

PASS IT ON!



A NEWSLETTER OF THE CHILDREN'S MUSIC NETWORK

ISSUE 3: AUGUST 1988

SOME OF MY BESTFRIENDS ARE ARTISTS

Did you grow up with any of these false descriptions? -- Artists are basically crazy. Real artists don't make money. Art isn't a serious endeavor. Art is unimportant.

The one I remember was -- artists are lazy and live off other people to survive. I've been collecting such lies in workshops I do with teachers. We talk with each other about the misconceptions we've received.

We also notice how so often the arts were the vehicle of wounds and humiliation. Remember the music teacher who said, "You can stand with the choir but don't make a sound. Just move your lips." Or the art teacher who said, "Don't put red in the sky." From peers, from parents, from teachers many have heard, "don't draw like that," "don't dance like that," or "what a stupid idea." The arts have been used to teach many in our culture that it's not okay to be us.

This month I've been creating phrases to contradict the old ones which run around in my head. There's a certain cunning involved in finding just the words that will cut through the muck. Here's some I have on my bulletin board, created with my friend Laura:

I'm an artist, and I'm proud.

Art is of crucial value to the universe.

I'm a relaxed, trustworthy artist and there's absolutely nothing I have to prove.

I know I've hit an effective phrase if it brings up a lot of guffaws to hear myself say it. Crucial value? Sound outrageous? Try it around your tongue and see what happens.

I haven't put any of my slogans on a T Shirt yet, but my bulletin board reflects a difference I've been noticing in myself since I was misschooled around the dinner table.

Got any such artist affirmation phrases of your own? Send them in! Proudly.

☺ PLEASE SUBSCRIBE!

Subscriptions are \$6 for three issues.

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

Next issue: WINTER Deadline: Jan. 15

THE RISE OF PICKLEBERRY PIE

The history of this nationally syndicated radio program for children is an exciting one. Concerned about television's turn to violence and commercialism in children's programming, a group of parents from Santa Cruz, California decided to take matters into their own hands.

"We knew that there was a wealth of quality music for children that wasn't getting out to the kids and their families," says P.J. Swift who became the producer of the program. "And we knew that we had the background, talent, and resources to do something about it. It came down to the question why not?"

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WORLD CHANGING WORK

New Year's was coming on and I was thinking about what I would do different next year. I was wondering if I should put more time into political activity or into creative work.

Another storyteller I work with called me up shortly afterward. She said that she had a dream about me. In the dream she was in an audience listening to me tell one of the old folktales I use to give comment on our current situation. A man in a three-piece suit approached me on stage, said he was from the FBI, and then ordered me to stop.

I like it that the message that my creative work is my political work came to me in a social way -- not in my dream but in a dream from my friend.

Nancy Schimmel, Berkeley CA

BEHIND THE SCENES

This issue marks the end of the first year of PASS IT ON! We had our annual meeting in June of the Children's Music Network (Camp Thoreau, People's Music Network Gathering) complete with both a long song swap and a business meeting.

Business-wise we agreed that we couldn't continue at our current rate for dues, so starting with our 1989 issues, the new price will be \$6 for

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NEW RECORDINGS!!!

BRUCE O'BRIEN: HOLD YOUR GROUND

A first recording featuring 9 original and 7 newly arranged traditional songs. Bruce has been collecting and performing folk music of many cultures for 15 years; he says, "Music is a language that crosses all borders and empowers and enriches our lives!" Includes, "No El Condor Pasaran," "The Dirt That Does It," "Trempealeau Trickle/Indian!" \$8.50 cassette, ppd. from Bruce O'Brien, 604 Newton St., Eau Claire, WI 54701

LARRY LONG: SONGS FROM THE USSR

Larry documents his trip through the USSR in 1988. Founder of the Mississippi River Revival, he has entertained on US/Soviet Peace Cruises on the Mississippi and on the Volga. The tape includes songs from the Ukraine, Lithuania, Russia, Armenia, along with contemporary folk. \$9 ppd., Life Productions, Bx 9601 Mpls, MN 55440

LISA MONET: JUMP DOWN

Traditional and original songs & rhymes include "Peter Hammers," "Tickles the Cat," "Grandmother's Spectacles," "One World;" 23 in all. Lifestance Distribution says, "Her voice has a gentle simplicity that is supported by her warmth and touch of humor. She provides her own harmonies - lush, spinetingling, well-done." \$9.95 ppd. Circle Sound Prod. Bx 966, Arcata CA 95521

STUART STOTTS: MUSIC IN MY MOTHER'S HOUSE

Fourteen songs from Stuart Stotts and friends for kids and families of all types. Includes "I've Got the Right to Feel Safe," "Nightmares," and "I Want to Play an Electric Guitar." Lots of fun! A tape those who have heard Stuart's songs at songswaps have been waiting for. \$9 ppd. from Stuart 169 Ohio Ave., Madison, WI 53704.

