

# MRP QUARTER NOTES

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE MUSIC REVITALIZATION PROJECT, INC. APR/MAY/JUN 2000 VOL 1-ISSUE 2

## NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

It's the time of the year, when our town officials are struggling over school budgets and trying to make ends meet. Even though the state is reporting record tax revenues, decisions are being pondered by school committees as to how to balance their annual budgets - what to cut and what to keep. In the past, music and art programs led the list of areas to cut. These "non-essential" subjects were deemed expendable. The good news is that, so far, our town officials recognize the value of music and art to our children's educational process, and have sought other ways to balance school budgets. For that, they deserve our gratitude. But there is certainly room for improvement.

There is a concept in physics called *complementarity*, which states that seemingly opposing ideas add up to much more than the sum of their parts. Complements are required for a full spectrum of understanding of any physical phenomenon. This same notion can be applied to the education process. While on the surface it may be difficult to imagine how music and math, or music and reading are related, but they are truly complementary. Scientific and educational literature abounds with examples of how strong music skills foster better performance in reading, math & science. If our politicians and educators are truly concerned about the performance of kids in school, then they should be willing to enhance children's educational experience with strong programs in music & arts.

If you live in a district where your music and art programs are in danger of underfunding, now is the time to call your school committee and attend budget meetings to make your voice heard.

It's no secret - music and the 3Rs are complementary to a strong education.



Dave Rolince, President  
Music Revitalization Project

## EPIC BRASS - A SMASH!

*"Loved it!"*

*Great for introducing kids to music!  
Marvelous musicianship & showmanship!  
Our 3 and 5 year olds were captivated!  
Absolutely wonderful!"*

The audience said it all. The Epic Brass concerts held at the Attleboro Library on Feb 12th were resounding successes. We all learned about the history of the brass family, the evolution of the instruments and heard selections from every musical era and genre. After each performance there was time to chat with the musicians and kids were given the opportunity to examine the instruments in more detail. You know it was a great event when you saw people toe tapping and humming on their way out the door. A special thanks to the Attleboro Cultural Council and the Friends of the Attleboro Public Library for their support.



## ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

Applications for the year 2000 MRP College Scholarship for graduating high school seniors majoring in music are now being accepted until May 31, 2000. If you have any questions about the scholarship or need an application form and guidelines, contact Carol Lou at 508-222-3804. Applications can be sent to our P. O. Box.

The scholarship was established in 1998 with a contribution from Newman's Own. The recipient of the first annual scholarship was Patricia Cavanaugh, of Attleboro, continuing her voice/music education degree from Smith College. The second recipient in 1999 was Leanne Porta, of Brockton, continuing her education in piano/music education degree from Berkley College/Boston.

-Carol Lou Allen

## MUSICIANS THROUGH THE CENTURIES:

AUSTRALIA'S  
GENIUS,  
PERCY  
ALDRIDGE  
GRAINGER  
(1882-1961)

Percy Grainger was one of the more unique individuals to grace the music scene of the earlier part of the 20th Century. Born in Brighton, Australia on July 8, 1882, he began his musical career with his first piano recitals at the age of 10, and concert tour at age 12. By 1900 he was touring Australia, England and South Africa as an accomplished piano virtuoso. He became one of the most popular concert pianists on two continents for 30 years. In the early part of the century Edvard Grieg guided Grainger to the study of folk music. This moment in time shaped a future for him that resulted in the many works for band that we enjoy playing and listening to today.

In 1915 Grainger came to America where he enlisted in the U.S. Army band as an oboist. It was during this time that he began to arrange folk songs for symphonic band. He had an unusual view to the scoring of his music. At that time the standard for band music was established by military bands and march composers. He viewed band music as an opportunity to bring out the varying tonal colors of the instruments themselves.

By using standard instruments in unique ways, such as using full choirs (or families) of instruments and adding more bass instruments, he created new tone colors. He began adding to those tonal colors by introducing piano, harp, vibraphone, exotic double reeds from Egypt, and others both com-



mon and mundane, to the instrumentation of his arrangements.

