

QUARTER NOTES

MRP

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE MUSIC REVITALIZATION PROJECT, INC.

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NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

To start off with, I'd like to make an apology to our readers. The summer edition of Quarternotes was not released and therefore was not mailed out. So if you were wondering why you didn't see it in your mailbox this past July that is the reason. Looking ahead, we are starting our planning for next year which will be the focus of this year's annual meeting. As always, we encourage our readers to contact us with new ideas for projects and activities as well as feedback on past events.

We at the MRP are saddened by the recent passing of Jack Hagopian. He and Rose were avid supporters of the goals of the MRP and were instrumental in helping us get started. You can read more about Jack and the important contribution the Hagopian's made to the MRP in an article in this issue of Quarternotes. He will be certainly missed in the community.



Dave Rolince
Dave Rolince, Pres. MRP

...AND THE WINNER IS...

The MRP Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce Michael Flanagan, who graduated from Brockton High School, as this year's winner of the \$200 scholarship award. Michael's primary instrument is the alto saxophone, and he is continuing his studies at Berklee College of Music in Boston, majoring in jazz performance and music education. Congratulations Michael!

-Carol Lou Allen and Nancy Allen
Scholarship Committee

IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO THINK ABOUT YOUR 2003 TAXES!

It's already November! The hectic holidays are right around the corner. Why not plan now on making a tax deductible donation to the MRP! This gives you the benefit of a tax deduction, and helps the MRP continue its work to provide scholarships to music students, purchase music for schools and organizations that lack the financial resources, and sponsor music events in your community that are both educational and entertaining. Send your donation with the form on the right. It's as easy as that!!!

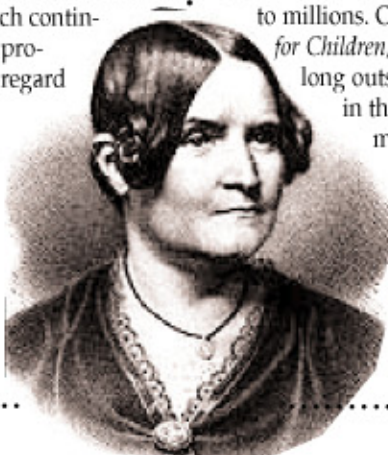
As a special bonus, the first 50 donations of \$50 or more, will receive a special MRP thank you gift and the Newman's recipe book with Doreen's "Finger Lickin' Hombre Country Ribs" and all the finalists' recipes. (see back for details)

A TRIBUTE TO JACK HAGOPIAN

As a nascent organization in 1997, the MRP went through the usual struggles of non-profit groups of establishing itself in the community and securing a funding base upon which it could launch its projects. Fund raising often is a creative art, and when our current Vice-President Doreen submitted her barbecued ribs recipe to the annual Newman's Own recipe contest, we didn't have very high expectations. Lo and behold, Doreen's recipe was selected as one of the 10 finalists and earned the MRP \$5,000. In addition, the grocer from whom we purchased the Newman's Own Salsa, the main ingredient in the barbecue sauce, received \$7,500 from Newman's for the charity of their choice. Rose and Jack were invited along with Doreen and me to the awards dinner in New York City where we and the MRP were formally recognized as finalists. We had a great time with Rose and Jack and when the \$7,500 award to Rojack's was announced, Jack graciously acknowledged the merits of our organization and indicated that he would donate the Rojack's award to the MRP.

The rest is history. This money forms the core of the MRP scholarship fund and the Music Lending Library which continues to be our most popular projects. Jack Hagopian's deep regard for his community and its people is a legacy that will live on.

The MRP is forever thankful to the Hagopian family for their generosity and support. This pillar in our community will be surely missed.



A NEW-ENGLAND BOY'S SONG

Over the river, and through the wood,
to Grandfather's house we go;
the horse knows the way
to carry the sleigh
through the white and drifted snow.

MUSIC THROUGH THE CENTURIES: THE HISTORY OF "A NEW-ENGLAND BOY'S SONG ABOUT THANKSGIVING DAY"

A few songs come to mind when we think of Thanksgiving, such as "We Gather Together to Ask the Lord's Blessing," or "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come." The most popular by far is "Over the River and Through the Wood." Hum a few bars and you are on a sleigh hurtling over white and drifted snow. You can see the very bridge in Medford, MA, that goes over that river. Few can name the author of those memorable lyrics, yet she was one of the most remarkable women of the nineteenth century.

