



Fairfield County Children's Choir quarternotes

The Newsletter of the Fairfield County Children's Choir • Vol. 10, No. 2 • Spring 2010

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From the Music Director

As our 15th Anniversary Season heads into its final months we can look back on a fantastic year of making music together. From the Cross Border Orchestra of Ireland at Avery Fisher Hall/Lincoln Center in October and West Point in December to Yale in New Haven in January and our three major concerts at the Klein (and numerous others), the choristers of the FCCC have shared their talents throughout the region. Looking forward, performances will include Fairfield's Holocaust Commemoration Service, a live radio broadcast on WPKN (89.5 FM), a major program in Ridgefield for the Fountain Music Series, our Spring Concert on May 8 at the Klein Auditorium with Lt. Colonel Timothy Holtan as our special guest, and our summer tour to Vienna, Salzburg and Prague. (See inside for more details.) Next year we are planning collaborations with the New Haven Symphony, Mendelssohn Choir, Fairfield University Glee Club, Fairfield County Chorale and the Greater Bridgeport Youth Orchestra!

While our primary mission is to "provide children the opportunity to participate in a musical experience which is challenging, rewarding and enjoyable," I would like to take a moment to share some important information regarding the financial management of the choir. As our children's choir program has grown, the cost of delivering this musical and educational experience has grown as well. Our expenses include major venues such as the Klein, guest artists such as Ivan Rutherford, sheet music and books, printed programs, our outstanding staff of conductors and accompanists, our management staff, a major scholarship program, and operational costs such as copying, mailing, insurance, etc. A major goal of our Board of Directors is to maintain tuition at a level that is affordable without sacrificing quality. As a comparison, please consider the following points:

Tuition at many other children's choir programs is considerably higher than that of the FCCC. In Connecticut, three programs similar in scope and quality to ours are the Connecticut Children's Chorus from West Hartford which has a tuition range of \$585-635, Chorus Angelicus from Norfolk which has a tuition of \$800, and the Elm City Girl's Choir of New Haven leading the way ranging from \$1,000-1,200. The tuition range of the FCCC is \$380-450.

Compare these to some other children's activities such as: tennis lessons \$1,500 per year; dance lessons range from \$580-1385; gymnastics classes \$800. (All figures are for the present year.)

As you can see, the FCCC is providing a high quality program at a cost well below comparable activities. However, we need your help to keep our rates low. We have two major ways to raise the funds to run the FCCC – tuition and fundraising. You will soon be receiving our Annual Fund plea. The Annual Fund provides an opportunity for each family to participate at a level they are comfortable with. Please give whatever you can so that we can continue to provide a quality, affordable musical experience to the children of Fairfield County.

Jon Noyes Music Director and Founder



The FCCC Chamber Singers perform with Sergeant First Class Stephen Cramer at the Hudson Valley Holiday Concert at West Point in December. Photo by Jack Farrell



Members of our Chorus and Chorale perform with the Civic Orchestra of New Haven at Yale's Battell Chapel in January, under the baton of Lucille Parkinson. Photo by Jack Farrell

Celebrating our Fifteenth Anniversary Season!

FCCC Spring Concert

"A Tribute to the U.S. Armed Forces"

May 8, 2010 • 7:00 P.M. • Klein Memorial, Bridgeport, CT

We will wrap up our 15th Anniversary Season with our theme, "The Best of the FCCC." Nearly every piece on the program was chosen by the survey which we ran in December and January. Some of the biggest vote getters were: The Lion Sleeps Tonight, Basin Street Blues, Clear Water, Sing Me to Heaven and many others.

Our Special Guest will be Lt. Colonel Timothy Holtan, Commander and Conductor of the US Military Academy Band at West Point. LTC Holtan will conduct the choirs on the Armed Forces Medley, Dry Your Tears, Afrika (from the movie Amistad - our first performance of it was with the West Point Band), and Nigra Sum. He will also receive the FCCC's Annual High Notes Award, presented to an individual or group that has made a significant impact as a musician, music educator or musical leader in Connecticut and beyond.

FCCC Auditions for next year

Auditions for next season (2010-2011) take place by appointment in May and June. If you or someone you know is interested in joining the FCCC, please have them call Barbara Brauner at 203-414-4292 to set up an audition appointment.