SALLY ROGERS: PEACE BY PEACE

Sally's first children's album, and the third in a series called "The Peace Pack" produced by Kids' Records in Toronto. Upbeat songs appealing to adults as well, including originals--"I'm So Lucky to Be in this World," "I Can't Imagine" (Betsy Rose), and others by Woody Guthrie and Malvina Reynolds. \$10.95 ppd from Kids' Records, 68 Broadview Ave. Suite 303, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M4M 2E6

ELISE WITT & SMALL FAMILY ORCHESTRA:

HOLDING ON Their third recording, with songs of the New South, Nueva Canción, and some German rounds. "Creative Loafing" says "In one performance this Atlanta-based group can take listeners to the circus, Italy, France, Mexico, and maybe the moon." Available in album or cassette from E M World Records, 124 W. College, Ave. Decatur, Georgia 30030. Request price info.

MULTICULTURAL RESOURCE

The newsletter, "Cultural Views," has an issue specifically on multicultural song collecting. Contact Editor Ed Pazzanese, 281 Huntington, Box 30 Boston MA 02115 Subs are \$15 year for 4 issues.

A RICHNESS OF ROUNDS

Jan Harmon has 3 songbooks of her original rounds, illustrated and including about 15 rounds each. These songs are "witty, beautiful, topical, delightfully silly." Includes her stunning round, "Benediction." \$5.75 each postpaid. Write Jan Harmon Box 386, Camden, ME 04843. Titles include "Hail to the Ox," "Rings and Circles," and "Clear Horizon."



TRIBUTE TO BEN LINDER

Ben Linder spent almost four years in Nicaragua bringing light and electricity to rural communities in the mountains before he was shot and killed by Contras in April 1987. He was also a children's performer, a skilled juggler. Photos show him in clown costume riding a unicycle in northern Nicaraguan villages.

He performed in El Cuá before his death, leading a parade of children to receive measles vaccinations. Ben wrote about one of his performances:

Here we were. A bit of cheer, something new and exciting. There is a slogan that goes, "Los niños nacen para ser felices" -- children are born to be happy. And that's a governmental policy, and that is what they believe, and that is why we go to the neighborhoods.

For more information, contact:
Center for Constitutional Rights
856-66 Broadway, NYC 10012



What a struggle to achieve this concept of a "rope team" in a network of musicians! Jobs are scarce, and so is money. Competition, gossip, one-up/one-down relationships are all common in our arena, even as we sing of changing gender roles, personal growth, peace and solidarity.

This isn't surprising, since our whole society functions on a mind-set of win/lose, judgmentalism, jealousy of others successes, and the age-old concept of "every person for themselves." Succeeding means push ahead alone.

I began to examine my own part in such destructive behavior when I started some important personal recovery work a few years ago. One of my stumbling blocks has been the idea of success: Am I making it? Will I make it? How do I react when another gets the grant or the gig?

So I've tried to change the way I think about things. I acknowledge my "little big deals" as a friend calls them. And I try to see and feel progress on a daily level.

I can feel paralyzed and isolated when I think of it. "He got that gig and I didn't." I want to cheer on that person instead of reacting with anger, or criticism. I want to focus on the richness of what I do have, so I can include the richness of what others have. And I want to learn to see each person's part in the whole as equally important.

What a radical challenge it is for us to help each other with acknowledgement, support and information.

I have said these things for quite a while, but I'm confronting them in my life even more deeply lately, as I struggle not to get stuck. I want to be brave enough to keep on walking my own path with willingness and openness, even though it may not ultimately mean success in the traditional sense.

The work that we do is demanding and often goes unrecognized and unpaid. For many of us, it's juggled around with family life, other jobs and priorities. So it seems we need a different vision of success in order to keep ourselves from giving up.

