



Fairfield County Children's Choir

quarternotes

The Newsletter of the Fairfield County Children's Choir • Vol. 8, No. 2 • December 2007

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The FCCC Spring Concert at the Norwalk Concert Hall in May, 2007. Photo by Bob Clair

From the Music Director

Our Thirteenth Season is off to a wonderful start! By the time you receive this newsletter, we will have just completed our fourth performance at Carnegie Hall. We are now looking forward to the annual FCCC Winter Concert on December 9 and our annual Broadway Concert on February 2, 2008. You can read more about these programs inside.

In March we will have a very special weekend event that involves all 270 choristers of the FCCC. We will present a "home & home" concert series with the United States Military Academy Band from West Point. On Saturday, March 15 we will perform together at the Klein Auditorium in Bridgeport and we will repeat the concert on Sunday, March 16, at Eisenhower Hall on the USMA campus at West Point. We have been very fortunate to perform with the West Point Band five times in the past ten years. When we consider all of the peak performance experiences we have provided our singers over the years, our choristers and parents would agree that none have surpassed the experiences we have had with the USMA Band.

What makes performing with the West Point Band so exciting? First, the musical quality of the band is outstanding. The USMA Band, which traces its roots back to the Revolutionary War, is made up of professional soldier-musicians, not cadets. They fulfill all of the official musical requirements of the academy, including military and patriotic ceremonies, public concerts, sporting events, etc. They perform at Eisenhower Hall, a 4000 seat concert hall with outstanding production facilities and support staff. Perhaps most importantly, it is an honor to collaborate with a branch of the US Armed Forces and to assist them in their mission as ambassadors of the Army. More information about the band can be found on their website at <<http://www.usma.edu/Band/>>

As both concerts will have no admission charge, we are in need of sponsors for the concert at the Klein Auditorium. Although the Klein management will reduce a portion of their fee for this program, there are fixed costs for the stagehands and others which will be substantial. Please call the choir at the number on the back cover if you would like to be a sponsor of this very important program.

In this issue of **quarternotes**, I will continue with the fourth and final installment of "What do we do in the FCCC?" In recent issues I explained our instruction of music reading, vocal technique and choral technique. The culmination of our instruction is performance. This involves singing great repertoire, hopefully with compelling stage presence. Believe it or not, for some of our choristers, performing with good stage presence is often more challenging than the music itself. Some of the issues we discuss include facial expressions, body movement, posture, not "telegraphing" mistakes, dress code, the group bow, even backstage/audience expectations.

I have written extensively in previous editions about our rich and varied repertoire. As our Mission states, "Music is an art form which has existed as an integral part of every culture throughout history. When we sing we experience forms of beauty and joy which words cannot express." I strongly believe that the music we perform is the main reason we have children who sing with the choir for up to nine years. I hope you will join us for many of our upcoming concerts to experience in person this great music performed by these great young people!!

Jon Noyes

FCCC Concerts

Winter Concert - "When Children Sing"

December 9, 2007 3:00 P.M.
Klein Memorial, Bridgeport, CT

Our Winter Concert, "When Children Sing," will include works by Handel, Faure, Kodaly and others, as well as seasonal selections such as Sleigh Ride, Jingle Bells and Silent Night. Our theme is inspired by our opening selection which begins: "When children learn to sing, they rise up strong. A song will nourish them – a song to keep them whole."

Broadway Concert

February 2, 2008 7:00 P.M.
Klein Memorial, Bridgeport, CT
Guest Artist: Maureen Hamill

Our annual Broadway Concert will feature highlights from Mary Poppins, Oliver, The King and I, and Hairspray. Our guest artist will be Maureen Hamill, who has produced, written, directed and performed in many theatrical productions in Connecticut and nationwide. "A charismatic singer." "Intensely dramatic," are just two of the reviews she has received. And of course, this program features many of the best student soloists in the state!

USMA West Point Band with the FCCC

March 15, 2008 7:30 P.M.
Klein Memorial, Bridgeport, CT
&
March 16, 2008 3:00 P.M.
Eisenhower Hall, West Point, NY

A very special weekend is in store on March 15 & 16 as the United States Military Band from West Point, under the direction of Lt. Colonel Timothy Holtan, joins with the choirs of the FCCC for two concerts of classical, Irish and patriotic selections. The concerts are free. Tickets for March 15 must be reserved through the FCCC.

Spring Concert

May 10, 2008 7:00 P.M.
Klein Memorial, Bridgeport, CT
Guest Artist: Nick Page

Always a favorite of audiences throughout the United States and beyond, guest artist Nick Page is a composer, conductor and inspirational leader who promises an enjoyable performance. The concert will feature a world premiere piece written for the occasion as well as other selections by Nick and a wide variety of pieces in all styles.

Alumni Letter

The letter below is from a former chorister, Emeric Viani, who is now a student at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, one of the country's finest music schools.

Hey Mr. Noyes,

How are you doing? How are things with the FCCC going? I hope you and your family are all doing well.

