

August 2, 2004

Dear Editor:

The Maine Sea Coast Mission is deeply appreciative of all the many people and businesses that helped to make the *Sing to the Sun* benefit for the Mission such a success. The event featured Ashley Bryan, the 60 children in the chorus from 7 islands, and 5 very talented musicians. Over 700 people attended the event at the Mission on Sunday evening, July 18. They were able to see and hear first hand what makes the Maine coastal islands truly unique in their support for music and the arts, especially when they involve children.

Special thanks go to Sara Bloom, a long time summer resident of Great Cranberry, who commissioned the composition of the score for the Ashley Bryan book of poetry called *Sing to the Sun* over 10 years ago. She also conceived of the idea of this concert and then discussed it with Ashley and the Mission. A very special thank you goes to Ashley Bryan, a dear friend of the Maine Sea Coast Mission who devoted his considerable talents to make this event a success. Ashley has the extraordinary gift of making the words of poetry come alive for children and adults alike. We also appreciate Ashley's willingness to share his beautiful art work with the Mission.

Tom Wallace was also critical to the success of the program. He melded together the voices of 60 children from 7 islands who had never before practiced together into a chorus that performed beautifully. To watch Tom rehearse with the children showed what a very special talent Tom has in working with children. He also worked with 5 musicians who had never played together as a group before and, with limited practice time, they played together beautifully. We are deeply grateful to the following musicians for helping to make the evening magical: Jerry Reuter, Heidi Powell, Gina Provenzano, Cindy Bastide, and Stephen Sampson. We also want to thank the Mount Desert Island High School for loaning us the use of their grand piano for use in this concert.

We also want to thank the following restaurants for donating pizzas for the rehearsal luncheon: The Colonel's Delicatessen, Islesford Market, Little Anthony's, Rosalie's Pizza, and Tapley's Convenience and Grill. We also appreciate the donation of cups and paper goods for this luncheon from Graves, Hannaford Super Market. The reception after the concert was made possible by the generous donations of desserts from the following restaurants: Carlo's Ristorante, 124 Cottage Street, Cottage Street Bakery, Full Beli Deli, Islesford Dock Restaurant, La Matta Centa, Maggie's Restaurant, Nature's Way Café, Pectic Seafood, Poor Boy's Gourmet, Soos, Southwest Harbor Sub Shop, Top of the Hill Restaurant and Two Cats.

Transportation needs were met by several firms who donated their boats, vans and buses. We want to thank Rob Liebow for the use of the Sea Princess to transport children and adults back to Little Cranberry after the performance. We also want to thank Steve Pagel for the use of the Cranberry Cove Ferry to transport children and adults to Great Cranberry after the performance. We also appreciate Kim Strauss of Island Cruises for transporting children and adults from Frenchboro to Bass Harbor and back. We also appreciate the donation by Glenn Tucker of Acadia Bike and Coastal Kayaking of a shuttle van to transport people from and back to overflow parking locations at Connors Emerson School and at College of the Atlantic, both of which allowed their parking areas to be used for this event. We also appreciate the bus provided by Dick Cough to assist in our transportation needs. We are also appreciative of the grant provided by the MBNA Foundation to assist with the transportation costs incurred by children traveling to Bar Harbor from the islands.

A special thanks goes to Pirate's Cove for the donation of free tokens for the children in the chorus to play adventure golf at Pirate's Cove between the rehearsal and the actual performance.

The Maine Sea Coast Mission also wants to thank the members of the Planning Committee who helped plan, coordinate and stage this wonderful event. The members of the Planning Committee were as follows: Cristy Benson, Brenda Fernald, Kate Fernald, Vicky Fernald, Mark Foster, Kate Jordan, Carolyn Liebow, Kathy Miller, Tina Morris, David Opdyke, Mary Opdyke, Amy Philbrook, Lisa Shields, Carol Shutt, Anne Smith, Tom Wallace, and Karin Whitney.

The Maine Sea Coast Mission is also deeply appreciative of the wonderful stories and information about this event that ran in the local newspapers, including the Bar Harbor Times, the Mount Desert Islander, the Ellsworth American, the Bangor Daily News, and the Acadia Weekly.

We also want to thank our anonymous donor who donated the funds necessary to buy special *Sing to the Sun* t-shirts for all of the children in the chorus and for our many donors and patrons for the event. We especially want to thank Phoebe and Gerrish Milliken for their generous support and for serving as Honorary Co-Chairs of this event.

Sincerely,

Gary A. DeLong
Steve Richards
Maine Sea Coast Mission