Could the rope team be a hope team?

I'd like to hear from others about this, either through the newsletter or in a letter.
Aileen Vance Box 1282 Santa Cruz CA 95061



So Pickleberry Pie, a weekly radio program for "the young and the young at heart," was born. The group worked out of a backyard shed turned into a studio, often stopping production to tend to their own children playing nearby. Neighborhood children were enlisted as "guest commentators" and occasionally as vocalists and narrators. "Having kids involved in the production really helps us keep our perspective," says Swift. "They keep us honest."

The program was soon adopted for syndication by the Longhorn Radio Network. Stations from St. Francis, South Dakato to New York City picked up the program. And the fan letters started rolling in. Often, the letters came from grateful parents. "We're had several parents tell us that they pack the kids in the car every Saturday morning just so they can hear the program over the car radio!" says Swift.

Of course, it helps that Pickleberry Pie presents the kind of music that parents can enjoy, too. The program features music that is a far cry from the scratchy records of a generation ago. Songs such as "50 Ways to Fool Your Mother" by Bill Harley or "I Cried" by Ruth Pelham show the wit and sensitivity that are hallmarks of the music. 70% of the show is music integrated with comments from juvenile guests and "Pickleberries," whimsical creatures who champion everything that is small. Many of the programs feature music that is written and performed by children. 20% of the shows have interviews with children's performers.

The show's theme song was written by Linda Arnold, a featured artist on the Disney Channel, who happens to be one of the parents involved in the group. Linda's also one of the voices of the Pickleberries, tiny creatures who introduce the music in the program. "We have a great time recording the Pickleberry voices," says Swift. "They're as much fun to create as they are to listen to."

Pickleberry Pie is the recent recipient of a Parent's Choice Award. "That award means a lot to us," says Swift. "It keeps us going week after week." Because the program is on primarily non-commercial channels, very little revenue is raised from station fees. "We've kept our expenses to the minimum," says Swift. "Even so, the group has had to dip into their own pockets just to buy recording tape. It helps to know the program is so appreciated."

-- by a special Pickleberry correspondant



4 Sharing Tips

RADIO STATIONS TO TAKE NOTE OF!

P.J. Swift estimates that there are fifty radio stations which feature locally produced children's programs. Here is a starting list of eight stations where you can send your recordings.

P.J. also suggests that you contact the local radio stations in your area who aren't offering programming yet. She says often stations say they can't do a children's program because they don't have enough material. You can inform them about the field.

Another key source lists current addresses for you:

"Go Public, A Guide to Non-Commercial Radio" by Natalie McClendon
Wakerobin Communications
611 No. 26th St.
Lincoln, Nebraska 68503

Stations alphabetical by state:

ARKANSAS

KPAL- AM P.O. Box 2661 Harriette D'Agrosa
Little Rock, Arkansas
The first all children's commercial station. Numerous local programs.

ARIZONA

KXCI-FM "Music from the Living Room"
Ted Warmbrand, host. Contact Ted at
402 S. Star, Tucson, AZ 85719
The show weaves thematic programs with an eye on both new material and old. Children's music is an integral element. Ted is a long-time member of the People's Music Network and an early supporter of Pass It On!

CALIFORNIA

KPFK-FM Uncle Ruthie Buell, host
P.O. Box 8639 Universal City, CA
91608 Uncle Ruthie is a CAMAL member.
(Children's Artists Making a Living)

INDIANA

WETL-FM "Radio Rainbow," Jerry Limbert
635 So. Main, South Bend, Indiana 46614
Station has several local programs including many for schools.

MASSACHUSETTS

WMBR-FM "Rainbow Tales" hosted by Betty Lehrman; 3 Ames St. Cambridge MA 02140
Betty is a member of the Children's Music Network (see recording listed Issue 1)

WUMB-FM "The Children's Radio Space," Barry Monteith, age 11, is the host. Univ. of Mass., Harbor Campus Boston, MA 02125

MISSOURI

KOPN-FM Children's Director, Tina Hubbs
915 E. Broadway, Columbia Missouri 65201
The station is school oriented and very involved in children's programming. Tina is a specialist on using children in radio production.

NEW JERSEY

WFDU-FM "Imagination Parade," Paul Butler host, 795 Cedar Lane, Teaneck NJ 07668
Paul and his co-worker Joanna Lettera are members of the Children's Music Network. See "News and Celebrations" section.

