears were streaming down my face because of the emotion that built up to the last stanza, "Demands my soul, my life, my all. Amen." As a Director of Music Ministries, I find music has little meaning unless we

commit our lives with such conviction as that last stanza states. This is something I strive to do every day of my life as I lead people to desire a deeper relationship with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Since I graduated Baylor, I have gone on to conduct award winning junior high choirs in Texas public schools and have directed music for several churches. I am currently in my last semester of course-work at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary where I am finishing a Master of Arts in Church Music. I am also the fulltime Director of Music Ministries at First Presbyterian Church of Hayward in Castro Valley, California (Bay Area). So far, It has been a full adventure and I am grateful to you and to Baylor University for giving me the tools to give God the best musical offering I can give. Last year, my choir performed the Rutter Gloria for Christmas. I don't think I would have attempted this piece had you not introduced it to me. Thank you Dr. Sanders for changing my life and giving to so many. Many blessings on your retirement.

In Christian Love,
John McDaniel

Dear Dr. Sanders,

Congratulations on your upcoming retirement. Knowing you, I'm certain you will stay immersed in music and missions. May God provide rest and fulfillment for you, despite your always-hectic life.

I was a church music major at Baylor from 1987-91. Although my principle instrument was flute, I was very involved with the choral department. Unfortunately, my flute playing was never good enough to make Wind-Ensemble. One day, I cried out in agony to God, "If I am truly to serve you through music, why can't I play the flute better?"

God, in his infinite wisdom, ignored that question, and instead led me to tryout for a choir. At the bottom of the registration form was a box marked, "Willing go to Korea." I had no idea what this meant, but I checked the box. Imagine my surprise when not only was I accepted to A Cappella, but I was chosen to go to Korea for an International Choral Festival, even over fifth-year senior vocal majors.

That trip was a major turning point in my life. On that trip, you and your wife took the time to mentor me. You encouraged me to continue singing and following God's call. After Baylor, in great part because of your encouragement and support, I went on to Asbury Theological Seminary to pursue a MA in church music. While there, I married my husband, who is now working on his MDiv in church growth and development. Now, we are a ministry team.

Thank you for your willingness to encourage as well as to teach. You will never know the impact you have had on so many lives.

May God pour His richest blessings on you,
Stephanie Batt McMahon, BM '91

Dear Hugh:

Congratulations on reaching this milestone in your career. May I take this opportunity to thank you for maintaining the standards for which we can all be proud, during your tenure at our beloved school.

I would also like to thank you for the personal influence that you have had on the lives of our children at various activities during their developmental years and to their musical experiences.

Best wishes for the future and wherever your future endeavors may take you.

Sincerely,
Bill McWhorter
Bachelor of Music, Class of 1959

Dear Hugh:

Elizabeth and I have the hope and the prayer that retirement is going to mean time for recovery of health and opportunity to do many of the things you and your lovely wife no doubt have dreamed and planned to do when retirement came. We certainly do want to keep in touch to know that these things are taking place in your lives.

You have "16 years of unselfish service given to Baylor" and before that so many

other years given to West Texas State University along with churches and people all over the country. No doubt, there are musically gifted people who have appreciated your music more than those of us who are musically deprived, but none in either category has appreciated more completely your musical ability and spirit than have I.

There are not many people on this campus who have known you and been privileged to work with you longer than I have. I remember many opportunities to work with you in church revivals as well as in civic organizations, and every memory brings joy and gratitude.

Hugh, you have blessed me and so many others not only by your musical skills and talent but also by being the kind of friend you have always been with a spirit of humility and service in every arena of life. Thank you for what you have meant to me personally, and thank you for your friendship to both Elizabeth and to me. May God continue to watch over you and bless you and your family in the days to come.

