

The L.U.N.C.H. MENU

LOCAL
UNITED
NETWORK to
COMBAT
HUNGER



Founded 1989 by Bill Pere
continuing the legacy of Harry Chapin

Since 1989

Using the power of popular music to produce positive social action

Fall 1997 Issue

...CIRCLES...

It seems like yesterday that we were busily preparing for the 4th Harry Chapin Legacy Show. The event took place on April 12, at Fitch High School in Groton, raising more than \$32,000 during the two years of preparation. The show was a great success with a large audience treated to the theatric antics of Superman, Batman and Robin, Wonder Woman, Lex Luthor and a giant gorilla.

A LUNCH Ensemble of more than 60 kids from ten different schools were joined by top professional artists to put on a great music show, featuring the songs of Harry Chapin and original songs by Bill Pere and other members of the Connecticut Songwriters Association. Les Julian and Tom Callinan did solo sets, and the entire company provided the traditional finale of "The Last Protest Singer" and "All My Life's a Circle".

The LUNCH instrumental ensemble consisted of Dave Coxe and Kay Johnson (keyboards), Megan Barker (percussion), Kara Watts (flute), Caitlin Reiter and Kathleen Boyle (violin), and Jackie Schwenk and Melody Pere (digital horn).

The Songwriters Association also provided volunteers for photography and video, with Ric Speck and Peter Gale behind the cameras, and Don Donegan manning the boutique table.

We also are grateful to our parent and community volunteers who helped provide pizza, transportation, more photography, and who kept the forces of chaos at bay.

Now that we've done parodies of Star Trek,

TOTAL RAISED to DATE: \$127,000

There Are More Than 80,000 Hungry Children In Connecticut!

After the Chapin show, things didn't slow down... In June, on a day that was hot enough to fry eggs on a park bench, the LUNCH Ensemble was in Waterbury, as one of the featured acts at the town's first Outdoor Kids Festival. Also appearing was Les Julian. The group's appearance was sponsored by the Waterbury Palace Foundation, who are seeking to restore that old theater and turn it into a center for the arts, much like the Garde in New London. Pictured below is the group along with representatives from the Palace Foundation.

IMAGE NOT AVAILABLE

Despite the heat, the kids put on a good enough show that they were asked to be guest performers at an arts camp in Thomaston, in August. And of course there was the week of summer music camp at Camp Wightman ---details inside.

COMING UP : OCTOBER 18
LUNCH at Cheney Hall
to Benefit
Social Service Agencies
HELP US OUT
We Need Seat Sponsors!
(see inside for details)

SOME RECENT ACTIVITIES



The 4th HARRY CHAPIN LEGACY SHOW



April 12, 1997
Groton, Connecticut

The 4th Harry Chapin Legacy Show

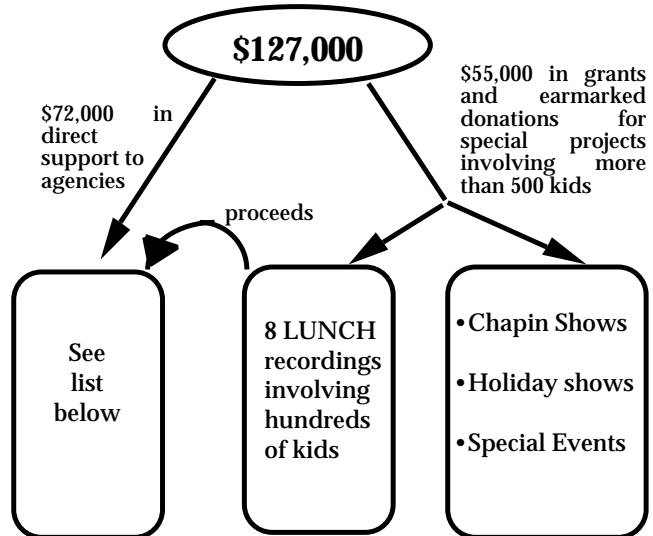


Summer Music Camp at Camp Wightman

You can E-mail us at wdpsons@aol.com. We're always happy to hear from you and we always write back.

YOUR LUNCH DOLLARS AT WORK

LUNCH is a community service outreach of the Connecticut Songwriters Association, a tax-exempt charitable organization founded in 1979. Most LUNCH projects i.e., concerts and recordings, are funded through grants or through earmarked donations. Proceeds generated by our projects are used to help hunger relief and family service efforts in Connecticut. As a volunteer organization, we have no administrative overhead.



