

### **From the Music Director**

The 19th Annual Spring Concert of the Fairfield County Children's Choir will take place on Saturday, May 10 at 7:00 PM at Fairfield Warde High School (755 Melville Avenue, Fairfield). Our program has a number of themes running throughout, with a primary focus on the music of the "Great American Songbook." The Great American Songbook is a term used to denote the canon of the most important and influential American popular songs of the 20th century – principally from Broadway and Hollywood musicals - that told the American story. It was completely original in some respects, but deeply rooted and strongly influenced by the musical form known as jazz and was influenced by its predecessors, ragtime and blues. This music of the 20th century is known and widely recognized around the world as a truly American invention and cultural legacy. This promises to be a highly enjoyable evening of classics such as I Got Rhythm, Summertime, Route 66, Blue Skies, St. Louis Blues, Opus One, Bye Bye Blackbird, God Bless America and It's Only a Paper Moon.

Other themes you will hear in our program include: Irish folk song arrangements by Benjamin Britten; the music of Rollo Dilworth, a major composer, arranger and conductor who will be the guest artist for our 2016 Spring Concert; the music of Canadian songwriter Allister MacGillivray; the classic music of George Gershwin and Irving Berlin; other selections of great folk and classical repertoire.

The Fairfield County Youth Choir (FCCC Concert Choir & Chamber Singers) will perform in a concert version of the opera Carmen with the Norwalk Symphony Orchestra and Mendelssohn Choir on Saturday, May 17 at 8:00 PM at the Norwalk Concert Hall.

Next season we will celebrate our 20th Anniversary in a number of ways. Our Winter and Spring concerts will feature "The Best of the FCCC" as our theme. We will be asking all choristers, parents, friends, etc. to help us decide the repertoire for the Spring Concert through a poll that will be available in September. The music staff will enjoy selecting the best repertoire for the Winter Concert.

Another theme running throughout the season will be "celebrating our 20th Anniversary through community service." Community service has always been a part of our mission. For example, on April 30 our Chamber Singers performed for the Fairfield Holocaust Commemoration Ceremony, as they have done for over 15 years. On May 3 a small group performed the National Anthem for the Opening Day of the Bridgeport Caribe Youth Baseball League. We were proud to lend our voices to the ceremony along with U.S. Representative Jim Himes and Bridgeport Mayor Bill Finch.

We are absolutely thrilled to announce that the Cross Border Orchestra of Ireland will again visit the U.S. in October 2014. We will perform with them at Carnegie Hall on October 30, 2014. Other details are still to be determined. We first performed with the CBOI at Carnegie Hall in 2005. We then visited Ireland in 2007, performing in their hometown of Dundalk, County Louth. The CBOI returned in 2009 for joint performances at Lincoln Center's Avery Fisher Hall and Fairfield Woods Middle School. You may find more information about this talented group at [www.cboi.ie](http://www.cboi.ie)