Another resource is Glenda Donovan who hosted a children's program which is now off the air. She is a reporter at WFCR for "Around New England" which airs before "All Things Considered." Glenda suggests that performers contact her when travelling to the western Massachusetts area for an interview. WFCR-FM Hampshire House, Univ. of Mass., Amherst, MA 01003 (413) 545-0100

For a list of over 200 college and community radio stations that play political music:

National Federation of Community Broadcasters
1314 14th St. NW
Wash. DC 20005

REVIEWING CHILDREN'S RECORDINGS

Jill Jarnow is collecting records and tapes of contemporary children's music and assembling a book, due at her publisher's in late fall. She may still be interested in more material. Send to 83 Highland Ave., Northport, NY 11768.

* * * * GAFS CORRECTED * * * * *

Wrong zipcode righted:

You can contact TICKLE TUNE TYPHOON at P.O. Box 15153 Seattle, WA 98115
Issue Two included a listing of their new recording, "All of Us Will Shine."

NEWS AND CELEBRATIONS!

5

I want to open this section of taking joy in each other's news, celebrating each other's successes with these words by Meridel Le Sueur, celebrating the songs of Larry Long, and celebrating the work of all of us in every type of contribution.



Out of muteness, silence and pain there comes a song. It rises from the earth, the exploitation, work and sorrow of the people. It rises from struggle kept alive in our wonderful multiplicity, and sounds the tenderness of our solidarity.

Bird song, people song, from the lost and gone mute, out of the corpse of our death we sing.

Then our joyous singer, like Larry Long, comes to where we are working, where we are living, and listens, repeats like a mockingbird or notes of nightingales or meadowlarks, makes songs out of the first and last breath. He sings where we are, about what is happening. He takes the real sound, the real words, and gives us back our songs and we hear what singers we all are and how beautiful, and how strong.

Meridel Le Sueur



LARRY LONG RETURNS TO SOVIET UNION

Larry Long is frequently compared to Woody Guthrie, for his traveling of American roads for more than a decade. He has sparked peace cruises on the Mississippi and the Volga with his music, and sees these rivers as symbols of mutual understanding. His recent 1988 Soviet trip is documented in his new recording. Box 9601, Minneapolis, MN 55440

PICKLEBERRY PIE WINS PARENTS CHOICE AWARD

"Pickleberry Pie," a nationally syndicated radio program for children ages 3 to 8 received the Parents' Choice Award, May 1988, for excellence in children's media. (See feature article, page one). The judges cited the Pickleberries singular talent to champion "everything that is small" and referred to the program as "a model in its field." The producer is P.J. Swift.

FRED KOCH RECEIVES EXEMPLARY TEACHING AWARD

Fred Koch, composer and producer of the "This Lil' Cow" line of children's recordings, was one of sixteen winners of the Kohl International Prize for Exemplary Teachers. The Kohl Awards are designed to focus international attention on education by recognizing outstanding teachers for their innovative teaching methods, commitment, sensitivity and courage. Congratulations! Contact: Red Rover Records PO Box 6490 Evanston, IL 60202 (312) 673-5566

IMAGINATION PARADE EXPANDS ITS STUDIO SHOWS

Paul Butler, producer/host, and Joanna Lettera of Imagination Parade, a children's radio show from WFDU FM, announce that Fairleigh Dickinson University where they are based is giving them a 400 seat theater to fill each month. The University is proud of the response to their three year show, which "blends stories, songs, contests and imaginative pieces to create a program that supports the child in all of us" Their in-studio performance/live shows will feature performers for 30 - 40 minutes each month. Contact: WFDU FM 795 Cedar Lane, Teaneck, New Jersey, 07668

SARAH PIRTLE RECEIVES NATIONAL BOOK AWARD

An Outbreak of Peace (New Society Publishers, Phila.), young adult novel by Sarah Pirtle, received the 1988 Olive Branch Award from N.Y.U.'s Center for War, Peace, and the News Media for "the outstanding book on the subject of world peace."

NSP Box 582, Santa Cruz, CA 95061. \$11.50 ppd.

