



Music Notes

Songcatchers Inc.

June 2016

Vol.15, Issue 1

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Angela Belsole, *President*
Karenann Carty, Ph.D., *Vice President*
Rosemarie Castellano, *Secretary*
Michael Niedzwiecki, *Treasurer*

Cheryl Archbald, M.D., M.P.H., FAAP
Joshua Berrett, Ph.D.
Maura Dennehy, Esq.
Frank DiMarco, Esq.
Dorothy Frenz, Ph.D. (*RIP*)
Rosemarie Goncalves
Patricia Ketcham
Cecilia Roddy, MSW
Sr. Pat Schifini, OSU
Ulysses Torres

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Sr. Beth Dowd, osu

FINANCIAL CONSULTANT

John Owen, CPA

ADVISORY BOARD

Dr. Gines Cano, D.M.A.
Martha Lopez Hanratty
Dr. Domenic Guastafarro, Ed.D.
Barry Charles Hoffman
Teresa Wager

SONGCATCHERS STAFF

Clemencia Castañeda, Registrar
Kathleen McEntee, Assistant Director
Tricia Olmo, Office Manager
Kelsy Hillesheim, Early Violin Teacher

CHOIR CAMP

John Dennehy, Co-Director

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Choir Camp 2015	Pg. 1
Spirit of Songcatchers Brunch	Pg. 1
Year in Review	Pg. 2
A.S.M.P.: 20 Years of M.U.S.I.C.	Pg. 3
Upcoming Events/ Donors/News	Pg. 3
Spotlight on: The Impact of Camp	Pg. 4

The Sounds of Beautiful Music at Choir Camp 2015

The camp was alive with the sounds of beautiful music as Songcatchers held its 36th Choir Camp from August 16-22, 2015. Seventy campers and thirty staff came together for a week filled with music, community, and friendship. Daily activities included Chorus, Drama, and Instruments, as well as usual camp activities such as Swimming, Sports, Arts and Crafts, Quality Time (organized free time), and Family Time with Taps and a prayer for peace.



In honor of the movie's 50th Anniversary, the drama production this year was "The Sound of Music." Campers enthusiastically participated in the production, playing both lead and group roles. The camp week's theme of "Finding Your Dream" culminated in the entire camp coming together to sing "Climb Ev'ry Mountain."

It was such a fun week, and all campers and staff look forward to 2016. We are grateful to Happiness is Camping for their hospitality in hosting Choir Camp since 2010, but we will be having our 2016 camp at Warwick Center in Warwick, NY. **Save the dates for Camp #37: July 31-August 6, 2016, with Closing festivities on Aug. 6 at Warwick Center in Warwick, NY — only 75 minutes from New Rochelle!**

Spirit of Songcatchers Brunch

It was a beautiful day as Songcatchers held its bi-annual "Spirit of Songcatchers Brunch" on Sunday, Oct. 25 at the Greentree Country Club. On this day, we honored Pat Ketcham, longtime Songcatchers board member; Barbara Davis, New Rochelle city historian, former volunteer parent, and big supporter of Songcatchers; and Butterflies from Jodie, a nonprofit started by a Songcatchers family, remembering Jodie by donating defibrillators and funds to local organizations in need. Honorees and all were greeted with special musical performances by the Choir, a clarinet ensemble of volunteers and students, and a special flute ensemble comprised of former and current Songcatcher students and volunteers (*above*). Again, Congratulations and Thanks to all the honorees!





2015-2016: Year in Review

Once again, it has been a busy but wonderful year. Here's a program recap — thanks to all who made this year so successful!

General

Songcatchers was named one of 5 finalists for a \$100,000 grant given by **Impact100 Westchester**, and received \$9,333 from the organization for being a runner-up. We were honored and grateful to be among the finalists.