Very little of his body of over 600 works was totally original. Grainger borrowed many of his themes from folk songs he collected while wandering the countryside of Europe. He did many transcriptions of other composers' works. Of his original themes, many were written out in varying arrangements and instrumentation, quickly adding to his total body of work.

To our readership the more familiar Grainger pieces would be: Ye Banks and Braes O' Bonnie Doon, Handel in the Strand, Country Gardens, The Children's March, Lincolnshire Posy, and of course, Irish Tune from County Derry and Shephard's Hey.

Throughout his concert career Grainger often performed with high school, college and military bands. He once sat in as a saxophonist with the Goldman Band. With that band he made his last recording as a solo pianist in a performance of the "Children's March". His last public performance was at Dartmouth College Band as a guest conductor on April 28, 1960.

## SUGGESTED WEBSITES:

- 1) The Grainger Museum web site has listings, articles and web links:  
[www.lib.unimelb.edu.au/collections/grainger/museum.home.html](http://www.lib.unimelb.edu.au/collections/grainger/museum.home.html)
- 2) Or join The Percy Grainger Society,  
[www.bardic-music.com/grainger.htm](http://www.bardic-music.com/grainger.htm)

## SUGGESTED READING:

"The Music of Percy Aldridge Grainger" by Dr. Kay Dreyfus in two volumes. The first is an essential tool in Grainger research. The second is a supplemental volume with index and cross-references.

## SUGGESTED MUSIC:

For over 100 available Recordings with Grainger tunes, check out CD Universe  
<http://cduniverse.com/asp/classical/main.asp>  
Search on "Grainger", select Percy Aldridge  
-John Zawislak

## MUSIC LENDING LIBRARY GETS A DONATION

A tremendous thanks to Bob Arsenault, Music director of Mount Hope High School, who donated several music scores that he was no longer using at the school to the MRP library. Donations of this type are greatly appreciated. If you have music that is not being used, why not put it on the shelves of the MRP library, in order to make it available to others who may not be able to afford to purchase music. To obtain a list of current band music for loan, or to make a donation, call Carol Lou Allen at 508-222-3804. The library is free for any music organization.

## MRP WISH LIST:

- Resources for Website Creation
- Donations of Band Music for the Music Lending Library
- Woodwind, Brass or Percussion Instruments
- Volunteers
- File Cabinets

If you would like to serve on the Board or volunteer for a committee, meetings are held the 2nd Friday of every month. Call 508-226-6897 for more details.

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR:

Help support your local music organizations by attending these live concerts performed by the youth in our community. For more information contact the music departments of the following schools:

- 5/6 S.E.Mass Wind Symphony Concert  
Wheaton College - 7:30 pm
- 5/10 Norton HS Spring Concert  
Band/Chorus - Norton HS - 7pm
- 5/10 Attleboro HS Spring Concert  
Attleboro HS - 7pm
- 5/17 Easton HS Spring Band Concert  
Oliver Ames HS - 7pm
- 5/20 Spring Pops Concert  
King Phillip HS - 7pm
- 5/25 Seekonk HS Band Concert  
Seekonk HS - 7pm
- 5/31 Norton Jr. Instrumental Concert  
Norton Middle School - 7pm
- 6/3 MWS Boston Festival of Bands  
Fanueil Hall, Boston - 11am-6pm
- 6/6 Outdoor Picnic Dinner Concert  
Attleboro HS - TBA
- 6/7 Norton Chorus/Chimes Concert  
Norton Middle School - 7pm

The MRP QUARTER NOTES Newsletter is a quarterly publication. Contributions are welcome by writing to the Music Revitalization Project, Inc. P.O. Box 709, Norton, MA, 02766. All articles included are at the discretion of the editor as space allows.

Did you know that Percy Grainger had a habit of wearing clothing made entirely of twine? He did! was primarily made up of rice, bread pebbles, stale bread and jam. He was an advocate of what he called "Blue-eyed English" which was a language from which all words with Latin or French origins were eliminated. So a composer was a "tone-weight" a cello was a "butter" a piano was a "keyed-hammer-string-player" a performer was a "forth-player" and music was "tonery".

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