

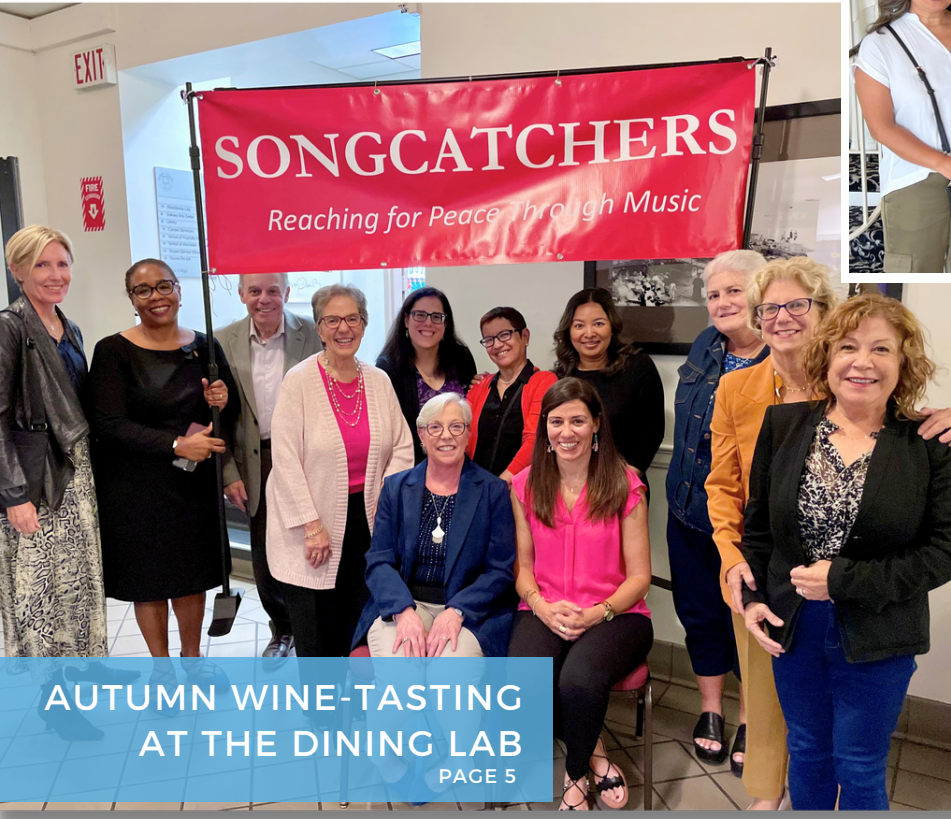


JUNE 2023

VOL 22 | ISN 1

MUSIC NOTES

SONGCATCHERS, INC. NEWSLETTER



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PHOTO CREDIT: NICK CARTER

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PHOTO CREDIT: DINO PERRUCCI

Songcatchers Valentine's Musicgrams



Choose one
 Can't Help Falling in Love by Elvis
 L.O.V.E as sung by Michael Buble
 Count On Me by Bruno Mars
 All Of Me by John Legend

\$14*
 *suggested offering

To arrange a Musicgram for your Valentine:
 visit: Songcatchers.org
 call: (914) 654-1178
 email: info@songcatchers.org
 venmo: @songcatchers-inc



For the first time, the Youth Choir played Cupid and raised money through selling Musicgrams for Valentine's Day. To celebrate, choir members were treated to a party with arts & crafts, pizza, snacks, fun &

games, and, of course, music. Valentines were very happy with their grams. Keep a look out for upcoming Birthdaygrams and more!

COMPOSERS OF THE FUTURE



This yearly program headed by **Jon Deak** and **JL Marlor** was a wonderful success. Six students created original pieces that were performed by professional musicians at the New Rochelle Public Library. Two of the musicians were our very own mentors, **Amy Hersh** and **Enid Blount Press**. We are thankful for our sponsors.



