THE MISSION
The F. Melius Christiansen (FMC) Endowment Fund was established in 1996 by the American Choral Directors Association of Minnesota (ACDA-MN) to guarantee a vibrant future for choral music in the state of Minnesota. Its mission is to provide financial support to Minnesota choral directors for professional development and graduate education, to encourage young musicians in the state of Minnesota to pursue choral conducting as a career, to provide need-based financial support for students of ACDA-MN members who are selected for the ACDA-MN state honor choir program, and to provide financial support for administration of the FMC Endowment Fund Committee activities.

THE INSPIRATION
The endowment’s namesake, F. Melius Christiansen (1871-1955), was a Norwegian immigrant who is considered the ‘father’ of a cappella singing in North America. Christiansen founded the St. Olaf Choir in Northfield, Minnesota, and shaped it into arguably the best-known collegiate choir in the world. For nearly thirty years, he used an ethic of hard work to achieve perfect intonation, seamless ensemble blend, and crisp diction. The FMC Endowment Fund recognizes Christiansen’s inspirational contributions to the choral art that are still in evidence today.

THE IMPACT
Thanks to the generosity of people like you, we provided 35 people with more than $22,000 in scholarships from ACDA-MN’s FMC Endowment Fund in 2016. We were also able to launch two new scholarship funds: one that honors the memory of a remarkable choral director and helps support women in this career, the Alice T. Larsen Memorial Scholarship, and a need-based scholarship fund for students of ACDA-MN members to participate in state honor choirs.

We are deeply grateful to members of ACDA-MN and other supporters of choral music whose faithful giving has allowed us to invest in the choral life of Minnesota through the FMC Endowment Fund. Scholarship descriptions and the 2016 recipients are listed on pages 4 and 5.

The music that was performed was so beautiful and moving...it reminded me just how much I want to get into the classroom and start working with students. I want to have those kinds of moments with my own choirs!

Chris Wallace, Undergraduate Student, Augsburg College
2016 ACDA North Central Division Conference Scholarship Recipient

It was rejuvenating to reconnect with colleagues, to be inspired by performances, and to take time to examine the element of service that is embedded in each of our daily practice as a conductor.

Ben Henschel, Choral Director, Blaine High School
2016 ACDA North Central Division Conference Scholarship Recipient
2016 FINANCIAL STATEMENT
for the year January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016

FMC Endowment Fund Balance as of December 31, 2015: $730,711
FMC Endowment Fund Balance as of December 31, 2016: $796,234

INCOME
CONTRIBUTED
Individual Donations $21,185.20
Foundation and Corporate Sponsorships $7,850.00
TOTAL CONTRIBUTED $29,035.20

EARNED
Investment Income $68,203.27
TOTAL EARNED $68,203.27

TOTAL INCOME $97,238.47

EXPENSE
Administrative Operating Costs $13,554
Endowment Fund Scholarships
Summer Dialogue $2,640
Student Conducting Workshop $1,080
National Conference $3,404
Graduate Study $14,350
Honor Choir $700
Total Scholarships $22,174

TOTAL EXPENSE $35,728

Continuing education is vitally important in keeping our profession energized, creative and responsive to the changing needs of our students. The graduate scholarship I received greatly helped in reducing the economic burden of furthering my studies.

Reid Larsen, Graduate Student
University of St. Thomas
Graduate Study Scholarship Recipient

Because of the generous contributions to the FMC Endowment Fund, I was able to complete my final summer of coursework and the entirety of my graduate program loan-free. Because of these experiences, my beliefs about teaching and conducting are forever changed for the better!

Marie Scholtz, Graduate Student
University of St. Thomas
Graduate Study Scholarship Recipient

From the incredible performances to the insightful presentations on repertoire and improving our practice, the conference helped to inspire and motivate me to continue to refine my craft and grow as a conductor. It was an unforgettable experience!

Kellen McMillin, Choral Director
Roseville Area High School
2016 ACDA North Central Division Conference Scholarship Recipient

I’m so thankful to have been given this scholarship to attend Northern Arizona University. I feel so fortunate to have been selected by the scholarship committee and to have grown up in a state that truly values and supports choral music.

Eliza Snortland, Graduate Student
Northern Arizona University
Graduate Study Scholarship Recipient

The sessions were relevant, engaging and inspiring that left me feeling excited to begin my career as a choral educator. I am incredibly thankful to the FMC Endowment Fund Committee for allowing me to take part in this wonderful conference program.

