



MEANYC Workshops

MEANYC and The U.F.T. got off to a flying start with their first of seven workshops this past September 17. This first (Choral Workshop) clinic was in conjunction with The Hal Leonard Corporation. As expected, there was a great turnout for John Jacobson, who provided all the necessary ingredients for a great morning - energy, enthusiasm and take-home packets.

All the workshops are moderately priced (\$10-15) and are held at U.F.T. Headquarters (52 Broadway/Manhattan). You will receive a certificate for four hours of professional development credit and a continental breakfast will be provided.

Please check our website or go directly to <http://meanyc.org/UFTWorkshopFlyer2011.pdf> for information and registration form for the remaining workshops.



Salute To Music/Boro-Wide Auditions

Manhattan & Staten Island: October 15 (9am-noon)

Bronx, Brooklyn & Queens: October 22 (9am-noon)

We are now on
Facebook and Twitter!



From the President

Welcome back to another new school year. I want to thank Maria Schwab for all the hard work she has dedicated to MEANYC during her tenure as president. I look forward to the next two years as I serve as president. It is my goal to continue visibility of our organization throughout our school community, work towards improving the quality and availability of music education for all our children regardless of where they live, what school they attend and increase membership.

During the last six years MEANYC has done much to reach out into our community. On a professional level, we started offering workshops for our teachers. They started as piggybacking on our Saturday Boro-wide program. The idea was to offer a workshop in every borough. It was a rough first year. While things may not have worked out the way we had hoped, Roberta Feldhusen took this idea to the UFT and, now in collaboration with the UFT, we have been offering workshops in the UFT headquarters for four years. This year Roberta and Sharon Golub have put together a series of six workshops held throughout the year. I am sure that there will be something that catches your interest. Check the UFT paper and our website for registration information.

For the past two years we have been offering scholarships to graduating seniors who are going to college and will provide more information for our members' students to apply in the Spring. We are now in our third year of All-County Band, Choir, and String Orchestra Festival. Last year we had over 200 students participate. This year we hope to expand the grade levels. Again, you must be a member in order for your students to be able to participate. Information for this festival will be online. It comes up quick. Application deadlines are around the end of November. Festival date and venue has not been finalized, but for the past two years it has been held the first weekend of February. Maria Schwab has offered to chair this event. If you have any questions please contact her.

On a social level, we will continue with our annual cocktail party. We have held this event at various venues around the city in the fall and winter. This year it will probably be in the spring. We will be holding our annual honors dinner in the Fall on Friday evening, October 28th at Astoria World Manor in Astoria, Queens. The cost is more affordable and it is walking distance from the subway.

Thanks to Maria, we had a wonderful evening in Brooklyn for the Cyclones and Staten

Island Yankees baseball game. The game was the same day as the Mermaid Parade. What a wonderful way to spend a Saturday in June. Our group received complimentary caps and most stayed for the entire game and saw a great fireworks display. While it was a long ride home on the subway, it was an event that I hope will be on the calendar again this year. So, these are just some of the things MEANYC has been up to for the last few years. Talk about visibility. Check out our website, Facebook and Twitter.

This year we plan on adding two events to our busy calendar. One is to honor the memory of our dear friend Lucie Evens who lost her battle with breast cancer last year. The board decided that we would like to participate as a team in the Revlon Run/Walk For Women. This event will be held Saturday, May 5, 2012. Information on how to participate will be available on our website. The other event I hope to put into place is a music teacher talent show. This will be a fundraiser for our scholarship program. If you would like to participate, please let us know. I think it will be fun to perform for our friends, family and colleagues. I've already started practicing! Information will be posted online and Facebook and Twitter. Along with our scholarship for students, we are also providing a stipend for first time attendees to the Winter NYSSMA Conference in Rochester. Criteria on who would be eligible and how much and how many has yet to be determined. One thing for certain, you must be a MEANYC member to be eligible for the stipend and you must be a member of NYSSMA/MENC in order to attend the conference.

So, as you see, MEANYC has something for just about everyone.