Gratefully,
Winifred Moore

Dear Hugh:

We are elated that you have had such a distinguished and honorable career. Frankly, the road from "Earth Angel" and the Three Flushers to The Ben H. Williams Professor of Music and Director of The Institute For Church Music and Worship at Baylor University is an incredible turn-around. We always knew you had the determination, but think about it . . ."Earth Angel" and Waco Hall to Mozart and Carnegie Hall! Please release me!!

Seriously, we love you and admire your work and wish we had had more opportunity to associate with you throughout these years. The road in retirement is a lot of fun and our Silver Serenaders Senior Adult Choir of Texas will have you before long here in Dallas or Waco for our Annual Workshop. You can count on it. Just remember, you can't turn back the clock. But you can wind it up again. So wind it up and get going. No doubt. . .the best is yet to be.

Cordially,

Silver Serenaders of Texas
James F. Palmer, Artistic Director
Betty L. Palmer, Accompanist

Dear Hugh:

Congratulations on reaching the ultimate milestone - RETIREMENT.

You have made a significant contribution to music in so many areas through the years and have touched the lives of so many students. The awards and credits you have received speak for themselves and stand as a tremendous testimony to your talent and commitment. I particularly appreciate the support and contribution you gave to the work of the Church Music Department of the Baptist General Convention of Texas when I was the Director.

Thanks for your friendship and thoughtfulness to me and I especially want to include Rinky in all of this. She has certainly been a "trouper" all the way. Be assured of my prayers for an enjoyable retirement experience and may the Lord be with you.

Sincerely,
S. W. Prestidge

Dear Hugh and Rinky:

Well, we have done it again! Joy and I will be in Atlanta, Georgia 24 - 26 April at a Baptist meeting with folks from 14 states and will be unable to join you for the School of Music Annual Honors Convocation where you will be presented with a book of commemorative letters. Therefore, let me repeat what I wrote to you in November 1999 for inclusion in the bound letters from your friends and co-laborers.

I hope that the two of you know how much we have admired and appreciated you during your tenure at Baylor. Hugh, you have made a decided difference in our Choral program and, more particularly, our Church Music program. And, both of you have always been willing to participate in and to assist with any endeavor to further Baylor's purposes and goals. Finally, your perennial leadership during our Christmas Dinners has always been a particular highlight for us and for everyone present.

Thank you for your friendship, for your dedicated service, for your love for others

(particularly Euell porter) and for those things which matter most to followers of Christ.

Cordially yours,
Herbert H. Reynolds
Chancellor

Dear Dr. Sanders,

Do you remember the trip we made to New York City Cammy's sophomore year at Baylor? What a joy for Rob and me to be watching our daughter perform on the Carnegie Hall stage while sitting in the same box where my mother had sat in 1967 watching me and my brother Bill sing with the first Baylor A Cappella Choir to sing there! Dr. Porter was our director and I cannot tell you how often he told us stories of your days with him! Our goal was to be as good a choir as yours was! Maybe we made it after that night at Carnegie Hall, but I doubt it!

We have many fond memories of that particular trip with your choir, but the most moving experience for me was the morning that you took rehearsal time with the mass choir and shared your Christian testimony and life story with that group of young people. That day I saw first-hand why God has been able to use you as His instrument to touch the lives of thousands of youth throughout the years! Your grateful and humble heart has been a testimony of God's grace and continues to testify of your close walk with Jesus Christ!

As a parent, I thank you for the marvelous opportunities you have given to Cammy to use her talents for the Lord. Her experiences with you and Baylor 21 and Baylor A Cappella Choir were invaluable to her as she prepared to teach and to finish her master's degree in Sacred Music. Your trust in her leadership and musicianship gave her the courage and inspiration to reach for high standards and Godly principles in her personal and professional life.

Personally, I shall ever be grateful for your asking me to serve on the Advisory Council for the Institute in Church Music and Worship at Baylor University! What a privilege for me to meet and get to know the finest worship leaders in our land! That experience has helped me in my work at First United Methodist Church in Gilmer, and has helped to open my eyes to the complexity of true ministry in music.