Jesse Beulke, Undergraduate Student
Minnesota State University-Mankato
2016 ACDA North Central Division Conference Scholarship Recipient

YOUR GIFT
Gifts to the F. Melius Christiansen Endowment Fund

Your gift to the F. Melius Christiansen Endowment Fund supports choral music excellence in Minnesota today and in the future. ACDA of Minnesota is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization and all gifts are tax-deductible. For more information or to make an on-line contribution, please visit: fmcendowment.org or mail your contribution to:

FMC Endowment Fund
Bruce W. Becker, ACDA-MN Executive Director
13288 Downey Trail (new address)
Apple Valley, MN 55124
execdirector@acda-mn.org

We greatly appreciate your generosity and support. Thank you!
ACDA-MN’s FMC Endowment Fund Committee awards scholarships annually to ACDA-MN members to attend ACDA division and national conferences, the Summer Dialogue professional development conference, and graduate school. Every three years and ACDA-MN member is awarded a scholarship to attend the World Symposium on Choral Music. In addition, we now award the Alice T. Larsen Memorial Scholarship to an ACDA-MN woman conductor who is pursuing a graduate degree in choral conducting or music education and provide need-based financial support for students of ACDA-MN members who are selected for the ACDA-MN state honor choir program each year.

Since 1997, 311 Minnesota choral directors and collegiate members have been the recipients of $192,974 in scholarship awards. We are pleased that the following scholarships have been awarded to ACDA-MN members:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scholarship Type</th>
<th>Number of Recipients</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Summer Dialogue</td>
<td>152</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer Dialogue Student Conducting Workshop</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Study</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACDA Division and National Conference</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Symposium on Choral Music</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honor Choir Registration Scholarships</td>
<td>7</td>
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ACDA-MN STATE HONOR CHOIR STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP (NEW)

Created in 2016, ACDA-MN’s F. Melius Christiansen Endowment Fund provides need-based financial support for students of ACDA-MN members who are selected for the ACDA-MN state honor choir program each year to help pay honor choir registration fees. Scholarships were awarded to seven students in 2016.

SUMMER DIALOGUE SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships to attend a four-day ACDA of Minnesota annual professional development conference are available to conductors with up to two years of experience and conductors with any length of experience who have never attended a previous Summer Dialogue. The 2016 Summer Dialogue recipients were:

- Miriam Augsburger, Dassel-Cokato Middle School
- Brandon Berger, St. Michael-Albertville High School
- Alex Gerleman, Shakopee High School
- Michael Jeffrey, Pine Island Public Schools
- Siri Keller, graduate, St. Olaf College
- Julie Schramke, Achieve Language Academy
- Laura Potratz, University Baptist Church, Minneapolis
- Bri Velske, Belle Plaine Public Schools

SUMMER DIALOGUE STUDENT CONDUCTOR WORKSHOP SCHOLARSHIP

Scholarships were awarded to nine Minnesota collegiate students to participate over a two-day conducting workshop during ACDA-MN’s Summer Dialogue conference. The 2016 student conductors were:

- Hannah Bjornstad - Concordia University-St Paul
- Aspen Bue - Concordia College-Moorhead
- David Erickson - Augsburg College
- Jeremiah Krueger - St. Cloud State University
- Gunnar Molstad - University of Minnesota-Morris
- Andrew Parr - St. Olaf College
- Jonathan Rydberg - St. Cloud State University
- Wyatt Steinke - Concordia College-Moorhead
- Jonathan Temte - University of St. Thomas

The FMC Graduate Study Scholarship provided some much needed financial assistance to cover extra costs associated with full-time graduate school. These scholarships have enriched the lives and education of those dedicated to choral music.

William White, Graduate Student
University of Kentucky
Graduate Study Scholarship Recipient
ACDA CONFERENCE SCHOLARSHIPS
Scholarships to attend ACDA division or national conferences are awarded annually to graduate student and undergraduate juniors/seniors, who are student members of ACDA-MN and enrolled in a choral music program, and to choral directors who are engaged in their first six years of professional experience. Scholarship recipients who attended the ACDA North Central Division Conference in Sioux Falls, SD during 2016 were:

Jesse Beulke - Minnesota State University-Mankato (student)
Ben Henschel - Blaine High School
Isaac Lovdahl - Sartell High School
Kellen McMillen - Roseville Area High School
Chris Wallace - Augsburg College (student)

GRADUATE STUDY SCHOLARSHIPS
Scholarships to pursue part-time or full-time graduate study in choral music are available to conductors who have completed a minimum of two years of choral conducting experience and are current members of ACDA-MN. The 2016 graduate study scholarship recipients were:

