

McCowen Award

Iowa Choral Directors Association, Inc. Robert McCowen Lifetime Achievement Award Nomination Form

Presented for outstanding lifelong contributions to choral music and distinguished service to the Iowa Choral Directors Association, Inc.

Name of Nominee _____

Address of Nominee

(Street) _____

(City, State, Zip) _____

Employer or past Employer _____

Title or Responsibilities _____

Name of Person Submitting the Nomination _____

Address of Nominator

(Street) _____

(City, State, Zip) _____

Daytime Telephone (_____) _____

Home Telephone (_____) _____

Email _____

Employer _____

Title or Responsibilities _____

Year of submission _____

Please include the following information on the back of this nomination form:

1. Contributions to school and/or community music activities.
2. Personal statement regarding the importance of the nominee's contributions.
3. Any other supportive information about the nominee that you can provide.

Send this form post marked by April 15 to:

Joleen Woods, ICDA Executive Secretary-Treasurer
209 Oak Ridge Drive
Mount Vernon, Iowa 52314

Nominations will be reviewed by the ICDA Board

If awarded, the recipient will be honored at the Annual ICDA Summer Symposium.

For continued consideration, applications must be re-submitted annually.

**Elected or appointed members of the ICDA Board are not eligible during their term of service.

Robert McCowen Award

Robert Melvin McCowen, 1918-1965, was born in Waterloo, Iowa. He graduated from West High School, Waterloo and received his B. A. Degree in Music from Iowa State Teachers College, Cedar Falls, was named to *Who's Who in Music* in his senior year of college and began teaching elementary instrumental music in Waterloo after graduation. He enlisted in the US Air Force at the beginning of World War II and was stationed in England as a 1st Lt. B-17 co-pilot. On his third mission he was shot down and walked through the French underground from north of Paris to Gibraltar, a distance of 1000 miles. This took him four and one-half months. After the war he returned to Waterloo and began to teach at West High School, his Alma Mater.

He earned his M. A. Degree from Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois, in 1951. He was named Director of Choral Affairs at Iowa State University, Ames, in 1949. In 1950 he taught at Knox College, Galesburg, Illinois, in 1951 at Illinois Central, Macomb and in 1952 returned to Iowa State where he remained until his death.

He served as district and state ACDA Chairman and was a charter member of ACDA. He directed the Iowa All-State and many other All-State festivals throughout the nation. He was in constant demand as a festival conductor, clinician and adjudicator. He conducted several summer music camps and was especially fond of the International Peace Gardens Camp. He had many articles published and several of his compositions were used in All-State festivals throughout the country.

At the time of his death, he was serving as the North Central Chairman of ACDA. He gave much to the state of Iowa and its musical activities. This unselfish dedication prompted the ICDA Executive Board to establish the Robert McCowen Award to be presented to the person who made outstanding contributions to choral music in the state.

Robert McCowen's love for his work was obvious. The relationships he developed with students in the classroom and with professional colleagues were sincere. His music was his tool to serve mankind. His concern for choral music in the state of Iowa lives on, and it is for this reason, that ICDA chooses to honor its friends who carry the Robert McCowen flame for choral music, igniting the torch for all choral participants in Iowa, lighting the way, not only for students, but also for professional colleagues.