

PASS IT ON!



A NEWSLETTER OF THE CHILDREN'S MUSIC NETWORK

ISSUE 2: FEBRUARY 1988

NEW LYRICS - NEW VISIONS

This issue celebrates the new words that are wiggling, dancing, whizzing into the ears of young people today thanks to songwriters in our network.

Take this chorus from Tickle Tune Typhoon from "Everyone is Differently Abled," ©1987 words and music by Lorraine Bayes, Danny Deardoff, and Dee Dickinson:

Everyone's differently abled
Everyone has ability.
Everyone's differently abled
Making their lives work differently.

Important words to hear. Now imagine them to a finger snapping beat that builds. That's how they pour out on their new album, All of Us Will Shine. The verses of the song include this line, "I will not be defined by my limitations, but rather by my possibilities." It's a song you remember.

Children look to music and media to pick up cues as to what this world around them is all about. Yet what fare is most easily available? According to the National Coalition on Television Violence, the average 4-8 year old watches 250 episodes of war cartoons and 1000 war toy ads a year, equivalent to 22 days of pro-war instruction.

New songs for children are a window on the world where violence is unthinkable. Developmental education is showing that human beings are encoded to be cooperative. We have to be taught oppressive behavior.

Songs, with their ability to stick in our minds, are a source of learning. After a Family Peace Gathering (see Focus), I heard my three year old son singing Lorre Wyatt's song "Mir, Peace" as he played with legos. Then he had questions about the different languages people speak. At a recent concert we attended, the performers use of "man" generically for "humankind" went over his head, but I winced at the lack of substitution. New songs are inclusive.

You'll see a new section here, "Song Swap." It will let you know where to find lead sheets for songs from our network. Affirmative songs are a lifeline for young people in these transitional times where we push to grow beyond values of violence and dominance.

(See Resources for Tickle Tune Typhoon's new album and eight other new recordings within the Children's Music Network)

SONG SWAP

I have been puzzling how to find a way to let each other know about the important songs written by people in our growing network. Reluctant to become a judge, printing some songs over others with space for only 1 or 2 an issue, I've come up with another plan. Song Swap will be a section where portions of song lyrics without the music can be printed.

Throughout this issue you'll see four songs represented. These are from the four lead sheets I've received this winter. After each song is the address of the songwriter. You can send them a self addressed stamped envelope and they'll mail to you a copy of the full lead sheet.

I hope this will help you locate songs you want to pursue!

Guidelines for the Song Swap:

- * Songs sent in by songwriters in the Children's Music Network are welcome.
- * No more than 2 songs by the same person will appear within the same year (over 3 issues).
- * If you have no lead sheet, your other option would be to offer to tape the song for anyone who mails you a blank tape.
- * Let me know which verse and chorus you'd like included, or suggest that I pick.

Songs by Tedd Judd, David Roth, Lorre Wyatt, and Nancy Schimmel start off Song Swap this issue

A DOLL WHEN I SEE ONE

©1985 words and music by Nancy Schimmel

1. My brother wants a Rambo doll to play with.
He tells me that I don't say it right,
He says an action figure is what Rambo's called,
'cause dolls don't do anything
Rambos are to fight.

Cho: A doll is to listen when you're angry,
A doll is to hold when you cry,
I know a doll when I see one,
And Rambo could be one,
if he would only try.

For lead sheet: Nancy Schimmel
1639 Channing Way, Berkeley CA 94703



PLEASE SUBSCRIBE!!

Subscriptions are \$3 a year for 3 issues.

Write: SARAH PIRTLE, editor
54 Thayer Road, Greenfield, Ma 01301

Next issue: JULY DEADLINE: June 31

Resources

NINE NEW RECORDINGS!

