



# Fairfield County Children's Choir

# quarternotes

The Newsletter of the Fairfield County Children's Choir • Vol. 6, No. 3 • April 2006

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## From the Music Director

Happy Spring! As we approach the conclusion of our eleventh season, we can look back on a spectacular year and ahead to a very exciting new season! Our Broadway Concert and Auction on February 4 at the Klein was, by all accounts, our best one yet. Bravo to all of our soloists and ensemble members, and to our guest soloist, FCCC's own Kevin Cotellese, who performed fantastically on two challenging selections from *West Side Story*. And a big thanks to all those who gave of their time and talents to make the auction a great success. I am pleased to announce that Ivan Rutherford will join us as soloist for next year's Broadway show on February 3!

On March 18 the FCCC Chorus under Lucille Parkinson performed at a fundraiser for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society of Fairfield County. Our youngest choristers not only performed a wonderful community service, they represented the FCCC beautifully! On March 26 the FCCC Chamber Singers performed a full length concert at the invitation of the Woodland Concert Series in Hartford. A wide range of repertoire was performed, from Mozart to folk, jazz and Broadway. The choir has never sounded better! Look for a compact disc of this concert soon.

FCCC Concert Choir & Chamber Singers perform *I'm Goin' Up a Yonder* at Carnegie Hall, November 1, 2005.



Our Chamber Singers will perform on April 25 at the Fairfield Holocaust Commemoration Service. We are now alternating each year between the Fairfield Holocaust Service and the JCCS Service in Bridgeport. I feel that this event is one of the most important experiences in which our choristers participate. Each service features a Holocaust survivor as keynote speaker – an opportunity to hear direct witness about a part of history that must never be forgotten.

The FCCC Spring Concert will take place on May 6 at 7:00 P.M. at the Klein. Our theme is "A Celebration of Composers." To begin, we will feature five selections by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart to continue our celebration of his 250<sup>th</sup> birthday. We will also feature a composition by a former FCCC chorister, Naomi Weiss-Goldman, who is a student at Trumbull High School. To complete our focus on composers, we will present a number of selections by Rob Hugh. Rob is a music educator and composer from West Hartford who we have invited back for a third commissioned piece. Be sure to join us for the world premiere of *The Arrow and the Song*.

The Spring Concert will also include a number of special guests. Mozart's *Ave Verum Corpus* will be conducted by world-class violinist, Dr. Andrew Smith. Alejandro Jimenez will join us on his conga. And the eminent conductor and composer, Johannes Somary, will be the recipient of the FCCC High Notes Award. Finally, please join me in saluting our graduating seniors, Anna Button, Sarah Rein, Sarah Tung and Laura Thompson. Best of luck to all of them as they move on to the next exciting chapter in their lives. I hope they will always carry a small part of the FCCC with them – a song in their hearts!

*Jon Noyes*

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## Chorister Profiles

While we usually feature choristers who have been with us for 7, 8 or 9 years, in this issue both choristers have been members for two years, although their biographies are very different. Laura Thompson represents a type of student we would like to see more of – a chorister joining the FCCC in their high school years. Often when middle and high-schoolers hear "children's choir" they think of younger children. Bravo to Laura for knowing that we are an advanced ensemble and a great place for older youth. Daniel Puleo is a fifth grade student, a very talented singer and the cousin of Sgt. Jamie M. Brewer whose letter is included in this issue.



**Name:** Laura Thompson

**Age:** 17

**School:** Trumbull High School

**Town:** Trumbull

**Favorite FCCC Song:** Didn't My Lord Deliver Daniel

**In Your Own Words:** "I had the privilege of joining FCCC just last year when I moved to this area from Michigan. It was in Michigan that I first found my love of singing through singing with my high school chorus. When I moved here, I sang with my church choir, where I learned of FCCC through friends there. FCCC has done so much to hone my singing skills. I have learned how to control my breathing and the shapes of the vowels. Even my sight reading is getting better. I have been exposed to such a wide variety of music and experiences through this choir. No other choir I have been in has sung so many different styles of music, which is a different experience in its own way. Not to mention all the amazing places, people, and directors we have sung with. The highlights of my time here were singing at Carnegie Hall and with the Norwalk Symphony. FCCC has challenged me to further my singing in as many ways as I can. So, now I sing with three other choirs in addition to FCCC; the adult and youth choirs at my church, and the University Choir at Southern Connecticut State University. I will never forget these two years with the choir that has taught me so much in so little time. I only hope that I can find a choir as good as FCCC to sing with in college."



