



## Fairfield County Children's Choir

# quarternotes

The Newsletter of the Fairfield County Children's Choir • Vol. 6, No. 2 • December 2005

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## From the Music Director

Season's Greetings! I am very excited to announce the release of "[A Fairfield County Holiday](#)," a compact disc of many of our favorite holiday selections from the past few seasons. The CD was recorded on October 16 at St. John the Evangelist Church in Stamford, whose stunning acoustics are perfectly suited for such songs as *O Holy Night*, *Joy to the World*, *While By My Sheep*, *Carol of the Bells*, *Gesu Bambino*, *I Wonder As I Wander* and many others. With stunning artwork and sound by our recording company, Shareavoice, this recording will add much joy and pleasure to the upcoming holiday season. "A Fairfield County Holiday" will be available for purchase at FCCC concerts and rehearsals, as well as by calling 203-414-4292 or writing to us at the address on the reverse side.



Congratulations to all who performed at Carnegie Hall on November 1st with the Cross Border Orchestra Ireland! Our choristers were given a wonderful opportunity and they absolutely rose to the occasion. It was especially meaningful to me that the orchestra chose "I'm Goin' Up a Yonder," the piece that was the number one audience favorite in our 10th anniversary survey last year. Brava to Anna Button and Whitney Webster who performed the solos beautifully! After hearing the Irish Medley, one grandmother said "watching my granddaughter sing Irish music in Carnegie Hall, I thought I'd died and gone to heaven." It truly was an amazing experience!!

The concert at Carnegie Hall illustrates one of the strengths of the FCCC: the performance of a wide variety of musical styles from many cultures. A quality musical education demands that choristers experience music from all style periods – our Winter concert will include works by Tallis, Bach, Handel, Vivaldi, Mozart, Britten, Rutter & Gawthrop, as well as carols, folk, gospel and rock – and from a wide variety of cultures. Guests in the past have included Nick Page, who specializes in multicultural music, Rob Hugh, who has studied in Africa, and Cantor (now Rabbi) Shaul Praver, whose collaboration brought us much wonderful Jewish music. I am pleased to announce that next season's Artist-in-Residence will be Alejandro Jimenez, a Puerto Rican composer, arranger and educator who will join us for a focus on Hispanic music.

As America becomes more diverse, an understanding of our multi-ethnic society will become increasingly important. This subject is the focus of a report written recently for one of her classes by chorister Jilian Saber which is included inside. I hope that Jilian's appreciation of diversity is shared by all of our choristers!

Please join us at the Klein Memorial Auditorium on December 4 at 3:00 P.M. for our annual Winter Concert!!

*Jon Noyes*

# An Eventful December 2005

The choristers of the FCCC will be busy this December! Our annual Winter Concert will take place on Sunday, December 4 at 3:00 P.M. at the Klein Auditorium in Bridgeport. Don't miss this wonderful production!! Following this, our Chamber Singers and Concert Choir will both be very busy with exciting collaborations of their own. The Chamber Singers will be joining forces with the Fairfield County Chorale & Amor Artis Orchestra conducted by Johannes Somary in Handel's oratorio Judas Maccabeus on December 11 at 3:00 P.M. at the Norwalk Concert Hall. The very next week (December 18 at 3:00 P.M.) our Concert Choir will join with the Norwalk Symphony under the direction of Diane Wittry for a varied program of classical and seasonal selections, also at the Norwalk Concert Hall. Finally, our Chorale and Chorus will perform at the Trumbull Mall on December 21 at 7:00 P.M. Call 203-414-4292 for ticket information.



## Meet FCCC's New Assistant Manager

My name is Alicen Masi. I was born and raised in Norwalk, CT. I attended Arizona State University with a B.A. in Elementary Education and a minor in Communications. After teaching First Grade for two years, I moved back home to get my Masters' Degree at Sacred Heart University. I was an intern at Holland Hill School in Fairfield and received my degree with a concentration in reading. I then moved back to Arizona to teach First Grade for two more years (I really like the sun!). I just recently moved back to CT to be close to my family and teach Kindergarten at Dwight Elementary School in Fairfield. I took piano lessons when I was a child, and was a flute player in the Norwalk High School Marching Band. I love to teach children, play volleyball, dance and cook. I am honored to work with such a wonderful and talented group of children. I really enjoy your singing!

