



# Fairfield County Children's Choir quarternotes

The Newsletter of the Fairfield County Children's Choir • Vol. 5, No. 2 • December 2004

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## *From the Music Director*

Our Tenth Anniversary Season is off to a wonderful start! Over 200 fantastic young musicians have been hard at work rehearsing for our upcoming programs. Our Chamber Singers performed to rave reviews on October 30 at the CT Choral Directors Association Conference (please see the letter inside from the CT ACDA President). Our annual Winter Concert will take place on December 5 at 3:00 P.M. at the Klein Auditorium in Bridgeport. Featuring many of the favorite selections from past seasons and our special guest, Julia Blue Raspe, this promises to be a wonderful afternoon of choral singing!

On December 12 at 3:00 P.M. the FCCC Chamber Singers will collaborate for the fifth time with the US Military Academy Band at West Point, NY under the direction of Lt. Col. Thomas Rotondi. This entertaining and very professional production has always been a chorister favorite. The concert is free and open to the public.

Looking forward to February 5, 2005, our annual Broadway Concert & Silent Auction will take place at 7:00 P.M. at the Klein. Featured musicals this year will be *Phantom of the Opera*, *Godspell*, *42nd Street* and *Les Miserables*. Our special guest will be Ivan Rutherford, a Broadway star who played the first Jean Valjean in the New York production of *Les Miserables*.

The FCCC would like to thank two choir families, the Viani family and another family that wishes to remain anonymous, for the presentation of gifts of scholarship support for the Chamber Singers tour to Hawaii in July, 2005. The Viani's gift is in memory of Tina Viani's parents who recently passed away and who always loved to hear the music that the FCCC would perform. Tina writes, "The boys, Miguel, myself and especially my parents are and were truly blessed to have the FCCC, as well as everyone surrounding it, in our lives." Due to the generosity of these two families, the Chamber Singers will have nearly the entire ensemble representing Connecticut at the Pacific Rim Festival! Our sincerest thanks!!

I must tell you how much I enjoy hearing and reading your comments regarding the impact of the FCCC on those who participate in it. Probably the most common story I hear is how each evening after rehearsal, many children go home "energized" or "feeling like they are flying", etc. Some sing in their rooms for an hour or more! This brings to mind the essence of our Mission Statement & Rationale: that music and the arts make the lives of our choristers, their families, our audiences and the community richer. It has been a pleasure to bring that mission alive for the past ten years! Please come and celebrate with us!!

Seasons Greetings to ALL!

*Jon Noyes*

## Chorister Profiles

Rachel Ginsburg and Tim Marzik have been members of the FCCC for a total of thirteen years! Both joined in the fourth grade and thus have been with us for as long as is possible for a high school junior and an eighth grader. And both come to us from very musical families. Bravo to Rachel & Tim!!



**Name:** Rachel Ginsburg  
**Age:** 16  
**School:** Fairfield Warde High School  
**Town:** Fairfield  
**Favorite FCCC Song:** Hymn to Freedom  
**In Your Own Words:** "What I love about choir is being able to sing with other talented singers. It is a great feeling to be able to sing beautiful music while surrounded by beautiful voices".

**Name:** Tim Marzik  
**Age:** 13  
**School:** Helen Keller Middle School  
**Town:** Easton

**Favorite FCCC Song:** Children Go Where I Send Thee  
**In Your Own Words:** "I think that the Fairfield County Children's Choir is a good thing for all children. It really helps your skills not only in singing, but in reading music, keeping a good beat, and a good overall music education. Being in the FCCC will definitely help anyone later on in life. I really enjoy being in the Chamber Singers, especially all the trips we go on, for example, Hawaii this summer. It is quite an enjoyable experience".



## Help us Choose the Spring Concert Program!

To celebrate our Tenth Anniversary Season we would like you to help us choose the program. Visit our website or look for printed copies at rehearsals and concerts of our Spring Concert Survey. The list of music titles in the survey includes many of the selections we have performed over the years, but omits all winter holiday music, all Broadway medleys, all music done in collaboration with bands, choirs & orchestras, and those pieces on this season's winter concert. This will be an advisory survey. Some adjustments may need to be made for variety of style, key, tempo, etc. Please, only one survey per person. Surveys with no name will not be counted. Please complete your survey on-line or return by January 5, 2005 to the FCCC P.O. Box.