On a closing note, I also want to welcome our new Chancellor, Dennis M. Walcott. I know he understands the importance of a quality arts education for all of our children. I also look forward to working with Paul King, Executive Director of The Office of Arts and Special Projects and Barbara Murray, Director of Music. As we look around at the political climate and the changes in how teachers are evaluated and viewed, it is more important than ever for all of us to join and work together towards visibility, advocacy and providing the best music education for all the children of New York City.

See you soon ...

Pat



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www.meanyc.org

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This is your newsletter. Keep us informed of your concerts, special programs, activities, awards, etc. If you can contribute tips, methods or techniques that work for you, we would like to share them with our members.

Mail items for publication to:

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NYSSMA Corner

On September 1, 2011, MENC officially became NAFME, the National Association for Music Education. By any name, our association is our advocacy voice in Washington. When our national executive director Michael Butera and his staff visits members of congress, it affords instant recognition of who and what we are about. The high stakes testing environment born of No Child Left Behind and Race to the Top are federal programs that have adversely impacted music education in the entire country. As I write, the national standards for the arts are being rewritten, it will have implications to our state regulations. What we teach, how we teach and how our effectiveness as teachers may be assessed, is at stake. Additionally, the identification of the Arts as a core subject and what that means are additional concerns that NAFME (MENC) raises with the Department of Education and Congress. Simply stated, in the present educational climate and debate, this is a service that we cannot be without." In a democracy, those that do not participate, tend to get stepped on."

When you pay your dues to NYSSMA, 2/3rds or \$80 goes to NAFME for these efforts

in Washington. Only 1/3 or \$40.00 goes to your state organization NYSSMA!

Your \$40.00 commitment to NYSSMA represents your participation in the most significant professional force for music education in N.Y. State. Membership signifies your commitment to professional excellence in music education and your own professional growth. Membership provides advocacy on the state level (advocacy strategies that you may use locally) representation at all NYCSEA (New York State Council of Educational Associations) meetings, representation for any committees at the state level that could have an impact on Music Education. Members are able to nominate their students to become one of the 900 All State performers at the Winter Conference in Rochester. The Winter Conference, which will take place on December 1-4 offers 190 workshops and showcases that offers a matchless opportunity for your professional growth. Each August, NYSSMA co sponsors the New York State Summer Music Conference which is devoted to education workshops and reading music for potential school use. The NYSSMA solos and ensemble evaluation process motivates students to

achieve, reinforces and augments the quality of your instruction, augments your programs visibility to the community in and out of school.

Your joint membership (NAFME and NYSSMA) provides you with four publications: *School Music News*, *NYSSMA Notes*, *Music Educators Journal* and *Teaching Music Magazine*.

Conventional Wisdom that NYSSMA is expensive is just plain wrong. I am indebted to Susan Weber with whose permission I have used material that she developed that will soon appear on the NYSSMA.org web site. I hope we have jointly made such a strong case that you will immediately run to your computer and visit our website and join or renew your membership today. If you prefer, call the NYSSMA office at 1-888-NYSSMA-1 and anyone you reach will be happy to help you!

Best Wishes for an outstanding school year!
Michael Pitt
NYSSMA Zone 12 Representative



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NYSSMA's 76th Winter Conference

If you think MEANYC offers a nice selection of workshops, you should try to attend NYSSMA's Winter Conference in Rochester on December 1-4. A sampling of the nearly 200 workshops includes: targeted approaches for elementary, middle and high school pedagogy, sessions specific to individual instruments, advocacy, adjudication preparation, technology and budgeting. The culmination of the four days are the All-State ensembles from the state's most talented musicians. The major publishers and instrument companies have fantastic booths and also run various clinics.

Many NYC principals approve these days for professional development, and no personal days are deducted from your C.A.R. Whether you attend part or all of the conference, you will walk away (ok—it's a long walk from Rochester) with added knowledge, information and inspiration.

MEANYC tries to secure a special group train rate. Zone Rep Mike will look into it again this year. We will post any information on our website and send an email to our members.