ELLEN GREIST IN MUSIC EXCHANGE

Ellen participated in an artists' exchange this summer sponsored by the New Haven - Avignon Sister Cities Program. She writes, "I hope to bring some of the wonderful music of our group to the children of southern France,"

CAMAL CREATING CHANUKAH CASSETTE

Marcia Berman and other members of CAMAL -- Don Crow, Uncle Ruthie, Fred Sokolow, and J.P. Nightingale -- are working on a recording of Chanukah music. CAMAL 570 N. Arden Blvd. LA CA 90004

YOU ARE ENCOURAGED ...

to send in news of your work and travels!!

ANDROMEDA ★

Sample verses:

You're sitting on the school bus, starin'
out the window.
Too late to do your homework or to study for
the quiz!
And you're wishing that some alien would
take you to Andromeda!
'Cause they don't have any homework where
Andromeda is!

Dear dentist..I couldn't floss or gargle
I couldn't brush my teeth
Though I was dying to do it.
But, this teeny-greeny alien took me to
Andromeda...where it's diplomatically
insensitive to froth and spit!

©1987 Words and music by Jan Harmon

Lead sheet: 5 verses and a chorus.

Jan Harmon P.O. Box 386 Camden, ME 04843
See RESOURCES for her 3 books of rounds.

I'VE GOT THE RIGHT TO FEEL SAFE ★

Sample verses:

When I'm on a swing set & I swing up real high,
I'm way above the ground, almost in the sky.
I like that scary feeling when I'm at the top.
But if I feel too frightened, I can always stop.

In the pit of my stomach or right inside my heart
A feeling gives me warning,
when something scary starts.
I'm learning to pay attention when that's going on
It might mean I'm a little bit thrilled
or that something's really wrong.

Lead sheet: 4 verses and a chorus

©1987-88 words and music by Stuart Stotts

On "Music in My Mother's House"

Stuart Stotts 169 Ohio Ave. Madison WI 53704

MY SPECIAL FRIENDS AND ME ★

Chorus: Now I know how to walk a new way,
How to talk a new way, how to see a new way.
Now I know how to be a new way,
My special friends taught me.

Verse 5: My friend Joe talks with his hands,
It's a special language he understands,
He knows the world through sight not sound,
New meanings I have found.

Lead sheet: 6 verses and a chorus

©1987 Moonlight Rose Publications

Words and music by Janice Buckner

PO Box 154 Huntington, NY 11743

* Also see "One World" by Lisa Monet
on page 9 of this issue.

WALKING ON MY WHEELS ★

Sample verses:

My name is Terry and I'm nine.
Take a look at this amazing
chair of mine.
Silver & black and the wheels go round.
Just a little push & I really cover ground.

Wasn't that funny when the substitute teacher
asked us to name that silly-looking creature?
I raised my hand & she nearly dropped
her chalk.
She thought I couldn't think, just because
I couldn't walk.

Lead sheet: 6 verses and a chorus.

Mark Cohen is a pediatrician specializing in
developmental disorders.

©1986 Words and music by Mark Cohen

Contact: Mark Cohen 5427 Kensington Place N.
Seattle, WA 98103

MAY THERE ALWAYS BE SUNSHINE ★

(Additional verses; Soviet song)

May there always be people,
May there always be music,
May there always be feelings,
May there always be me.

The same pattern follows for more verses:

May there always be stories/...ideas,
May there...laughter/..always be me.

Kindness/ wellness/ spirit/...be me.

New words by Ruth Block, Big Apple Parents
Paper, 3 Stuyvesant Cval 10G, NYC 10009

CAPTAIN TURTLE ★

He knew so many tricks I scarcely can begin,
Once he made time disappear & brought it back
again/There was once a time, I remember well
He turned water into mud & then he slipped
and fell. (song has real mood of magic)

©1987 Merth (Thomas Knight & Maren Leyla
Cocke) on "Try Just a Little"

Maren Cooke 154 German Cross Rd., Ithaca NY
14850. Lead sheet: 6 verses and a chorus

GUIDELINES FOR THE SONG SWAP:

- *Please enclose a self addressed stamped envelope when writing songwriters for their full lead sheets.
- *Songs by writers in the Children's Music Network are welcome. Indicate what portion you want printed, or let editor choose.
- *No more than 2 songs by the same person will appear within a three issue span.
- *If you have no lead sheet, request that readers send you a blank tape and record for them the complete song.

