



Fairfield County Children's Choir

quarternotes

The Newsletter of the Fairfield County Children's Choir • Vol. 5, No. 3 • April 2005

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From the Music Director

Happy Spring! As we enter the final stretch of our Tenth Anniversary Season, we can look forward to many important and exciting events! The Holocaust Commemoration Service at the JCCS in Bridgeport (4200 Park Ave.) will take place on Thursday, May 5 at 7:00 P.M. Our Spring Concert will take place on Saturday, May 7 at 7:00 P.M. at the Klein. This program will feature Julia Blue Raspe as our guest soloist and Artist-in-Residence who will perform selections by Handel, Mozart and Purcell. To celebrate our anniversary a survey was held to ask our audience and our choristers for assistance in selecting the program for the concert. The overwhelming top choice was the wonderful gospel ballad by Walter Hawkins, *I'm Goin' Up a Yonder*. Rounding out the top choices are *Go Where I Send Thee*, a high energy gospel arrangement and the classic jazz standard *Route 66*. Other selections include Pablo Casals' *Nigra Sum* and Otto Fischer's *Ave Maria*, as well as folk songs from Japan, Israel, Ireland, Brazil and America.

On Saturday, May 14 we will travel to New York to attend a performance of *The Phantom of the Opera* on Broadway! We have reserved 275 seats and five coach buses! On Saturday, May 21 at 6:30 P.M. we will perform the National Anthem at the Bridgeport Bluefish game. The Smile Train benefit concert (cleft lip & palate) will take place on Friday, June 3 at 7:00 P.M. at Fairfield's Ludlow Middle School Auditorium. On Saturday, July 9 at 7:30 P.M. we will be performing a full length "Pacific Rim Send-Off Concert" at the Fairfield Grace United Methodist Church (by the entrance to FWMS). One of the highlights of the year will be our tour to Hawaii for the Pacific Rim Children's Choral Festival July 12 - 20.

I am very pleased to announce that the **Indonesian Children's Choir** is coming to visit the FCCC! On **June 26, 2005** the ICC will be performing at the Klein Memorial Auditorium in Bridgeport at 7:30 P.M. in the first appearance of their "Thank You, America" Tour. The ICC was scheduled to tour the United States in early February, including a performance at the ACDA National Convention in Los Angeles. Unfortunately, their tour was canceled due to the situation in the aftermath of the tsunami. The June/July tour will provide these young ambassadors the opportunity to say "Thank you, America" on behalf of their countrymen for the assistance that has been provided to date and to focus continued awareness on the ongoing recovery effort. All proceeds from the concert will be for tsunami relief.

This amazing ensemble performs classical to contemporary repertoire, specializing in traditional folk songs with ethnic dance and dress to the accompaniment of an authentic Indonesian gamelan (instruments such as indigenous percussion, gongs and xylophones). We first met this group and their conductor when the FCCC Chamber Singers attended the Golden Gate International Children's Choral Festival in San Francisco in June 2003. The quality of this group is beyond compare! I have heard many outstanding groups, but the ICC, with their stunning dances and outfits, the uniqueness of the gamelan and their unsurpassed musicianship in all styles, is the best children's choir I have heard. Our Chamber Singers will be joining them on stage for two or three final selections, including the *Aceh Dance* and *Let There Be Peace on Earth*. (See photo inside.)

To make this cultural experience even more exciting and educational, we will be "homestaying" 30 Indonesian choristers on the evenings of June 25 & 26. Viva la Musica!!

Jon Noyes



Chorister NEWS

The FCCC salutes our graduating seniors!! These young ladies have spent many years performing with the choir and now it is time to bid them best of luck in their commencement from high school to college. Katie Kearney, who will attend Miami of Ohio University and Lena Isenberg who will attend Muhlenberg College have each been members of the FCCC for seven years. Their contributions to the choir have been immeasurable.

