



**Fairfield County Children's Choir**

# quarternotes

The Newsletter of the Fairfield County Children's Choir • Vol. 7, No. 1 • September 2006

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## *From the Music Director*

Welcome to the Twelfth Season of the Fairfield County Children's Choir! We have put together a fantastic series of concerts, collaborations and projects which will make this year quite exciting. In this issue you will find choir news, chorister profiles, letters, our concert schedule and specifics of upcoming programs.

Our special project for this season will be a focus on Hispanic music. With this effort we continue to foster our mission of introducing our choristers to the music of many cultures while at the same time reaching out to the wider community in Fairfield County. It is our belief that by experiencing the music of various ethnic groups we will help to bring about a deeper mutual understanding and respect among all of our neighbors.

I am pleased to announce that the FCCC is the recipient of a grant from the CT Commission on Culture & Tourism in the amount of \$5356. After a rigorous evaluation process which looked at all aspects of our organization and program, we are proud to have been recognized by the state of Connecticut as an outstanding cultural organization. Many thanks to Beau Villecco for making this happen!

In July our Chamber Singers traveled to Canada to participate in the Niagara International Music Festival. We performed our own repertoire in two concerts and additional repertoire as part of the massed festival choir which was directed by Francisco Nunez of the Young People's Chorus of New York. Eight choirs from Ohio, Iowa, Pennsylvania, New York, Ontario and New Brunswick worked together for the five days of the festival. In addition to visiting Niagara Falls, the Welland Canal and the town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, we had a great time playing Frisbee, water polo, dancing to a Jamaican band and just hanging out together! Please read the letter by Maggie McGowan inside for more insight into our trip!



The FCCC Chamber Singers gather in front of the American (Bridal) Falls in Niagara Falls, Canada just after riding the *Maid of the Mist*.

Please join us for the concerts listed inside. They are sure to inspire and entertain!!

*Jon Noyes*

## Chorister Profiles

Adrien Viani and Michelle Finkle each have a long association with the FCCC. Adrien has been a member for 5 years, and his older brother Emeric was a member for many years before that (*Emeric is entering his junior year at the prestigious Eastman School of Music*). Adrien's connection with us goes back to his pre-school days! Michelle, who will be a senior in high school this year, has been a member for 9 years!! We will be greatly pleased to present Michelle with the Choral Scholar Award at the end of this year, given to those choristers whose membership in FCCC began in 4th grade and continued through 12th grade. Bravo & Brava!!!



**Name:** Michelle Finkle

**Age:** 17

**School:** Fairfield Warde H.S.

**Town:** Fairfield

**Favorite FCCC Song:**

"O Holy Night"

**In Your Own Words:** I first joined the choir when I was in fourth grade. I had been hearing about the choir in my first years of elementary school, since Mr.

Noyes was my music teacher, and I longed to be a part of the choir. Ever since then, I have enjoyed every moment, and I have looked forward to new opportunities to sing with different groups and at different venues.

One of my favorite choir moments was when we went to Boston for the ACDA Conference to sing at Marsh Chapel. The sound was so beautiful, and you could tell we were all enjoying ourselves, because at the end, we requested to sing "O Holy Night." It was such an amazing experience.

**Name:** Adrien Viani

**Age:** 14

**School:** Ludlowe H.S.

**Town:** Fairfield

**Favorite FCCC Song:**

"This is the Day"

**In Your Own Words:** "I first joined the FCCC in 4th grade so that I could sing and be like my brother who was also in the choir. Since then I have enjoyed my experience in all the concerts and rehearsals. I don't think I will ever forget when I sang at Carnegie Hall or the times when Nick Page and other composers came to rehearsals to help us learn a song. I know that these experiences in the choir have heightened my love of music. FCCC has taught me how to use my voice correctly and has also taught me how to respect and be interested in new types of music. While in the FCCC I have made many friends and I hope to continue to make new friends in future years. I know that without FCCC I would not be the person I am today and I look forward to singing in many more concerts!"



