

*Earlier this month, three of our members—Ron Dahlquist, Anthony Green, and Katie Eckstein--spent a week in Massachusetts at the Berkshire Music Festival. Here is a report from Ron on that experience:*

I suspect that Katie and Anthony also hated to see the week at BCF end. The three-hour morning and evening rehearsals were quite strenuous, but Dave Hayes (the Philadelphia Symphony choral conductor) was excellent in helping us through the seldom heard but magnificent Dvorak *Requiem*. If I could only sing like this every day instead of just once a week!

What a great break from my usual existence to do something I truly treasure. Life on the campus brought back some great memories, but the Choral Festival is in many ways better than college because you're immersed in great music with top conductors and fellow students who find the experience of singing just as exciting as you do.

The Berkshires are full of music: Tanglewood, the Yale Summer Music School, and the nearby Springfield Symphony (which accompanies our concerts), plus lots of drama, art, and antiques. The field trips each free afternoon and guided walks through the natural beauty of the Berkshire Mountains help to offset some of BCF's great breakfasts.

Western Massachusetts, of course, is a bit far, but maybe next year more NSCS choristers can be persuaded to join in this great experience—and even travel east together. Why waste another vacation at the beach or on a cruise when you can immerse yourself in something you love so deeply?

I'll be contacting you again next winter when the Berkshire program for 2005 is announced. Until then, if you want more information, please feel free to contact me at [rondahlquist@yahoo.com](mailto:rondahlquist@yahoo.com). Thanks.