AHEAD OF THE GAME, songs for all ages by Nan Hoffman and Friends. Available from Nan at 9736 Transit Rd., Amherst NY 14051 in stereo cassette. "An outstanding collection of contemporary songs...many consciously stress positive values, introduce concepts of ecology...fun to sing!"--Mitzie Collins, Golden Link Folksinging. \$9 (incl. postage)

ALL OF US WILL SHINE, third album of Tickle Tune Typhoon. "Their best yet! Should be another awardwinning album." Includes powerhouse version of "Whole World in our Hands" with gospel choir. "I was amazed by the variety of musical styles mastered by this seven-member musical group." Available from P.O. Box 15153 Seattle, MA 89115

GLAD THAT YOU ASKED by Nancy Tucker. Available from "A Gentle Wind" Box 3103, Albany NY 12203 \$8.70 (postage incl) Nancy is well known in the People's Music Network for her extraordinary guitar playing (dazzling!) and her clever songwriting. These songs are filled with puns and word plays - very funny & musically sophisticated. Out in cassette this April.

IMAGINATION CRUISE by Chris Holder. Songs and stories for families. His second tape with "A Gentle Wind." Also available from Chris (who is editor of Artists With Class Journal!) for \$9 (shipping incl.) 66 Jenkins Rd., Burnt Hills, NY 12027. "Take a trip through history on the Erie Canal, or a family vacation to meet the Wizard of the Highway." Imagination!

LULLABY BAY, peaceful songs for bedtime collected and sung by Kate Munger, Carolyne Riley and Nancy Stein. Available from Box 28 Pt. Reyes Station CA 94956. Checks for \$9.50 (postage incl) made out to Carolyne Riley. 25 contemporary and traditional songs. "The serenity we felt watching our children fall gently to sleep as we sang to them inspired us." Their first tape so well loved, they made another!

NEARING HOME, a collection of songs that deal with life on the road and the journey homeward, by Fred Gee. Album includes "Our circle will grow wide," "Island Dream," "If It's Peace We Do Believe," "Thanks to Dear Old Grannie." Wonderful singer and writer! Available from Fred at 111 Pleasant St., Norwich NY 13815 for \$9.50 (post. incl). PMN members will remember his first album on Folkways (see p. 4).

SEND NEWS OF YOUR RECORDINGS!

Be sure to include price, information

SING THE SUN AROUND A DAY, by Kathy and Randy Miller, Jane McBride and children. Here is a spirited family tape made at home. Twelve songs (with word sheet) include Shaker, Australian, Scottish folk, and a Purly Gates song. Contact Kathy and Randy at North Rd., E. Alstead, NH 03602 for price info. Includes a beautiful grace: "The silver rain, the shining sun," and several rounds.

STAYIN' OVER by Peter Alsop. Follows his first 2 awardwinning albums. Insert has words, chords, exercises and discussion questions. Peter and the kids are at a pajama party at Peter's house. Through the songs, issues like divorce, children and alcohol, friendship come up -- songs to open communication! Available from Moose School Records, Box 960, Topanga, Ca., 90290. Catchy and intriguing songs.

THE WIND IS TELLING SECRETS by Sarah Pirtle. Fourteen original songs including "The Colors of Earth," "Pancake Hat," and "The Terrible Bug" (written with two young friends). Plus Hispanic, Nigerian, and Native American songs. Includes guide with words. Her second tape. Available from "A Gentle Wind" or from Sarah at 54 Thayer Rd., Greenfield, Ma. 01301.

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USE YOUR WORDS

©Words and music Tedd Judd, 1986

1. There's a peace-loving daycare
they call Gentle Dragon,
where kids hardly ever have tantrums
or fights,
if someone starts screaming
or can't share a wagon,
There's sure to be someone who'll
share this advice:

Cho: Use your words, please,
don't grab or hit

Use your words, please, don't throw a fit
Your old enough now, let your feelings
be heard.

And please, please, please use your word
(last verse becomes a letter to Reagan)

For lead sheet: Tedd Judd
403 29th Ave. E., Seattle WA 98112

SEND IN YOUR SONGS FOR NEXT ISSUE!!!

