

Patricia Hennings and the
Peninsula Women's Chorus

Take Up the Song

**Building a Community of
Heart and Soul and Voice**

*A book of inspiration for
choir directors,
singers,
composers,
and friends of the PWC*

It is the process of
becoming one with the
music and one with each other.
It is not
something
any one of us
can accom-
plish alone,
but it is the
heart of our
profession as
choral
conductors.



Dr. Patricia Hennings

– Patricia Hennings

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Photo by Steven Jani



The Peninsula Women's Chorus, 1999

The purpose of this book is to inspire. Whether you are a choral conductor, a composer, or a singer in a choir, we hope that these materials will reveal possibilities you had not considered before. It includes essays by composers and excerpts of their pieces, with information about how you can obtain copies; there is even a CD of full performances of many of the pieces. There is also a lot of practical information about what it takes to run a chorus, as well as commentary about the spiritual side of drawing a group of singers together into a choir.

Although the materials draw heavily on the experiences of the Peninsula Women's Chorus under the direction of Dr. Patricia Hennings, this is not a book about them. We hope it is a book about you, as you take up the song.

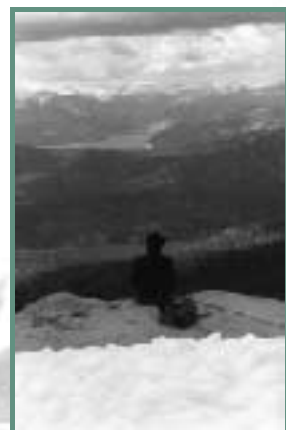
Excerpts from the book

I wanted to create an unmistakable musical metaphor that suggested all the meanings of the word "mountain": God, the challenge of accepting life in the face of death, the decision to confront great spiritual challenges, or simply accepting life as a mortal opportunity to love . . .

– Libby Larsen on "Psalm 121"

Every composer needs a Patty Hennings—a great conductor who believes in our music; who performs not only our shorter pieces, but the more challenging extended works; who infuses her chorus with her love and understanding of these works; who sends this spirit across the footlights to her audience; who does this not only for premieres, but repeats the works in following seasons.

– Kirke Mechem



Hennings in the High Sierras

Reviewer's praise for *Take Up the Song*

Although I heard the PWC at the ACDA national conventions and collected a few of the recordings, I did not know Patricia Hennings. *Take Up the Song: Building a Community of Heart and Soul and Voice* makes me wish I had. . . . [This book] receives my highest recommendation, and everyone will benefit from owning it.

– Stephen Town, Book Reviews Editor, *Choral Journal*, Vol. 45, Issue 3



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