## Chorister Profiles



**Name:** Sarah E. Tung

**Age:** 17

**School:** Fairfield Warde High School

**Favorite FCCC Song:** I'm Goin' Up A Yonder

**In Your Own Words:** "Going into my 8th and final year as an FCCC Senior, I can't remember a time when the choir and Mr. Noyes were not part of my

life. Even before I started FCCC Mr. Noyes was my music teacher and he encouraged me to join the choir. FCCC has been a place to grow, learn and become a better person. There have been so many magical moments that it's difficult to single out just one special moment. However, one of the most memorable moments for me was our wonderful concert in Boston for the ACDA Convention. To not only see, but feel the audience's response to our performance was overwhelming and beautiful. That feeling of having achieved the highest level of quality in our performance, after working so hard, striving to do our best... it was our time to shine and to be part of something truly special. I'll never forget how I felt at that precise moment in time. As I complete my last season with the FCCC, I look forward to creating more lasting memories to carry with me in my heart forever.

**Name:** Anna Button

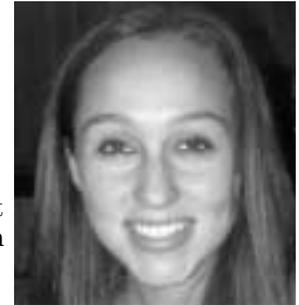
**Age:** 17

**School:** Trumbull High School

**Favorite FCCC Song:**

"When You Believe"

**In Your Own Words:** "I cannot believe it's been eight years. In eight years one could learn to dance, play a sport, or speak another language, but I chose to enrich my life and my musical ability and knowledge by joining the FCCC. I started the choir as a timid 5th grader and was astounded at my first rehearsal. I could immediately tell that this ensemble was completely different, more amazing and advanced than any other singing group I had ever taken part in. Over the years, I became less timid and intimidated by the FCCC staff. The things I have gained through the choir range from advanced singing instruction in technique and reading music that have helped me in every other musical endeavor I have had, to long-lasting friendships and life experience.



I won't recount to you all of the amazing places the choir has allowed me to visit, but I must say it is an unbeatable feat that the choir has taken a group of motivated kids who may have never seen such places as New Orleans, Hawaii, or Carnegie Hall, to do what they love there.

I think it would be impossible to forget the incredible experiences I've had. I am so fortunate to be able to have a haven to spend time with friends, learn and participate in something I am passionate about".

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# Celebrating Diversity

Jilian Saber • September 17, 2005

Young people can celebrate diversity and respect difference in many different ways. Schools, children's organizations and corporations can provide experiences for young children to celebrate diversity. I had the experience of attending a diversity festival on this very day. This festival was held in Shelton, CT at the offices of Pitney Bowes. I attended this event with my choir, The Fairfield County Children's Chamber Choir. We sang 3 songs to help celebrate this event. I also had the wonderful opportunity to travel to Hawaii this summer to a Pacific Rim Children's Chorus Festival where we were immersed in many different cultures and celebrated diversity.

Today was devoted to celebrating the different cultures and customs that we all live among. Its focus is how we should all interact as one. There were games and artistic performances. There were many different types of food and beverages representing all of the different cultures. I saw an amazing demonstration of Double Dutch Jump Rope and was invited to participate.

When I first meet a person from a different race or background, I like to make them feel comfortable. It's something my mom always said I was naturally good at. I always invite them in to an activity or try to make them feel included. I recently attended a Pacific Rim Choir Festival in Hawaii and learned all about different cultures not only in that area, but from around the country and Canada. We were surrounded by Polynesian culture including a Samoan fire dance and a group of Maori warriors.

