



# Fairfield County Children's Choir

# quarternotes

The Newsletter of the Fairfield County Children's Choir • Vol. 9, No. 2 • Spring 2009

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The FCCC Broadway Concert in February featured our guest artist, Michelle Mallardi, and a lively group of pirates!

## From the Music Director

Greetings! As we come to the final portion of our 14th season, I write to you not only as Music Director but also, for the first time, as an FCCC choir parent. There are many reasons why I am thrilled that my daughter is a member of the Fairfield County Children's Choir. Allow me to share just a few.

Of all the comments that FCCC parents have shared with me over the years, I have particularly enjoyed those that have to do with the pure joy that comes from singing in the choir. For example, I've been told many times about children leaving rehearsal so uplifted that they continue to sing in the car all the way home, as well as about those who sing themselves to sleep at night. What a joy it is for me to have witnessed these situations myself (and we have a thirty minute commute!).

As a musician I am very satisfied with the music education my daughter is receiving. From the vocal and choral ensemble training, to the performance opportunities and especially the repertoire, the content and quality of the curriculum is exceptional. The standards and rigor of the program require serious focus, hard work and dedication. I believe our children benefit from any experience in which expectations are high and the tools to reach those goals are furnished.

Finally, I could not be more pleased with the many wonderful veteran choristers who are outstanding role models for our younger children. As parents, we all know the important influence that friends and peers have on the social and emotional development of children. Considering the challenging nature of what we do, choristers who remain in the FCCC for many years tend to be those with self-discipline, perseverance and a great love of music. It has been my great privilege as a teacher to get to know some of the brightest, most mature and highly motivated young people in the area. It is my hope that they will have a deep and abiding influence on all of the children of the FCCC!

When I composed the mission statement of the FCCC over fourteen years ago, my daughter had yet to come into this world. I am so proud that she now has "the opportunity to participate in a musical experience which is challenging, rewarding and enjoyable... Ultimately, in the words of John Ruskin, 'the highest reward for a man's toil is not what he gets for it, but what he becomes by it.'"

This issue of **quarternotes** has much information about upcoming concerts, chorister profiles, special awards and much more. Finally, we say goodbye and best wishes to our seniors. Jacob Blumenthal, Anne Marie Carpanzano, Sara Johnson, Molly Valentine, Reggie Villecco and Ashley Zdravec have been outstanding members of the FCCC for many years. In addition, Jacob recently received the FCCC Choral Scholar Award, presented to choristers who have been members of the FCCC for the maximum term of nine years!

We will miss them all very much!!

*Jon Noyes*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Upcoming programs include the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society of Fairfield County Benefit on April 24 at 7:30 P.M. at Fairfield's Ludlowe Middle School, which will feature our Chorus & Chorale. This is an opportunity not only to perform but also to participate in a wonderful community service. Our Chamber Singers will participate on April 26 in the JCCS Holocaust Commemoration Service. This event is one of the most important programs in which our choristers participate. The service features a Holocaust survivor as keynote speaker – an opportunity to hear direct witness about a part of history that must never be forgotten.

### FCCC 14th Annual Spring Concert **An American Celebration!**

May 9, 2009 7:00 P.M. • Norwalk Concert Hall, Norwalk, CT

The 14th Annual Spring Concert will take place in the beautiful acoustic setting of the Norwalk Concert Hall. Our program, "An American Celebration!" contains an exciting variety of themes, styles and special projects. To begin, we will be commemorating the 200th birthday of Abraham Lincoln with a number of selections, including a Civil War Suite which features songs from the period interspersed with a dramatic reading of the Gettysburg Address by renowned Broadway actor Ivan Rutherford. We will also perform numerous spirituals, one of which specifically mentions the Emancipation Proclamation.

Continuing with the birthday theme, we will be celebrating Pete Seeger's 90th with songs such as *Turn! Turn! Turn!*, *Goodnight Irene*, *This Land Is Your Land* and *How Can I Keep From Singing?* For Mother's Day, we have a very moving composition written by one of our choristers whose mother was very ill with cancer. *A Joy to Be in This World* is sure to warm your hearts.

Our program will also feature a premiere composition by Paul Caldwell and Sean Ivory entitled *Witness*. It tells, through narration and song, the story of Clematine Wamariya, a young girl who survived the Rwandan genocide.

We will honor the music educators in our area with music, a slide show and special guest Dorothy Straub. The program will include works by G.F. Handel and Connecticut's own Charles Ives. We will also feature some New Orleans jazz - *Basin Street Blues* and *Do You Know What It Means to Miss New Orleans?* - in anticipation of our June tour to the Big Easy! Finally, we will send you home with a smile: George Gershwin's Depression era song, *Who Cares?* ("Who cares what banks fail in Yonkers, long as you've got a kiss that conquers!") Come join the staff and choristers of the FCCC for a wonderful evening of song!

## FCCC High Notes Award *Dorothy Straub*

The FCCC High Notes Award for 2009 is presented to Dorothy A. Straub. Her service both to children and to the music education profession is extensive and profound. Dorothy is recently retired as K-12 Music Coordinator in the Fairfield, Connecticut Public Schools where she also taught strings and orchestra. In Fairfield she established an orchestra program which now has more than thirteen hundred string players as well as orchestras in every school. The band and chorus programs are equally as strong and the core of the instructional program is a substantive general music program, the goal of which is to provide a quality music education for every child.

Ms. Straub has served in various capacities for the Connecticut Music Educators Association, including president of the association and chairman of the Professional Affairs Commission. From 1987 to 1989 she served as president of the MENC Eastern Division. Ms. Straub is a past president of the MENC, The National Association for Music Education. At music education conferences in more than thirty states. She was involved in the development of national standards in music as well as advocacy efforts for the arts in education as a part of the National Coalition for Music Education.

