

# MRP QUARTER NOTES

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE MUSIC REVITALIZATION PROJECT, INC.

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## NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

After nearly a year of focused design and preparation, I am proud to say that the MRP web site is launched and accessible. This represents a major milestone in our mission to increase public awareness and appreciation for concert band performance, as well as extending our reach beyond the local area. This is an exciting time for the MRP. Learn more about the web site in this issue of *Quarternotes* and look us up at

[www.musicrevitalizationproject.org](http://www.musicrevitalizationproject.org)  
Our special thanks to web designer extraordinaire, Jay Zawislak of KaPoosta.com, and Bret Martin and Rik Faith of [miranda.org](http://miranda.org) for hosting the site.



*Dave Rolince*  
Dave Rolince, Pres. MRP

## WE'RE ONLINE!

The launching of the MRP web site in November is the realization of an idea spawned years ago to improve our name recognition and extend public access to a wide variety of concert band-related news, activities and resources.

Here's a quick tour of the site.

About the MRP defines the purpose and mission of the organization, how to contact us and how to participate in MRP activities. There is also the *Guestbook*. Please sign in and tell us what you think of the site.

MRP Projects summarizes key current and past events and activities,

describes the Music Scholarship Program and the Music Lending Library, as well as future projects we are assessing. The *Music Scholarship* page describes the program, qualification criteria, and enables you to download an application.

The *Music Lending Library* page provides access to a list of all the titles in the library, and forms and rules for borrowing music.

The *Music Advocacy* section is where you can find archives of *Quarternotes*, information on the MRP sponsored *Petting Zoo and Performance Series*, and interesting collections of articles and links on music education. Finally, there is a section especially for Kids that describes how to make simple musical instruments from items you'll easily find around your home, and links to other web sites featuring games and activities with a music theme.

The *Community Calendar* is an opportunity for music organizations to post and advertise their events, and a way for concert goers to quickly see what events are scheduled in their area. It includes a simple form that you fill out and submit to us for posting.

The *MRP Fundraising* section describes various fundraising events and activities

for the MRP, and provides you with an easy way to submit tax deductible donations to support our various projects.

We highly encourage you to check out the web site, and hope you find it to be a useful resource. We also look forward to your comments and any suggestions on how we might improve it.



Happy browsing!

## LOCAL BAND SPOTLIGHT: NEW ENGLAND CHRISTMASTIDE MUSICIANS

As the winter solstice quickly approaches, these long nights leading up to the holidays remind us of the traditions we have kept from year to year.

Those traditions always lead to the sounds of The New England Christmastide Musicians who play carols and songs from

# [www.musicrevitalizationproject.org](http://www.musicrevitalizationproject.org)

## HAVE YOU GIVEN THOUGHT ABOUT YOUR 2004 TAXES?

It's already December and before 2004 is over, why not make a tax deductible contribution 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 form on the right. It's as easy as that!!!

As a special bonus, you will receive a special Newman's recipe book for a contribution of \$50 or more.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

THANK YOU for your donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(Direct my Contribution to:)

General Fund  Music Library  Scholarship Fund

Community Challenge Cup  Website Maintenance

Checks can be made payable to: Music Revitalization Project, Inc  
Mail to: MRP, PO Box 709, Norton, MA 02766.



all over the world. A total of 14 musicians perform on a "variety of instruments from the conventional to the unpronounceable", among them flute, mandolin, piano, guitar, violin, cello, bass, banjo, concertina, accordion, tin whistle, Irish pipes, fiddle and even vielle, hurdy-gurdy, harmonium, corneto, bouzouki and even a cornemuse (sounds like a "duck call"). All of these are performed in small instrumental ensembles.

Each one of these very talented musicians/songwriter/singers are known at other times of the year for their contribution to the local folk music scene in Rhode Island, and in other areas of New England. Together, these musicians bring the light of Christmas, the beauty of the carol, the splendor of music written to mark the coming of Peace on Earth.

