

PASS IT ON!



A NEWSLETTER OF THE CHILDREN'S MUSIC NETWORK

ISSUE: 4 MARCH 1989

WHAT WE STAND FOR

Twenty-six members of "The Children of Selma" flew from Alabama to western Massachusetts this month for a concert with Jane Sapp that ended with a twenty-minute standing, cheering ovation with tears streaming down the faces of both audience and performers. Last February the group recorded their first album on Rounder Records (see New Recordings) with this title song:

Who will speak for the children?
Who will scream out their pain?
Who will tell the children
All aboard this love train?

This song and all the other powerful songs by Rose Sanders, the electrifying voices of the 22 members whose ages span 10 to 20, and their presence shining through, not only inspired us in the audience but gave us the experience of truth spoken, and bridges being built right there and then.

In this issue we celebrate the voices of young people rising to be heard. We feature the work of "The Children of Selma" and of "The Unlimited," a band of teenagers from Maine who work together in the peace organization, "It's Our World, Too." Also, Ruth Pelham describes her work writing songs with children in her article, "Creative Empowerment," and Bob Reid calls forth the essence of our network, promoting songs of world change, in his article, "Political Music," in the Focus section.

Listings of new recordings and thumbnail sketches of members of our network have poured in as never before. With the strength of our organization swelling, we center here on the young people we sing for, about, and with.

The audience at the Massachusetts concert was primarily white; the members of "The Children of Selma" are African-American. Performers told Andrea Kandel, who organized the event, "We have never been received this well anywhere. It was one of the few times we have come in contact with white people who are willing to fight against racism."

Jane Sapp talked about bridge building between people of color and white people. She said that white people have to go way beyond talking about respecting differences of skin color; "When we hold hands, I want to know your hand won't slip away because you lack an understanding of my history and my pain." The deeper work is to sing

THE CHILDREN OF SELMA

by Andrea Kandel

Editor's note: "The Children of Selma" came to western Massachusetts, March 1989, through the year-long organizing efforts of Andrea Kandel, who works at the Housing Services of University of Massachusetts. The group performed at a local junior high school and stayed with local families.

"The Children of Selma" are community children from the historic city where memories of the Civil Rights movement continue as living history.

The children came together through the Black Belt Arts and Cultural Center (B'BACC, pronounced Bee-Bak), founded in 1972 as an organization devoted to reaching out to rural youth through the arts. (cont. on page 2.)

THE UNLIMITED

A peace group only for young people began in Maine in 1982 when eleven year old Paul Gravelle was told only adults could sign a Nuclear Freeze petition. He responded by creating a children's peace petition now having thousands of signatures from all over the nation and an organization only for young people.

Paul, now eighteen, and the group he helped to found, "It's Our World, Too" has persisted in their peace work through concerts of original music, public speaking and free newsletters. This month they have released a cassette of seven songs by Paul Gravelle and Becky McDonald. See New Recordings for more details.

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Subscriptions are \$6 for 3 issues.

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

Next issue: DEADLINE August 15th

EDITORIAL: WHAT WE STAND FOR Cont.

about respecting differences of perspective. How can we in the Children's Music Network sing about unlearning racism from a deeper level? For those in dominant groups, how can we stand as allies with those who are targeted for oppression?

With this issue of the newsletter we remember again our commitment as a network to work against oppression through our music. I think of the words of Rose Sanders sung by "The Children of Selma:"

I want to live, live
the life I sing.

Here's to our network standing up against racism, ageism, classism, homophobia, anti-Semitism -- all the interlocking oppressions. Here's to us courageously communicating with one another and learning together how to unlearn what we are culturally taught. Here's to all our voices rising.

WHAT IS THE CHILDREN'S MUSIC NETWORK?

In January 1987 children's songwriters and performers met to form a support network with this common vision: "We care about music which is empowering, which promotes affirmation, nonviolence, and cooperation -- values which help create a safe and equitable planet."

Recognizing that children's music is rapidly becoming a growing commercial industry, we wanted to link and support children's musicians not only to encourage cooperation rather than competition with one another, but particularly to promote our work as a powerful means of building such values.

Children turn to the arts and entertainment with a hunger to learn about the world. For many youngsters, empowering music is their main link to a world of possibility and peace. This means children's music is a major force for promoting cooperative values, envisioning a positive future, and building an understanding of peace and social justice issues in the American culture today.

Our network links performers, parents, teachers and young people who support peace, justice, and environmentally oriented music and want to hear about the new work in the field. CMN grew out of the People's Music Network and meets at their bi-annual gatherings, such as at Camp Thoreau this June 2nd, with more details in the article inside this issue. Since these gatherings are east-coast based geographically, it is important to us that children's music advocates all over the country are included and linked in these pages.

THE CHILDREN OF SELMA cont. from page 1

by Andrea Kandel

These young people combine their extraordinary talents and zest for life to use theater and music to inspire and teach as they learn. Their songs span the range of events of the world, with a focus on how those events affect the lives of black children in the rural south, while carrying a message for children and adults alike.

At the heart of B'BACC is Rose Sanders, an attorney, community organizer, mother, singer, and songwriter extraordinaire. Rose Sanders' idea for the Center is based on one principle: that by performing plays with positive social messages, economically disadvantaged children might be encouraged to do something with their lives.

Any money made from the performances goes to B'BACC. The center is located in a renovated warehouse in a neighborhood of mostly poor elderly black. In addition to housing the "Children of Selma" program, the building also accomodates a day-care center, an after-school tutoring program, and MOMS, Mother of Many, a non-profit organization that helps underprivileged children and adults. Rose Sanders started all of the programs, and all of the programs grew out of B'BACC.

Classes are held on many evenings at the center and are open to anyone. Topics include Black history, drama, dance, and creative writing. Nights and weekends are spent rehearsing plays or travelling to performances in Mrs. Sanders' van.

In return for her help, Mrs. Sanders asks the children to be model citizens -- that they help others, encourage adults to vote and go to college, if possible. Three B'BACC grads are currently in college using scholarship money raised from the plays. The children in B'BACC all speak highly of Rose Sanders. A B'BACC regular, Robbie Fuller, 17, said, "A lot of us would have gone astray if it weren't for Rose."

* * * *

IMPORTANT NOTE: Next year, March 1990, is the 25th anniversary of the march from Selma to Montgomery. Couldn't we in the Children's Music Network, commemorate this important event with events in our own communities, with working with children's choirs in our area, and perhaps for some, travelling to Alabama?!!

SEND IN NEWS OF CHILDREN'S MUSIC GATHERINGS
IN YOUR REGION OF THE COUNTRY!

PETER AND MARY ALICE AMIDON: ALL I REALLY NEED

Here the Amidons collect the songs children have liked best in their ten years of performing, including Dylan's "Forever Young," the title song by Raffi, Walter Robinson's "Harriet Tubman," as well as songs from the oral tradition like "Zodiac" and "Country Life." Banjo, guitar, piano, and accordion accompany the Amidons' characteristic strong harmonies. Send: \$9 + \$1 postage to Mary Alice Amidon 6 Willow St., Brat. VT. 05301

BANANA SLUG STRING BAND: DIRT MADE MY LUNCH

With Mark Nolan on mandolin, Doug Greenfield on string bass, Larry Graff on guitar and Steve Van Zandt on banjo, this second recording of BSSC continues to offer funny fast-paced music on nature, ecology and conservation. The tape is \$9 (\$1 postage) and they have an accompanying songbook for \$4 from BSSB PO Box 717 Pescadero CA 94060

MARCIA BERMAN: MARCIA BERMAN SINGS LULLABIES!

Marcia takes popular big band standards like "Lullaby of Birdland" and transforms them into magical lullabies. Also includes the Beatles' "Good Night" and Irving Berlin's "Russian Lullaby" as well as the rollicking "Pajamas." Well-known for her lilting voice and her keen song selection, Marcia has released ten albums. All are available from B/B Records 570 N. Arden Blvd., LA CA 90004. \$10.95 for record or cassette plus 10% shipping (\$2 minimum).

BING BINGHAM: A RAINBOW OF SONGS

Twelve joyful songs of friendship with wonderful musical variety dance on this album ranging from the warmth of "In Grandma's Garden" to the rhythmic "I Love the Island." Bing co-hosted the educational program, "Getting the Most Out of TV" and keys into kids' concerns. Order from Kimbo Educational, PO Box 477, Long Branch, NJ 07740 for \$9.95 plus 10% for shipping.