"WISHES, DREAMS, AND MAGIC BEANS:" DEBBI FRIEDLANDER

One of the exciting projects I undertook this past year was writing a musical with children. They took part in all aspects of the process and product. The script was developed through improvisation. The music was a combined effort; they wrote the words mostly and I did the music. The performance was a power-packed 25 minutes including dance, drama, comedy, dream sequence, chase scene and grand finale. And the name we gave it all was "Wishes, Dreams, and Magic Beans."

Debbi Friedlander PO Box 950, Amherst MA 01004 (413) 259-1412

"BUILDING SONGS TOGETHER:" STUART STOTTS

I do a lot of songwriting with students, mostly elementary, in schools. We sit down, decide what we want to write about, and then brainstorm ideas about the topic. Out of those ideas, we choose a line or two as chorus, and then someone will generate a musical phrase for that line. We build on that, write a whole chorus, and then go on to verses. Someone is always brave enough to sing a musical idea to get the music going. I find my role is mostly as helper with structure and process; I don't have to do much more than that to keep things on track. Whenever possible, I have the kids sing the song with me at a performance, usually that day. Two of the songs on my new tape, "Music in my Mother's House," were written with kids this way.

Stuart Stotts 169 Ohio Ave., Madison WI 53704

ZIPPER SONGS:

Zipper songs are a great way for children to make contributions toward building a song, learn how songs are structured, and feel the affirmation that comes from a whole group singing their idea out loud. What are they? Ruth Pelham has given this name to songs where you can zip out one phrase in a verse and zip in new words. *P.S. (actually, she passes the term on from Lee Hayes)*

For instance, when Ruth is singing her song "Look to the People," the word "courage" can be zipped out in the verse, "Gonna look to the people for courage in the hard times coming ahead," and listeners can create substitutes -- "music," "dancing," "jokes" -- whatever they choose. She has many songs which are excellent zipper material, such as "Under One Sky," the title song of her recording from A Gentle Wind. Contact: Ruth Pelham 775 Myrtle Ave., Albany, N.Y. 12208. Before her trip to the Soviet Union, Ruth worked with the youngsters in Albany she met through her travelling Music Mobile program, and brought songs they created as musical presents on her trip.

Nancy Schimmel suggests "Whoever Shall Have Some Good Friends" (from Sam Hinton's record of the same name) as a great zipper template. Nancy says, "I get the kids to put in their own favorite foods. They get very enthusiastic. This might be a good way to build energy in a group to start a song from scratch. You just arrange the suggested foods in order of complexity and you have a song." Nancy 1639 Channing Way, Berkeley, CA 94703

"DRAMATIC PLAY FOR SONGWRITING WITH EARLY CHILDHOOD AGE:" SARAH PIRTLE

There are two methods I've found useful with 4 - 7 year olds. The first involves fantasy play about animals. I use the Native American eagle song, "Wearing my long wing feathers as I fly," as a basis, keeping the tune but changing the words around for different animals, zipper song style. Children get into small groups of four and make a circle. When the song starts, they become the animal (eagle, dolphin, tiger, horse) and create a story of an event in its life (looking for a lost baby, exploring a new place, getting lost) and then have to return to the group at the end of the song. We share the stories they invented while moving and new song words build from their ideas. Then we dance again to the new words.

Secondly, I've worked with real life events in a dramatic style. Two four year olds had sizeable bug bites, Pippi Cohen Kessler and Anna Erlbaum Rumelt. As Pippi explored by acting out in sequence what it was like to have a bug bite on her eye that swelled up so large she couldn't open her eye in the morning, I wrote down words she said. Together we wrote "The Terrible Bug" (recorded on "The Wind is Telling Secrets"). Pippi decided the bug should fly back to its family and created this verse: "Go back inside your little house in the weeping willow. Climb inside your sleeping bag and hide under your pillow."

★ FOCUS FOR NEXT ISSUE: CHILDREN'S MUSIC AND POLITICS -- WHAT IS APPROPRIATE?

How does music speak about issues of world change and efforts at world healing? Send in your opinions and examples of songs you use. What are appropriate and inappropriate ways of talking to children in music about the ways the world isn't working well?

8 THUMBNAIL SKETCHES



Have you wished that all the thumbnail sketches from the past issues could be organized together so none of the names would be lost? ISSUE SIX of this series will do just that. This means that the third issue next year will carry all the write-ups from the five previous issues. It will be an alphabetical directory of the Children's Music Network.

