



Fairfield County Children's Choir quarternotes

The Newsletter of the Fairfield County Children's Choir • Vol. 10, No. 1 • Fall 2009

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From the Music Director

Greetings and welcome to the 15th Anniversary Season of the FCCC! We are off to a wonderful start, having recently performed with the Cross Border Orchestra of Ireland in Fairfield and at Avery Fisher Hall at Lincoln Center, New York. I would like to share with you the words of Emmanuel Lawler, the CBOI tenor soloist and Master of Ceremonies, who described the FCCC as a "world-class choir." Bravo to all those who performed so well!

To celebrate our anniversary we have a number of exciting projects and events in the year ahead. The theme for our major concerts will be "The Best of the FCCC". Our talented group of choristers is working with our dedicated staff to prepare for our upcoming Winter Concert on December 13 at 3:00 P.M. at the Klein Memorial Auditorium in Bridgeport and our Broadway Concert and Auction on February 6 at 7:00 P.M. at the Klein.

For our Spring Concert on May 8, 2010 we would like YOU to help us choose the program! Look for a survey that will be found on our website and give us your input. The survey will list selections which are appropriate for a spring concert (not including winter or Broadway repertoire). I am looking forward to reading your responses!

In addition to our major concerts, the FCCC Chamber Singers will be the guests of the U.S. Military Academy Band at West Point for their annual Hudson Valley Holiday Concert on December 5 at 7:30 P.M. and December 6 at 3:00 P.M., an event which is always a chorister favorite. The FCCC Chorus & Chorale will perform with the New Haven Civic Orchestra on December 19 at 8:00 P.M. at Battell Chapel on the New Haven Green. Please see our calendar for many more exciting events!

Finally, I would also like to share with you a note sent to me by Paul Caldwell, the highly regarded composer of *Go Where I Send Thee*, among many other pieces. I sent him a video of our May 2009 performance of his new piece, *Witness*. These are his words:

Dear Jon,

It's a masterful performance. Really. I'm kind of speechless. And that rarely happens, lemme tellya. Your kids are magnificent. I hope the piece was meaningful to them and to you. Thanks so much for sending it. Can we put it up on the Caldwell and Ivory Facebook page? Lemmeno. Please offer our gratitude to your amazing chorus.

Pauli

Jon Noyes



The FCCC Chamber Singers by the Mississippi River in New Orleans during their summer tour in June, 2009. Later that evening we enjoyed a dinner cruise on board the Steamer Natchez, in the background. (Photo by Joanne Saber.)

From the President...

The FCCC is off to a fast start in this, our 15th Anniversary season. An early highlight of the year was the recent double concert set that choristers performed with the Cross Border Orchestra of Ireland that took place in both Fairfield and at Lincoln Center in New York City. The CBOI, whose mission is to "develop the orchestra as an educational, creative and artistic means of building relations between polarized communities North and South of the border," has become a regular partner of FCCC, exemplifying the best of what we hope to offer our choristers in terms of enriching experiences.

As we now head toward our first major concert of the season in December, we invite all of you to come out and enjoy our performances. The staff and the kids are working hard to make this anniversary year the best ever. As we continue to move through difficult economic times, we also ask you to consider supporting the FCCC in any way that you can - sponsorships, contributions, and volunteering. All of this helps subsidize member tuition, which as you may know only covers part of the cost of operating the FCCC.

Thanks for your support, and we look forward to seeing you soon.

Joseph Peri

President, FCCC Board of Directors

FCCC Staff News

The conductors of the FCCC lead busy professional lives beyond their work with the choirs. Here are just a few of the things they have done last year or will be involved with this season:

Kevin Cotellese is primarily the Director of Choral Activities at Fairfield Ludlowe High School. In addition, he served as choral director of St. Andrew's Church in Stamford, conducting a professional octet for weekly services, holidays and feast days. He has been an adjudicator for the Connecticut Music Educators Association (CMEA) Western Regional Festival and Co-Chair for the CMEA All-State Chorus. His high school choral group Close Harmony is opening for the a cappella group "Rockapella" at the Quick Center for the Arts again this year.

Lisa Bettke teaches music at McKinley School in Fairfield and is the chair of the Leadership Committee for the National Board of the American Orff-Schulwerk Association. She attends the AOSA National Conference every year. She will be the conductor for the 1st annual CMEA Elementary Honors Choir which will perform at the 2010 All-State Conference in Hartford in April.

Lucille Parkinson is the Supervisor of Music for the Milford Public Schools and was the Teacher-in-Residence for Music at the CT State Department of Education (CSDE) and Consultant for the Beginning Educator Support and Training Program at the CSDE. She presented seminars and workshops for first and second year music teachers completing certification requirements. She also served on the committee to design the State Common Assessment in Music for Second Grade Singing. She also enjoys singing with the Fairfield County Chorale!

Jon Noyes teaches at Holland Hill School in Fairfield and also teaches a course in Choral Methods at Fairfield University every other year. He was the Guest Conductor for the CMEA Northern Region and Western Region Middle School Festival Choruses in March, 2009 and will conduct the Rhode Island 8th & 9th Grade All-State Chorus in March, 2010. Last year the Holland Hill Chorus performed as the featured elementary choir at the American Choral Directors Association (CT Chapter) Conference. Jon also presented workshops on Music Literacy and Choral Techniques at Villanova University in July 2009, in Fairfield and at the Hartt School of Music for the Kodaly Educators of Southern New England in September 2009. He also served on the committee to design the CSDE Common Assessment in Music Composition.

