

Cynthia Bayt Bradford

A recent transplant to Minnesota (June, 2014), Cynthia brings a wealth of choral experience with her from her home state of Indiana. She is the founder and artistic director *emerita* of the Southlake Children's Choir, a regional community choir for boys and girls between the ages of 8 – 14 serving Lake and Porter Counties in the Northwest Indiana/Chicagoland area. During her tenure, SCC was a featured ensemble at state and regional conventions for both the MENC and ADCA workshops, performed major works with the Northwest Indiana Symphony and Chorus, collaborated with area universities, and the local opera company. SCC was proud to commissioned new music from James Mulholland, Malcolm Dalglish, Zae Munn and other Indiana composers.

In addition to her work as a Kodaly-certified music specialist at the elementary and middle school levels, Cynthia also served as the music supervisor for the Crown Point Community School Corporation and was a leader in establishing a Kodaly-based curriculum for vocal music grades 1 – 12. Ensembles under her leadership at all levels have been selected to perform at the Indiana Music Educators Professional Development Conference and at the Indiana Choral Directors Association Conferences, as well as middle school choral performances at the ACDA Central Division Convention. The Eisenhower Elementary School Choir was the first public school choir invited to perform with the Northwest Indiana Symphony in both 2012 and, by over-whelming demand, in an encore performance in 2013.

A firm believer in sharing and developing the choral arts community, Cynthia has presented sessions on choral repertoire, standards-based curriculum development, and arts assessment methods at national, regional, and state levels, including the Organization of American Kodály Educators, the American Choral Directors Association, and the National Association of Music Educators Conferences (formerly Music Educators National Conference.) Cynthia served a two-year term as a music consultant for the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) State Collaborative on Assessment and Student Standards (SCASS) in Washington, DC. and was a leader in the collaboration in assessment training for the partnership formed by the Indiana Department of Education, the Indiana Music Educators Association, and the Art Education Association of Indiana. Her articles on choral practices, curriculum development, and assessment have been published in the OAKE *Envoy* and the ACDA *Choral Journal*. She has also served as a choral contributor for the Indiana Music Educators Association publication, *Indiana Musicator* and the ACDA Central Division publication, *Resound*. Several of her original compositions and choral arrangements are slated for publication in the *Ruth Dwyer Choral Series* through Colla Voca Music in September, 2014.

Cynthia received a Lilly Teacher Creativity Fellowship in 2009 to explore Alpine folk music and yodeling. She and her husband, John, attended the *Zentralschweizerisches Joderfest* in Dagmersellen, Switzerland, and toured the Alps of Switzerland, Italy, and Slovenia. The Indiana Music Educator's Association named Cynthia Bradford *Outstanding Middle School Music Educator* in 2000.