I was just emailing you to let you know how things have been going since I've been here for my third year. I'm taking significantly less classes than this previous semester (20 credits instead of 27!) The classes are really great. We're on our last semester of music theory (20th century theory) and I'm finally taking Music Ed classes again (I couldn't last semester due to schedule conflicts). I'm taking Elementary General Music Methods and it's a great class. I really like our teacher, even though she's not 100% with Gordon's view on teaching and the Standards. It was interesting to see that on the first quiz we had that nobody knew much about Gordon's methods. I have to slowly pick that book up again, with my reading for my class on Religious Fundamentalism it's been tough to keep with it, but hopefully this fall break (this weekend) I can get ahead a few chapters and re-read the ones I've read, such thick reading, but it's really incredible how he's taken this information and research and written it down in a clear manner (well most of the time it's really clear!) Aside from that the piano lessons and voice lessons are going well as are the couple of other classes I'm taking.

I also wanted to tell you that the other day I was listening to the FCCC A Fairfield County Holiday CD and was just really struck by the Ave Maria on there. I have to admit, it is possibly my favorite arrangement of Ave Maria (I'm 95% sure that the one on the CD is the W. Andriessen arrangement). The arrangement is so incredible, especially the end with the Allelujah and the soprano descant over the alto's coming in underneath that...the day that I have a choir or the chance to conduct a song with a group here or something, I'm going to use that piece because I think it's incredible. On top of that, it's a great recording, I always get chills at the end of that piece during that "coda" section...it never fails to just stun me what beautiful music can be written and what beautiful singing can exist in this world.

Anyways, I hope you're doing well. I have a short winter break this year but hopefully I can stop by and catch up with you. Are you still teaching that class at Fairfield U by any chance?

Emeric

Chorister Profiles

Our featured choristers are all seniors who will be receiving the FCCC Choral Scholar Award later this season, given to those choristers who join the choir in the fourth grade and continue through their final year of high school. The three young ladies below became members of the FCCC in 1999 when they were eight years old! They have given much to our organization. Congratulations Marisa, Amy & Christy!



Name: Marisa Mazzo
Age: 17
School: Fairfield Ludlowe High School
Town: Fairfield
Favorite FCCC Song: "The Attic," "Freedom is Coming," "Mo Li Hua"
In Your Own Words: FCCC has been amazing for me. I have grown up here. I have

developed many friendships through our own choirs and the other choirs we have worked with over the years. I will always remember the surrealism of singing in Carnegie Hall and the incredible experiences we had in Hawaii at the Pacific Rim Children's Festival with singers and performers from all over the world.

I have made many memories through FCCC and will always cherish the time I have spent here. It has been a great opportunity to be part of such an outstanding group. I am very grateful to all of the conductors; each one of you has improved my singing ability over the years. This is my 9th year as a chorister and I am going to sincerely miss FCCC. I look forward to singing in college and coming back to attend some of the concerts next year.

It feels like just yesterday that I was walking into my first Wednesday night rehearsal not knowing one thing and this spring, I will be walking out with more skills and memories than I could have ever imagined.

Name: Amy Varga
Age: 17
School: Fairfield Warde High School
Town: Fairfield
Favorite FCCC Song: "I'm Goin' Up a Yonder"
In Your Own Words:



Senior year at Fairfield Warde High School has arrived much too quickly. While I am very sad to be leaving, I take with me all of the memories and experiences of the past, and they will be with me forever. Music will always be part of me no matter what I am doing. Throughout my high school years I participated in the Jazz Band as second trumpet, and first trumpet in the Wind Ensemble and Orchestra. In addition I also belong to Modern Music Masters, a national music honor society. FCCC has been a huge part of my life and has given me many extraordinary experiences, meeting new and wonderful people, and performing at so many places including twice at Carnegie Hall.

Even though music is so important to me, I will never pass up a chance to be outside in the fresh air. Whether I am training for track, practicing hurdles, doing an otter trawl or just taking the outside path to class, you will always find me outdoors. The Bridgeport Aquaculture School has given me the ability to be outside and learn through many valuable hands-on experiences. I am an Officer in the FFA (Future Farmers of America) and hope to pursue Environmental Sciences in College.

Name: Christy Varga
Age: 17
School: Fairfield Warde HS
Town: Fairfield
Favorite FCCC Song: O Sifuni Mungu
In Your Own Words: FCCC



has been a great part of the past 9 years of my life. I have met so many wonderful people, learned a huge number of awesome songs, and had so many opportunities to go places and experience things I never would have, if I were not in FCCC. The choir has really made me excel in music and as a musician. I have learned great rehearsal techniques that pertain not only to singing but to many aspects of musicianship. Music is such a big part of my life that even though I am going to major in Marine Biology I am also making sure that every school I apply to has music options so that I won't lose my music.



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2007-2008 FCCC Schedule

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

2007

- Nov 25** Carnegie Hall w/Nick Page (CS & CC)
- Dec 9** FCCC Winter Concert 3:00P.M. Klein, Bridgeport
- Dec 12** Trumbull Mall 7:00P.M. (Chorus/Chorale)

2008

- Feb 2** FCCC Broadway Concert & Auction 7:00P.M. Klein, Bridgeport
- Mar 15** USMA West Point Band w/FCCC choirs - Klein 7:00P.M.
- Mar 16** FCCC at West Point 3:00P.M.
- Apr 30** Fairfield Holocaust Commemoration Service (CS)
- May 10** FCCC Spring Concert w/Nick Page 7:00P.M. Klein
- Jun 8** Torah Rededication Ceremony – Beth El (CS)
- Jun 22** Summer Tour, June 22-25 (CS)
- Jun 28** Children's Choir Exchange Concert (CS) location TBD



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