JANICE BUCKNER: EVERYBODY'S SPECIAL! -- SONGS FOR GROWING CHILDREN (ages 2 to 102)

Twelve original songs by Janice touch the heart and mind, focusing on the uniqueness of each individual and appreciating one another's abilities and differences. A Songbook/Activity Guide includes lyrics and discussion ideas, projects and activities. Both included for \$10.75 ppd. Songs include "I Can Talk with My Hands" (Janice is knowledgeable in Sign Language for the Deaf), "Rockaby with Grandma" and "My Special Friends and Me." Write: Box 154 Huntington NY 11743

TWO RECORDINGS BY YOUNG PEOPLE

• **THE CHILDREN OF SELMA: WHO WILL SPEAK FOR THE CHILDREN** (see cover articles)

Rose Sanders wrote the 12 songs of this recording, produced by Cathy Fink and co-produced by Jane Sapp who plays piano with Mike Steel on drums. Titles include: "If Children Rule the World," "Black is Beautiful," "We Grow Up Young," and "I Just Want to Be Me." Twenty-four young people create the outstanding vocals. Order from Rounder Records, One Camp St., Cambridge, Ma. 02140 or ask for Rounder C-8008.

- **THE UNLIMITED: UNIVERSE OF HOPE** (see article)
Seven songs by Paul Gravelle and Becky McDonald, teen members of "It's Our World, Too" have been recorded by Rennie Flettrich at his studio in Bangor, Maine with strong electric guitar solos, wailing sax, drums and vocals by members of the group. Flute, keyboards and bass guitar pull together for strong effective rock rhythms. Titles include "Planet That I Love" and "Peace is Catching." Order from IOWT P.O.Box 326, Winterport ME 04496 for \$8. The band is seeking help with distribution of their tape.



CATHERINE HALL: SONGS FOR CHILDREN

With a crystal clear voice and a tinkling dulcimer, Catherine presents a bouquet of gentle ballads and lullabies. Both original songs and poems set to music by Emily Dickinson, John Masefield, and George MacDonald are on this tape, giving it a haunting magical quality with lyrics such as "God and the Fairies, be true; I am the child who waits for you!" from Louise Nicholl. Send \$9 ppd. to Old Town School of Folk Music 909 Armitage Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60614.

JAN HARMON: HAIL TO THE OX AND RINGS & CIRCLES

There are now teaching tapes available for Jan's popular songbooks of original rounds. The tapes are \$6 alone or \$5 with the books (\$10 tape & book). About 15 of her "witty, beautiful, topical, and delightfully silly" rounds are on each of the two tapes above. MOON TREE is Jan's newest book of illustrated very simple rounds for beginners based mostly on one chord so they are especially for kids. Order from: Jan Harmon Box 386, Camden, Maine 04843.



PRISCILLA HERDMAN: STARDREAMER - NIGHT SONGS AND LULLABYES (produced by Abby Newton)
Contemporary songs like Marcy Marxer's "Time to Sleep," Kim Wallach's "First Star Lullaby" and "Moon Upon the Left" by David Mallet are set with old favorites like "Goodnight Irene" featuring verses about animals and the beds they choose, and a Robert Louis Stevenson poem, "The Moon" which Priscilla set to music. Musicians include Jay Unger, Artie Traum, Cindy Mangsen and Anne Hills (adding their voices for 3 part harmonies). Lyrics on back. Released on Alacazam records.

KATHI LIGHTSTONE MATANOVIC: BIG MUSIC
Kathi tells stories about a mythical logging camp adapted from the book, Up Eel River by Margaret Prescott Montague from 1928. The Johnny Appleseed and Paul Bunyan type folk hero is a man preoccupied with the small wonders and big questions of life. It includes the story, "Owning the Earth," all with music by Nancy Rumbel and Milenko Matanovic. Order from: Pomegranate Productions, Box 676, Issaquah, WA, 98027 for \$9.95 plus postage of 10%.

KATHI & MILENKO, NANCY RUMBEL & FRIENDS: GOOD MORNING, GOOD NIGHT
This 1988 Parents' Choice Award winner is from Lightworks Productions. Milenko Matanovic composed music for poems by Robert Louis Stevenson, Margaret Wise Brown, David Spangler, Emily Bronte and others, arranged by Nancy Rumbel. The songs are full of flute and harp music and have a poetic quality that invites sweet dreaming. Order from: Pomegranate Productions, see above.

JANE MURPHY: JOURNEY INTO SPACE
Al Dana, Janice Hardgrove, and Yvonne Lewis sing Jane Murphy's 12 songs bringing scientific facts to life ("The Planet Song") and imaginatively exploring the mysteries of space ("Weightless Workout," "Footsteps on the Moon"). Dennis Buck's musical arrangements are varied and lively, in a tape geared to be both educational and fun. LP or cassette and guide are \$10.50 plus 10% shipping from KIMBO, Box 477, Long Branch, NJ 07740

ESTHER NELSON: EVERYBODY SING AND DANCE
Esther's sixth movement and music tape accompanies her newest book for teachers and parents of young pre-school and early childhood ages. The more than 70 songs include fingerplays, circle time, group dances, songs for moving through space, and rhythm band. It is packaged with the book of 192 pages, for \$18.90. Write Dimension Five, Box 403, Kingsbridge Station, Bronx, NY 10463 to order her cassettes (\$9.95) or her book and tape series, such as "The Silly Songbook," and partake of her rich collections.

TOM PAXTON: BALLOON-ALOON-ALOON
Ballads like "The Monkeys' Baseball Game" and "Allen Gator," mingle with "The Thing That Isn't There" in the closet at night which grownups are also afraid of, and "The Crow That Wanted to Sing" whose breakthrough comes when he thinks about those he loves while he sings. This is Tom's third release on his own Pax cassette label. Recordings are \$10 plus \$1 shipping from Pax Records, 78 East Park Place, East Hampton, NY 11937.

BETSY ROSE: IN MY TWO HANDS
Betsy brings her lyric poetry and haunting music to the interface of engaged Buddhism, earth-centered spirituality, and women's consciousness. Children will love "Taste and See" with a memorable melody that stays deeply rooted once heard, and the rounds, "Walking Gatha" and "Standing like a tree." A musical feast. Teens will be drawn to "Seneca Moon" and "Five Rivers" from the Buddhist Heart Sutra. \$12 ppd. from Parallax Press Box 7355, Berkeley CA 94707

LINDA SCHRADE: SLEEPYTIME SERENADE
Linda's warm, rich voice has graced many recordings produced by A Gentle Wind. Here on her first solo cassette she collects favorite traditional lullabies like "Golden Slumbers" and wonderful contemporary works by Gordon Lightfoot, Sarah Pirtle, and Paul Strausman with fifteen selections to soothe and lull both children and adults. Order from: A Gentle Wind (\$7.95 plus \$2.25 postage) Box 3103, Albany, N.Y. 12203.

SEND IN INFORMATION ON YOUR NEW RECORDINGS!

The goal of these listings is not to review but to illuminate the positive qualities of each recording submitted by a CMN member.

You are encouraged to send in your own description, condensed to a few sentences, including where it can be ordered and its price.

< MORE NEW RECORDINGS >

BOB STROMBERG: FAMILY PICTURES

Bob, a New England based performer, has collected original family stories and tells them with a musical score composed and performed by Dwayne Condon. With warmth and humor Bob brings to life "The Miracle at Stinky Bay," "The Goose," "My Grandparent's House," and "Family Pictures." Order from: Stream Mountain Entertainment, P.O. Box 86, Blandford MA 01008 for \$10.50 postpaid.

JIM VALLEY: DINOSAUR RIDE

Jim's fourth recording is a treasure chest of joyous, and spirited songs about dinosaurs, whales, waterfalls, an endangered imaginary species and the concerns of children. Many songs were created with young people in his Friendship Workshops and put to music by Jim, like "I'm the Only One of Me" by a Tacoma, WA. fifth grade class. The infectious melodies were arranged for a variety of instruments including sax, English horn, oboe, and synthesizer. Order from Rainbow Planet 5110 Cromwell Drive, Gig Harbor, WA 98335.

NEXT STEPS



The Children's Music Network (CMN) is certainly growing, and with this growth comes the possibility of more activities, more ways of linking together. This newsletter began as a means of stretching across the miles. As you read through these pages other possibilities of linkage will leap out. Here are some to notice:

- * The large number of people working specifically with environmental music. See Colburn and Stuart, for example, in the News and Celebrations section, and Dave Orleans and the Banana Slug String Band in Thumbnail Sketches. What could be a next step?
- * The idea of working more specifically and visibly around justice and oppression issues. Is linking with the 25th anniversary of the march from Selma to Montgomery something we want to do as a network? How could we organize to make this happen?
- * The readiness to bring music educators and CMN performers/workshop leaders/songwriters together into dialogue so that our resources are more widely known. See Kate Unger's statement at the end of the Thumbnail Sketches for a starting point. You'll also notice CMN members like Jim Valley, Ruth Pelham, and Bob Reid referring to their music workshops in schools. How can a more conscious linkage develop? How can our resources become more widely known to music educators?
- * The exciting developments in children's radio. Last issue we featured Pickleberry Pie (see p. 8 for their new address). This issue Jamie Deming announces her program on Long Island, also p. 8, and Tina Hubb, Children's Director at KOPN in Missouri, whose conferences on the New Generation in radio have inspired many in CMN, shares an idea for classroom teachers. Ted Warmbrand of KXCI-FM in Tucson is one of the early members of CMN. What might be next steps for this group? How can others in CMN further their work?
- * The intergenerational aspect of our network. "The Children of Selma" and "The Unlimited" remind us that CMN includes young people. How can our CMN workshops at the People's Music gathering include young people even more? How can our network stay alert for our own ageism? What are steps we could take to be more intergenerational?