Choral Arts

The Choral Arts program at Songcatchers had another busy year! **Choir Camp** took place from August 16-22, 2015 at Happiness is Camping in Hardwick, NJ. 70 campers and 30 staff spent a week living and singing in harmony, making music together and presenting “The Sound of Music” in honor of the 50th Anniversary of the movie. What a music-filled week it was! (*see page 1*)



The **Youth Choir** once again had a busy year, singing for the following events: during the fall semester, they sang at the Yitzhak Rabin Peacemaker Award ceremony at City Hall (*picture, left*), the “Spirit of Songcatchers” Brunch, the AJC Diversity Breakfast, Iona College’s 75th Anniversary Concert, the New Rochelle Holiday Tree Lighting, and our own Concert for Peace in December. So far, 2016 has seen more singing events: two After-School Music Program recitals in March and June; New Rochelle’s Interfaith Seder in April; and our own Volunteer Spring Concert in May.

The full **Concert Choir and Ensemble** joined together to perform for the concerts in December and May. What a glorious sound! The Choir was rewarded for their efforts with a trip to see “Aladdin” on Broadway in April, and got to learn some of the “Disney Magic” while talking with orchestra members after the show. Special thanks to the Lyoness Child and Family Foundation and their “Angel for a Day” program, for sponsoring this trip, and especially to Domenic Guastaferrero and Jia Kang, who organized the event.

After-School Music Program



The After-School Music Program began its 19th year in September 2015 with registrations and volunteer orientation meetings. Classes began at the end of September. In addition to weekly lessons and student recitals in March and June, several other special events occurred during the year. In February 2016, several of our ASMP students and volunteers performed in the *Pelham Music Festival*. (*Left, violin instructor Sebastian teaches young student Linda*)

Also in February, ten more students from our “*Composers of the Future*” program premiered their pieces at the Symphony of Westchester’s Family Concert. During their sessions,, the children learned about instruments, orchestration, and composing techniques, and were mentored by composer/scribe Avery Griffin and Songcatchers volunteer Sam McKay. Special thanks to Barry Charles Hoffman for his help in coordinating the program, and to The Janis and Alan Menken Foundation, The Thomas and Agnes Carvel Foundation, and the Ursuline Serviam Ministry Fund for providing funding for the program.

Early Childhood Music Program

The 13th year of the Early Childhood Music Program began in September 2015, offering a Musikgarten class for toddlers ages 1½–3; Early Violin classes for ages 4-7; and Early Piano classes (Wednesday and Saturday afternoons) for ages 6-7. These young musicians worked hard throughout the year, and gave their annual year-end recital in June 2016. Bravo to all our littlest musicians!



Summer Day Camps

Once again, Songcatchers held two summer music camps in July 2015: The Early Violin Camp on weekday mornings for ages 4-7 and the Instrumental Camp on weekday afternoons for ages 7-13. Both camps were successful in children learning and progressing in new instruments, and had final performances to show their accomplishments. We are looking forward to continuing our day camps in summer 2016.

After-School Music Program: 20 Years of M.U.S.I.C.

On May 22, 2016, Songcatchers held its 10th Annual Volunteer Spring Concert. In addition to featuring wonderful performances by our volunteers (*right, cello volunteer Taz Kim performs*) and our Concert Choir and Ensemble, this concert also kicked off the “Songcatchers After-School Music Program: 20 Years of Reaching for Peace Through M.U.S.I.C. (Motivation, Unity, Spirit, Inspiration, and Collaboration)” celebration. The A.S.M.P. started in 1997 with 35 children and 8 volunteers, and has now grown to serve approximately 100 children and 60 volunteers annually. We will be having other events during the 2016-2017 school year to celebrate. Stay tuned!



Thank You to Our Donors & Grantors!