FOCUS: COMMUNITY

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Each issue we focus on a key facet of children's music. Here we are looking at how music builds community.

ELLEN GRIEST -- "A MUSICAL PERFORMANCE IN THE SCHOOLS"

Under the New Haven Comprehensive Arts Program, I visit all K, first, and second grade classes in an elementary school four times each and then do a "performance" for all the classes in the building. We use a standard children's story such as Dr. Seuss' The Lorax which lends itself to dramatization. I teach basic dramatic and pantomime skills and turn the story into a production. The addition of relevant, easy to learn songs makes it a musical. I've used Ruth Pelham's "Under One Sky," Holly Near's "We are a gentle angry people," Sarah Pirtle's "My Roots Go Down," others by Lorre Wyatt and Betsy Rose as well as some popular rock songs.

The performance, then, is a huge participatory musical play, complete with production numbers starring all the children (sometimes as many as 200), and their teachers. It's a great hit with the kids. I love the whole thing!
Ellen Greist 3600 Ridge Rd. North Haven CT 06473

TRAPROCK PEACE CENTER -- "HEART CONNECTIONS: A FAMILY PEACE GATHERING"

On Valentine's Day this year we put on a Peace Celebration for all Ages. It was a three hour collage of activities and performances which created an atmosphere of fun and cooperation. The centerpiece of the event was Sarah Elston's puppet show with music by Roger Tinknell. Two puppets who refuse to speak to each other after a fight over a ball game are taught basic principles of conflict resolution by Roger through a rap song called "The Rules of the Game." The audience meets a Russian hedgehog puppet who teaches the Soviet song, "May there always be sunshine," and Ruth Pelham's "Under One Sky" helps reconcile two other characters who are afraid of each other. The show, titled "There's Always Something You Can Do" after a song by Sarah Pirtle, connects personal and global conflict while involving the audience through music. Sarah Elston closes the program with Lorre Wyatt's song "Mir, Peace" ("Mir" means peace in Russian) which he wrote when they were on a tour of performing artists to the Soviet Union. ("Mir, Peace" is listed below as part of Song Swap).

The 75 people who attended spanned toddlers to grandparents. They did group drawings, helped bake bread, and created a banner of hand prints to be sent to the Nevada Test Site. Music was the thread linking the event, pulling us back to a large group circle, and helping us end with a feeling of warmth and closeness.
Traprock Peace Center-Keets Rd., Deerfield, Ma 01342
Sarah Elston Elfin Puppet Theater, Ashfield Rd., Williamsburg, Ma 01096

FOCUS for the next issue will be on SONGWRITING WITH CHILDREN.

Please send in one method you have used to write songs in collaboration with young people or to help spark their own creations. Send a letter, or make a phone call in the evening or over a weekend, if that's easier. Perhaps you can send an example of a serendipitous event that unexpectedly led to a song.

MORE SONG SWAP

MIR, PEACE

©1985 words and music by Lorre Wyatt

1. Left my home, far away
Came to sing, and to say
Mir...peace.
Strange and new, everything
May we learn, may it bring
Mir...peace.
Sometimes we, disagree
Still I know, there can be
Mir...peace.
(written on his performing trip to USSR)

For lead sheet: send SASE to Lorre Wyatt
Roots and Branches Music
PO Box 369 Greenfield, Ma 01302

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE COLOR?

©1986 David Roth

2. My very favorite color is YELLOW, YELLOW, YELLOW
like the sun up in the sky, giraffes, bananas,
lemon meringue pie
But best of all I have a friend who's skin is
yellow you see, and that's why I like yellow
And that's why I like yellow so much,
friends mean a lot to me.
- Cho: What's your favorite color (3x)
I'd really like to know
Ask any girl or feller, what's your favorite color
Reaching all around the world, a rainbow.

