

# MRP QUARTER NOTES

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE MUSIC REVITALIZATION PROJECT, INC. OCT/NOV/DEC 2000 VOL 1-ISSUE 4

## NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome back from summer vacation! As you can see in the following pages, we had a great summer of activities. At two Attleboro Wednesday Night Market sessions, we met scores of people at our booth trying out musical instruments. Norton residents were treated to a fine outdoor performance by the Epic Brass at the Norton Public Library Park.

Now it's time to prepare for the coming year. Over the course of the next several weeks, we'll be working hard on grant proposals, our annual Christmas fund raiser, preparing for the Annual Meeting and the 2001 Project Plan. This is a great opportunity for our readers to provide input to the Executive Board. And as you can see from the insert in this issue, all are invited to the Annual Meeting. We are always open to new ideas for projects and fund raising. Help us expand our reach in the coming year.



Dave Rolince, President  
Music Revitalization Project

## ANNUAL MEETING: TASTING THE SWEETS

The MRP will be holding its Annual Meeting Friday, October 13th at 7:30PM. All members and interested parties are invited to attend, and we will be serving desserts and refreshments at the event. This is a great opportunity to catch up on MRP programs, learn more about the MRP and our future plans, and to simply get acquainted with us. If you plan to attend, please fill out and mail in the response form included with this issue of QuarterNotes, or simply give Doreen and Dave a call at 508-226-6897. Directions to the meeting will be provided at that time. Please join us for this fun event!

-Carol Lou Allen

## HOLIDAY CARDS ARE BACK!

Planning is now underway for the MRP's annual Christmas fundraising event. Musical Christmas cards are 15-minute "concerts-on-a-doorstep," performed by small groups of local musicians playing seasonal music to the Christmas card recipients. "Cards" are being offered on weekends in December and are purchased with a \$25 tax deductible donation. If you are interested in sending a Musical Christmas card, or would like to be a part of our musician pool, give John Zawislak a call at 508-549-0923. This is a great way to send holiday cheer to friends and family, and help support the MRP!

## IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO THINK ABOUT YOUR 2000 TAXES!

Wow, it's already October! Soon the hectic holidays will be upon us. Why not plan now on making a tax deductible donation to the MRP! This gives you the benefit of a tax deduction, and helps the MRP continue its work to provide scholarships to music students, purchase music for schools and organizations that lack the financial resources, and sponsor music events in your community that are both educational and entertaining. Send your donation with the enclosed form that came with your newsletter. It's as easy as that!!!

## ATTENTION ALL MUSIC INSTRUCTORS

The MRP is often asked if we know of people who give lessons on particular musical instruments. We thought it would be great if we could distribute a list of instructors in the area to those who request it. We are currently putting together an Instructor Directory. If you would like to be included in this directory, please call 508-222-3804.

The information in the directory will include your name, address, phone number, the

instrument you teach, the level of student you prefer and where you would hold your classes. The MRP will not endorse nor recommend any particular instructors in the directory, but will simply provide the directory upon request, and will have the directory available at all MRP events.

We hope this will be a valuable tool to get students and teachers together!

## MUSICIANS THROUGH THE CENTURIES:

### GUSTAV HOLST (1874-1934)



Who among us concert band enthusiasts has not enjoyed both the 1st and 2nd Suites for Military Band? And who could not become a Holst fan after experiencing either a band or symphonic arrangement of The Planets? Have you also enjoyed The Moorside Suite, originally written for brass band?

All these compositions and more were the work of Gustav Holst. Although he is primarily thought of as an orchestral composer, with his most global fame attached to the success of The Planets, he wrote many pieces for bands and choirs, and even a few operas and ballets. He was a renowned teacher, and if music was needed for his school classes, he had no problem doing arrangements of Christmas carols or hymn tunes. It is said that he believed it is the duty of a composer to fulfill practical needs, and he would devote as much time to a song for voice or violin as he would to a full-scale choral symphony.

Gustav was largely self taught as a composer, despite early training at the Royal College of Music. He learned by experience and by pondering deeply on his art. He avoided preconceived systems and academic theory. He was constantly experimenting and searching for the right notes, the right sound.

"If nobody likes your work, you have to go on for the sake of the work," he said, "and

you're in no danger of letting the public make you repeat yourself." Holst's personality could be characterized as being a combination of opposing contrasts. He was friendly, gregarious, jolly and rambunctious, but he was also solitary, aloof and remote. He was a practical realist, but also a dreamer and visionary. He had a strong logical clarity of expression that allowed him to create very complex contrapuntal forms; and he had an irrational, romantic creativity in his soul. These contrasts of his personality are amplified in his body of music.

His father, a piano devotee, was determined to make him a great pianist. Unfortunately, Gustav suffered from a cramping condition called neuritis that affected his hands, preventing him from becoming a piano virtuoso. Early in his career he played the trombone and worked in various orchestras. This experience was useful to him as a composer. It allowed him to understand the orchestra from within. In his mind's ear, he always heard the orchestration of a work before composing it.

Some of his musical inspirations were from Wagner, Mendelssohn, Grieg and Haydn. Inspiration also came from his life experiences, Hindu philosophies and other religious doctrines. He actually learned Sanskrit in order to translate into English some of the most important Hindu Scriptures, the Rig Veda, and set them into groups of hymns. Astrology was a passion of his, casting horoscopes for his friends. It led him to write The Planets. His musical inspiration came from being immersed in life. He could be simply walking down the street and be suddenly caught up in a mood that would stimulate him to begin work on a new composition.

Beginning a new creative phase with some of

the spontaneity and warmth that characterized works of his earlier years, Gustav Holst died at the age of 59, after an unsuccessful operation for hemorrhagic gastritis, caused by his over consumption of vast quantities of milk. (Got Milk?)

Books on Gustav Holst are available in the public library, or search on 'Gustav Holst' to find many web pages containing information on his life, works and available CD's. One site I found particularly interesting is at <http://wso.williams.edu/~ktaylor/gholst/>.

-John Zawislak

## NORTON PICNIC CONCERT WOOS AUDIENCE

The MRP sponsored the Earl Raney's Epic Brass at the Norton Library Park the evening of July 19th. The weather cooperated and the concert was held outdoors under the gazebo to many happy listeners. The Epic Brass played a variety of popular favorites including a number of jazz and march tunes that lit up the summer air and had several children dancing in the park. The venue is so inviting that we hope to sponsor more outdoor concert events next summer.

## A JOYFUL NOISE IN ATTLEBORO

The Attleboro Wednesday Night Market was once again the scene of smiles and giggles from youngsters trying out a wide array of wind instruments at the MRP booth. We held our instrument "petting zoo" and informational booth on two evenings this summer, and got the chance to meet and work with scores of children and adults. For many kids, this is their initial introduction to band

instruments and once they hear the first sounds, they tend to crave more. MRP members were on hand to give these youngsters helpful hints on holding the instruments and getting the them to play simple notes. Best of all, a good time was had by all.

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR:

Help support your local music organizations by attending these live concerts:

- 11/5 Metropolitan Wind Symphony  
TSAI Center, Boston - 3pm
- 11/12 Brockton H.S. Band Concert
- 12/8 SE. Massachusetts Wind Symphony  
Wheaton College - 7:30pm
- 12/12 Norton Middle School Band - 7pm
- 12/14 Norton Chimes & Chorus - 7pm
- 12/19 Attleboro H.S. Band Concert
- 12/20 Norton H. S. Band Concert - 7pm

## 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.

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.



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