



River Plate Adventist University Ogden School of Music

Dan Shultz

River Plate Adventist University in Argentina will soon have a new music facility equipped with several new keyboard instruments, thanks to the son of one of the pioneer Adventist families in that country.

It was 1898 and the turn of another century, a time of expansion for the Adventist church. Argentina was viewed as a field of opportunity, a place where the Adventist message could make a difference in people's lives.

Accordingly, A.R. and Esta Mae Ogden traveled to the area to join Frank and Mary Westphal in what would prove to be both a challenging and satisfying mission. Five years after starting their work, however, Esta Mae contracted an infection, and almost died. Although she recovered, the Ogdens had to return to the United States, because of damage to her heart.

Eventually, A.R. would become head of the work in the Pacific Northwest and in that role, serve as chair of the Walla Walla College Board. Esta Mae loved music and sang in the school's groups while they lived near the school.



River Plate Adventist University Choir

One of their children, Orland, shared in that love of music. He began lessons while growing up in the Walla Walla area; and, when the family moved to Seattle, he pursued his interest by working as a musician in that city during the twenties.

He continued doing so until the onset of the Great Depression. Fortunately, while Orland was making music he had also been starting various business activities

which prospered throughout the depression. His successes then and in a number of endeavors in subsequent years led to his presently owning the largest music store in Portland, Oregon.

Orland and his wife, Joan, feel they have been richly blessed, and both view the stewardship of those gifts as an important responsibility. Accordingly, they have often generously helped churches and persons in need.

Many congregations have had their worship music experience enhanced by instruments purchased through the Ogdens at or near wholesale cost.

Additionally, the Ogdens more recently have donated Johannus electronic Organs to Adventist schools, including Milo Adventist Academy, Walla Walla College, and Montemoraes University in Mexico.

And, as this century ends, the story comes full circle. The son's prosperity and



The first band at River Plate College 1930



his sense of stewardship, combined with those ties to his music-loving mother, have led to a decision which will profoundly affect the music program at River Plate Adventist University, one of the fruits of his parents' pioneering efforts in South America.

The university, which has an enrollment of 2,200 students, is in the midst of an expansion program. The old administration



Joan and Orland Ogden



River Plate Adventist University Ogden Music Building

building, in use as a music building since 1982, is being extensively remodeled and named The Ogden School of Music, in honor of Orland and Joan Ogden and his parents, A.R. and Esta Mae, pioneers in Argentinian Adventism.

The Ogdens, moved by this recognition, have responded by giving a number of keyboard instruments to the school, including three organs and fifteen pianos. A large four-manual and two three-manual Johannus organs are slated for delivery in early 1997. Six of the pianos will be

grand pianos, including a concert grand nine-foot Estonia.

For the university, these are wonderful gifts that will enhance the quality of life on their campus. More importantly, they are gifts that will enable the music program to better train future generations

of musicians who, in turn, will enrich the lives of thousands with their music.

The Ogdens are thrilled to be able to participate in this project, one that not only honors his parents, but acknowledges their pioneering work in a way that would have special meaning for his mother, Esta Mae.

Persons interested in making donations to assist in renovation expenses may send their contributions to:

*Dr. Luis Alfredo Schulz, president
Universidad Adventista Del Plata
3103 Villa Libertador San Martin
Entre Rios, Argentina*