Here were the original pieces and the student composers as pictured left to right:

- Alexa Rosa....."Sunrise"
- Ciara Ibarra Cordoba....."Silly Duck vs. the Fox"
- Katherine Kann....."Shine a Little Love"
- Melany Asto....."Light and Darkness"
- Jason Wellington....."The Little Song"
- Jayden Flores....."The Unknown"



SINGIN' IN THE RAIN

On April 29th, the **New York Empire** of the American Ultimate Disc League invited our Choir to sing the National Anthem at their home-opener. We brought them a bit of luck because they won 17-8. Even though it rained cats and dogs, the children



were in great spirits and were excited to sing their hearts out to the die-hard fans who also came in the rain to cheer on New Rochelle's only professional sports team.

Songcatchers celebrated Juneteenth a little early with the **Huguenot Historical Society at the Thomas Paine Cottage**. We were happy to be included in this meaningful gathering marking an important day in our nation's history.

JUNETEENTH
Songcatchers
Raise Their Voices in Celebration
 5:30pm Grounds of the Thomas Paine Cottage
June 10th 3-6:30
 20 Sicard Ave New Rochelle NY
 A FREE Community Event

Our After School Music Program held their 2023 student recitals from March 14th-18th and again from June 13th-17th. Student musicians performed solo and duet pieces as friends and family cheered for them. We are very proud of the children for their hard work!

RECITALS



CHEERS!

Hakuna Matata!

We are so excited for one of our After-School Music Program students, Davis Matthews, who is currently starring as Young Simba in Broadway's *The Lion King*!



In Honor of Angela Belsole!

A woman with a chance to retire to a relaxing life and to do anything she wished, **Angela Belsole** spent four years leading Songcatchers. Joining our Board of Directors in 2007 and becoming President of the Board in 2013, she then volunteered as the organization's Interim Director after our founder, **Sr. Beth Dowd, OSU**, stepped down. Angela led us from 2018 -22 through the uncharted waters of COVID-19 and kept us going by implementing updated technologies and obtaining needed funding. She was recognized as a 2023 Community

Champion on April 21st by the New Rochelle Council of Community Services. Other community members honored were **Mark McLean** and our long-time supporter, **Barbara Davis**, both of whom equally impacted lives in New Rochelle.

To honor Angela, three Songcatchers musicians played in her honor: volunteer teachers **Aviva Segal** and **Leke Negri**, and clarinet mentor **Enid Blount Press**.



Pictured on the cover l-r, front to back: Ming Augustine Carmelina DeMarco, Angela Belsole, Clemencia Castaneda, Kathleen McEntee-Lawlor, Ariana Barrios, Dianne Flagello; 2nd row: Karen Selman, Jennifer Lanser, Frank DeMarco, Pat Schifin, OSU, Karenann Carty, Lilian Moreno, Rosemarie Castellano,

An American Honor

Leke Negri, one of our new volunteer trumpet teachers, was honored by



Hon. Kristen Gillenbrand as an international musician. She dedicated the flying of the American flag over the **US Capitol** building in his honor on Dec. 26, 2022.



ARIANA BARRIOS

...received the *Volunteer New York! Spirit Award* for Education and Literacy sponsored by the *Gallin Family* on May 5th. During the last 4 years, Ariana has dedicated more than 500 hours to Songcatchers and our community. As a PAVE student in New Rochelle High School, she also tutors other students. She is a Songcatchers volunteer, a Composer of the Future alumna, and a member of our Youth Choir. She started at Songcatchers when she was 3 years old, and is now our Early Violin Program Coordinator and a Counselor-in-Training at Choir Camp. In the fall, she will attend Queens College to study music education. We wish you much luck in your future as a music educator!



A Mentor Goes to Carnegie Hall

Congratulations to our longtime brass mentor, **Ulysses Torres, MM** who played with the Westchester Symphonic Winds at the legendary **Carnegie Hall** on Tuesday, June 13th. Ulysses started at Songcatchers many years ago as a student, participated in Choir Camp, and still donates his time each year to pay it forward. He also comes in every Tuesday to mentor our volunteer brass teachers Brandon Olivos, Leke Negri, and Christina Huerta and is a member of the Board.



