

Take Note!

Update
2008-2009

I wish you could see what we see when we look out at the audience and sing. Some of you have a look of pure joy on your faces, some of you look contemplative, some close your eyes, some cry, and some of you nod your heads and sway in rhythm with our music. We know many of you, but we have not met all of you, and yet in those moments when we look in each others' eyes, we are speaking to each other, and, I would bet, feeling much of the same emotions.



Isn't it amazing the power that music has? More powerful than any words alone. Many of you have come up to us at concert receptions and graciously complimented our group, and we do so appreciate it. But there is nothing so strong and definite as what you are "saying" when you listen to us, relax in the surrounding harmonies, and show how we have touched you. That, indeed, touches us.

"You all look like you're having so much fun," is often the first thing people say to us after a concert. How true it is. Being a part of this group is an incredibly joyous venture. We experience an honest-to-goodness physical high from singing together and hearing the blending sounds of our fellow singers around us. For us, making music is a necessity. So you can imagine how fortunate we feel to be blessed with such an opportunity.

It is, however, a lot of work! We rehearse once a week as well as practice on our own, and, as you know, perform once a month for most of the year. We need a jumbo-sized binder to hold our repertoire, as we continue to learn new and more challenging music. And the old gems that we perform are continuously "dusted off" and perfected. Everything we sing is a work in progress, regardless of how many times we've sung it before. There is always some aspect to improve upon, such as dynamics, vowel placement, breathing, and energy. But it's rewarding work!

We come from many backgrounds, but we share a love of music, and that is what holds us together. Over the years we've experienced some change in membership, but the majority of our initial group has remained the same. We cannot ignore the fact that the tragic loss of our fellow singer and dear friend Toni Brancia in May of 2007 made us more keenly aware of each other's presence. In our sorrow we came together as a family and I dare say we have become more close, more aware of each other, and, indeed more appreciative of what we all bring to this group.

What's especially wonderful about our endeavors is that the music we make and the joy we share with audiences is not fleeting. After the last notes of the concert have echoed in the hall there is always some charitable organization that will be able to do a little bit more because of the generous donations that you and others like you have given at the door. We all benefit - we get some music, some joy, some more "good" in the world.

We love seeing you in the audience. Many times we are pleasantly surprised to find a former teacher or student, a coworker, a neighbor, or an old friend that we didn't expect to see. Please join us again this concert season and bring a friend who hasn't heard us yet. We are so looking forward to looking out there and communicating with even more people in the best and most meaningful way we know how - through music.

--Lynn Sloan, Chair, Take Note! Board of Directors

Through performances in support of charitable endeavors, we are raising voices, raising spirits, raising hope...

Take Note! was founded in February 2003, inspired by Artistic Director Linda Tracy's desire to lead and be part of an a cappella group of select, talented, local singers who enjoy eclectic, challenging music. The mission of the group naturally evolved as members of Take Note! recognized that benefit performances could support local community organizations, while at the same supporting the group's need to make beautiful music. The group became a non-profit organization in July 2004.

We launched our 2008/2009 concert season with our June 1, 2008 fundraising and sponsor appreciation performance, starting yet another year of making beautiful music for good causes. Take Note! performed at new venues in Mansfield and South Glastonbury, as well as some of our more familiar locations, and, as the concert season draws to a close, we are happy to report that we have helped local non-profits raise more than \$12,000 this year.

The good works of the following groups or individuals have benefited from our efforts to date:

- American Cancer Society Windham Region Relay for Life
- Arts at the Capitol Theater ACT Fund Scholarship
- Baroco Corp. (Adult Day Options Program)
- Books to Dreams, Inc.
- Books for Babies
- Artist and Teacher Pat Browne
- Colchester Hadassah - Center for Emergency Medicine, Israel
- Covenant Soup Kitchen
- Creative Living Community of Connecticut
- Delta Kappa Gamma Society's Higher Education Scholarship Fund
- Eastern Connecticut Railroad Museum
- Emergency USA Fund/Katrina Relief
- The First Church of Christ in Mansfield Outreach
- Guilford Smith Memorial Library
- Heifer International
- Hospice of Eastern Connecticut and VNA East
- Governor Samuel Huntington Trust
- Immaculata Retreat House
- InterCommunity Mental Health Group - Common Ground
- Liberian Children's Mission
- Mansfield Senior Center Association
- Natchaug Hospital
- National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), Windham County
- Virginia and Charles Prewitt Scholarship for Peace Studies (ECSU)
- Quiet Corner Self Help for the Hard of Hearing (SHHH)
- St. Peter's Church, Hebron, Outreach
- St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Willimantic, Outreach
- Second Congregational Church of Stafford at West Stafford Ministries
- Storrs Congregational Church, Accessibility Fund
- Students First Fund, UConn Student Health Services
- South Windham Congregational Church Organ Fund
- Temple Bnai Israel
- Tents of Hope for Darfur, Sudan
- Westfield Congregational Church
- Windham Area Interfaith Ministry Fuel Bank and other Outreach
- Windham Hospital Emergency Service and Outpatient Center
- Windham No Freeze Project, Inc.
- Windham Theatre Guild

As you are probably aware, Take Note! does not charge for performances. In fact, we not only perform gratis, but we provide the group sponsoring each concert with posters, press releases, media placement advice and information, and concert programs, all free of charge. All donations received at a concert go directly to the sponsoring organization. Our only sources of income are the generous support of our donors, and the net revenue from the sales of our CD.

Your support of Take Note! allows us to expand our repertoire by purchasing new music, provides for professional development opportunities, and helps cover expenses incurred for printing our posters, programs and other promotional materials.

We are in the process of recording our second CD. With the success of our first album, Sweet Songs from the Quiet Corner, we felt that it was time to record another. We take pride in knowing that, well into our seventh year, the music we make together is still pleasing our audiences. We look forward to the future!

Proudly Celebrating 7 Years of Service to Our Community!

Take Note!

a cappella vocal ensemble



in Concert

Sunday, June 7, 2009, 3:00 p.m.

The First Church of Christ in Mansfield, Routes 89 and 195, Mansfield Center

Donations for Take Note! Outreach gratefully accepted at the door