Back in the summer of 1985, producer Otis Read approached the just-formed North Star Records (when records were still 12" vinyl platters) with the seed of an idea. He knew several diversely talented musicians who played the above mentioned list of instruments (and many more). He proposed that they assemble in the studio in August, and record Christmas songs - an incongruous month to be playing carols, but the melodies and harmonies took over, and the result became an instant classic which sounds just as fresh today due to the remarkable talents of this eclectic bunch.

The result, New England Christmastide Musicians (Vol. 1), went on to become the biggest selling recording in the history of

North Star Records. It became an instant classic, garnering overwhelming popular and critical acclaim. The record struck a chord with people across the country. Perhaps it was the pure and simple sound of the recording - almost like hearing Christmas music the way it might have sounded 100 years ago. It brought people back to a simpler time when things moved a lot slower, and the true spirit of the holidays was not lost in the marketing frenzy and crowded super-malls of modern times.

Eighteen years after that historic recording, the core group reassembled, along with some fresh faces, to reaffirm the true meaning of the holidays. With an equally eclectic collection of authentic instruments and the same richly pure and simple creative approach, New England Yuletide (Vol.2) invites you to enjoy Christmas in old New England, the way it used to be, and probably the way it ought to be.

Another release "Glad Tidings," is a rollicking rendition of yuletide classics performed on banjo, fiddle, mandolin, guitar, bass, percussion, Irish whistle with vocal accompaniment.

There is a special magic in this music, an intimacy that is a refreshing reminder of the true spirit of Christmas. From the breathtaking beauty of uilleann pipes to the stunning sweetness of wood flutes, from the country charm of banjos and harmonicas to the gentle swell of a harmonium and the heavenly sound of bells, New England Christmastide is the essence of the holiday....a delight to the ear and joy to the spirit.

If you are local to the Rhode Island area, you can hear New England Christmastide live on stage at the Stone Soup Coffee House, at 210 Main Street, (Arts Center of the Boys and Girls Club of Pawtucket), in Pawtucket, RI on Saturday, December 18, at 8 pm. Tickets are sold at the door on a first come first serve basis and are \$10 each.

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Support your local music programs by attending these holiday concerts:

- 12/5 Metropolitan Wind Symphony Holiday Pops, 3pm, Natick HS
- 12/11 Neponset Choral Society - 8 pm St. Mark's Episcopal Ch., Foxboro
- 12/11 Great Woods Chamber Orchestra 7:30 pm, Watson Auditorium, Wheaton College, Norton
- 12/12 S.E. Mass Wind Symphony 3 pm, Watson Auditorium, Wheaton College, Norton
- 12/14 Attleboro HS Winter Concert Bray Auditorium, \$3, 7 pm
- 12/15 Norton HS Holiday Concert NHS Auditorium, 7 pm
- 12/15 Mansfield HS Holiday Concert MHS Auditorium, 7:30 pm
- 12/15 Seekonk HS Holiday Concert SHS Auditorium, \$5, 7 pm
- 12/16 Dighton-Rehoboth Winter Concert
- 12/16 Norton MS Holiday Concert - 7 pm
- 12/16 Bishop Feehan HS Concert BFHS Auditorium, 7 pm
- 12/16 N. Attleboro HS Winter Concert Cobb Theater, \$5/\$3 7 pm
- 12/13-30 Boston Pops at Symphony Hall
- 12/18 NE Christmastide Musicians Stone Soup CH, Pawtucket - 8 pm

"A Christmas Carol" performances at: Blackbox Theater, Mansfield Orpheum Theater, Foxboro Little Theater, Stoughton Trinity Rep, Providence

The MRP QUARTER NOTES Newsletter is a quarterly publication. Contributions are welcome by writing to the MRP, Inc. P.O. Box 709, Norton, MA. 02766. Articles accepted are included as space allows.

02766  
MASSACHUSETTS  
NORTON  
P.O. BOX 709  
MUSIC REVITALIZATION  
PROJECT, INC.