For lead sheet: David Roth

THUMBNAIL SKETCHES

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MARSHA LEE CUTTING 247 Second St., Troy, N.Y. 12180 518/271-6169

I do concerts, music enrichment programs and song-writing workshops in schools and in community settings such as libraries. I play guitar and sing, and teach regularly in an after-school arts program in one of Troy's housing projects, where we also use percussion instruments. This work has led me to think more about rap, and we recently did a rap together (they told me what they wanted to say, and I added the rhythm and rhyme) about what it would be like if rich people and poor people changed places.



HEATHER FOREST P.O. BOX 354 HUNTINGTON, NY 11743 516-271-2511

I tell World Tales in a minstrel style of storytelling interweaving original music, guitar, poetry, and prose. I enjoy telling stories which contain a kernel of homespun wisdom passed down through the oral tradition. These old tales, spanning time and place remind us that the people of the Earth share a common humanity.

I have recorded three albums of storytelling, "SONGSPINNER: Folktales and Fables Sung and Told", "Tales of Womanfolk", on Weston Woods Records, Weston Ct. 06883, and "Sing Me A Story: Musical Folktales for Children", on A Gentle Wind, Box 3103, Albany, NY 12203.

FRED GEE, 111 Pleasant St., Norwich, N.Y. 13815 (607) 336-1486: I'm a singer/songwriter/storyteller/educator who in addition to other concert and musical endeavors performs around 300 concerts for young folk each year. As a peace activist and war tax resister I try to share songs that encourage the values needed to visualize and work for a better world. In 1980 I received a NYS Arts Council grant to write historical folk songs about the Chenango Valley in upstate NY. Emphasis was given to the emotions of ordinary people. I conduct songwriting workshops for all ages. I'm active in a variety of Arts-In-Education programs as well as the New York Foundation Artist-In-Residence program. I'm a publisher and writer member of ASCAP. If you need help setting up your business I'd be glad to lend a hand. I'm interested in networking and learning good songs for young folk. Two recordings, 'In A Place Called Chenango' on Folkways and 'Nearin Home' on Clear Horizons are available on album or cassette, \$9.50 ea. ppd.

Bill Harley 301 Jacob St., Seekonk, MA 02771 (617)336-9703

I'm a singer, songwriter, and storyteller that works with kids in schools and family settings. Have five recordings out of songs and stories, four of them for kids, including Monsters in the Bathroom, 50 Ways to Fool Your Mother, Dinosaurs Never Say Please, and Cool in School. Interested in songs that reach kids where they're at, not where they're supposed to be, and in working with family audiences and developing material that reaches all ages - also in reaching the unconvinced as opposed to preaching to the convinced.

NAN HOFFMAN -- 9736 TRANSIT ROAD, EAST AMHERST, NY 14051. (716)689-7252.

Singer, song collector/song writer, performer of concerts and educational workshops for children & adults. I'm particularly interested in songs affirming peace, environmental concern, human potential & other positive values. I have three albums, one of them being AHEAD OF THE GAME!, a collection of songs for children of all ages. I thank Sarah Pirtle and all those responsible for creating the Children's Music Network. I look forward to the valuable opportunities it offers to touch bases with more folks who work with children through our precious gift of music!

Chris is a singer, songwriter, storyteller and mime who has been a professional performer for children, families and adults for over twelve years. Specializing in the arts-in-education field, Chris presents performances, workshops and long-term residencies in schools across the Northeast, with a special emphasis on local history, legends and family stories. Recordings, CHRIS HOLDER - STORYSINGER and IMAGINATION CRUISE are both available on the Gentle Wind label. Chris is writer and co-editor of ARTISTS WITH CLASS, the journal for professional independent artists in all fields. Write for more information about Chris' performing or for a free sample copy of ARTISTS WITH CLASS. Keep singing!

Doug Lipman P.O. Box 441195, W. Somerville, MA 02144
(617) 391-3672.