You have left an eternal mark of excellence and love at Baylor University. Thank you for yours and Rinky's friendship. Thank you for sharing your lives with p thousands of us who love you both.

In Christ's love,
Lora Robison

Dear Dr. Sanders,

I want to thank you for all of your contributions to Baylor and to the community. You may not remember me - I am one of the hundreds of students you worked with over the years. In addition, I was not a music major, and tended to be quite reserved. Nevertheless, you made quite an impression on me, and I wanted to share my appreciation.

Years ago (in the early 1980's) I was a part of Baylor's Concert Choir which was under your direction. What struck me most about you was your gentle spirit, and your ability to fashion the dynamics of a musical piece in such a way that singing (and hearing) the music was a powerful experience!

A few years later, I was a member of the choir at 7111 and James Baptist Church under your leadership. It was a privilege to work again with such a humble, talented man of faith. Although I no longer attend that church, I think of you often when I hear a choir not pay adequate attention to the dynamics of a piece. (It happens too often in church choirs.) In my mind I think - "Dr. Sanders wouldn't have settled for that!" (Don't worry - I won't say that to the directors!)

Congratulations on your retirement! I hope this new season of life will be very enjoyable for you. You can feel proud of your accomplishments and your influence.

Warmest regards,
Diane Sentell Russo

Dear Hugh,

Congratulations on your remarkable career as a choral music director. Though our time together was relatively short in comparison to your many years and many

accomplishments, we feel a special closeness to you and your family. From the beginning of your time at Baylor in the fall of 1984 to the present we have kept up to date on the events of your career and family. In 1984, we were music education students at Baylor and had the privilege of singing in the Baylor A Cappella Choir with you.

We looked forward to your taking over the choral music department at Baylor with great anticipation. You brought with you new life and energy that quickly took hold with the students. As we graduated and went into choral music teaching we felt you had helped prepare us to be better teachers and musicians. As the years have passed and we have become professional choral music educators ourselves, we frequently mention your name as a friend and colleague. We are so proud to have had the opportunity to sing and study under your direction. We will never forget the impact you made on our lives, and therefore on our own students.

Jeff and Jannifer Rice
BME 1985

Dear Hugh:

Congratulations on a job well done as well as for your retirement. It is truly hard to believe that we are reaching that "AGE". There are many memories that come to mind when your name is mentioned. Of course, choir is the one that comes first. We did have fun on those tours! Dr. Porter was a role model for each of us. It is fun to remember his surprise when he found all of us officers playing cards in the motel room - with the door closed. Heaven forbid! It has to be pleasing and rewarding to realize many young people will have those same memories of you that we have of Dr. P. You have done a mighty work, and I know God looks down with favor and is saying, "Well done, my good and faithful servant."

I know you will enjoy your "semi-retirement" because I know you will never fully retire. I would love to hear from you. I am now Guidance Counselor at Hill Country Christian School of Austin. Again-Congratulations and thanks for all the fun memories.

In Him,
Adrienne

Dear Hugh:

It gives me great pleasure to write a letter to you upon the occasion of your retirement as the Ben H. Williams Professor of Music and Director of the Institute for Church Music and Worship, School of Music, in appreciation for your fifteen years of distinctive and effective service. Your dedication and commitment to professional excellence in Christian higher education have personified support for Baylor's mission.

You have served Baylor and the School of Music notably as both teacher and mentor to the many students who have come through your classes, providing the strong foundation necessary for them to acquire the skills and knowledge needed for careers and life-long activities. Your personal commitment to the field of music education, demonstrated through professional affiliations, including service as national president of the American Choral Directors Association; regular participation in Baylor's Commencement ceremonies; numerous guest conductor appearances, including choral performances at Carnegie Hall; program development, including your help in initiating a graduate program in choral music; and achievements such as receiving the Texas Distinguished Choirmaster Award, has benefited your colleagues in music education in general and the Baylor community in particular.

