

Comments on “Remembering Northfield”

I think of the Northfield campus as sacred space that has inspired thousands of people by its beauty, serenity...and some ineffable quality. My personal history with Northfield extends back three generations to a great-grandmother who came to the summer conferences. My mother and her parents stayed in tents on the campus until they bought the summer home of Fleming Revell on the Ridge. My fondest childhood memories include walking around the campus, and for more than 50 years I have found here a sense of place, as well as deep inner peace.

I hoped to honor as many Northfields as possible in this piece, from the earliest beginnings through the countless changes, but especially highlighting the decades of Northfield's greatest eminence. Having worked at NMH for exactly the 34 years that the school existed on two campuses, I also wanted to capture the magic of the coeducation years.

The loss needs to be grieved, and my first goal in this project was to help people feel the full depth of their love for Northfield. But the feelings do not end with the tears. The memories we all have will last forever. The powerful but gentle spirit of this place remains vital. The school has moved away, but the Northfield we cherish will endure.

David Thompson, former NMH college counselor, June 2005

The sounds you hear in this presentation come from two sources. The introductory and incidental music was composed by Noel Paul Stookey with Northfield in mind. Special thanks are due him, not only for allowing us to reproduce his original music, but for choosing and arranging much of the additional audio portion. We may also thank Stookey for the brief clip of Ira Sankey singing. That recording is in the public domain.

With one exception, all other music came from a range of Christmas Vespers and Sacred Concert recordings from the 1930s through the 1970s. The excerpt from "Northfield Beautiful" is from a short recording produced for the 75th anniversary of the founding of the schools in 1955. The early voices you hear include Fannie Hatch, secretary of the Alumnae Association, and Paul D. Moody, younger son of the founder and president of Middlebury College; the last speaker is William H. Morrow. All of these recordings were digitized from the audio collections in the NMH Archives.

Additional technical assistance came from Shane Peters and Patricia Hasanbasic. Images were provided by the NMH Office of Communications and the NMH Archives.

Peter Weis '78, NMH archivist, June 2005