Reid Larsen - University of St. Thomas
Marie Scholtz - University of St. Thomas
Elizabeth Snortland - Northern Arizona University
Laura Tempel - University of St. Thomas
Alexandra Thrasher - Michigan State University
William White - University of Kentucky

WORLD SYMPOSIUM ON CHORAL MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP
The International Federation for Choral Music (IFCM) sponsors a World Symposium on Choral Music every three years. The next symposium will be held from July 22-29, 2017, in Barcelona, Spain. A scholarship to attend the symposium is offered to a current ACDA-MN member who has been active in the organization for a minimum of five years. The recipient of the 2017 scholarship award, named in 2016 was:

Michelle Hayes, Anoka High School

ALICE T. LARSEN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP (NEW)
On the 85th anniversary of Alice T. Larsen’s birth, a scholarship was established in her memory by former students at St. Olaf College through ACDA-MN’s F. Melius Christiansen (FMC) Endowment Fund. The Alice T. Larsen Memorial Scholarship is awarded to an ACDA-MN woman conductor who is pursuing a graduate degree in choral conducting or music education. Established in 2016, the scholarship will be awarded for the first time in 2017.

Contributions to the ATL Memorial Scholarship may be given on-line at: fmcendowment.org or via the mail at:

FMC Endowment Fund
Attention ATL Scholarship
13288 Downey Trail
Apple Valley, MN 55124

ATTENDING THE CONFERENCE WAS AN INVALUABLE EXPERIENCE that re-energized and inspired me. As an emerging composer, I gained much insight from a composer’s panel whose words of wisdom allowed me to add more tools to my ‘tool belt’.

Isaac Lovdahl, Choral Director, Sartell High School
2016 ACDA North Central Division Conference Scholarship Recipient

BECAUSE OF MY FMC SCHOLARSHIP, I was able to lower the amount of loans needed for graduate studies. In the past summer session, I was able to develop my philosophy of music education and improve my conducting technique.

Alexandra Thrasher, Graduate Student
Michigan State University
Graduate Study Scholarship Recipient
THE F. MELIUS CHRISTIANSEN ENDOWMENT FUND HONOR ROLL

Donors to the F. Melius Christiansen Endowment Fund of the American Choral Directors Association of Minnesota from January 1, 2016, to December 31, 2016.

LEGACY CIRCLE
Individuals and families who have made a planned gift to ACDA-MN’s FMC Endowment Fund are honored with membership in the Legacy Circle.

Founding Members:
Bruce W. & Paula M. Becker
Richard & Zoma Edstrom
Melanie & Jeff Kjellberg
Michael & Donna Wolsted

MAESTRO
(Gifts of $5,000 or more)
Jerstad Family Foundation

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Jeff Wressell

FMC ENDOWMENT 2016 ANNUAL REPORT
The Alice T. Larsen Memorial Scholarship Fund

The Alice T. Larsen Memorial Scholarship Fund was established in 2013 by former students and colleagues, to honor the pioneering influence of Alice T. Larsen (1924-1989), Professor of Music and Conductor of the Manitou Singers at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota. Managed and administered by the FMC Endowment Fund Committee, this named scholarship program will award a female Minnesota choral director a scholarship to pursue a graduate degree in choral conducting at the college or university of her choice. The first scholarship will be awarded in 2017.

Contributions to the ATL Memorial Scholarship may be given on-line at: fmcendowment.org or via the mail at: FMC Endowment Fund (Attention: ATL Scholarship) at 12288 Downey Trail, Apple Valley, MN 55124.
A gift to the F. Melius Christiansen Endowment Fund is a lasting way to remember or honor loved ones, musical mentors, friends, or colleagues. Your contribution will help sustain the distinguished legacy of exemplary choral music in Minnesota.

A Special Gift...A Lasting Legacy

Plan a special gift that will make a difference for many years to come. Designate the F. Melius Christiansen Endowment Fund as a beneficiary in your will or trust. The following statement will ensure that your gift is appropriately directed:

I bequeath ____% of my estate (or a specific fund) to the FMC Endowment Fund of the American Choral Directors Association, a 501 (c) (3) non-profit corporation located at 13288 Downey Lane, Apple Valley MN 55124.

A bequest and estate planning form is available at: www.fmcmdowment.org/bequest-estate-planning-form

For further information contact: Dawn Thomsen, Director of Development, 917.273.3296, dawn.thomsen@bricksandbone.com