What we are trying to delineate in this issue is that no matter what our role is -- be we teacher, parent, store owner, singer -- we are joining together in CMN because we share certain values. We are trying to resist the tendency to be divided by financial difficulties we all encounter or by the star/glory/success syndrome which slices through our culture. Bob Reid's questions in FOCUS are part of this effort to keep ourselves on track. This means we'll be growing together not just in a measureable way of size or new projects but we'll be growing through the questions we ask ourselves and the beacon we fix upon.

CHILDREN'S MUSIC NETWORK MEETING JUNE 2nd

During the Children's Music Network meeting which took place at the January People's Music Network Gathering in Philadelphia, a lot of enthusiasm was expressed for plans to have the Children's Network meet from 1:00 - 5:00 PM on Friday June 2nd before the weekend People's Music Network gathering in Pine Bush, N.Y. at Camp Thoreau June 2 - 4, at the same site.

During a brainstorming session about what topics to focus on at the June meeting, the general consensus was to not break up into small topic groups but instead to stay together and divide the four hours into two time blocks. One block would focus on getting to know each other better and to strengthen our personal and professional bonds. The other would focus on future directions and structure for the Children's Music Network. There was also discussion about planning a weekend gathering for the network in the future.

Other topics discussed included the need for Children's Music Network members to send in more material for our newsletter (ed. note: this reminder worked!), to possibly help with fundraising, and for all of us to share in the responsibility of keeping the editor's job a manageable one. We all agreed that Sarah Pirtle was doing a wonderful joy of editing the newsletter and shared our appreciation for her generous contributions of labor, love and creativity.

Much appreciation was expressed for the network itself and we agreed its existence was increasingly important to us as songwriters, performers, educators and people who generally care about children and children's music.

by Ruth Pelham, Meeting Convener

COORDINATOR FOR **June** MEETING:



Tom Sieling
RD #1, Clyde, NY 14433

If you can't attend this meeting and would like to give your input, please write or call Tom Sieling or Sarah Pirtle. They can also answer any questions.

THE NEWSLETTER CONUNDRUM

Our original vision was for the job of newsletter editor to be rotated. The Advisory Board of CMN is now looking either (a) for a new editor who has the option of redesigning the newsletter in a whole new way, or (b) more systems of support for Sarah, including a means for funding her work for the network. Please consider whether you'd like to help in some way.

"MAKING MUSIC WITH CHILDREN" AT ASHOKAN

Last July in the Catskill Mountains of New York, we held our first "Making Music with Children" weekend put together by Mary Alice Amidon and Mary Cay Brass. Also on staff were Peter Amidon and David Kaynor. The program focused on material of interest to teachers, performers, and librarians who work with children.

This summer, "Making Music with Children" will expand to a three and a half day program from Sunday July 30th to Wednesday August 2nd. The staff will again include Peter and Mary Alice Amidon and Mary Cay Brass with the addition of John Krumm, David Levine, and Sarah Pirtle.

The extra time in the program will allow us to include workshops in "Techniques for presenting music and dance in the classroom," "Songwriting and composing with kids," and "Building self esteem through music" as well as have more time for feedback, questions, and sharing from participants. There will also be activities and classes for young people this year!

Last summer people came away with a wealth of songs, dances, singing games and stories to share with young people. The many positive comments received included, "The staff was beautifully prepared and organized with helpful handouts. All was well presented and fun. A wealth of information."

If you would like more information or if you have a suggestion of how we can spread the word, please write or call:

MOLLY MASON FIDDLE & DANCE WORKSHOP
RD 1, Box 489, West Hurley NY 12491

by Molly Mason

THESE ARE THE MEMBERS OF THE INTERIM
CMN ADVISORY BOARD

Ruth Pelham 775 Myrtle Ave.

Albany, NY 12208 (518) 482-9154

Sandy Johnson 506 Pine Street

Amherst, MA 01002 (413) 549-4011

Phil Hoose 8 Arlington St.

Portland, Maine 04101 (207) 874-0415

At the June 2nd meeting the Board will be set up more formally with a widely representative membership and clear jobs and project committees. We want to give CMN a solid structural foundation so we can insure our longevity!

CHILDREN'S MUSIC COMPANIES



CMN members include people who promote children's music by producing and distributing cassettes, records and books. Here are four:

* A GENTLE WIND Box 3103, Albany, NY 12203

Families turn to the Gentle Wind catalog to learn of their new cassettes of music and storytelling. Their collection of over 50 tapes they've produced keeps growing including the work of CMN members Faith Petric, Purly Gates, Nancy Tucker, Doug Lipman & more. Contact: Jill Person (518) 436-0391

* CHILDREN'S SMALL PRESS COLLECTION

719 North Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Their catalog serves small children's bookstores, libraries, schools, and homes. Artists are encouraged to submit tapes & LP's for distribution consideration. They purchase at 55% off retail on consignment. Contact: Kathleen Baxter (313) 668-8056

* KIMBO EDUCATIONAL 10 North Third Ave.
Long Branch, N.J. 07740

Best known for early childhood music and specialization in movement and educational products, Kimbo has resources for all ages. Amy Laufer chooses products once a year for the September catalog. Tapes, videos, books and records listed on a variety of themes, such as Developing Values, Health, Science. Contact: 1-800-631-2187 toll free

* MUSIC FOR LITTLE PEOPLE Box 1460
Redway, CA. 95560

Their inviting colorful catalog of 24 pages introduces resources from a variety of artists and companies like CMN members Jim Valley, Lisa Monet, and Bill Harley. Tapes, LP's, videos, books and musical instruments such as marimbas & lapharps are featured. Contact: 1-800-346-4445 toll free

NEW ENGLAND STORYTELLING (L.A.N.E.S.)

The League for the Advancement of New England Storytelling is a new, grassroots organization of storytellers and story-listeners. Goals include:

1. To nurture the work and support the community of both professional and non-professional storytellers at local and regional levels.
2. To act as a resource for both storytellers and the general public in promoting the growth of and disseminating information about stories, storytelling and storytellers.
3. To provide a link to other regional and national storytelling organizations.

LANES publishes a newsletter five times yearly, produces the annual "Sharing the Fire" storytelling congress in March, and is involved in a variety of projects ranging from retreats to the publication of a "Storytelling New England" yearbook directory. \$25/year membership. Contact: Robert Harris, 6 Round Hill Rd., Northampton, MA 01060 (413) 586-8390

STORYTELLING ON RADIO?

If your radio program specializes in storytelling or includes storytelling as part of its format, contact Betty Lehrman soon. She's compiling a national list to be distributed through the National Asso. for the Preservation and Perpetuation of Storytelling (NAPPS). Write: L.A.N.E.S. 99 Arlington St., Brighton, MA 02135 Betty is editor of the LANES Museletter and produces "Rainbow Tales," WMBR-FM

MADISON, WI. RADIO: Gloria Hays

Gloria Hays features one hour of music for the "Young at Heart" each week and hosts a Thursday morning show featuring international folk music with a special focus on musicians of the Midwest. Please send recordings and let her know if you can be a guest on the station. WORT 89.9 FM 118 S. Bedford, Madison, WI 53703 or call the station at (608) 256-2001

NORTHLANDS STORYTELLING NETWORK

Contact Larry Johnson and Elaine Wynne, "Key of See" storytellers, to network with tellers in Iowa, Illinois, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. Larry also has an EDUCATORS AND STORYTELLING PACKET reprinting articles and research for \$4 ppd. Write to Box 9907, Minneapolis MN 55458.



"ECO SALOON" OPENS IN N.Y.C.

Larry Bloch announces the opening of a blues club in downtown Manhattan with regular events focusing on environmental and social issues. Each Sunday from 5 to 7 there will be performers, speakers, and films. Contact Larry at 161 Hudson St., NYC 10013 or call (212) 966-5244

STARLIGHT

Sample verse and chorus:

This world is such a big place
And I'm so very small
As I lie in bed with the lights all out
My parents' voices down the hall
And my lamp looks like a monster's head
There's something creeping toward my bed
I pull the covers over my head
And I say my magic charm

I say star light, star bright
Don't let the darkness eat up the light
Don't let me lie awake all night
Till the morning comes
Star light, star shine
Tell me everything's just fine
And the world is turning right on time
Morning always comes.

© Words and music by Betsy Rose 1986
Lead sheet: 4 verses and chorus
Recorded on "Wings Against the Sky"
Betsy Rose, 1527 Milvia, Berkeley CA 94709

WHY NOT?

Sample verses and chorus:

1. When a girl grows up can she drive a truck?
Can her time be spent as the President?
Can she fly to space?
Build a bridge any place?
Can you tell me why not?

CHO: Why not? Why not?

We can be anything we want to be
Why not? Why not?

If boys can do it, then girls can do it.
If other girls can do it, then why not me?