## FCCC Guild Co-Presidents Announced!

Co-Presidents of the Parent's Guild for the 2006 – 2007 season will be Joanne Saber and Kathy Kane. Please join with them in supporting the mission of the FCCC!

## FCCC Winter Concert

**Dec. 3, 3<sup>PM</sup> Klein, Bridgeport**

Our annual winter program will showcase all four of our choirs performing many wonderful selections including seasonal songs, a piece by Mozart to put the finishing touches on his 250th birthday celebration, and a song written by one of our members who was inspired by last year's theme of "A Celebration of Composers." Our focus on Hispanic music will include nine selections either in Spanish or having a Spanish 'flavor.' Our special guest will be Alejandro Jimenez, a composer, educator and well known salsa band leader from Hartford. We will perform some of his compositions as we are accompanied by Alejandro and friends!

## West Point Holiday Concert

**Dec. 10, 3<sup>PM</sup> Eisenhower Hall, U.S. Military Academy**

This will be the sixth time that our Chamber Singers have performed with the USMA Band at West Point as their special guests at their annual holiday program. Of all of the performances that we have been fortunate to have been involved with over the years, this one is, for many, the favorite! The quality of the band, the high tech production of sound and lights, and the privilege of contributing in a small way to the mission of our country's military, make this a very special experience. We encourage you to make the 90 minute drive, visit the campus which has on display many artifacts such as the cannon that started the Civil War and the cannon that ended it, have dinner at the famous Hotel Thayer, and enjoy the free concert.

## Civic Orchestra of New Haven

**Dec. 10, 3<sup>PM</sup> Battell Chapel, Yale University**

Led by the dynamic Chris Hisey, the CONH has invited our Concert Choir to be their guests at their annual winter program. Come and enjoy this wonderful orchestra in the historic Battell Chapel on the New Haven Green as they perform the music of Vivaldi, Mozart and Bernstein as well as seasonal selections. Our own Kevin Cotellese will conduct the orchestra and choir on a few pieces!

## For Snow Cancellations:

WICC 600 AM

WTNH Channel 8

CableNews Channel 12

[ctweather.com/click](http://ctweather.com/click) on public organizations

*Free time at Ridley College, Canada*



## Letters

*This past summer, the FCCC Chamber singers traveled to Canada for the Niagara International Music Festival. It was an amazing experience for all of the kids. I started the FCCC in my freshman year in high school where I entered straight into Chamber. I didn't realize how fun, thrilling and yet demanding this choir would be. It was just what I needed.*

*When we finally loaded up the bus and hit the road for Canada everyone was so excited. All of our hard work was about to pay off. Our expectations were high and our anticipation of hearing the other choirs was growing with each hour on the bus. We arrived at our destination on the Niagara College campus. We rushed off the bus to get ready for our first brief performance for all the other choirs. We were very proud of our performance. The third night in Canada was our own extended performance. Unfortunately, some of us felt that our performance was not up to par. Although many people were very proud of us and also extremely impressed, we were not so thrilled. On the bus after our performance, Mr. Noyes asked us to speak up and tell the choir what we thought. By the time it was my turn to speak we were back at the college so Mr. Noyes said that we could finish the conversation the next night. I then asked him if we could finish it that night instead because all of our heads were crammed with thoughts about our concert.*

*A few of us gathered around outside the dorm rooms to finish what we had started. That night we had about an hour and a half of free time and we assumed that most of the choir would take that time to play. To our surprise, the entire choir was sitting with us about 10 minutes into our free time. We were also joined by the chaperones and the parents who were there. It was amazing to see the closeness of the choir. When given an hour to do what they wanted to do, everyone wanted to be together to talk about our experiences. It was an amazing meeting. I felt so good knowing how close we all were to be able to share everything that people did. We took time to evaluate our performance along with the performances of the other choirs. Our conversation took a personal turn when kids shared their feelings about how they felt about how Chamber was like a family to them. It is so true. Chamber is a very warm loving group that is like a family. We all care about each other. We take care of each other whenever we need to. I am very sad that it will be my last year in Chamber because I know I'll never find anything else like it.*

### Maggie McGowan

*Maggie McGowan, Lucy Abbott, Lauren Leppla and Kayley Petch (l-r) together at Niagara Falls.*



(The letter below is from Debbie Tung, parent of Sarah. Sarah choreographed a fan dance to the beautiful Chinese song, *Mo Li Hua*, and the Tung family actually bought and donated a large set of the fans. We consider the fans, and Sarah's choreography, to be a legacy that the Tung family leaves with the choir which will live on for many years.)