Storyteller-musician-teacher-writer. Stories with songs that touch, involve and empower audiences of all ages. My programs include participation stories for young children, Appalachian Jack Tales, multicultural, non-sexist folktales and inspiring stories that make history come alive. I offer a workshop for parents and pre-school teachers on what attracts children to Superhero play. I have five tapes available. Two are participation tapes for young children: Tell It With Me, which won the Parents Choice Award for 1986, and Keep on Shaking. The three adult tapes are: Folk Tales for Strong Women and Tales of Nurturing Men and The Forgotten Story: Tales of Wise Jewish Men. These tapes can be ordered from me through the mail (\$8.95 each tape plus \$2.00 shipping per order.)



WILL FUDEMAN Box 854, Pt. Reyes, CA 94956 (415) 669-7103

I teach songs to children in schools and at summer camps. "Good People in Bad Weather" includes a children's anti nuclear song, "Kiss Your Jelly Beans Goodbye." This cassette/album is \$9 including postage and tax.

BARBARA WRIGHT 35-25 29th St. # B5 Astoria NY 11106 (718) 482-0457 (with machine)

I am currently a Director of a Day Care Center although I was a teacher before. I'm interested in learning songs and games appropriate for the 3-5 yr. old population.



STUART STOTTS

608 241 9143

RUSTY ROSE PRODUCTIONS

169 Ohio Ave. Madison, WI 53704

I am a singer-songwriter. Lots of performing for kids in schools, libraries, etc. One record available, Good Friends. I am getting ready to record a tape for children, and I'm always looking for new material. And I love this work! ♥

ANNOUNCEMENTS

June 3rd, 4th, 5th weekend NEXT GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE'S MUSIC NETWORK

Camp Thoreau, Pine Bush, N.Y. Workshops on diverse topics including song swaps on Children's Music. There will also be a meeting of the Children's Music Network. Contact: Jane Treat, 3403A Mt. Pleasant St. NW Wash. D.C. 20010

Aug. 1 - 5 week CHILDREN'S PERFORMER'S WORKSHOP SPONSORED BY THE AUGUSTA HERITAGE ARTS WORKSHOPS. "Augusta offers a new week long class for those who wish to hone their skills as performers for young children in music, drama, and storytelling." Songs, stories and techniques for entertaining and educating young children will be presented by Michele Valeri, Len Cabral, Marcy Marxer, and Cathy Fink. Location: Davis and Elkins College in Elkins, West Virginia. Write to the Augusta Heritage Center at the College. Zip: 26241-3996. Tuition: \$180 Room/bd \$128

The current issue of SING OUT! mentions our newsletter. See Pete Seeger's column!

ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

PASS IT ON! was inspired by meetings of performers and songwriters of children's music at gatherings of the People's Music Network. We were eager for more contact with each other and more news of resources.

PASS IT ON! is designed to provide lots of avenues for you to share news, ideas, and songs.

PLEASE SEND IN:

- * THUMBNAIL SKETCHES -- Camera ready paragraph with your name, address, phone, interests, involvement in children's music, resource offerings, questions.
- * SONGS for the NEW SONG SWAP section.
- * Experiences writing songs with children for FOCUS next issue.
- * Announcements, descriptions of new recordings, RADIO PROGRAMS you recommend!

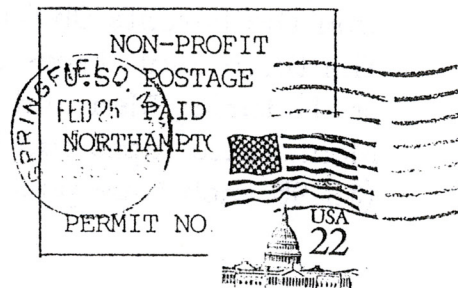
SEND TO: Sarah Pirtle 54 Thayer Rd., Greenfield MA 01301 Back issue available: \$1

CHILDREN'S MUSIC NETWORK

NEW SONG LIBRARY

P.O. Box 295

Northampton, MA 01061



TIME TO RENEW!

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