2. When a boy grows up, does he have to be tough?
Can he cry when he's hurt?
Can he iron a shirt?
Can he stay at home to raise kids
'til they're grown?
Can you tell me why not?

© Words and music by Patricia Shih, 1988
Lead sheet: 4 verses and chorus
Fragile Glass Music Publishing, Shih Enterprises
27 Oakland St., Huntington, NY 11743

WHEN EVERYONE IS FREE © words and music by Doug Lipman, 1988

♩ = 50

When ev-ery one is free, when ev - ery one is free; Then

I shall be, then I shall be, Then I shall be tru-ly free.

Zipper Song: "when everyone ...has a home/knows more joy/is safe/has peace"
Doug Lipman PO Box 441195 Somerville MA 02144

WILDERNESS MAGICIAN

Sample verse:

Tiptoe, tiptoe, lightly on the land
Never leave a clue that you were here.
Wilderness magician,
with your sleight of hand,
You can make a campsite
completely disappear.

© words and music by Nancy Schimmel, 1988
1639 Channing Way, Berkeley CA 94703
Lead sheet with three verses.

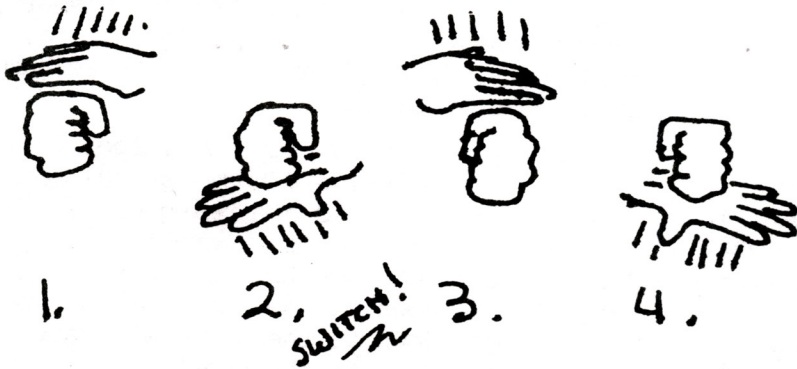
GUIDELINES FOR THE SONG SWAP:

- * Please enclose a self addressed stamped envelope when writing songwriters for their full lead sheet.
- * 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.

Japanese Teapot Song

9

"Cha" is the word for "tea".



Ted Warmbrand brought this song back from Hiroshima, Japan ten years ago. Ted writes that the idea is to make the shape of a single cup teapot with your hands as it's chanted. One hand is the "pot," the other is first the "cover" and then the "base." There are four equal beats as you switch hands after each two moves. This repeats either keeping the hands rolling along without any pauses to make it easier to learn, or, as it was shown to Ted, with the action freezing at each quarter rest and then continuing on where the hands left off. Either way, when you reach "SHYO!" and your pot is "covered" -- you know you've got it!

English translation of the words:

Here you see my little teapot.
There the top is, now you see it's not.
So we take the bottom off
and put it on the top!

Ted Warmbrand, 402 S. Star
Tucson, Arizona 85719

HARMONY

(about best friends)

You and me, we're a special pair
Side by side, going everywhere,
You're my left arm, I'm your right,
We stick together like day & night,
And we got harmony...harmony.

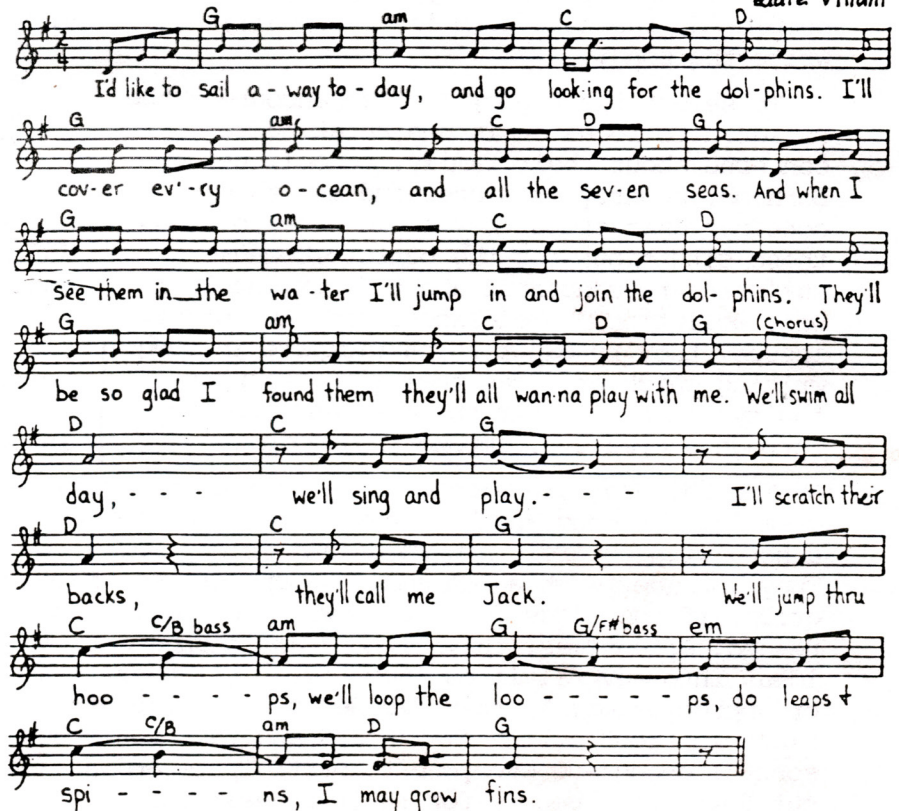
You and me, we're a special team,
Side by side
Dreaming dream by dream,
And every moment rain or shine
I'm your best friend & you are mine.
The two of us are doing fine,
And we got harmony...harmony.

© 1978 words and music by
Bing Bingham, Single Shanty Music
Lead sheet: 4 verses (1 & 4 above)
Recorded on "A Rainbow of Songs"
by Kimbo Educational. Contact Bing:
Vail Lane, RD1, North Salem NY
10560. See p.21, for more info.

Tony Soll 862 Union St. Apt 5K Brooklyn
NYC 11215

See Thumbnail Sketches
about his album with
Nancy Silber where this
song appears.

THE DOLPHIN SONG © 1976 Tony Soll and Eddie Villani



2. And when they get to know me well I'll be like one of the dolphins.
They won't go anywhere without me 'cuz I'll hang on to their tails.
And if a shark should try to bite me I'll be rescued by the dolphins.
And we'll all go out & hitch a ride on the back of a big blue whale.



For the past several years I've been working in schools, parks and community centers to help young people develop their skills and confidence as songwriters. I place equal emphasis on the creative process of writing the song and the group process of cooperation and empowerment.

I often begin the workshop with preliminary activities that have a two-fold purpose. First, I establish an amiable, light-hearted rapport of mutual trust and respect by facilitating a name-sharing activity that involves rhythm, movement and repetition. Oftentimes, this activity generates a lot of laughter which helps to create a friendly, safe environment for learning.

Secondly, I teach the basic elements of songwriting such as rhythm, melody, lyrics, structure, viewpoint, and intent. For example, we'll sing a song the way we know it and then we'll sing it again using the same words with a melody where each note is sung at the same pitch and note value. Singing the song in such a boring, robot-like fashion gives the children a better understanding of what factors contribute to making an interesting and well-constructed melody.

After these preliminary activities are completed, the next step is to actually write the song.

To select the topic, I often encourage the children to focus on issues relating to their concerns about their family, school, neighborhood, country or planet and ask them to consider what steps they could take to change those situations for the better. Because children are concerned about drugs, nuclear war, pollution, homelessness and many other issues, they're eager to participate in songwriting which provides them with an opportunity to voice their thoughts and feelings through a creative, empowering medium.

The children are also given a choice of options regarding how they want to go about creating the song and how they want to group themselves. They consider options like writing a song with entirely new words and melody, or writing a song with new words to an old melody. They consider working in small groups of two, three or four people or working as one large group. If the class decides to work in small groups, I'll circulate from group to group as needed. Oftentimes, they'll need assistance getting started or help condensing their many ideas into several lines. Sometimes, all they'll need is a little attention, encouragement or appreciation. If they decide to work together as one large group, they'll all sit on the floor in front of the blackboard and take turns suggesting possible words or lines to the song. I encourage everyone to participate and ask that they all agree to not criticize or put down other people for their suggestions.