Teacher Highlights

Leah Shefferman (right) has been a part of Songcatchers since she was 5, and is one of our percussion teachers. At New Rochelle High School, Leah was named the Salutatorian out of almost 1,000 students. Not only was Leah selected as the Star Student of the Week for the New Rochelle Patch News, but she also received the **Margaret Manley Community Service Scholarship** sponsored by the **Junior League of Westchester** on the Sound and a **Metro Award** for Outstanding Performance by a Pit Musician. She will be attending Princeton University in the fall.



Our piano teacher, **Aviva Segal** (left), was selected as an All National Oboist. In addition, she won a scholarship from the **Rotary Club** for 500+ service hours & the "Peter and the Wolf" project she coordinated with Songcatchers and Coleman School of Dance last year. In the fall, she will be attending Tufts University. We are proud of all our volunteer teachers, especially these two talented young women!

BURSTING WITH THANKS

"VOLUNTEERS DO NOT NECESSARILY HAVE THE TIME; THEY HAVE THE HEART."

- ELIZABETH ANDREW

Meet our VOLUNTEER Choir Camp staff! Each of these people have been giving up a week of their lives every year to pay it forward. Many of them were campers themselves some years ago, some of them take vacation from their day jobs to work at Choir Camp, and all of them pay their own way to stay at camp or raise money to do so. This year, we received a grant from the **Junior League of Westchester** on the Sound to help offset their costs. Thank you **JLWOS** for recognizing their dedication and devotion to volunteerism.

Pictured front to back:
 1st row: Kathleen McEntee-Lawlor, Silvia Montoya, Jesenia Laureano, Bianca Diniz, Laís Moises
 2nd row: Isabelle Morrow, Vanessa Torres Antolino, Karol Moises, Jane Dennehy, Sheila Monahan
 3rd row: Hoshi Laureano, Lesley Torres, Maura Dennehy, Diane Toro, Gianfranco Broccolo, Sara O'Brien, John Dennehy, Elizabeth Charles, Jeante Jackson
 4th row: Ulysses Torres



We are forever thankful for our former violin mentor, **Cynthia Reynolds** who a founding member of the New Westchester Symphony Orchestra founder. The WSO held a concert on June 17th in her memory, and her family will be awarding our cello teacher **Reine Kim** \$1,000 for dedication and devotion. Congrats, Reine!

Thank you **ALSO** to the following volunteers who chose Songcatchers to complete their internships & service hours:
ALMS: Samantha Donatich, Xavier Donatich, Alejandro Lopez, Rohit Srinivas, Nitya Srinivas, Brooke Lanser
NRHS: Aracely Mendoza, Ariana Barrios



Songcatchers, Inc. provides...training and enrichment for children and families...[promoting] excellence in an atmosphere that fosters community, mutual respect, kindness, self-esteem, leadership development and an appreciation for the arts. We live by our conviction that peace is possible when people collaborate to bring beauty into the lives of others.

POPPING WITH APPRECIATION

Additionally, we gave popcorn out for the whole month of April to our volunteers as we are "popping with appreciation" for them all! We'll be inviting those interested to partake in a Paint & Party event when classes end.



You are probably most familiar with the part of our mission statement above that we left out - "affordable access to high quality music education." However, a huge component of what we do at Songcatchers is included in the remainder of the mission - "youth training & enrichment." Our volunteer teachers, comprised mostly of high school and college students, will tell you they get as much out of our program as they put into it. Mentors work with them before, after and during class, and they are learning many life skills through the responsibilities of teaching.

This year, The Picture House in Pelham collaborated with us on Volunteer Appreciation Month, offering Songcatchers a price that we could afford to invite all our teachers to attend a movie for team-building.



