

My Conducting Career! - Part II

by Gordon Laird

I began to realize that I didn't know how conductors were made. Were they born that way, or was there some place where they learned to be a conductor? A little over a month after writing sarcastically about my Conducting Career I began to investigate how one (not I yet) learned to be a conductor.

I shared this thought by e-mail with three friends from the Kitsilano Boys Band (each of whom lived safely in other cities) whom I thought might not laugh at my idea. They were all encouraging that I should see what I could do about learning to conduct. One admitted that he too shared the same passion!

I wrote myself a curriculum of a course on conducting and began searching the libraries. I visited the Music School of U. B. C. I searched the continuing education courses. I talked with people at a community college.

One of my best leads came from Jon Thompson, the conductor of our own church choir. He lent me his book on conducting and told me about a Clyde Mitchell Conducting Workshop which had been in our own church, some 2 blocks from our home!

Searching the Internet I found out that there is another of these workshops next Saturday. I have enrolled to play clarinet and sax in the orchestra and to take my turn to conduct part of the workshop. Marilyn and I bought me a conductor's baton for my birthday!

I also opened a new conference on Ecunet called MUSICAL CONDUCTING.

That is part II. I promise to write Part III, which will recount, in all its details, exactly what happens on Saturday, April 28th at South Burnaby United Church.