During the workshop session, many decisions need to be made by the large and small groups. The decision-making process calls for discussion and evaluation of the options followed by a voting procedure where consensus or majority vote determines the outcome. Through this

(Writing Songs With Children can't page 13)

Get Down to the Heart

©1985 Silver Crane Music ASCAP

Lyrics by Bridget Boshart, Heather Boshart, Tabetha Boshart, Keith Kulpa, Todd Kulpa, David Bradford, Dory Taurdney, Ruth Pelham.
Music by Ruth Pelham

1. I want you to know just how I feel
This feeling inside I know is real
People in the world are being cruel
I know what I'd do if I were to rule.
CHO: So let's get down to the heart
So let's get down to the heart of the world
So let's get down to the world at peace
So let's get down to the heart.
2. I would change the way that people act
People are great and that's a fact.
I would rid the world of hate and greed
Peace we want, Love's what we need. CHO.
3. All over the world we're feeling scared
For nuclear war we're not prepared
Dying's o.k. in a natural way
But violence and war, that's not o.k. CHO.
4. The beauty of the earth we want to keep
But things that we do could make us weep
People are meant to live in unity
Like the water, the sand, the sky
and the trees. CHORUS
5. You've got to hold on to the hope of Life
You've got to hold on to the hope of Peace
We've got to hold on with our hands&hearts
So come on everybody, we all have a part.
CHORUS two times

This song was composed on Saturday June 29th at Delta Lake State Park in New York in 1985 during a music workshop with the Music Mobile and Ruth Pelham. The song was conceived as a gift and a message to the people of the Soviet Union and of the world as a way of helping to bring about peace and understanding. The children who composed the lyrics range in age from six to twelve.



News and Celebrations

COLBURN AND STUART SHARING ENVIRONMENTAL MUSIC IN THE U.S.S.R

11

NEW CHILDREN'S RADIO PROGRAM ON LONG ISLAND

On Jamie Deming's new program, "Kid's Alive," kids write scripts and assist with productions. On the air, kids announce songs, do interviews, give book reports, tell jokes, and read the calendar of events for children on Long Island. WCWP/88.1 FM at Long Island University airs her show weekdays at 4 PM.

Send your recordings in for their library of music and stories. The program is targeted for children ages 6 through 10. Contact: Jamie Deming, President, Children's Radio Productions, Northern, Blvd. East Norwich, N.Y. 11732 (516) 922-7307

1988 PARENTS CHOICE AWARD WINNERS

- * Lisa Atkinson for "I Wanna Tickle the Fish" produced by A Gentle Wind.
- * Tia Cohen for "Tia's Dino-Stew Zoo" (see her Thumbnail SKetch)
- * Pomegranate Productions for "Good Morning, Good Night" (see New Recordings)
- * Cathy Fink for "When the Rain Comes Down"
- * Betty Lehrman for "Watermelon and Other Stories"
- * Bill Harley for "Cool in School-- Tales from the Sixth Grade."
- * Judith Black for "Glad To Be Who I Am"

Jill Jarnow and Laurie Tynan selected these and seventeen other audio-cassette recordings in this tenth year of the awards program for books, movies, toys, and videos as well. To submit your recording for next year, contact:

PARENTS' CHOICE AWARDS

Diana Huss Green 1191 Chestnut Street or P.O. Box 185, Newton, MA 02168

Send \$1 to receive their 44 page awards listing.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION FOR BEN TOUSLEY

Ben's recording, "Standing There With You," was named one of the top 12 folk albums of the year by Princeton, New Jersey radio station WPRB. The review said, "Tousley's ability to begin political writing deep within himself represents the genre at its best." See Ben's thumbnail sketch.

Deborah Stuart and David Colburn of New Hampshire are travelling to the Soviet Union this spring along with the Starbird Puppet Theater to share with Soviet environmental educators through workshops and performances how they use music, puppets, and folklore to teach ecological issues in innovative ways. In their production -- the Lost Nation Revue -- Colburn and Stuart interact with unusual and colorful puppets in a medley of songs and folk tales from Northern New Hampshire.

The Soviet-American Environmental Education Project has arranged their tour. Deborah Stuart is eager to communicate with people about their work. Contact her at Buffalo Road, Wentworth, NH 03282 (603) 764-9948.

MUSICAL PEACE MISSION: U.S.S.R.

Kate Munger travelled with fifteen other singers to the Ukraine and to Moldavia this past August to sing songs with the themes of peace and love, and to sing along with the Soviet people. They sang mostly rounds, chants and lullabies so they would be easy to learn quickly for sing-along.

Now Kate is collecting more rounds and chants for her next trip. She formed a choir of parents who sing rounds with local elementary school children. Kate writes, "I find that rounds are both meditative and energizing because one must sing and listen at the same time. Its the vocal equivalent of quilting. Rounds create a 'vocal community' where every voice is equidistant from the center." Kate Munger, Box 173 Inverness, Ca. 94937

NEW ADDRESSES!

PICKLEBERRY PIE: P.J. SWIFT
305 Dickens Way
Santa Cruz CA 95064
Phone: (408) 427-3980

LISA ATKINSON: Scooptunes
1655 Montemar Way
San Jose, CA. 95125

RED ROVER RECORDS: Fred Koch
911 Woodland Rd.
Lake Bluff, Il. 60044

FOCUS: CHILDREN'S MUSIC AND POLITICS

by Bob Reid

It is the political aspect of Children's Music and the presentation of it that I am eager to see addressed by CMN. The sharing of the idea that this is important political work contrary to the low value that our society puts on children and those who work with them.

I first became involved in performing for children in response to the low quality of what I saw and heard being offered them. Too often "Children's Music" was either a rehash of the same old songs, done in pretty much the same old way, or, it pretended to relate to children by being gross or cute. Too often the musicians seemed to lack creativity, as well as a sense of respect for the people they were performing for. They lacked a sense of what childhood was about and what being a child was like. I remembered childhood including far more than bunnies and dragons and rainbows, and Old Macdonald's farm and simple songs with simple words.

Children walk down the same streets we do. They see far more of life's experiences on television than we ever did with very little acknowledgement of how that affects them. At a time when parents have less time than ever to assist their children in formulating value systems, input from all kinds of media becomes more influential.

I believe that my work with children is my most important political work. In a society whose citizens feel little power to effect change it is important to instill and reinforce in our children that what they do and who they are is important. The state of the world is at any given moment is the result of what we are doing!

As artists who work with young people, I believe that it is important that we be conscious of the nature of our relationship with children. What is our primary goal? To make a living? To educate? To empower? To receive attention? To be a "star"? How does our process of meeting our needs affect those we perform for, work with?

Do we present our art as something that can only be done by "special" people and by doing so do we create "unspecial" people?

Often I have witnessed adults meeting their needs to be special by singing for children because you don't have to be as good a musician or singer as you would for adults.

You needn't be a competent musician, or a great singer because children are much more accepting than are an adult audiences. It is the experience that is important rather than the musicality. It is very possible for someone with a creaky voice, little musical skill, who has difficulty tuning their instrument to share something important. Indeed it is having something important to share that determines the worthwhile and valuable from the trivial and perhaps damaging. However it is certainly desirable to be a good musician and have something of substance to share!

It is also good to note that children are deserving of the best that you can give them! It is important to work at your skills! You can't be "too good to work with children" either!

In the best of all possible worlds I could accept that there are many ways of relating to children and that they are all valid. But this is not that world. There is a huge economic market for children's information and entertainment. Many who are attracted to this field do so for the prospects of economic gain. This in itself is not necessarily negative, however, many of us know little about the needs of children and indeed are much more interested in the needs of teachers, or record companies, or publishers. They are rarely the same.

Our society does not value children, witness our educational system, the exploitation by television and the toy, candy, and breakfast cereal companies. Of course the rest of us are exploited as well and there is much work to do. It is important to make certain that we are not part of that exploitation.

I do not believe that to be political it is necessary to sing songs about "political" issues. Often I find songs espousing the virtues of one cause to be disrespectful of the listener's ability to come to their own conclusions. I believe that we should inform and not indoctrinate. We are a society in need of citizens capable of critical thinking, able to find truths on their own.

We need to promote responsibility, caring, honesty, equality, etc. as desirable values

In a public school the idea of student empowerment is often a subversive idea. To give the students an opportunity to give voice their thoughts and feelings, and not simply those that the schools find useful, is dangerous!

Tips

Be aware of your interaction with the group

Where is the power in the relationship?

How much power do the kids have in the relationship?

Make agreements not pronouncements

Have eye contact with every person. Let them know that you know they are there.

Listen to what they have to say. I know many people who have not turned 5 or 10 who know things that I don't!



Bob Reid: P.O. Box 505 Aptos CA 95001

CHILDREN'S MUSIC AND POLITICS: NANCY SCHIMMEL

A problem in talking about any political issue with any age audience is how to say:

- 1) This is a mess
 - 2) You have the power to do something about this mess without your audience concluding
 - 3) Uh-oh, it must be my fault this is still a mess, I'm terrible, or
 - 4) This jerk thinks it's my fault so I'll stop listening
- I think adults may be more likely to come to conclusion (4) and kids to (3) but we want to avoid both.

Nancy Schimmel: 1639 Channing Way Berkeley CA 94703

Focus Next Issue:

Next Steps for CMN

Send in your dreams for our Children's Music Network.

Where would you like us to move together? What new projects?

Write: Sarah Pirtle
54 Thayer Road
Greenfield MA 01301

RUTH PELHAM ARTICLE cont.

process, the children are given a great deal of decision-making power, and, as a result, they feel more hopeful and powerful to act for positive change in the world via the vehicle of songwriting.