There was a Canadian Choir there that was 100% Chinese!! It was interesting to learn about how they settled in Ontario, Canada. They performed a Chinese fan dance to a Chinese song about a Jasmine flower. They dressed in Chinese outfits where they designed the apron they wore. I met them during rehearsals at Brigham Young University in Hawaii. Our conductor wanted us to get to know different people from different choirs and cultures. I became good friends with 4 girls from this choir and we continue to exchange pictures and we email each other on a weekly basis. It is so fun to get to know different people from different cultures and I am looking forward to visiting Canada next July and hoping to visit with them.

I also became good friends with 3 girls from the Hawaii Youth Opera Chorus. I consider these girls my good friends and have lots of laughs with them online. This group was the host choir for the Pac Rim Festival. They taught us how to make leis, learn hula dancing and lots

of words from the Hawaiian language. They brought us to the Polynesian Cultural Center where I was put in the Tahitian village and learned all about Tahitian culture. Laorana (or "good health") is the Polynesian greeting of Tahiti. We learned movements in their exciting dances, and listened to the beat of "to'ere" drums. I sampled a Tahitian coconut and made a bamboo crown. We experienced all of Polynesia including Samoa, Aotearoa, and Hawaii.

During the festival, we learned about music and dance with representatives from many cultures including Japan, China, Korea, Philippines, Tahiti, Hawaii, Samoa, and New Zealand. We learned songs in 11 different languages!!! We also toured the island including a very moving visit to Pearl Harbor. I believe the attack on Pearl Harbor would not have occurred if people from different cultures understood each other and got along.

Our family was supposed to homestay two Indonesian Children from an Indonesian Choir this past Spring, but because of the tsunami they were unable to make the visit. I was looking forward to living with these children for a few days to learn things about them. Our choir will be singing with an Irish Orchestra at Carnegie Hall in November.

In the past 3 months, I learned so much about different cultures that I did not know. I hope that I am invited back to the Pitney Bowes Diversity festival next year so I can experience and understand more about the different cultures all around us. I will also tour each summer to different parts of the world with the Fairfield County Children's Choir. We are going to Canada Summer '06, possibly to Tuscany, Italy or Cambridge, England '07, and may be traveling to the Beijing Olympics '08. I'm really looking forward to learning about these different people and their culture.

It is so important to learn and understand other people and respect difference. They are just people too!!! We need more organizations such as The Fairfield County Children's Choir that help children learn and understand people from different cultures and races. If all of the major corporations such as Pitney Bowes hold Diversity Festivals, both children and adults can learn the importance of celebrating diversity. Elementary and Middle Schools can also hold festivals or go on field trips to learn about this important subject. If children are taught at a young age to accept and celebrate diversity, as well as respect difference, the world will be a far better place.

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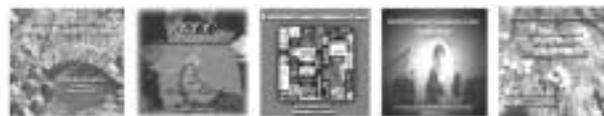
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## 2005 2006 FCCC Schedule

(CS-Chamber Singers; CC-Concert Choir; CH-Chorale; Ch-Chorus)

- Nov 1** Carnegie Hall (CS & CC)
- Nov 17** Broadway solo auditions - 6-8P.M.
- Dec 4** FCCC Winter Concert - 3P.M. Klein, Bridgeport
- Dec 11** Judas Maccabeus / Ffld. Cty. Chorale & Orch. (CS)
- Dec 18** Norwalk Symphony- 3P.M. Norwalk Concert Hall (CC)  
*(reh. Dec 17, 3-5 P.M.)*
- Dec 21** Chorale & Chorus at Trumbull Mall - 7P.M.
- Feb 4** FCCC Broadway Concert - 7P.M. Klein, Bridgeport
- Mar 26** Woodland Concert Series - Hartford (CS)
- Apr 25** Fairfield Holocaust Commemoration Service (CS)
- May 6** FCCC Spring Concert - 7P.M. Klein, Bridgeport
- May 20** Spring Tour to Broadway Show
- July 5-9** Niagra Int. Children's Choral Festival, Canada (CS)



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