Pictured front to back:
 Conner Kim, Ariana Barrios, Linda Sanchez, Dayanara Rosa, Alexa Rosa, Cilley Ibarra, Kenson Charles, Jimmy Duffy, Mia Rosales, Yarely Alvarado, James Sanchez, Veronica Yu, Reine Kim, Jennifer Lanser, Kathleen McEntee-Lawlor



VOLUNTEER TEACHER CONCERT

On Sunday April 30th, 2023, Songcatchers held its 15th Annual Volunteer Concert, which featured 12 performances by some of our After-School Music Program youth instructors. Whether playing solo, duet, or small ensemble pieces, these talented teens treated the audience to an afternoon of amazing music. One attendee said, "I feel like I just left Carnegie Hall, but I'm at the New Rochelle Library." A special thanks go to all who performed and attended this wonderful concert. If you missed it, keep an *ear* out for more performances by our talented volunteer teachers coming soon!



photo credit: Nick Carter

Back Row: Linda Sanchez, Annie Gombiner, Veronica Yu, Reine Kim, Conner Kim, Lindsey Langley, Ethan Carey, Michael DiLeo, Aviva Segal, Kathleen McEntee-Lawlor, and Yeray Lopez-Ibarra
Front Row: Jennifer Lanser, Aviola Lim, Ariana Barrios, Rachel Goldstein, and Jianna Shao

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Ming Augustine *Office Mgr.*

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Jim Weingast *Percussion*
Ulysses Torres, MM *Brass*
Enid Blount Press, MM *Clarinet*
Janice Nimetz, MM, PhD *Piano*
Marina Jeraci, MAT *Strings*
Dianne Flagello, MM, PhD *Xylophone*
Amy Hersh, MM *Flute*
Jerry Bell *Guitar*

Early Childhood Violin

Ariana Barrios *Coordinator*

Choir Camp

John Dennehy *Director*

College Bound

Thank you to all our After-School Music Program volunteer teachers for their commitment and dedication to teaching our children throughout the year. We want to also acknowledge our own Class of 2023 senior volunteers. Many have taught at Songcatchers all

through high school, spending numerous hours teaching and enhancing our students' music education. Congratulations and thank you, seniors!

Check out some of the colleges our seniors will be attending this fall! We are really so proud of them all!

Nate Morris:
Georgetown University

Ryan Irving:
HARVARD UNIVERSITY

S Tapogna:
ADELPHI UNIVERSITY

Nicole Zhou:
BARNARD

Elizabeth Denning:
VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY

Robert Abrahams
LAFAYETTE COLLEGE

Ariana Barrios:

Leah Shefferman:
PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

Vi vien Wong:
Cornell University.

Aviva Segal:
Tufts UNIVERSITY

QUEENS COLLEGE

Lindsey Langley:

IONA COLLEGE

Keith Chao:
University of Colorado Boulder

Jimmy Duffy:
BROWN UNIVERSITY

Rachel Goldstein:
SUNY WESTCHESTER COMMUNITY COLLEGE GRAD SCHOOL

Rebecca Power:

Jackie Alvarado
SUNY WESTCHESTER COMMUNITY COLLEGE

WILIAMSBURG COLLEGE

Reine Kim:
Amherst College

Sam Wallach
MIAMI

FALL FUNDRAISER

In October, we held a wine tasting event fundraiser. Our President of the Board and Senior VP of Academic & Student Affairs at Monroe College, **Karenann Carty, Ed.D.**, helped us reserve one of the best kept secrets in the New Rochelle restaurant scene, the Dining Lab at Monroe College. Board member **Renee Baron, Ph.D.**, connected us with the **Kevin Oliver Trio** (inset) for the musical entertainment. It was a beautiful fundraising event that raised more than \$7,000.



DL THE DINING LAB AT MONROE COLLEGE

Pictured on the cover: Karen Selman, Renee Baron, Ph.D.; Frank DiMarco, Esq.; Angela Belsole, Kathleen McEntee-Lawlor, Clemencia Castaneda, Ming Augustine, Sr. Pat Schifini, OSU, Hon. Shelly Mayer, Hon. Martha Lopez-Hanratty. Seated: Karenann Carty and Rosemarie Castellano

COMING SOON



Songcatchers will be offering voice lessons this summer & fall! Call the office for more info.

We are registering new students for our 2023-2024 After-School Music Program. Enroll now for September. E-mail us at info@songcatchers.org for details.



SUMMER PROGRAMS

Know any children who like to sing, perform, or play a musical instrument? Sign up for music lessons at Songcatchers this summer! Registration is ongoing. See flyers for info.