Songcatchers wishes to thank all our donors for their generous contributions throughout the 2015-2016 fiscal year. The following individuals and organizations have given major donations (\$500+) and grants during this time (up through June 15, 2016):

- | | |
|--|--|
| *Alisa Greenspan and Lily Siroka | *Perkins Foundation |
| *ArtsWestchester | *Sills Family Foundation |
| *Holy Name Church Social Justice Committee | *Jack Silvers |
| *Fordham University | *The Tow Foundation (in honor of former Songcatchers volunteer Nadia Alia) |
| *Rosemarie and Anthony Goncalves | *Jeffrey and Kathryn Wiegand |
| *Domenic Guastaferrero and Jia Kang | *The Wiegand Family Charitable Fund |
| *Impact100 Westchester | *Ursuline Sisters of the Eastern Province |
| *Patricia and Ronald Ketcham | *Ursuline Serviam Ministry Fund |
| *Geraldine and Charlie Lizzo | |
| *New Rochelle Campership Fund | |

Upcoming Songcatcher Events

- ♪ 2016-2017 Programs Registration: ongoing. For more information, please call or email the office.
- ♪ Early Violin Camp (ages 4-7): July 5-July 22, 2016. For more information, please call or email the office.
- ♪ Instrumental Day Camp (ages 7-13): July 5-22, 2016. For more information, please call or email the office.
- ♪ Choir Camp (ages 7-17): July 31-August 6, 2016. For more information, please call or email the office.

Do YOU or someone you know have a news item to announce?

News Corner

*If so, let us know!
E-Mail songcatchers@gmail.com*

Congratulations to:

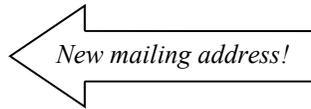
- ♥ Elizabeth Dennehy and husband Pete Charles on their marriage in Oct. 2014.
- ♥ Katie Kelly Morand, husband Julien, and son Julien on the birth of their son/brother Brody in March 2016.
- ♥ ASMP volunteers Taz Kim and Brandon Guizar on their recent performances in several competitions. Cellist Taz placed 2nd at the KRB International Music Competition and performed at Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall. Pianist Brandon was a winner in the Leschetizky Association Gifted Youth Competition. Both Brandon and Taz started their musical studies at Songcatchers. Congratulations, boys!

Condolences to:

- † Mike Frenz, Elizabeth Frenz Tedesco, and family on the loss of their mother/grandmother Dorothy. Dorothy was a vital member of Songcatchers, and served as the Arts and Crafts Director at Choir Camp; as a longtime Board member, and occasional grant-writer. Dorothy will be missed by all of us at Songcatchers. A Choir Camp Scholarship Fund is being established in her name by the Songcatchers Board of Directors. (*Above: Dorothy at camp with costumes!*)



Songcatchers
2005 Palmer Ave. #252
Larchmont, NY 10538
Phone/Fax: (914) 654-1178
E-Mail: songcatchers@gmail.com
Website: www.songcatchers.org
"Songcatchers Inc" on Facebook, Twitter, & YouTube!



NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
WHITE PLAINS, NY
PERMIT NO. 1699
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



"Reaching for Peace Through Music"



Spotlight on: The Impact of Choir Camp

By Jane Dennehy

Choir Camp or Christmas? I am not quite sure which caused more excitement in my house. I actually think that it was Camp. My children started packing for it as soon as school was over some six weeks before camp started. It was a joy to behold.

To put into a few words what Choir Camp has meant to me is an almost impossible task because, in reality, there are no words to express a sentiment so intrinsic to my very being. Almost immediately, Camp became my home away from home, and the people there, my true extended family. Over the past twenty five years, so many of the people that I have met through Camp have become the friends that I hold dearest in my heart.

Camp allowed me to sing for days on end and to understand the basics of music which I had never learned. A sheet of music became an entirely new experience filled with wonder. As a mother, I loved watching my own children grow from campers to CITs to Counselors to Senior Staff. To see them grow musically, find their own voices, audition, and perform in the comfort of a safe, supportive environment was a true blessing. Show after show, concert after concert they grew in their music and continued to forge strong bonds with so many good and talented people. Recently, my granddaughter has begun to enjoy the camper experience as have the children and grandchildren of past Counselors and staff. The same joy emanates from this next generation of campers as from the campers of 25 years ago when my family first began this joyful adventure.

In all, I have found that the bonds made in choral singing, and in bringing the joy of the same to subsequent generations, make Choir Camp that lasting joy which remains in my soul and echoes in my heart all yearlong.