The workshop concludes with an enthusiastic performance of the song and a verbal evaluation of the workshop with me asking questions like, "What new information or perceptions have you learned today?" or "What went well or what was difficult?" I also tell them what I appreciated about our working together and then I leave full of much joy and gratitude for having the opportunity to do this work of writing songs with children.

Ruth Pelham Box 6024 Albany, NY 12206

WRITING SONGS WITH CHILDREN

At the January People's Music Network gathering in Philadelphia, Bob Reid led a workshop on writing songs with children, based on his extensive experience in writing with children in California schools. In the workshop the group made up a song together titled, "Where is the Snow?" Phil Hoose recorded the suggestions which surfaced as the group focused on songs to empower children, to help them feel that they can create something important and beautiful, and to increase their sense of self respect.

SUGGESTIONS FROM BOB REID AND OTHER WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

Before worrying about the construction of a song, try first to build a supportive atmosphere in the classroom. Lay out the ground rules as a condition of the song: everyone gets a chance, no one puts down others' ideas.

Ask the kids what they want to write about. Let the kids develop their own ideas, breaking the classroom into groups to nominate topics if a consensus is not developing in the general classroom.

When you're ready, just get started. Ask "who's got a line?"

Use the energy in the room. If everybody's rowdy, make up a rowdy song.

Try to be specific and constructive about not choosing ideas for lines which have been suggested; give reasons for choosing one idea over another, or put in your own idea to resolve a stalemate. Make sure the least assertive kids get a stake in the song. Try to make the song develop organically from the kids, but be prepared yourself to be the editor. Usually someone has to choose, and that's you.

You, rather than the kids, make up the melody, maybe using a standard melody, or, if improvised, something simple.

Assign one young person to tape the session, as an "engineer." Have another write down the lyrics on a blackboard as they develop.

Try to make it a good song, one they will be proud of. Use all the devices you use to make any song good: a strong chorus, a good story, plenty of repetition, and whatever musical hooks you can think of.

Don't get hung up on rhyming. The feeling that it is necessary to rhyme every line inhibits free thought and the development of the ideas.

Record the song and try to make it available to each person who participated.

OTHER TIPS ON LEADING MUSIC WORKSHOPS WITH CHILDREN

Make sure there is sufficient ventilation in the room. A group of people singing and moving can use up a lot of oxygen.

Pay attention to their needs for movement. I regularly do hour-long programs with kindergarteners. Many teachers have found it difficult to keep primary age students (5 to 8 years old) interested in an activity for that long. They explain this by saying that it's a limitation of the age group. By doing an hour with these kids incorporating movement, they are able to keep focused and interested.

BOB REID P.O. Box 505, Aptos CA 95001

*"Success is fulfillment that comes by sharing freely
what you love to do
and receiving and accepting support around it."*
— K. Deleot

VIDEO: "A HERITAGE WITHIN"

The Puerto Rican, French, and Irish traditions in Holyoke, MA. are celebrated through folksong, dance and oral history interviews in this 55 minute video of children learning about their culture and history. Contact CMN member Roger Tincknell, 16 Harold St., Florence, MA 01060 about the audiotape of 50 songs and dances, the written curriculum and the videotape.

ECHOLOGY: A GREEN ANNUAL OF THEORETICAL AND APPLIED SOCIOMUSICOLOGY

Each year Charlie Keil edits a delicious, thick collection of writings "by dancers, musicians, activists, scholars who are trying to put into practice some of what they have learned in cultures other than the one that dominates the universities of the world...How are we using egalitarian expressive practices to increase participation in our own localities? What problems are we solving in making live music, life-affirming music? What problems are we solving in assisting children toward full expressive lives?"

The focus of Issue 3 is people reporting on music in the lives of children, messages to inspire the musical child in us all.

Individual subscriptions of \$10 for 2 issues support dissemination of free copies to co-scribers and to libraries in those countries and localities "most exploited by industrial civilization." Contact editor Charlie Keil at 81 Crescent Ave., Buffalo, N.Y. 14214. Send camera-ready copy.

"THE WORLD'S BEST FUNNY SONGS"

Esther Nelson has released her tenth book published by Sterling which is part of her "Funny Songbook" series. Contact: Dimension 5 Box 403, Kingsbridge Station, Bronx NY 10463

A TIP FOR TEACHERS

Have your kids create some sound environments. Sit them in a circle around a mic...or better yet, lying down with their heads around the mic. Decide together what your sound environment will be...a haunted house, at the zoo, in a jungle, etc...and then spend a few minutes discussing what sounds you would hear there. Let each child decide what sound they will make. Ask them to close their eyes, turn on the tape recorder and go around the circle tapping each child to signal them to begin making their sound. Once they are all involved let them spend a few minutes creating their environment and then go around tapping them to signal them to stop. Play it back and be amazed.

From TINA HUBBS Children's Programming Director for KOPN-FM, Missouri
915 E. Broadway, Columbia MO 65201

MUSIC FOR PEOPLE: CONNECTIONS

Where can you read an article by Susan Osborne, read David Darling interviewing Bobby McFerrin, and hear about people promoting self-expression through music improvisation all over the country? The latest newsletter by "Music for People!" Members receive "Connections" four times a year, have access to records, tapes and literature, and receive support from the "Music for People" office in setting up your own music and improvisation workshops and concerts.

The summer 1988 issue featured music and children. "Lulling your Newborn" by Mary Eileen Johnston and "Restoring our Tribal Music: Music for Parents and Young Children" were lead articles. Music for People grew from the desire to bring back home the musical inspiration and community found in Music Improvisation Workshops. Contact Bonnie Insull, Music for People, RD 4, Box 221A, Keene N.H. 03431.

JONAH! AVAILABLE FOR PRODUCTION

Joanne Forman's full-length musical, "Jonah!", is written for a cast of adults, children, and puppets. It can be produced by school, church, synagogue and community groups. Joanne has written 70 works for children. For further information write: Performing Arts Press, Box 3181, Taos, New Mexico, 87571.

JANICE BUCKNER SONGBOOKS

Janice has just released two new songbooks and activity guides which accompany her two recordings, "Little Friends for Little Folks" and "Everybody's Special!" Some of the songs she wrote for the Macmillan Book Club, "Sing and Learn" series. Both are available for \$10/cassette and \$8/activity guide plus \$2 pp. from Janice at Box 154, Huntington, NY 11743

POMEGRANATE FOUNDATION

Pomegranate Foundation in Washington State increases connections between art, culture, and nature. Milenko Matanovic's article, "Artists in a Cultural Transition," helps articulate the pulse of this group, this fellowship of individual artists committed to unifying ideals. Milenko identifies 6 aspects of artistic work:

The artist as perceiver of connections

The artist as a formulator and "imagineer" of images of the future

The artist as craftsman

The artist as citizen

The artist as recycler

The artist as a priest/priestess

Pomegranate has published a book by Milenko, LIGHTWORKS: EXPLORATIONS IN ART, CULTURE, AND CREATIVITY which brings together the perspectives of historians, philosophers, scientists, theologians, educators and artists who explore the role of creativity and change in our society, available for \$11.95. Pomegranate has also produced two outstanding cassettes listed in the New Recordings section, "Good Morning, Good Night" and "Big Music."

As part of its work integrating both ecological and artistic sensibilities, Pomegranate is designing a three-week integrated curriculum for K-12 classrooms. Contact: Box 676, Issaquah, WA 98027

TIME CRUNCH POEM

Pete Seeger sent in this poem a friend passed to him from "Highlights for Children" magazine. The name of the child who wrote it is unknown.

Be to school at 9 o'clock.
Be at home by three;
First I started telling time,
Now time is telling me.

PEACE PACK COLLECTION

You can contact Kids' Records, 68 Broadview Ave., Suite 303, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M4M 2E6 for a series of albums produced by Bill Usher which include PEACE BY PEACE from Sally Rogers, TOUCH A HAND, MAKE A FRIEND from a variety of artists including Bob McGrath and Chris and Ken Whitely, and DREAMS THAT TAKE FLIGHT with a melange of songs & stories. Postpaid they are \$10.95 record or cassette.

OMEGA ARTS SUMMER WORKSHOPS

AEGIS in the Berkshire Mountains of N.Y. is the location for a week of "Transformation through the Arts." From July 31 - August 5th there will be a 6 day retreat/workshop called "Celebrating the Arts for a Creative Life," with a concurrent Children's Camp of the Arts. Contact: AEGIS, RD1, Box 1030D, New Lebanon, NY 12125 or the Omega Arts Network News P.O. Box 1227, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

MOTHER JONES?

Nancy Schimmel writes: "I just heard Faith Petric introduce 'She'll Be Coming Round the Mountain' as a song the coal miners sang about Mother Jones coming to help them with their strikes. If you leave off the verses about what 'she' will be wearing and where she'll sleep, this makes a great deal of sense. Especially 'we'll all have chicken and dumplings!' I asked Faith where she'd heard the story and she couldn't remember, but she's since heard Odetta introduce it the same way. Anybody out there know?" We'll print your response.