Currently, we have a waiting list for piano and guitar lessons but have availability in clarinet, sax, flute, trumpet, cello, viola, double bass, voice & more!




SUMMER INSTRUMENTAL PROGRAM

AGES 7-13 **\$300 3 WEEKS**

JUNE 26 - JULY 14
3:30 - 5:30 PM

LEARN A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT AND MEET NEW FRIENDS!

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
INFO@SONGCATCHERS.ORG
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CHOIR CAMP: MUSIC & BEYOND

AGES 7 - 15 **JULY 23- 29, 2023**

Mention the ad for a free t-shirt with registration.



Songcatchers Night

\$12 GA Ticket and Fundraiser

Saturday, Sept. 9th 6:05pm




SCAN ME



EARLY VIOLIN

AGES 4-7

JUNE 26 - JULY 14
9:30AM-12:30PM

Summer Program

LEARN BASIC VIOLIN TECHNIQUE, ARTS AND CRAFTS, MUSIC AND MOVEMENT, AND MORE!

COST: \$300 PER CAMPER

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
CALL: (914) 654-1178
EMAIL: INFO@SONGCATCHERS.ORG



Join us at the Hudson Valley Renegades Game on Sept 9th as Songcatchers' Concert Choir performs the Star Spangled Banner. Tickets are \$12 each, which includes admission and a partial donation to

Songcatchers. (Thanks to Chrissy Fay & Neil Walsh for sponsoring the Youth Choir's attendance!)



A MAN AND A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

On April 16th, the Songcatchers Youth Choir sang at Garcia's at the iconic Capitol Theatre for a special benefit concert honoring the late **Mike Winters**, former Operations & House Manager.



Mike sadly passed away in 2018, and his wife **Lara Winters** and family wanted to remember him with a concert benefitting a local music organization. **Jim Weingast**, Mike's cousin and our longtime percussion mentor, suggested Songcatchers, and we were chosen because of Mike's deep connection to music. One of the Choir's songs, the Grateful Dead's "Ripple," was chosen because it was a favorite of Mike's.

In addition to Songcatchers, the benefit concert also featured local bands Grateful BRO and Dead Meat. The night included a raffle with prizes such as vintage memorabilia, concert posters, and a "Dead Head" license plate, and a silent auction featuring concert tickets and a hand-painted violin from world-renowned artist Charles Fazzino. Altogether, the event raised more than \$12,000 for Songcatchers.



Recently, Lara Winters, Garcia's manager Josh Cohen, and Rene Pfefer of Volunteer Louder visited Songcatchers during the daily performance time to see the program in action (*see cover photo*). After listening to the children perform, Lara said, "This brought the whole experience full circle for me – seeing the kids perform for us really brought it home."

Songcatchers Executive Director, **Jennifer Lanser**, says, "We are overwhelmed with gratitude for the Winters family. We could see Mike Winters was a very special person because so many people came out to celebrate him and donated on his behalf. It really was a special night."

Special thanks also goes to all at Garcia's and The Capitol Theatre for their generous donations of both time and money.

SONGCATCHERS IS BROUGHT TO OUR COMMUNITY BY YOU AND THESE ORGS:

ARTSWESTCHESTER AND WESTCHESTER COUNTY GOVERNMENT

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JUNIOR LEAGUE OF
WESTCHESTER
ON THE SOUND



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AMITYVILLE, NEW YORK

ARE YOU A MUSICIAN?

OR DO YOU KNOW A MUSICIAN WHO MAY LIKE TO LEARN HOW TO TEACH MUSIC?

WE ARE PLANNING FOR NEXT SEASON...

Have you thought about volunteering and sharing your talent with a beginner music student? We are currently enlisting Volunteer Teachers for our After School Music Program (Sept - June 2023 - 2024)

Tue - Fri 4-5:30 PM • Sat (2 sessions) 9:30 - 10:45 & 10:15 - 11:45

piano, flute, guitar, violin, viola, cello, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, drums

CONTACT US!

www.songcatchers.org • info@songcatchers.org • (914)6541178 ext. 101



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