Celebrating our Fifteenth Anniversary Season!

Winter Concert

"The Best of the FCCC"

December 13, 2009 • 3:00 P.M. • Klein Memorial, Bridgeport, CT

Our Winter Concert, "The Best of the FCCC," will feature many of the very best pieces we have performed over the past fourteen years, including works by Mozart, Britten, Rutter, Brunner and others. Over 250 choristers will be featured in favorites such as I Wonder As I Wander, Angels We Have Heard on High, Winter Wonderland, Parade of the Wooden Soldiers, Total Praise, Yo Le Canto, Ocho Kandelikas and many more.

Broadway Concert

February 6, 2010 • 7:00 P.M. • Klein Memorial, Bridgeport, CT
Guest Artist: Ivan Rutherford

Our annual Broadway Concert will feature highlights from Phantom of the Opera, Les Miserables, South Pacific and Bye, Bye Birdie. Our guest artist will be Ivan Rutherford, who performed the role of Jean Valjean in Les Miserables, among many others, on Broadway. And of course, this program features many of the best student soloists in the state, and our fantastic orchestra!

Spring Concert

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

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

Our Spring Concert program will be chosen, in part, by our audience to celebrate our 15th Anniversary! (See our website for survey details.) Our special guest will be Colonel Timothy Holtan, Commander and Conductor of the U.S. Military Academy Band at West Point. We will honor active and retired members of our armed forces with a special program which includes patriotic and service songs.

FCCC at the Bridgeport Sound Tigers

March 5, 2010 • 7:00 P.M. • Harbor Yard - Bridgeport

The combined choirs of the FCCC will perform the National Anthem at the opening of the Sound Tigers hockey game. Members of the FCCC staff and Board of Directors will be on hand for the fun!!

chorister profiles

Heather Whalen and Jilian Saber are two members of our outstanding senior class for this season. They have both been members of the FCCC for eight years, since they were in the fifth grade!! Their words below say it all! Enjoy!

Name: Heather Whalen
Age: 17
School: Fairfield Warde HS
Town: Fairfield
Favorite FCCC Song:
Song for the Mira

In Your Own Words:
FCCC has been one of the greatest experiences that I know I will ever have. I have met some of the best friends I have through this choir. I have also had opportunities to travel and see places in the world such as Canada, England, Ireland, Pennsylvania, and New Orleans. I have also gotten opportunities to perform at places like West Point, and Carnegie Hall. I love being a part of this choir, and I will miss FCCC very much in college.



Name: Jilian Saber
Age: 16 going on 17
School: Joel Barlow H S
Town: Redding
Favorite FCCC Song:
Praise His Holy Name,
Cantate Domino

In Your Own Words:
It's been an amazing journey!! From my very first audition seven years ago, through the incredible tour of New Orleans in June, the FCCC has been an EPIC part of my life!! I feel very fortunate to have experienced such amazing opportunities such as singing in Hawaii, at Carnegie Hall, and in famous cathedrals throughout Europe & Canada. The tours have been exceptional and I loved being immersed in different cultures. My conducting debut at The Klein is a memory I will always cherish. I have made the greatest friendships through FCCC that I know will continue forever. It has been a pleasure to work with such talented people and artists. The work ethic and musical knowledge I have learned have been invaluable. I'm especially looking forward to this year - singing with the CBOI at Lincoln Center, the holiday concert at West Point and our tour to Vienna, Salzburg and Prague. I can't imagine what life will be like without choir. I would like to thank Mr. Noyes and everyone at FCCC for a life changing experience!! My natural love of music has grown even deeper because of the choir, truly making music my life long ambition.



BELOW PHOTO: The FCCC at Avery Fisher Hall, Lincoln Center with the Cross Border Orchestra of Ireland.



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We will post any cancellations on our website at:

www.singfcc.org



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FCCC 2009-2010 Calendar

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

2009

- Oct 26** Cross Border Orchestra Ireland, Fairfield Woods MS
- Oct 29** Cross Border Orchestra Ireland (CS & CC)
Avery Fisher Hall, Lincoln Center
- Dec 5 & 6** West Point Holiday Concert (CS)
USMA West Point, 7:00 & 3:00 P.M.
- Dec 10** Tree of Light Service (CC) 1st Congregational, Fairfield
7:00 P.M.
- Dec 13** FCCC Winter Concert, Klein Auditorium 3:00 P.M.
- Dec 17** Norwalk Kiwanis (CS ensemble) Norwalk
- Dec 19** New Haven Civic Orchestra (CH/Ch)
Battell Chapel 8:00 P.M.

2010

- Jan 23** MLK Program w/Rollo Dilworth (CS)
Wilton High School 4:00 P.M.
- Feb 6** FCCC Broadway Concert, Klein Auditorium 7:00 P.M.
- Mar 5** Sound Tigers game (all FCCC!) Harbor Yard, Bridgeport
- April TBD** Leukemia & Lymphoma Benefit (CH/Ch)
- April TBD** Holocaust Commemoration Service (CS)
1st Congregational Fairfield 7:00 P.M.
- 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** Choir trip to Broadway – Bye Bye Birdie, New York
- July 15-26** CS Summer Tour (CS) Vienna, Salzburg & Prague