Agencies who benefit from our programs include:

- The Sunshine Kitchen, Stonington-Groton
- The Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center
- The Groton Food Locker
- Stonington Youth Services Bureau
- Catholic Charities of Norwich
- Community Service Ministry of New London
- Community Resources Commission, New London
- Covenant Shelter, New London
- WARM Shelter, Westerly RI
- Connecticut Hospice
- World Hunger Year, New York City
- H.O.P.E.
- The Noank Group Homes
- St. Vincent DePaul Shelter, Waterbury
- The Cornerstone Soup Kitchen, Vernon
- The Samaritan Shelter, Manchester
- Foodshare

In addition, we've participated in events to support the Animal Shelter of West Haven, United Cerebral Palsy, Muscular Dystrophy, and more. Most importantly, we give a kids a chance to be involved and show them that they can make a difference.

We're happy to help out wherever the power of popular music and the involvement of kids can come together to make a difference. In fact, it was a series of concerts for the Noank Group Homes almost 20 years ago that first got us into the business of benefit shows.

If you would like to have a LUNCH show at your church, school, civic group, backyard, or anywhere, give us a call: 860-572-9285

LUNCH -- SOUP TO NUTS TIMELINE

- **Apr 7-** Bill and Tom Callinan are on hand to entertain the guests at the Governor's Conference on Tourism in Cromwell.
- **Apr 9-** Career Day at Ledyard Middle School! For the fourth year in a row, Bill is invited to give a presentation on careers in music and technology.
- **Apr 10--** A group of kids from the Noank Baptist Church come to the studio to record a song for the new CD
- **Apr 12--** The 4th Harry Chapin Legacy Show at Fitch High School, Groton -- 100 kids and professional artists put on a very successful show, raising more than \$30,000.
- **May 3--** The Science Center of Southeastern Connecticut has its grand opening in New London, with Bill presenting a music, science and technology program.
- **Jun 22 --** The group performs outdoors in sweltering heat at the Waterbury outdoor arts festival. LUNCH and Les Julian were the featured entertainers. No one melted, although Caitlin and Michelle hid under the trailer most of the time. We learned that Kay doesn't like Cherry Coke, even when it's hot outside.
- **Jun 28--** Bill and Kay and Dave and Megan provide special music for the service at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Manchester.
- **July 13-19--** More than 50 campers and counsellors join The LUNCH Ensemble in a week-long Summer Music Camp program at Camp Wightman in Norwich. **Kara Watts, Caitlin Reiter, Michelle Lane, Amanda Carpenter, and Melody Pere** provide positive role models for the younger campers.
- **Aug 6--** The Group travels to Waterbury to present a program at an arts camp for kids in grades 6-9.
- **Aug 24--** The Group is at Salmon River State Park to celebrate the end of the summer with a picnic, photos, bubbles, laser tag, and getting wet.
- **Oct 18 --** LUNCH concert at Cheney Hall in Manchester to start off the Family Concert Series by bringing the Harry Chapin Legacy to that well-known venue, to benefit local social service agencies
- **December --** LUNCH and the Songwriters Association at Olde Mistick Village for a Holiday Season Concert
- **Dec 31 --** Bill and the Ensemble will be at the Union Baptist Church family venue for Mystic First Night.
- **Jan 23 --** Bill and all the State Troubadours present a concert at Cheney Hall, Manchester

Several Fall events are being planned, but we don't have firm dates yet. For up to date Fall LUNCH Event Schedule call 860-572-9285 periodically and check Menu option (#4).

KIDS !! If you're in grades 5-12 and would like to be a part of LUNCH, either performing with us or singing in the studio, give a call. We're always looking for kids who like music and who like to help others.

MEET SOME NEW FACES

Several kids have been with LUNCH since 1990, and you've seen their names many times. We always have new people coming aboard. In the last year, we've had some new people join us and they've made great contributions of talent and energy.

Megan Barker is a junior at Fitch High School. She was a part of the 1994 Chapin Legacy Show, and has wanted to be more involved since then. Last Spring, she came to one of our rehearsals to see if she could be a regular part of the group. Bill put a pair of drumsticks in her hand and said 'play'. Megan, a mallets player in the Fitch band, hadn't ever played electronic percussion before but she learned quickly and now is an essential member of the ensemble, performing with the group at almost every show. Megan fits well into the LUNCH Ensemble because she laughs at bad puns.