Lydia Marie Child was born in Medford, MA in 1802. Maria, (her preferred name), was the youngest of seven children of a baker. It is said on Thanksgiving Eve, her mother traditionally set out a groaning board of pies and puddings and invited the poor. Certainly that feast was the inspiration for Maria's later verses and her lifelong passion for the less fortunate.

"Over the river and through the woods"... this standard winter holiday song is familiar to millions. Originally published *Flowers for Children*, Vol. 2 in 1844, the poem has long outshone the rest of the poems in that volume. Here are its memorable words:

Over the river, and through the wood,
to Grandfather's house we go;
the horse knows the way
to carry the sleigh
through the white and drifted snow.



MUSIC
REVITALIZATION
PROJECT, INC.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Support your local music programs by attending these holiday performances:
12/5 S.E. Mass Wind Symphony
7:30 pm, Watson Auditorium,
Wheaton College, Norton
12/7 Metropolitan Wind Symphony
Holiday Pops, 3pm, Natick HS
12/16 Attleboro HS Band Concert - 7pm
12/17 Norton HS Winter Concert - 7pm

Maria was one of the earliest American women to earn a living from her writing. She was known in her time as the writer of one of the most popular domestic advice books, *The American Frugal Housewife*. She later published other popular advice books, including *The Mother's Book* and *A Little Girl's Own Book*. Child also published *Juvenile Miscellany*, an early American magazine for children. It is in this volume that *A Boy's Christmas* first appeared. During the mid 1840s, she was living in New York, away from her family to help support it during their struggling farming years in Northampton. It was during this time that she wrote "*A New-England Boy's Song of Thanksgiving Day*." She must have found it

MUSIC LENDING LIBRARY

The MRP Music Lending Library now has several titles on its shelves for borrowing. Many area organizations such as the East Bay Wind Ensemble, Metropolitan Wind Symphony, S.E. Massachusetts Wind Symphony, Boston City Band and the Attleboro Youth Summer Band have taken advantage of this unique lending system. Music often becomes permanently out of print after the first run. It is the MRP's goal to preserve some of that music by purchasing a piece of music and loaning it to organizations interested in playing it well after it becomes obsolete. The library is free for any music organization to borrow. You can specify your end of the year tax donation to the library by checking the box on the return form.

As our website is being completed, we are starting to plan events for the years to come. One project we are exploring is a Community Band Challenge Cup. This will be a judged competitive event for the performance of local community bands. This event is in the early planning stages and any contributions made towards this project will help support items such as: Auditorium rental, judges expenses, printing costs for programs, tickets and advertising. The MRP is also working on setting up a charity auction on eBay to help fund future MRP projects. We are offering a great incentive for contributions of \$50 or more, a special MRP thank you gift, and a book of 22 recipes made with Newman's Own products, such as Hustler's Catch, Chocolate-Kiss

IN THE WORKS

Finally, the MRP is preparing to go online. We are in the very early stages of cracking the egg and giving the MRP a wider exposure via the internet. Our website is being created and there will be some wonderful features on the site for surfers to explore. We'll keep you posted on its progress throughout the year.

WEBSITE STATUS

comforting to imagine the dapple grey leading the sleigh over that familiar bridge and through the woods to a feast like her mother's. Through the magic of her pen, Maria could reminisce about the holiday as it was celebrated in her native New England. The lyrics were set to music by an anonymous composer and were then sung by children all over the country who had never even heard of pumpkin pie!

She died in 1880 in Wayland, MA, at the farm she had shared with her husband David since 1852. And while she made a number of significant contributions to 19th century American prose, her doggerel poem, "*A New-England Boy's Song of Thanksgiving Day*," is by far the best known today.

Over the river, and through the wood,
to Grandfather's house away!
We would not stop for doll or top,
for 'tis Thanksgiving Day.
Over the river, and through the wood-
Oh! sing the toes and bites the nose,
as over the ground we go.
Over the river, and through the wood.
The dogs do bark and the children bark,
with a clear blue winter sky,
as we go jingling by.
Over the river, and through the wood,
to have a first-rate play.
Hear the bells ring,
"Ting-a-ling-ding!"
Hurrah for Thanksgiving Day!

Over the river, and through the wood-
Old Fowler hears our bell;
He shakes his paw with a loud bow-wow,
and thus the news he tells.
Over the river, and through the wood-
When Grandmother sees us come,
She will say, "O, dear, the children are here,
bring pie for everyone!"
Over the river, and through the wood-
now Grandmother's cap I spy!
Hurrah for the fun! Is the pudding done?
Hurrah for the pumpkin pie!