Please, then, accept my appreciation for your years of service to Baylor University. You have my best wishes in the years ahead.

Sincerely,
Donald D. Schmeltekopf
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Dear Hugh,

Congratulations on your retirement. It has been a pleasure serving with you on the School of Music Faculty. You have had a profound influence on the voices, the minds, and the lives of many, many young people. You can be justly proud of your years of service to Baylor University and the other institutions you have so ably served.

A few years ago, a clergyman of my acquaintance remarked on the occasion of his

retirement that he had been advised to retire while he was still able to enjoy it. This he did, and he and his wife are still traveling extensively, and thoroughly enjoying the freedom which his retirement afforded them. I trust that you and Rinky will now spend many years devoting yourselves to the pursuits which most interest you. You have earned your leisure. Enjoy it!

With sincerest best wishes,
Daniel E. Scott

Dear Hugh,

Richard and I wish for you a relaxing and peaceful retirement! We haven't been able to be with you very much as colleagues since we've been working in different areas and have never seemed to be in the same places at the same times; however, we have been confident in the fact that you have always been a constant source of inspiration to your students and a dedicated member of the School of Music.

Your great sense of humor, enthusiasm for teaching and love of music have been a strong influence in the music school! I hope that these things will rub off on all of us so that we are able to continue with your same spirit.

Richard and Helen Ann Shanley

Dr. Sanders,

As I walked across the stage to be hooded and receive my doctoral diploma last December, visions of the people who helped shape my life filled my mind. The Baylor family of musicians were well represented. I thought of Euell Porter's smiling face and the warmth in his voice as he called my name. I thought of Ray Luper and the many conversations we shared about life and music. I thought of Robert Young and the passion he instilled in my heart for beauty and poetry. I thought about you and your advice - "never underestimate yourself or your gifts." As I was being hooded, I said a prayer to God, "thank you for allowing me to work with your best children."

Dr. Sanders, I am proud to be called one of your students and will never forget the lessons you taught me. Here are just a few of those lessons.

- If you want people to listen, say it softly and be sincere

- Always be a student and open your mind to new things
- In all things you do, do it with passion and understanding
- Sometimes the greatest blessings are found in simplest thoughts and actions.

Strive

to be your highest self as a disciple of Christ, husband, father, and musician

- Never underestimate yourself, your friends, or your singers

You are an important part of my development as a person and musician. Thank our Heavenly Lord for the countless lives you touched through your example as a professor, scholar, musician, and friend.

Soli Deo Gloria,

Dr, John E. Simons

Baylor University, Masters Degree, 1988

Dear Dr. Sanders,

You probably will not recognize my name as being one you know, but I know yours! I know you from the times you came as a guest conductor of our sanctuary choir at Columbus Avenue Baptist Church. I was Ed Wittner's secretary at Columbus Avenue from 1976-1980. For the past 2-1/2 years I have worked for Kathy Hillman in Moody Library Acquisitions at Baylor. (I received a letter about the book of letters being compiled for you because I am a Baylor employee).

I wanted to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your retirement, and write to express my appreciation for the way you helped our choir to improve as a result of your time with us. Your expertise in choral music was obvious from the beginning. You worked us hard, yet made it fun and enjoyable.

When I heard you were coming, several years ago, to be a part of the Baylor choral music department, I was very excited. I knew you would be just the right person to fill that position. You have carried on the excellent tradition of music leadership that produces outstanding musicians and musical experiences from this great institution.

And I am an example of the many people who know you, your work, and expertise in the area of choral music. Your leadership and expertise have had a far-reaching influence on people everywhere. Thank you for the contributions you have made to choral and church music.

