

## THE GREAT INFLUENCE OF MUSIC

*by Sister Romana Hertel, OSF, Ph. D.*

I was born in Stockbridge, WI, one of ten children of Jacob and Elizabeth Hertel. Early in my education I attended St. Mary's school in Stockbridge, where all of the teachers were Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi from Milwaukee. The teachers were a great blessing to all of us; we loved the Sisters dearly and were very early exposed to and imbibed their spirit of hospitality, warmth, simplicity, and goodness. Sisters of St. Francis were also my teachers at St. Mary's Academy in Milwaukee, which I attended from 1929 to 1933. After graduation, I entered the convent of the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi, where my sister Bernadette had entered three years previously. I spent one year in the postulancy and two years in the novitiate at the convent while also attending college classes at St. Clare College (now Cardinal Stritch) majoring in Music, which has been my life's work and which has had a tremendous impact on my life.

Later I received both a B.Mus. and a M.Mus. as a Violin major and Theory and Composition minor at the Cosmopolitan School of Music in Chicago, and I also studied at the Eastman School of Music, the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, and the Aspen School of Music in Colorado. I received my Ph.D. in Musicology from the Catholic University of America for a dissertation on the keyboard Concertos of Johann Wilhelm Hertel, two of which I edited for publication and four of which I had the opportunity to perform during my years in the Music department at Cardinal Stritch, where I was Chairperson from 1954 to 1960 and 1964 to 1977, and a member of faculty from 1977 to 1992.

I taught many different courses during my tenure at Cardinal Stritch, from Music Theory and Composition to private lessons in piano and violin to introductory courses in the Symphony and the Concerto, which I particularly enjoyed because they gave me the opportunity to give a good background in and appreciation of music to non-music majors. Though I retired from Stritch in 1992, I still teach violin and piano in the form of private lessons, as I had done while I was teaching at the college. I am very proud of both my current and former students, some of whom have won contests such as the Chopin Contest and the Milwaukee Catholic Youth Orchestra and Milwaukee Catholic Symphony Concerto contests, and who have been members of the Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra and other performance groups. Some of the most memorable experiences in my life, moments and events that influence me greatly, are related to music, from a stay in the summer of 1958 at the Aspen, Colorado Music Festival and Music school, where I went with Sister Annarose Griffin, to a nine-month post-doctoral fellowship in 1976 at the University of Ohio at Columbus, as well as having the chance to work on editing Johann Hertel's manuscripts.

In addition to my love of and involvement with music, I have been involved with activism for peace, including a Peace Pilgrimage in 1982 during which I took part in the March for Peace, Nuclear Disarmament, and Human Needs (the largest march New York City has ever seen), and the Peace Pentecost in Washington, DC in 1985, which was a week of sharing and prayer at the Catholic University of America including prayer, protest for peace, and civil disobedience at various sites in Washington DC including the White House. I have also been a member of various peace-activist and music organizations in the Milwaukee area.

Though I did not especially enjoy some of the administrative work involved with teaching at Cardinal Stritch (as I consider myself primarily a musician), I am glad to have had the opportunity to teach, providing my life and the lives of my students with the richness of music.