JANICE BUCKNER, P.O. BOX 154, HUNTINGTON, NY 11743 (516) 421-2231

I've been performing nationally since 1977 solo and as part of a duo SWEET ROSE REVUE. I write songs and collect those well loved or little known on my travels. Recently, I began performing with RAINYDAY SUNSHINE, the Mime who Signs. We met studying ASL Sign Language and married this past June. As my husband Rick is also a doctor who works with physically challenged individuals, our show "SONG AND SIGN/MUSIC AND MIME" and many of my newer songs focus on the theme of ability awareness, and the uniqueness of each person ("It's Great to Be Different," "My Special Friends and Me," "I Can Be Somebody," "Every Single Person Makes the World Go Round"). I have an album cassette available through A GENTLE WIND called "Little Friends for Little Folks" (appropriate 2-8 years old), which people can purchase through the company or by sending \$9.50 (includes postage) to my address above. I hope to record a children's album with the new material this summer. I would love to swap songs with others writing about personal growth through challenges and pride in oneself.

Debbi Friedlander: P.O. Box 950, Amherst, MA 01004 (413) 259-1412

I have been teaching music to young people for 8 years. Most recently my work has been in elementary schools, public and private, and with special needs children through Very Special Arts, Mass. One of the exciting projects I undertook this past year was writing a musical with children (see FOCUS this issue). I perform both for children and with children. I have a cassette available called "I Sing to the Sky" which I recommend for children 2 - 6 years. Please write if you are interested. Please contact me if you have good sources of multi-cultural songs, stories, dances. Also - I'd like to hear others' ideas about "classroom management" and how it affects the creative process!

JOANNE FORMAN COMPOSER, WRITER, PUPPETEER. P.O. Box 1101 Ranchos de Taos NM 87557

Much of my music is for children and/or meant to be performed by children: Dinosauratorio, a musical to be performed by children-chorus, Orff ensemble or piano; a people-puppet Purim musical, It Happened in Shushan; an ecumenical person-puppet musical, No Room at the Inn. My full-length musical, Jonah!, for a cast of adults, children and puppets, will be available January 1989. Other of my 70 odd works are also for children.

I'm especially interested in composer (writer-puppeteer) residencies where I can work with students and teachers to create new works.

My music "Dragonsongs" and "Cave Vaults of the Moon"-- recorded on cassette by Performing Arts Press, P.O. Box 3181 Taos, NM 87571. E.E. Cummings Songs and Lorca Songs are recorded on LP disc by Opus One, P.O. Box 604, Greenville, Maine, 04441.

PURLY GATES Box 27 So. Acworth, N.H. 03607 603 / 835-2382

I am a singer/songwriter and sometimes story-teller working with children in and out of school settings. I have been working with both the Texas and New Hampshire Artist-in-Education programs, and in 1987 did a residency in Micronesia on an N.E.A. grant. I teach instrument building to both children and teachers, as well as songwriting and how to make a "soundscape" using 4-track recording techniques. I have two recordings available, one a tape for children titled "Singin' on a Star" (with David Levine) on A Gentle Wind, the other an adult tape made with my Texas-based partner, titled "Purly Gates and Emily Kaitz." I thrive on songs of humor, and those involving movement, and also greatly appreciate Sarah's efforts to get this newsletter out!

Susan Hoch OLEANNA BOOKS P.O. Box 141020 Minneapolis, MN 55414

I'm an appreciator rather than a performer. I'm a book retailer specializing in good materials for and about young children. Mostly we mail books or sell at preschool conferences. It's a small family business. My two sons help.

MARCIA LANE - 462 AMSTERDAM AV., NYC, NY 10024 (212) 799-1196
I'm a storyteller/musician/singer. I tell stories from a lot of different cultures and countries, some with music, some with American Sign Language, some 'straight'. I do a lot of traveling - last fall I completed a seven week cross-country tour of twenty-two cities, The Amtrak Storytelling Odyssey, and I'm now planning Odyssey II for Jan/Feb 1989. My two cassettes, Tales on the Wind and Stories From the Enchanted Loom, are available from A Gentle Wind.