Best wishes,
Kay Stewart

Columbus Avenue Baptist Church Sanctuary Choir Member Library Assistant,
Moody Library Acquisitions, Baylor University

Dear Dr. Sanders,

I have such vivid and fond memories of my years singing with Baylor A Cappella Choir - it's hard to believe that more than a decade has passed. It's also been my pleasure to, year after year, get to visit with you and Rinky at music conventions - a pleasant experience that I hope won't disappear just because you are doing the "R" word! Below, I've highlighted some of the my favorite memories of singing with you and the A Cappella. Choir:

1. TMEA 1987 - That was so cool! ! ! !!! (I was clueless and "green" -looking back I now realize what a BIG DEAL that was . . . at the time though, it was all about the singing to me . . . and come to think of it, it's still all about the singing!)
2. The Gregg Smith Singers - they got paid to do that?!?! (The director was impressed by my "solo" - one piercing note above the choral malaise – I was thankful I had practiced!)
3. Southern Baptist Convention(s) - If only I could hear music in my church like we sang at those conventions. (I loved "My Eternal King" and "Here's One" - goooooood stuff!)
4. The HUGHston tours and "Prayer of St. Francis" - it was practically our theme song my senior year and the tours were just good, clean fun.
5. Wonderful repertoire and then some more You exposed us to the "greatest hits" of choral music.

Of course, my most inspiring Dr. Sanders memory didn't even take place at Baylor or during my college years. It was that clinic you gave at Richland High School my senior year - I'll never forget the way you transformed "Flower of Beauty" from a song to an EXPERIENCE. It was that experience that blossomed into four years of the most satisfying choral singing that I've ever known - Thank you for that. Now as you enter those wonderful retirement years, I wish you and Rinky the best of everything.

Much Love from one of your biggest fans!
Regena Ragan Tarkington '89

Dear Dr. Sanders:

I just wanted you to know that you will be missed here at the School of Music. Working with you has always been a pleasure; you approached everything with such a positive attitude.

Among the things that I will remember is your love of family. The love and pride you exhibited toward them is memorable. You have shared pictures of weddings and births, holidays and other occasions along with stories of them. I remember one summer when you and Mrs. Sanders hosted a luncheon for Dr. Lamb and his office staff on the deck of your home. The food and atmosphere was perfect as was the fellowship. It truly meant a lot to all that were present.

In the years to come, I wish you only the best.

Cordially,
Georgianne VanDyke

Dear Hugh,

I hope you have a happy retirement and "rest of life." I knew of you and the wonderful work you have done long before you came to join the faculty. All of us here and throughout the state have admired you not only for your professionalism, but also for your love and devotion to the many students throughout the years.

I wish you the very best.

Jay Valighan

Dear Hugh,

Why is it we wait until a person retires to say "thank you" to him? Your gift of service to Baylor and to churches has been profound.

It has also been timely. During the sixteen years of your tenure at Baylor we have watched the dismantling of the Southern Baptist Convention. Among the greatest tragedies of this era has been the virtual demise of our seminaries. You and a few others have continued to train young people in music and worship to the great

benefit of the local church. I could not have chosen anyone better suited to such a task than you. You are and have been a person of integrity and grace. Our alma mater has been well served by you.

I wish you well in your retirement. I hope our paths continue to cross occasionally.

Grace and Peace,
Ray Vickney

Dear Hugh,

It is a pleasure to think back across the years of our friendship and work together. I treasure the memories of our working together to make Ridgecrest and Glorieta Music Weeks times of great inspiration. Your teaching, conducting, and performing groups were always highlights of those national conferences.

One of the magnificent benefits, for me, in coming to Baylor was the fact that I could claim to be a colleague of Dr. Hugh Sanders, Mr. Ridgecrest, Glorieta, and Baylor aside, your greatest contribution to my life is your glowing Christian spirit. I thank you and God for that.

My prayers are with you as you move into retirement.

Sincerely,
Terry W. York
Associate Professor of Christian Ministry
Director of the Doctor of Ministry Program Truett Seminary