

# VOICES RISING by the SEA

## ChoralFest at the Ferry Beach Conference Center on the ocean in Saco, ME



August 2016

Suzanne Adams, Conference Coordinator

Dr. Drew Collins, Artistic & Music Director

### Personal Messages from Suzanne Adams and Drew Collins

As I left to ride home the last day of ChoralFest 2016, I was thinking that it would be good to be back home with my husband Gary and our kitties and to be able to sleep in the next morning. Now as I'm sitting here at my computer I'm missing all of the people who attended and the GAYLA brothers and feeling sad that our week together has ended for another year. I've heard from others that you also found it tough to adjust back to the "real" world. How often are you greeted with smiles and hugs everywhere you go except at Ferry Beach?

At our wrap-up one of the attendees said that being part of the magic of Ferry Beach reminded her of the musical Brigadoon. According to the story, the village of Brigadoon rose up in the mist of the Scottish Highlands for one day every 100 years. Two lost travelers stumble upon the village and one of the men falls in love with a local lass before Brigadoon disappears at the end of the day. The fellow's love is so strong, Brigadoon reappears later to welcome him in. Ferry Beach has existed on the shore of Saco Bay and some days might appear to rise up in the morning fog. But thanks to more than a century of dreamers, planners, volunteers, staff and donors, we can all return to Ferry Beach as often as we like for inspiration and renewal to fill our spirits and to live the belief that God is love. I acknowledge that I cannot be immersed daily in these wonderful uplifting emotions that I experienced during our week, and I remind myself that unlike Brigadoon,

Ferry Beach does not disappear into the mists when I leave. It remains physically on Saco Bay and in our hearts to inspire us in the "real" world.

#### *Suzanne*

I have been riding a high ever since returning home from my time with everyone at Ferry Beach last month. Again, I want to express my gratitude to all who attended for their hard work, positive attitudes, flexibility, and talent. I am really pleased with what they accomplished together. I will forever treasure the card they gave me filled with generous thoughts and thanks. I shared it with my family. They could tell from my tales and words that the week was a special one.

This year, we tried an experiment. Instead of a week of mostly workshops and preparing two songs for public performance, we reversed that: mostly rehearsals preparing six songs for public performance with a few brief workshops. Everyone I have heard from, including most attendees, agrees with me that our experiment was a success. The week felt productive and we got to sink our teeth into repertoire, exploring detail and meaning that hurried rehearsals during the regular church year do not allow for. The chapel service was inspirational to those in attendance and to all the singers. We will employ the same model next year, tweaking it a bit here and there.

One more time, special thanks to Suzanne Adams, Tim Horne, and Ellie Rolnick for making the whole thing "go".

And, of course, many thanks to the wonderful Ferry Beach staff for all they did to make the week such a blessing.

Ferry Beach is a special place filled with friends, love, music, joy, renewal, and growth. With each sunrise, moonrise, sunset, ocean breeze, walk on the beach, meal, rehearsal, and conversation, I felt my strength renewed and spirit restored.

#### *Drew*

### Alex Kapitan, Minister-of-the Week During ChoralFest 2016

We wanted to share contact information with you about Alex Kapitan who was our minister of the week. He describes himself as a traveling preacher, educator and activist who is available to preach or speak at churches or regional gathering.

• **Email:** [alexleekapitan@gmail.com](mailto:alexleekapitan@gmail.com)

• **Website:**  
[www.rootsgrowthetree.com](http://www.rootsgrowthetree.com).

The two books he used for most of his readings are below and both are available at [www.uuabookstore.org](http://www.uuabookstore.org).

• **Voices from the Margins**, edited by Jacqui James and Mark Morrison-Reed

• **Sources of Our Faith**, edited by Kathleen Rolenz

For the latest news, find us  
on Facebook at Choral Fest  
at Ferry Beach

## List of Music Titles and Composers From the Conference

Thank you to Heidi Neufeld and Ellie Rolnick for searching through their church libraries to pick out some favorite pieces to share with us. We are definitely going to make this part of next year's program. Their lists as well as Drew's are below.

### Music Drew Presented

**Yanaway Heyona** (Iroquois, arr. Brian Tate; pub. Pavane)

**Sun Don't Set in the Mornin'** (U.S. Folk Hymn, arr. Jay Althouse; pub. Alfred)

**Angel Band** (Hymn)

**The Dark Around Us** (Malcolm Dalglish; pub. www.oooliticmusic.com)

**Here Comes the Sun** (G. Harrison, arr. Mac Huff; pub. Hal Leonard)

**Requiem** (Eliza Gylkyson, arr. C. Johnson; pub. Hal Leonard)

**Part in Peace** (UUU Hymnal, Singing the Living Tradition, no. 411)

### Music Ellie Presented

**Bambelela** – Never Give Up; arr. Mairi Munro & Philip Jakob - pub. GIA Publications

**Choral Responses** (white book) pub. Unitarian Universalist Musicians Network (uumn.org). We sang #5 'Joy Introit' by Lila J. Cobb

**Do Not Stand at My Grave and Weep** by Michael Connolly) pub. GIA

**Magnify the Light** by Carl Strommen; pub. Alfred

**The Silence and the Song** by Mark Patterson; pub. BriLee

**Two Interfaith Chants**; pub. GIA. We sang 'Wage Peace'.

**We are a Circle** by Ellie Rolnick, arr. by Joanne Hammil; contact erolnick@maine.rr.com for information.

Go to <http://www.ferrybeach.org/choral-fest.html> to see and hear the ChoralFest 2016 singers

### Music Heidi Presented

**Sow It on the Mountain**, arr. Will Schmid; pub. Hal Leonard

**Calling My Children Home**, arr. Joseph H. Jennings; pub. Hinshaw

**Bright Morning Stars**, Kentucky Folk Hymn arr. Jay Althouse: pub. Alfred

**Old Irish Blessing**, Denes Agay: pub. Belwin/Alfred

**It Takes a Village**, Joan Szymko; pub. Santa Barbara

**Hope is the Thing with Feathers**, Kenney Potter; pub. Santa Barbara

**Lord of the Dance**, Sidney Carter, arr. Don Hart; pub. Hope (Not presented, but Heidi's all-time favorite Easter piece)

## ChoralFest Scholarship Fund

We have started a ChoralFest scholarship fund for next year and already have \$135 in donations. It is our hope to collect funds to enable one or more attendees to attend ChoralFest 2017.

If you would like to donate to the fund, make your check out to Suzanne Adams and mail to 18 Iris Way, Haverhill, MA 01830. If you are thinking of attending next summer and would like to be considered for scholarship help, please email Suzanne at [sue@gndhome.com](mailto:sue@gndhome.com).



## Plans for Next Year

1) You can expect a bi-monthly newsletter (this is the first!). This should keep communications streamlined. Please share with singers in your choirs and choruses who might consider joining us next summer. Archive copies will be available on the choralfest website (<http://www.ferrybeach.org/choral-fest.html>) and FaceBook page (<http://www.facebook.com/ChoralFestConferenceatFerryBeach>). Please send first and last names and email addresses to Suzanne Adams at [sue@gndhome.com](mailto:sue@gndhome.com) so she can add them to the email list.

2) The Ferry Beach theme for next summer is "Love", and Drew is planning to select music and readings around that theme as well.

3) Suggestions for changes to the schedule from this year's attendees will be implemented as much as possible.