TOURING IN NEW ENGLAND OR CALIFORNIA?

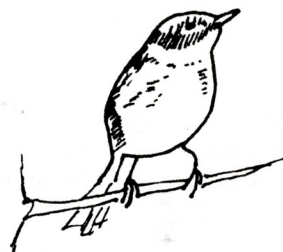
"Pickleberry Pie" would like to feature CMN performers on its programs. If you will be in either of its production locations -- Boston or Santa Cruz -- contact P.J. Swift at 305 Dickens Way, Santa Cruz CA 95064

LOOKING FOR GINNI CLEMMENS! KNOW HER ADDRESS?

Many of us remember Ginni's fine Folkways recording, "We All Have A Song," ten years ago and are eager to find her again. Please write the CMN office if you know her.

WHY THIS ISSUE IS ARRIVING LATE

In early February my partner sustained a serious bone injury. Between the needed physical therapy, caring for our four year old, my full-time work and unexpected needs, we've spent the past month and a half reeling. Thanks for waiting!



THUMBNAIL SKETCHES

- THE BANANA SLUG STRING BAND Box 717 Pescadero, CA 94060 (408) 429-9806

BSSB does children's music with a focus on ecology and science. Performances -- which are a cross between a hootenanny, a vaudeville routine and a science class -- begin with an interview of the band's mascot, a six-foot talking banana slug, to get kids interested in a creature which is a critical part of redwood forests. Their repertoire includes "Nature Rap," an environmental rap ditty; "Air Cycle," a jazzy ode to oxygen; and "Where is Away?" a lively rocker about waste disposal. They have two tapes with accompanying songbooks called "Songs for the Earth," and "Dirt Made My Lunch." The four band members met while on the staff of a children's ecology camp and now perform in schools and ecology festivals throughout California, dedicated to bringing awareness of the environment and science information to children by integrating music and puppetry.

- TIA COHEN TIA'S QUACKER TUNES BOX 1363 Mercer Island, WA 98040

Tia combines her love of teaching children with her love of performing. Known for her zest and her high energy music, she works to single children out, making them feel special and individual. She has two recordings, "Tia's Quacker Tunes," released in 1985, and "Tia's Dino-Stew Zoo," which recently won a Parent's Choice Award. She promotes movement and sign-language in her programs and is known for the sidekicks who perform with her: a tuba playing duck and a dinosaur. Tia teaches music classes for children and has her own children's music program on cable television. She likes to do songs in different languages such as "Hands on your Head," which she sings in Spanish, French, and Japanese, and "Jan Ken Po," a Japanese song about the "Stone, scissors, paper" game.

- Tina Hubbs, Children's Programming Director for KOPN-FM, 915 E. Broadway, Columbia, MO 65201, (314) 874-1139

I have been working for the past eleven years co-ordinating children's programs and projects for KOPN, a community radio station. KOPN sponsors workshops in production techniques for kids, a special day of programming done by kids for kids called New Generation Day, and, last summer, the first national conference for teachers and audio producers on working with children and audio production. We also invite local teachers to send their students up to KOPN to read their creative writings over the air.

I encourage musicians, songwriters, and storytellers to send us promotional tapes and albums for airplay. Anyone interested in being included on the mailing list for our next conference, please send me your name, address and a brief note about what you do or are interested in.

- Bruce O'Brien, 604 Newton, Eau Claire, WI 54701 (715) 832-0721

I am a song-collector, song-writer and singer (and parent), playing banjo and guitar. I sing for children and people of all ages and am interested in ways we can continue to amuse, inspire and empower each other with songs, stories and other arts, so that we can cultivate a peaceful and healthy world community.

Hold Your Ground, my first, professional recording, released Dec. '87, features nine original and seven newly-arranged songs and tunes. Meant for listening by all ages, cassettes are still available for \$9.00 post. paid.

My second recording, In My Family's House, a unique collection of new and traditional songs for children and families to share, will be released later in the year.

• FRED KOCH RED ROVER RECORDS P.O. Box 124 Lake Bluff, ILL 60044 (312) 615-0366

My involvement with children's music consists of four days a week as a K - 3 public school music specialist, a workshop clinician and concert performer on weekends and I am in-house composer, producer, arranger and general overseer for my children's record label RED ROVER RECORDS. "This Lil' Cow" an album of original music was our first release and our second album "Children's Record" contains only traditional folk songs for children.

Recent projects have included:

- * Co-writer and associate producer for two songs on "Kids In Motion", GREG & STEVE's latest Youngheart Records project
- * Associate producer for Bob Gibson's record project "Songs For Safe And Secure Kids"
- * Producer and musical arranger for "Sniggles, Squirrels & Chicken Pox - Volume One", a Miss Jackie Weissman album

Presently, I am in production on a project which I have been wanting to do for a long time -- an Ella Jenkins tribute album! A sort of "Fred Does Ella" type of approach. I have been using her songs with my Kids for years and have always wanted to record them. RED ROVER RECORDS is projecting an October 1, 1989 release date.

• LISA MONET • P.O. Box 966, ARCATA, CA 95521 • (707)822-4404

I have two album cassettes of songs and rhymes, CIRCLE TIME and JUMP DOWN on Circle Sound Productions, distributed nationally through catalogs. My career in classical and popular music for adults was turned around after my son Matthew Ben's appearance four years ago. I'm now happily immersed in music for and with children, writing and choosing songs that enhance children's feeling good about themselves and others. Having lived and performed in Spain and Argentina, and worked with US-USSR Peace Groups, I use songs that unify. These album cassettes are available through the above address for \$9.95 ea. (ppd). A third recording will be released this fall on Music for Little People.

• SANDY JOHNSON 506 PINE STREET AMHERST, MA. 01002 (413) 549-4011

I teach 4 year olds in the laboratory school of Mt. Holyoke College -- and simultaneously I teach child development to college students. Music is the heartbeat of all we do together at school. It rouses and releases energy, heals our hurts and confusions, opens us to new people and cultures, shows us the One in the many, carries concepts from brains into sound. The songs we sing in the classroom are seeds that take root in our lives and spread rapidly through neighborhoods, families, college dormitories. I also help people sing at soup kitchens, day care center, benefits and rallies. I am always looking for simple, singable, powerful songs of the spirit which transcend ages and conditions, transform the shared moment. ("This Little Light of Mine" is the classic in this genre. Also, Sarah Pirtle's and Ruth Pelham's songs meet my criteria perfectly). I'd love to add to my repertoire, and am especially hungry for 1) rounds; 2) good choruses; 3) simple ostinato arrangements; 4) sign/gesture accompaniments; 5) Spanish-English enhancements. I'm also eager to learn and teach more handjive/hambone patterns, and I'm desperate to learn how to avoid hoarseness. My Songs to Grow book with enclosed "flimsy" was published 15 years ago. Currently I make personal tapes for students, friends and family. Any other occasional songwriters who struggle with "ownership" issues? I want to give away "my music," but have also come to understand the validity of naming and claiming my own compositions.

- DAVE ORLEANS EARTHSINGER 130 West Clearview Ave., Pine Hill, NJ 08021 (609) 435-4229 (H)

Dave has been a park naturalist and environmental educator since 1973, and is currently the director of a small, county-operated environmental center in southern New Jersey. Dave merges his knowledge of, and concern for the environment with his love for folk music and storytelling to create an innovative style of educational entertainment which he calls EARTHSINGING. For instance, Dave's song, "Save Some Trees" asks people to "save some trees," "save some streams," "save some air," and ultimately "save some world for when we grow up." His programs for schools, campfires, and teacher workshops include: Nature Sing-Alongs, The Giving Tree, New Jersey Pinelands, Families on the Bogs, and Nature's Treasury combining hands-on experiences with snakeskins, turtle shells and more.

- RUTH PELHAM P.O. Box 6024 ALBANY, NEW YORK 12206 (518) 462-8714

I'm a singer, songwriter, educator, and the director of a community-based organization, THE MUSIC MOBILE. I travel in the colorfully decorated MUSIC MOBILE van to present concerts and workshops for children and adults in parks, schools, community centers, festivals and concert halls. Through THE MUSIC MOBILE, I've coordinated and am developing further a cultural exchange of songs, drawings, and photographs between inner-city youth in Albany, NY and children from the Havasupai Indian Reservation in the Grand Canyon. Based upon the Albany-Supai exchange and my participation in a 1985 artists collaboration tour of five Soviet cities, I've designed a variety of songwriting and multimedia programs called "Children as Peacemakers."

I have two recordings entitled UNDER ONE SKY (Gentle Wind cassette only) and LOOK TO THE PEOPLE (Flying Fish cassette and album). To order send \$9 per recording to me at the address above.

I'd love to hear from artist educators who are doing peacework in schools and to connect with progressive singers who have performed in the Soviet Union.

