

Greetings and welcome to the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season of the Fairfield County Children's Choir! Over these many years we have provided hundreds of children “the opportunity to participate in a musical experience that is challenging, rewarding and enjoyable.” This quote from our Mission Statement only begins to convey the impact the FCCC has had on the lives of our choristers and on their families and the community as well. We look forward to many more years of making music together!

FCCC conductor and accompanist Lisa Bettke recently shared a great book with our staff titled “Imperfect Harmony – Finding Happiness Singing with Others” by Stacy Horn. As I read it last month I noticed that the author’s descriptions of her choral experiences were synonymous with the comments we often hear from our choristers. Horn writes, “Singing is the one thing in my life that never fails to take me where disenchantment is almost nonexistent and feeling good is pretty much guaranteed. Every week when I go to rehearsal I’m dead tired and don’t think I’ll make it until 9:30. But then something magic happens and I revive ... it happens almost every time.”

The process of practicing and performing choral music is the context in which the magic takes place. Some of the hallmarks of the FCCC experience are:

- Great repertoire – from the Renaissance to the present and everything in between.
- Our motto for the past ten years has been “Have Fun Being Awesome,” which applies to music and life!
- Our voice lesson includes “the Four Basics of Singing: Posture, Breath, Tone & Diction.”
- We teach choral skills which include blended tone, good intonation, rhythmic accuracy, expression and many others.
- Stage presence! We tell our choristers to “make someone fall in love with you!”
- Passion!!! We actually include passion in our list of “the components of a great choral musician.” Our music staff also models passion in every rehearsal and concert. I am proud to say that our choristers share our passion for the art of music. As we say in our Mission Statement: “Music is Serious Fun!”

We will have a number of themes and projects throughout this milestone season, including “Celebrating our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with Community Service.” Some of these projects include caroling at various locations in December, the performance of our National Anthem for various events, the annual Fairfield Holocaust Commemoration Service, and a special concert we are calling “Kids4Kids” with the Greater Bridgeport Youth Orchestras to benefit the Kennedy Center in Bridgeport. Through these and other projects the FCCC hopes to make a positive impact in our community and beyond!

We will conclude our grand 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season with a visit to the grandest of all places in the United States: the Grand Canyon in Arizona. The Chamber Singers will attend a children’s choir festival in Denver, CO for five days, followed by trips to Pikes Peak and Manitou Springs (CO), and Phoenix, Sedona and a concert in Flagstaff (AZ). At the Grand Canyon we will drive along the South Rim making brief stops at scenic viewpoints, hike the Rim Trail for a few miles of incredible views, visit the famous El Tovar Hotel and the Bright Angel Lodge, and hike a short distance into the Grand Canyon on the Bright Angel Trail. It will be a fitting way to celebrate our 20<sup>th</sup> year.