Shauna-Beth Mandelburg is a junior at Norwich Free Academy. She has a voice that you never forget and has touched many audiences with her featured solos at LUNCH concerts. She heard about the LUNCH program and called in the summer of '96 to see what it was all about. Bill invited her to come to the studio and sing, and after about three notes, Bill welcomed her to the group. Shauna Beth has a solo on the Connecticut Christmas tape, where she sings "Christmas Eve on the Poor Side of Town", written by Bill. In addition to her expressive vocals, Shauna Beth also has the ability to roll her tongue and click her fingernails.

LUNCH SuperStars



In August of '96, **Kay Johnson** sang her first chorus of "All My Life's a Circle" with the LUNCH Ensemble in West Haven. Since then, she has been a part of every show, lending her keyboard, voice, and smile to the group.

Most importantly, Kay takes seriously the group's mission, of helping those who are less fortunate, and she has turned her beliefs into actions. In the Manchester area, Kay organized a fundraiser through her employer and got \$1,000 of sponsorships for the last Chapin show. She has made contacts with the area's Ecumenical council, and the regional homeless shelter, and has arranged the Cheney Hall concert in October to address needs in that part of the state. In April of this year, Kay received the annual Award for Outstanding Service to the Connecticut Songwriters Association. Kay recently moved to Mystic and is now right here in LUNCH's home town.

When in doubt, do something -- Harry Chapin

RECORDING UPDATE

NEW DAY COMING TOMORROW

RURAL MURAL

Okay, so why is it taking so long to get the next recording done? Two reasons: One is because we've gotten very busy with doing performances, the other is that we're actually working on two recordings at the same time -- besides *New Day Coming Tomorrow*, we're also working on *Rural Mural* which completes the trilogy started by *Crest of a Wave* and *Cityscape* -- but we're almost done with *New Day...* just three more songs to go. And we're already planning the next few recordings: One will be *The High School Years*, so our songs can grow as our kids grow. And for the romantically inclined, we will have *Let Me Count the Ways*.

LUNCH and School Projects

Over the years, many students have used LUNCH as the subject of school reports and projects. Recently, LUNCH was the subject of a research paper and presentation by Gerald McKinney for his adult class. Gerald discovered us through one of our recordings. He called his presentation "Kids Helping Kids -- An Overview of LUNCH". His research, which involved interviews and surveys of LUNCH participants called our programs "A powerful example of how teaching role models, environment, and music can positively influence child development in terms of industry vs inferiority". He got an "A" on his project.

UPCOMING EVENTS

December -- LUNCH and the Connecticut Songwriters Association at Olde Mistick Village, with a great Holiday program (check newspaper and hotline for the date)

December 31 -- LUNCH at Union Baptist Church for First Night Mystic

January -- All-Troubadour Show at Cheney Hall featuring all of Connecticut's Official State Troubadours

SPECIAL THANKS

TO OUR LUNCH ADULT VOLUNTEERS

LUNCH is about kids, but it takes many adults behind the scenes to provide the infrastructure and support system that makes it all work.

Carol Schwenk has been a great help with transportation, emergency rations (kids eat a lot!) and has been instrumental in getting us a grant from SOSA (Submarine base Officers Spouses Association).

Gary Reas has been on hand at many LUNCH events to provide video and still photography for the group. Gary has captured on film events including the summer music camps, the '96 Holiday Show, and the 4th Chapin Legacy Show.

Bob Kammer teaches the Gifted and Talented program at Ledyard Center School. Three times, he's worked with a great group of students to teach them one of our songs, and then organized a class trip to the recording studio where the kids have lent their voices to our LUNCH recordings. Bob and his daughter Laurie attend many LUNCH events.

Ric Speck is the Vice-President of the Connecticut Songwriters Association and is very active with the arts in the Waterbury area. Thanks to Ric, LUNCH has performed several times in that part of the state, and Ric has also helped photograph many LUNCH performances.

Peter Gale is a professional musician who also produces a cable TV show. He lent his video expertise to LUNCH in taping and editing a video of the 4th Chapin Show.

And of course, there are all the parents support their child's involvement in our activities.

If a man took his time on earth and tried to prove before he died what one man's life could be worth, I wonder what would happen to this world? -- Harry Chapin

MARK THAT CALENDAR --- !

Upcoming events with Bill Pere and the LUNCH Ensemble, and other guest artists.

Saturday OCTOBER 18 at CHENEY HALL in Manchester -- Wednesday, December 31 at First Night Mystic

Coming in '98 -- The STEVE CHAPIN BAND (April) and the Troubadours at Cheney Hall, January 23

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