Ann Branca, who will attend Northeastern University, Ann Victor, who will attend Susquehanna University and Anne Huff, who will attend the University of Notre Dame, have set a new standard of commitment! They are the first choristers who have been members of the FCCC for the maximum time possible -nine years! They each auditioned in 1996 as third graders and joined the following year. They have experienced hundreds of pieces of music, many collaborations with professional musicians and performances all over the country!

(Katie Kearney, Lena Isenberg, Ann Branca, Ann Victor, Anne Huff)

To recognize their achievement the FCCC will present them with a new award, the Fairfield County Children's Choir "*Choral Scholar Award*". We hope to present this award to many choristers in the future who give of themselves for nine amazing years to the choir. Brava to all of these fine musicians!!!

Grant Writer Needed

The FCCC is looking for a grant writer. If you are interested please send a cover letter and resume by June 1 to: P.O. Box 110588, Trumbull, CT 06611

AUDITIONS

To audition for the 2005 – 2006 FCCC, please call 414-4292 for an appointment.

Staff NEWS

Lucille Parkinson, FCCC Chorus Conductor, has been appointed by the Connecticut State Department of Education to be the Teacher-In-Residence for Music for the Beginning Educator Support and Training (BEST) Program. In this new position she guides beginning music teachers through critical steps of the teacher certification process and evaluates their results.

To be certified to teach in Connecticut, beginning teachers in all subjects and at all grade levels must go through the BEST Program. In their first year, they are assigned a mentor. In their second year, they must complete a portfolio to demonstrate their ability to teach according to the standards set by the State Department of Education. These standards were developed as a result of the *Goals 2000: Educate America Act* which determined what students should know and be able to do in every subject.

Mrs. Parkinson coordinates the portfolio process for music. She develops and delivers seminars for the beginning teachers, trains seminar leaders, recruits and trains portfolio assessors, oversees portfolio scoring, monitors and revises the portfolio project including development of rubrics and identification of exemplary portfolios to be used as benchmarks for training. Mrs. Parkinson serves as a liaison between the beginning teachers and their district personnel. She also makes presentations and conducts outreach activities throughout the state.

Mrs. Parkinson believes the most important part of her job as Teacher-in-Residence is to support new teachers. She enjoys communicating with them and helping them understand the requirements as they develop their portfolios. Mrs. Parkinson has been a mentor for twelve years and a portfolio scorer for four years. She feels she is having an impact on the future of music education in Connecticut.

Jon Noyes, FCCC Music Director & Founder, has recently accepted the position of Adjunct Professor of Music at Fairfield University. During the Spring 2005 semester he has been teaching the Choral Methods class which is part of a new program in Music Education offered by the University. This program is organized around "standards-based music education practices," a comprehensive approach to teaching music, very much in sync with what Lucille Parkinson is doing with the CSDE.



Indonesian Children's Choir



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2005 FCCC SCHEDULE

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

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|-------------------|---|
| May 5 | Fairfield Holocaust Commemoration Ceremony (CS) |
| May 7 | FCCC Spring Concert – 7:00P.M. Klein, Bridgeport |
| May 14 | Tour to NYC – (CC, CH, Ch) |
| May 21 | National Anthem at Bridgeport Bluefish – 6:30P.M. |
| June 3 | Smile Train Benefit Concert – FLHS 7:00P.M. (CC, CS) |
| June 26 | Indonesian Children's Choir – 7:30P.M. Klein, Bridgeport (CC) |
| July 9 | Fairfield Grace United Methodist Church – 7:30P.M. (CS) |
| July 12-20 | Pacific Rim Festival, Hawaii (CS) |
| Sept 7 | FCCC First rehearsal |
| Dec 4 | FCCC Winter Concert - 3:00P.M. Klein, Bridgeport |
| Dec 11 | Judas Maccabeus w/ Fairfield County Chorale – (CS) |
| Dec 18 | Norwalk Symphony Holiday Concert – (CC) |