**Name:** Daniel H. Puleo

**Age:** 10

**School:** Wolfpit Elementary School

**Town:** Norwalk

**Favorite FCCC Song:** For the Beauty of the Earth

**In Your Own Words:** "I first heard about the FCCC when I lived in Fairfield. I was in third grade and Mr. Noyes was my music teacher. Soon after this I found out I would be moving to Norwalk and starting a new school. I thought I would not be able to join the choir. I was wrong. When I found out I could still be part of the FCCC I was overjoyed. I could finally do something that I loved. The FCCC has increased my love of music greatly. The FCCC is one of the best things that ever happened to me. I had no idea that there was such a wonderful thing in the world. It has given me great opportunities. Even though it is only my second year in the choir I've been able to sing at places I didn't know about. Carnegie Hall was a great experience. When all the choristers walked on stage I was speechless. It was amazing, big and beautiful! I know that the conductors of the FCCC will expand my knowledge of music and I hope in the future to go to many places like Carnegie Hall."



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## Letters

We share two letters in this issue. The first is from a Bloomfield couple who attended the March 26 concert by the Chamber Singers in Hartford. The second is an e-mail memo and is self-explanatory. It is very rewarding to know that the work that we do has made such an impact both far and wide!

*Dear Jon,*

*We loved your lively, elegant concert Sunday. You grew up in an era when doing good, saving the world, was highest on the priority list. I was impressed with how much good you are doing. Your 260 children are getting invaluable lessons in discipline and cooperation, let alone how their minds must be sharpened by learning those parts in many languages. They will be better adults for having been in your choir!*

*Sincerely,*

**Libbie & George Merrow**

Sent: Tuesday, December 13, 2005 8:39 PM  
Subject: Holiday CD

*Hi, my name is Jamie Brewer. I am a member of the United States Air Force and currently deployed to Iraq. I recently received a wonderful holiday package from my family in Connecticut which included A Fairfield County Holiday CD from my cousin Daniel Puleo. He is a member of the Fairfield County Children's Choir and from what I hear he loves it! I wanted to let you know this music is great! I am proud of my little cousin and all the members of the FCCC for putting together such a beautiful collection of songs! We will be enjoying this music in Iraq over the holiday's....*

*I hope you all have a Merry Christmas and again ... this CD is wonderful!*

*Please thank Danny for me!*

*Thank you,*

**Jamie M. Brewer, SSgt, USAF**

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## **Bridges Through Music**

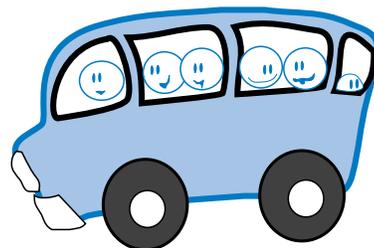
# **The FCCC Reaches Out**

Three years ago the FCCC began a program that we call *Bridges through Music*. The purpose of this program is to reach out to children who might not otherwise have the opportunity to participate in an organization such as ours. Last spring the choir's assistant manager, Ms. Johanna Andrews, introduced the FCCC to her music students at Edison School in Bridgeport. Students who were interested in joining brought their parents to a meeting and were offered tryouts.

While we have had many interested children from Bridgeport in the past, for many of the families the issue of transportation was frequently the main obstacle. This year the FCCC Board of Directors decided not only to provide scholarships but transportation to and from their homes for each rehearsal as well. [Precious Cargo](#), a local company that provides transportation for children (*and is owned by a former FCCC parent*), has been assisting us in making this program a reality.

Jannell Dillon is a seventh grader who has participated in this program. She says she has "enjoyed meeting new people and singing great songs. When you're in FCCC you learn different languages and you get to experience a whole new world, like when we went to Carnegie Hall. When you're at practice you have conductors like Mr. Noyes or pianists that really help you get to that level that you can reach, and help you be a better you."

We are very pleased that Jannell and her classmates have decided to return to the FCCC next year! They are part of what makes the FCCC a very important organization in the lives of our choristers and the community at large.



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## 2006 FCCC Schedule

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

- Apr 25** Fairfield Holocaust Commemoration Service (CS)
- May 6** FCCC Spring Concert - 7P.M. Klein, Bridgeport
- May 20** Spring Tour to Beauty & the Beast on Broadway
- June 25** National Anthem at Bridgeport Bluefish game
- July 5-9** Niagara Int. Children's Choral Festival, Canada (CS)
- Dec 3** FCCC Winter Concert 3 P.M. Klein, Bridgeport
- Dec 10** West Point Holiday Concert (CS)
- Dec 10** Civic Orchestra of New Haven (CC)

## 2007 FCCC Schedule

- Feb 3** Broadway Concert & Auction - 7P.M. Klein, Bridgeport
- March 4** Three Generations of Song 4 P.M. Quick Center (CS)
- May 5** FCCC Spring Concert - 7P.M. Klein, Bridgeport
- July 23** England/Ireland Tour, July 23-Aug 4 (CS)



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