Jon Noyes to conduct National Children's Choir

FCCC Music Director & Founder, Jon Noyes, has accepted an invitation to conduct the National Children's Choir of the Organization of American Kodaly Educators (OAKE) in March 2011 in Minneapolis. This will take place during the national convention of OAKE and include children from across the country. Jon presented a workshop to the Kodaly Educators of Southern New England in September, 2009 and is the founding Vice-President of that group.

This rowdy group of sailors sing "There Is Nothing Like a Dame" at our Broadway Concert in February. Photo by Jack Farrell



chorister profiles

Chelsea Kryspin and Marlee Jensen are two members of our outstanding senior class for this season. They both poignantly share how much the FCCC has meant to them. Marlee has decided to major in Voice in college next year!



Name: Chelsea Kryspin
Age: 17
School: Fairfield Ludlowe High School
Town: Fairfield
Favorite FCCC Song:
Weep No More
In Your Own Words:

Eight years just isn't enough. Out of everything that I have to say goodbye to next year, saying goodbye to FCCC will be one of the hardest. Through this choir, I've met some of my closest friends, and have had my most cherished memories. I will never forget how, no matter how much my life changed, I'd always have choir to return to every Wednesday (and eventually Monday) evening. FCCC has enlightened my understanding and love for music, and has taught me the highest level of professionalism and respect. I will remember the cadence of final notes; the sifting of voices through backstage halls; the crumbling of animal crackers; the New Orleans beat; the stick dance; the posture, breath, tone, and diction; and I will remember the FCCC.

Our 2010 FCCC Graduates

We say a fond farewell to all of our graduating seniors.
Best wishes to:

*Arianna Giorgetti, Katie Jenks, Marlee Jensen,
Chelsea Kryspin, Alice McCrory, Devin Morse,
Jilian Saber, Julianne Shea, Alison Welch, Eileen Welch
and Heather Whalen.*



Name: Marlee Jensen
Age: 17
School: Joel Barlow High School
Town: Easton
Favorite FCCC Song:
City Called Heaven, Cantate Domino
In Your Own Words:

As a short, chubby girl with poor eyesight, a propensity for shyness and being awkward, I wasn't looking forward to Sixth grade. And truthfully, it was nightmarish. Every day, the middle school bullies lined up to take a whack at the Marlee-Piñata. Except for Wednesday nights. Wednesday nights, I went to choir and sat on hard blue chairs and had four different directors tell me how to breathe like a laser beam. From seven to eight thirty, I sang. For me, that was the best time of the week. Choir eventually gave me a sense of belonging. I'd found my niche.

Seven years later, I've moved up in the world of FCCC. Being a senior in Chambers is a good time, let me tell you. Being President of the Chambers fills me with pride. I get the chance at opportunities (trips to New Orleans and Austria, for example) at which others drool longingly. I get to perform with some of my dearest friends at some of the world's most famous concert halls. And most of all, I get to sing.

I'm not that shy little sixth grader any more (However, I'm still pretty awkward). I see myself as that sixth grader in Concert Choir coming in on Wednesday nights now. I want to run over to her and tell her "KID! You've made it. Trust me. This is gonna be great!" But I'm told that I "intimidate" the new kids.



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click on IAN cancellations/click on Public organizations

We will post any cancellations on our website at:

www.singfccc.org



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FCCC 2010 Calendar

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

- April 21** Holocaust Commemoration Service (CS)
1st Congregational Fairfield 7:30 P.M.
- April 25** Live Radio Concert Broadcast (CS)
WPKN (89.5 FM)
- May 8** FCCC Spring Concert, Klein Auditorium 7:00 P.M.
- May 16** Fountain Music Series (CS)
1st Congregational Ridgefield 4:00 P.M.
- Jun 12** Bridgeport Bluefish, Bridgeport Harbor Yard 6:00 P.M.
- July 15-26** CS Summer Tour (CS) Vienna, Salzburg & Prague
- Dec 1** New Haven Symphony (CS), New Canaan
- Dec 2** New Haven Symphony (CS), New Haven
- Dec 12** FCCC Winter Concert, Klein Auditorium 3:00 P.M.