Barry Louis Polisar Rainbow Morning Music 2121 Fairland Rd. Silver Spring, MD 20904
Barry's seven albums include "Stanley Stole My Shoelace and Rubbed It in His Armpit," "I Eat Kids and Other Songs for Rebellious Children" (his first), and "Off-Color Songs for Kids" (his latest). He is featured regularly on the national radio show, "Kids America." He has two videotapes, one for younger and one for older children, and also offers four books, including "Noises From Under the Rug: A Songbook and More." His most recent news is that he just became a father for the first time --of twins!



BEHIND THE SCENES cont. from page 1
three issues. Our sixth issue will take the form of a directory, based on all thumbnail sketches.

be purchased from New Song Library, Johanna Halbeisen, PO Box 295, Northampton, MA 01061. They are \$6.50 plus postage.

A few months ago I got a letter that helped me a lot: "As you probably realize by now, you've taken on a huge job. It is very important that you not get burnt out. Let people know what kind of help you need"-- Pete Seeger.

Much of the "business" meeting went far beyond network decisions. Each participant got a chance to describe what their involvement with children's music is like right now. We heard what is difficult -- the choices between time for performing and time for booking, the agonizing feeling of having no new songs, feelings of isolation. And in return we gave each other a great deal of support. The circle included a radio show host, teachers, parents, singers, performers, songwriters -- all were welcome.

At the business meeting, Sandy Johnson and Sandy Pliskin offered to be my Massachusetts support team. Originally I had agreed to launch the newsletter and edit it for a year. I've enjoyed the work and will happily continue for another year. After the sixth issue, however, I will need to hand it over to a new editor. PLEASE WRITE if you would like to consider the job!

Above all we felt our connections, both with those present in the circle and with all of you in the wider circle, growing stronger.

With warm wishes,
Sarah

One very exciting development at the meeting was that we decided to sponsor a day long series of Children's Music Network workshops on the Friday before the PMN gathering in June 1989. If you want to offer a workshop, contact TOM SEILING RD #1, Clyde, NY 14433 (315) 587-9512. You'll hear more about plans in the winter newsletter.

ONE WORLD ★

One world, we are one family.
You are my brother, I am your friend.
One voice, we sing together.
We are one people. World without end.

©1988 words and music by Lisa Monet
Creative Center for Peace selected this song as a theme for a video taken to the USSR
Contact Lisa at Circle Sound Productions
PO Box 966 Arcata CA 95521
Appears on Lisa's recording, "Jump Down."

Tape recordings of the Song Swap can

We're taking off! This issue is going out to 300 people. Mail has poured in for this issue. You'll see that reflected in the new long length of pages. I can feel the wind lifting in the sails. Our network is not only launched -- we're skipping along the waves.

Since we wish this to be a seaworthy vessel, I want to set down here three goals of this newsletter and invite you to help bring them to fruition.

First, I want it to be useful. I hope that in each issue you'll find news of at least one recording, resource, or person you want to track down.

Second, I want all of us to get to know each other better through these pages. Like a friend saying with excitement, "You've got to meet them; you two have so much in common," I want it to introduce people to one another.

Part of this is a hope that we can hear each other's news and triumphs through a new filter other than the scarcity model. Aileen Vance's article on page three helps to articulate this difference.

Thirdly, I want the newsletter to have an inclusive format. I hope you will find some "pocket" in the various sections set up here where your own news can go. I try to use everything that is sent. Let me know if I've left something out.

You are invited to send in for the winter issue:

- * Songs by young people--A new section is starting to try to include all ages. Other material (ideas, reviews) also welcome.
 - * Thumbnail Sketches -- camera ready paragraphs with your interests, involvement in children's music, address, and phone number.
 - * Your songs for the SONG SWAP section.
 - * Info. on new recordings and other resources.
 - * Announcements, news, celebrations.
 - * Tips of any sort (job ideas, songbooks seeking material etc.) for other performers
 - * For FOCUS next issue: opinions and experiences on political songs and children.
- The newsletter is here to strengthen the boat that carries us -- our growing network. Thanks for all you do that keeps it humming!

CHILDREN'S MUSIC NETWORK

SARAH PIRTLE, EDITOR
54 THAYER ROAD
GREENFIELD, MA 01301



1st

Hi!
much love!

LISA GARRISON
115 PAYSON AVE 3F
NYC NY 10034

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- Complimentary copy; please subscribe

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