**[www.singfcc.org](http://www.singfcc.org)**

P.O. Box 110588 • Trumbull, CT 06611



## FCCC Chamber Singers to Perform in Ridgefield

The FCCC Chambers Singers are very pleased to have been invited to perform as part of the "Fountain Music Series" at the First Congregational Church in Ridgefield on Sunday, March 20 at 3:00 P.M. The following are excerpts from the Series brochure:

*"An incredible afternoon featuring the incomparable Chamber Singers, the auditioned-only ensemble from the noted 225-voice Fairfield County Children's Choir, under the baton of one of New England's most successful and articulate conductors and educators, Jon Noyes."*

The concert is free and open to the public. Please call 203-438-8077 for a copy of their brochure.

## Cancellations?

For rehearsal or concert cancellations, please log on to <http://www.ctweather.com>, go to "CANCELLATION" and click on "Public Organizations. OR, listen to WICC AM 600 Radio or watch TV channels 8 or 12.

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# Letters

*The following are letters sent to the FCCC expressing unsolicited opinions about their experiences with the choir.*

Dear Jon,

The FCCC has now completed two stellar performances for ACDA. Each in its own way represents the unique and wonderful organization the Fairfield County Children's Choir has come to represent.

Their performance in Boston in February 2004 and now at Fairfield University for our CT-ACDA has demonstrated the ability of FCCC to please and impress choral music educators with discriminating tastes.

Everyone comments about your original and varied programming. It shows the choirs flexibility, poise, and sophistication in being able to so universally conquer the vocal and musical challenges present in a wide breadth of styles.

We wish to thank and congratulate you for so diligently and musically representing choral music in Connecticut. The Fairfield County Children's Choir is a true source of pride for Connecticut.

Sincerely,

**H. Scott Campbell**

President, Connecticut Chapter  
American Choral Directors Association

Dear Jon,

When Naomi left FCCC several years ago, I was heartbroken. During the years that have passed, I have composed many letters to you in my mind that I never actually sat down to write, but after receiving "QuarterNotes" today, I decided to actually sit down and do it.

Reading the newsletter brought back many fond memories of the days when Gabe, then Naomi and Gabe, and then Naomi alone participated in the various choirs. As far as I'm concerned, it was one of the best, if not the best of the many activities in which they participated. The learning experience was an incredible one for both of them; they gained so much in the areas of musicality and self-discipline and had a wonderful time doing so. The rides home on Monday and Wednesday nights with Gabe, Naomi and Josh Bednarsky were always filled with singing and lively discussions recalling what had taken place during rehearsal. You held them to a high standard and they rose to the occasion. To this day, they understand the need for a choirmaster to demand arriving on time for rehearsals, attention to detail and dedication to task and speak fondly of the way that you ran the choir. I can only express my highest praise and thanks for what you gave my children and the other children that have been fortunate enough to participate in the choirs. *(Mrs. Weiss then shares many details of what Gabe and Naomi have been up to in the past few years: Gabe is a pre-med student at UConn and Naomi is a student at Trumbull High School.)* My hope for them is that even if neither one pursues a career in music, they will have a lifelong interest, involvement and love of music. I do believe that they will and FCCC was definitely a major contributing factor in this.

Sincerely,

**Dr. Debbie Weiss**



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**quarternotes**

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## 2004 -2005 FCCC SCHEDULE

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

- |                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| <b>Dec. 5</b>     | FCCC Winter Concert, 3:00 P.M. Klein, Bridgeport       |
| <b>Dec. 12</b>    | West Point Holiday Concert – USMA 3:00 P.M. (CS)       |
| <b>Dec. 15</b>    | Trumbull Mall – 7:00 P.M. (CC, CH, Ch)                 |
| <b>Feb. 5</b>     | FCCC Broadway Concert – 7:00 P.M. Klein, Bridgeport    |
| <b>Mar. 19</b>    | United in Song Festival – TBD (CC)                     |
| <b>Mar. 20</b>    | First Congregational Church, Ridgefield 3:00 P.M. (CS) |
| <b>May 3</b>      | Fairfield Holocaust Commemoration Ceremony (CS)        |
| <b>May 7</b>      | FCCC Spring Concert – 7:00 P.M. Klein, Bridgeport      |
| <b>May 14</b>     | Tour to NYC – (CC, CH, Ch)                             |
| <b>June 3</b>     | Smile Train Concert – (CC, CS)                         |
| <b>July 12-20</b> | Pacific Rim Festival, Hawaii (CS)                      |