- BOB REID P.O. Box 505, Aptos, CA. 95001 (408) 662-0164

I have been performing for children for the past 10 years in addition to my work with adults. I worked 5 years in an Artist in the Schools program singing and writing songs with kids, 3 years as a California Arts Council Artist in Residence, I now work independently around the country. I have 2 recordings BOB REID & ABRACADAB and MARZ BARZ- Bob Reid & Friendz and two of my songs have been made into clay-animation films. I presently live in the Monterey Bay Area of Central California.

- TONY SOLL: SINGER SONGWRITER - 862 Union St. apt 5K, Brooklyn NY 11215 (718) 622-5564

I sing songs of fantasy, fun and feelings to children of all ages. Mixing original songs with old favorites and new (and old) discoveries from the folk and rock worlds, I specialize in concerts for the whole family. I also do song workshops for teachers and others who work with children and music. I'm often called on for school fundraisers and community events where an eclectic mix of styles will keep an audience's attention. I am also a founding teacher of the Brooklyn New School, a multi-cultural, alternative, New York City public school. Anyone who's interested in some new and interesting tunes please call or write.

My album, DINOSAURS, DOLPHINS, AND DREAMS, written with Nancy Silber, is available on record and cassette from CMS Records, 226 Washington Ave., Mt. Vernon, NY 10553.

• **ROGER TINCKNELL- FOLKSINGER, MUSICIAN, EDUCATOR.**

(16 Harold St., Florence, MA 01060 / 413-586-0777)

My background includes performing for all ages and teaching, both as a classroom teacher and music specialist. I enjoy leading sing-alongs in family concerts and community events. School programs include **Across the Americas**, a regional journey in French, Spanish and English; **Children's Songs and Games**; and historical programs, such as **Songs of Work and Immigration**. Most recently I have been working as an Artist-In-Residence developing curriculum in multi-cultural and special needs education. (Teacher In-Service Workshops available on these themes.) My children's tape, "The Bear Missed the Train", is a collection of animal songs for pre-school - grade 4. I also work with the **Elfin Puppet Theatre** offering shows on Conflict Resolution, International Folktales, and Ecology.

• **BEN TOUSLEY** 16 Lourdes Ave., Jamaica Plain, MA. 02130 (617) 524-2939

I offer my Community Music Programs to schools, libraries, churches, and hospitals around New England. I especially like to do intergenerational and multicultural programs around themes such as "Songs From Many Lands," "American Pilgrims," and "Christmas/Chanukah," and this year I will be doing some 40 Martin Luther King, Jr. programs for schools. I recently released a record/cassette, Standing There With You.

• **JIM VALLEY RAINBOW PLANET** 5110 Cromwell Drive, Gig Harbor WA 98335

Jim, formerly of the rock n' roll group Paul Revere and the Raiders, travels all over the country singing and creating with children in his Friendship Workshops. He has four recordings: Parents Choice Award Winners "Rainbow Planet," "Friendship Train," and "Imagine That!" as well as his newest release, "Dinosaur Ride," which come with brightly colored mini posters and illustrated lyric booklets. He is dedicated to fostering creativity, enhancing self esteem, and spreading music about the preservation and celebration of the planet. He believes that kids have messages adults need to hear and that there is an amazing depth in children that is often unseen; he draws out children's words in his workshops. He says in the foreword of the Rainbow Planet Songbook: "Singing is a way we can open our hearts and lives to the magic that surrounds us. By believing and experiencing conviction in our music, we can communicate spirit to each other and uplift the level of honesty and joy in the classroom."

• **ELISE WITT** 124 W. College Ave. Decatur, Georgia, 30030

Elise performs solo and with the Small Family Orchestra. They have three albums which are also available in cassette from EM World Records at the address above. Their premiere album has songs of the New South plus songs in French, German, Italian, and Portuguese. "Having a Great Time!!!" (1984) has songs of the New South plus songs in Spanish, Russian, Greek, and Hungarian. "Holding On" (1987) includes Nueva Canción, some German rounds, and songs of the New South.

Elise and the Small Family Orchestra present concerts and workshops called A MUSICAL TRIP AROUND THE WORLD. They involve K - 12 students by teaching them simple phrases and tunes in several languages, and end with a song from the Southeast, emphasizing the culture this U.S. region has to share with people around the world. They say: "We hope that through our program students will begin to realize that cultural exchange can be a tool toward better understanding between nations. They may also come to see that music, or more generally, the arts can be a viable profession."

- KATE UNGER: Box 405, Cape Vincent, N.Y. 13618 (315) 654-3498

I'm director of Music Education for the 1000 Islands Central Schools in Northern New York, and teach vocal and instrumental music in grades 5 - 8. I've been involved with local Arts Councils as member and as Chairperson, and with the New York State Council as a panel member. Currently I'm completing a degree program in Educational Administration, and hope to move into a position as a school principal or assistant. I'm also a flutist who would like to play more!

I'd like to help develop and facilitate interaction between public school music educators and Children's/People's Music Network people and ideals, through presentations to music teachers at music education conferences, etc., by CMN/PMN people. As a first step, it would be a very positive process for public school music educators to examine the values communicated in the songs we use to teach musical skills and concepts, and perhaps replace some of those songs with ones that have better content for kids.

Also, because public school classroom music programs are mostly controlled by the texts used by schools, I'd like to work on developing a prototype for a classroom music text that would utilize an interdisciplinary, humanistic affective approach with positive social content and values for kids.

If anyone would like to share thoughts, ideas, or interest in these projects, I'd appreciate hearing from you!

- **Bing Bingham**: Singer, Songwriter, Actor
Vail Lane, RD1, North Salem, N.Y. 10560 914-669-8343

I've been working the music scene in New York for many years, first recording for Kirshner(Epic) and RCA Records as part of the duo "Joe and Bing", and then as a composer and singer of hundreds of radio and TV jingles, including the Clio award winning "Come to Ireland". As an actor, I've appeared in many commercials, sung on Broadway in "Elvis, The Legend Lives", and played "Alex" in ABC's "Kids Are People Too". Among other credits, I also co-hosted the ABC/Yale University produced show - "Getting The Most Out Of Television."

My new album, entitled "A Rainbow Of Songs", is available on Kimbo Educational Records, and represents my first joyful adventure into writing and performing original music for children. Done entirely in my studio at home, I combined acoustic instruments, synthesizers, a little midi technology, and the best ingredient of all, children's voices, to record the twelve songs. If anyone is interested in lead sheets to any of the songs, please don't hesitate to call or write!

Many people have written to say how much they appreciate the Thumbnail Sketches. To date we've printed about forty. One idea to be discussed at the June 2nd meeting is to create a typeset directory or CMN catalog with all CMN members who want to be listed. Let us know what you think about this proposal. The target date is Winter 1990 for production.

SPRING/SUMMER CALENDAR

June 2nd 1-5 PM Children's Music Network
meets at Camp Thoreau, Pine Bush, NY, see p.6

June 2-4 People's Music Network Gathering
Camp Thoreau, contact the PMN Office:
Jane Treat, 340A Mt. Pleasant St. NW Wash. DC
20010 or 158 Cliff St., Norwich CT 06360
Workshops on diverse topics including song
swaps of children's music.

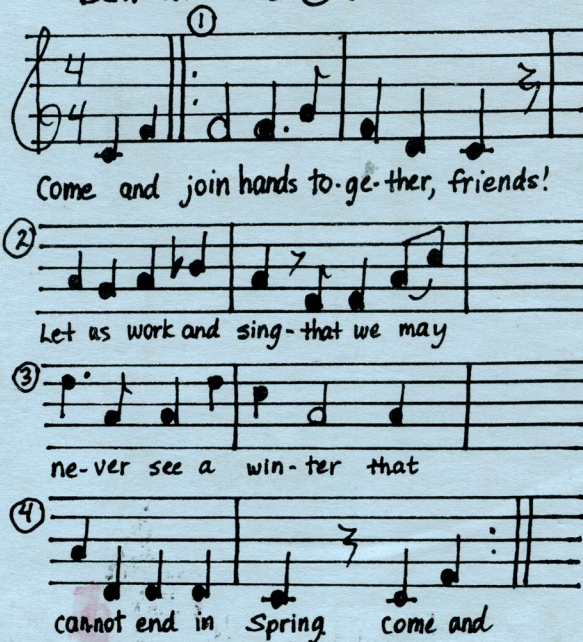
July 30 - August 2 Making Music with Children
program in Ashokan, NY
See Molly Mason's article on page 6.

SEND IN FOR THE SUMMER ISSUE

- * Thumbnail sketches -- camera ready paragraphs
describing your interest in children's music.
- * Articles for FOCUS: next steps for CMN
- * Your songs for the SONG SWAP section.
- * Announcements, news, celebrations.
- * Descriptions of new recordings.

MAIL BY AUGUST 15th
to Sarah Pirtle, editor

Benediction © Jan Harmon



JAN HARMON P.O. 386 Camden, ME 04843

See New Recordings p. 3 for listings of
her tapes and songbooks of her outstanding
original rounds.

CHILDREN'S MUSIC NETWORK

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NYC NY 10034

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