Save The Date!

20th Annual Dinner

Friday, October 28, 2011 at 6PM

Astoria World Manor

25-22 Astoria Boulevard

Astoria, New York 11102

Honorees are the late Lucie Evens and
New York State Assemblyman Alan Maisel

Please check our website, Facebook, Twitter and email for full details
and registration form. For more information, email Dinner Chairperson Bernice
Greene Fleischer at dinner@meanyc.org

**"... knows how to touch the heart of a child ...
a book of sheer delight... a wealth of gold between the lines"**

The California Music Teacher magazine

**"A wonderful read ... a great story to introduce
the concept of ... gender stereotypes."**

Childhood Education magazine

**"It is actually an illustrated chapter book, as the story is
separated by very short chapters ... The prose flows like soft
music ... The author puts forth an important message for all
children ... about self-esteem, courage and the need to work
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www.wildflowerbooks.wordpress.com

**"Fourth grade students found this book so appealing,
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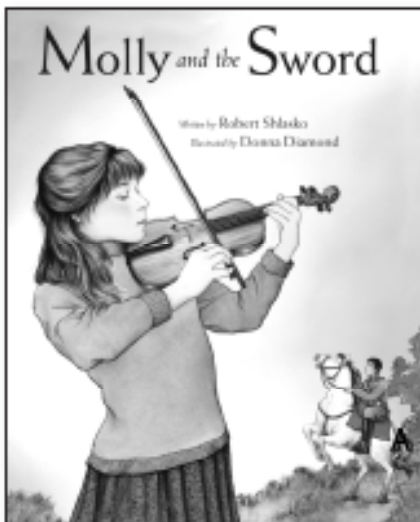
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Age: 7 - 12; 22 pages; 11 illustrated; hardcover.

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**Molly and the Sword, written by Robert Shlezak, illustrated by Dorina Diamond
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Interested in an author visit to your school?

The author of *Molly and the Sword* has read to second-, third-, fourth- and fifth-graders in public and private schools in New York and beyond. He says, "The best part of this book adventure has been the opportunity to visit with school children. They have been very responsive - in fact, plain terrific!"

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Nine Years

I was excited when I found out that the UFT was hosting a workshop with John Jacobson. I brought the photos I had taken with the children in «America Sings «in The Macys Day Parade with John Jacobson from nine years ago along with my photos of The Keltic Dreams and the children I taught to show him how far my journey had come in nine years. I was so excited to tell him what an inspiration his workshop had been to me throughout all these years

Mr. Jacobson always has so much energy and it is evident in his teaching. I was so excited after the four hours to return back to work on Monday and teach my music classes. I asked Mr. Jacobson in a Q & A discussion at the end how he had so much energy. He said when he hears people complain that they are tired, it is somehow pointless to him. He went on -

«Everyone is tired—you, me, them. Nobody cares if you are going to go through life. If you don't give those children all you have to get them motivated, than you are in



Caroline Duggan & John Jacobson

the wrong profession. When a child looks in the mirror and feels worthless we can change that in a music class if even for a while. We as music teachers can brighten a day. I've had conversations with many people over the years and they don't remember what they learned in Math class but they remember the time they walked on stage and performed in front of an audience for the first time or played a musical instrument in a band for the first time.» Mr. Jacobson had me reduced to tears.

I personally believe and live by my

philosophy that we as music teachers can brighten up every single child in our music classes every day and that if we don't give every single student sitting there in front of us something to smile about in that class, whether it be a forty minute period or more, we have failed at our jobs as music teachers. Some children will go home to a wonderful home situation while others won't know what home is from one day to another and may go to a shelter each night. The bottom line is, when they are all sitting there in front of us in their music class, we can make them feel special, feel part of a team, make them smile, and forget life's problems outside for a while. Whoever said, «You can't reach them all» was never a music teacher!!!!

Caroline Duggan, PS 59, Bronx
www.thekelticdreams.com

[Ed. Note: Ms. Duggan's complete article will be posted on our website.]

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