Dear Jon:

*I just wanted to say thank you for eight wonderful years! I can't believe Sarah is leaving shortly for college and will no longer be singing with FCCC - it's been a huge part of our lives for such a long time. Thank you so much for providing Sarah with such a marvelous opportunity. She's been exposed to so much wonderful music, but not just music - language - travel - community service - performance - commitment! We consider ourselves very fortunate to have been associated with FCCC and YOU!*

*I turned in all of Sarah's music to Barbara on Monday night - it was definitely bittersweet.*

*Bravo and Good Luck!!!!*

Debbie



*The Chamber Singers perform Mo Li Hua with fans and choreography courtesy of Sarah Tung and Family at Immanuel Congregation Church in Hartford March 2006.*

## FCCC High Notes Award

*(Remarks by recipient Johannes Somary at the Spring Concert May 6, 2006.)*

There's an old legend which says that after God had created the world, he summoned his angels to ask what they thought of it. One of the angels said: "The only thing lacking is the sound of praise for the Creator!" And so, God created music, and the music was first heard in the whisper of the wind and in the songs of the birds. But then he also gave to mankind the gift of song, a gift, which like so many wonderful things in life, we take for granted. And throughout the ages, music and especially this gift of song has blessed multitudes of people.

Those who can sing as beautifully as you do — have a challenge. The challenge is to sing and to promote great music so as to uplift the spirits and to inspire people for the rest of our lives. And if some day for some reason you are no longer able to sing so beautifully yourself, do bring others to hear the music that will enrich their lives and yours; bring them to the fountain of spiritual nourishment so desperately needed in our world today.

Too many people are now caught up cultivating the twin virtues of speed and efficiency. They need you to teach them the joy of music. You may not always see or hear them respond. But in their hearts they will smile and say (even as I say to you tonight), "thank you".



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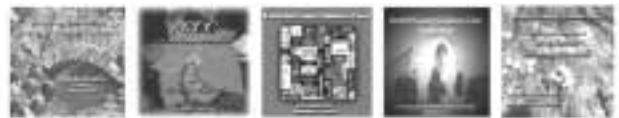
## 2006 FCCC Schedule

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

- Sept 6** First rehearsal - FWMS
- Sept 13** Parent Meeting 7P.M. FWMS
- Sept 16** Pitney Bowes Diversity Day (CS)
- Sept 16** Fairfield Arts Council Gala 7P.M. Quick Center, Fairfield (CS)
- Dec 3** FCCC Winter Concert 3 P.M. Klein, Bridgeport
- Dec 9-10** West Point Holiday Concert (CS)
- Dec 10** Civic Orchestra of New Haven (CC)
- Dec 13** Trumbull Mall 7P.M. (CH, Ch)

## 2007 FCCC Schedule

- Feb 3** Broadway Concert & Auction - 7P.M. Klein, Bridgeport
- Mar 4** Three Generations of Song 4 P.M. Quick Center (CS)
- Mar TBD** United in Song Festival - New Haven (CC)
- Apr 15** JCCS Holocaust Commemoration Service - 4P.M. (CS)
- Apr 27** Council of Churches -Project Learn Concert (CS)
- Apr 28** Carmina Burana -Fairfield County Chorale (CH, Ch)
- May 5** Carmina Burana -Fairfield County Chorale (CH, Ch)
- May 12** FCCC Spring Concert - 7P.M. Norwalk Concert Hall
- May 20** Beth El Music Series - 7:30P.M. (CS)
- July 23** England/Ireland Tour, July 23-Aug 4 (CS)



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