In 1995 Ms. Straub received the ASTA (American String Teachers Association) Citation for Exceptional Leadership and Merit and the NSOA (National School Orchestra Association) Lifetime Achievement Award. From 1996 to 1998 she served on the National Board of the American String Teachers Association. She served on the Music Committee for the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards and is a member of the Education Advisory Committee of the National Music Center.

She was one of the founders of the Columbia Council on the Arts in New York state and currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Fairfield Arts Council in Connecticut. She is also a member of the Board of Directors for the Fairfield County Children's Choir and South Shore Music for Youth, Inc. She received the Outstanding Administrator Award by the Connecticut Music Educators Association in 1989. The Westport Arts Advisory Committee named her the recipient of the Music Award at the 1997 Westport Arts Awards celebration.

Our organization could not exist without the support of wonderful friends like Dorothy Straub. The FCCC will be honored to have Dorothy A. Straub as our guest at our Spring Concert in Norwalk on May 9.

## From the President...

This has been, by and large, a wonderful year for the FCCC. Our music programs, under the direction of Jon Noyes, have been spectacular. I hope that all of you have had the opportunity to see, first hand, the talent and hard work that our choristers have displayed throughout the year at either the two major concerts or one of the other special programs that have taken place. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I want to take this opportunity to congratulate all of the performers, and thank the dedicated and talented staff that works so hard with these young people.

We have all, at least to some extent, felt the impact of the current economic downturn. The FCCC is also not immune to this, and we are working hard to keep the financial condition of the organization as stable as possible. We greatly appreciate the support of the FCCC community, and ask all of our friends to continue helping us in any way possible. For starters, I urge you all to come out and support the FCCC Spring Concert on Saturday, May 9. This helps in two ways – by supporting the performers with a full house, and by generating much-needed ticket revenue. In addition, we are now gearing up for our Annual Fund drive, and ask all of our friends to please be as generous as possible at this important time.

Thanks again for your support.

*Joseph Peri*

# chorister profiles

We have a wonderful group of six seniors who will be graduating this year. Anne Marie Carpanzano and Sara Johnson have been with the choir for many years and have contributed much to the group. Their dedication is evident by the distance they travel to rehearsal, from Stamford and Easton, respectively. Their words below are very inspiring!



**Name:** Anne Marie Carpanzano

**Age:** 17

**School:** Trinity Catholic High School

**Town:** Stamford

**Favorite FCCC Song:** *I'm Goin' Up a Yonder and When You Believe*

**In Your Own Words:** My time as a chorister in the FCCC has gone by so fast that I feel like it was only yesterday when I had my first audition. In the four short years that I have spent as a member, I have been blessed with incredible experiences that will last a lifetime! The extremely talented conductors, accompanists, and fellow choristers have been very positive influences, and I thank you all for your dedication to music. You inspired me to always sing my best, and I learned more than I would have ever thought possible.

There were many memorable events in the FCCC in which I had the joy of participating. The most special one for me occurred in November 2007 when I had the privilege of working with the amazing Nick Page and performing at Carnegie Hall. It was truly a once in a lifetime gift that I will never forget! Just when I thought it could not get any better, I had the opportunity to share the stage with the West Point Military Band twice in one weekend! These performances will always be the highlights of my FCCC experience.

Although I am disappointed to leave the FCCC, I will carry the lessons I learned about singing, teamwork, professionalism, and discipline wherever I go. I was fortunate to have been given the opportunity to spend my Wednesday evenings with a very talented group of people who showed me the value of working hard together with the goal of producing excellence. However, the best part about being a member of the FCCC was being able to share all rehearsals and concerts with my sister and best friend, Marisa, who will continue in the FCCC next year. I really appreciated everything about being an FCCC chorister and consider it one of the best extracurricular activities in which I have ever been involved!



**Name:** Sara Johnson

**Age:** 17

**School:** Joel Barlow High School

**Town:** Easton

**Favorite FCCC Song:** *Cantate*

**In Your Own Words:** I have thoroughly enjoyed the past seven years of being in FCCC. Being in this choir has taught me so much about the proper methods of singing, especially posture, breath, tone and diction. I have been exposed to so many different types of music, and I have met so many wonderful people from all over Fairfield County that I would never have met without the choir. FCCC has also allowed me to sing at Carnegie Hall, twice, West Point and visit Philadelphia and New Orleans. While I won't be majoring in music when I get to college, I hope that music still remains a part of my life. FCCC has been a wonderful experience and I hope to come back and visit next year.

Guest artist, Michelle Mallardi sings for the FCCC Broadway Concert in February.



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## FCCC 2009-2010 Calendar

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

### 2009

- Apr 24** Leukemia & Lymphoma Society Benefit (Ch/CH)
- Apr 26** JCCS Holocaust Commemoration Service (CS)
- May 9** FCCC Spring Concert - 7:00P.M. Norwalk Concert Hall
- Jun TBD** New Orleans Send-Off Concert
- Jun 25-30** New Orleans Tour (CS)
- Oct TBD** Cross Border Irish Orchestra in NYC
- Dec 5-6** Holiday Concert at West Point (CS)
- Dec 13** FCCC Winter Concert – Klein Auditorium, Bridgeport

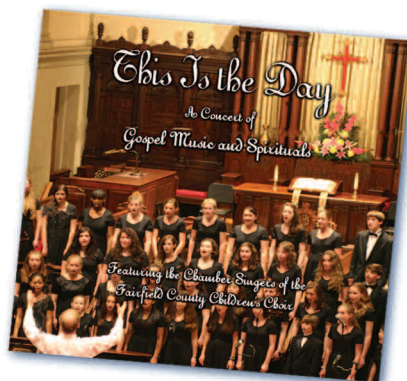


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