



For Young Performers, Getting as Well as Giving

By George Nevin

The young performers who volunteer for Bread & Roses are unanimous in their view that singing and playing music for isolated audiences is about both giving and getting back.

Paul McCartney sang, “And in the end/ The love you take/ Is equal to the love you make.”

In much the same way, the healing power that Bread & Roses audiences feel upon hearing young performers seems just about equal to the joy that the musicians themselves feel when they really connect with those listening.

We asked youth performers and the adults who work with them how sharing their music at Bread & Roses shows has enriched their lives. This is what they told us:

Austin Smith, a high school senior from Larkspur, says, “I have gotten so much out of performing. It has influenced the kind of person I am. When I first started performing, I got terrible stage fright. Now I don’t anymore.”

Austin, a vocalist/guitarist who will graduate this year from **Redwood High School**, believes that having live performance skill is



Photo by Kathleen Tobin, Courtesy Young Performers International

Children from Young Performers International joined the Bread & Roses Holiday Chorus during the December show at The Redwoods in Mill Valley.

“extremely fulfilling. I know I will use this in my work, and I like to be able to benefit the community at large.”

He calls Bread & Roses audiences “hands down the best. Personally, I always look forward to giving a Bread & Roses show.”

Betty Schneider, an East Bay voice and vocal technique coach who works with young performers: “When some of my students apply to college, they write about how performing for Bread & Roses has changed their lives. That’s how significant this work is.”

Betty often sees how music instills confidence, pride and a sense of accomplishment in young performers. “Through music they can remove barriers between performer and audience. There is a human connection, and the more they open up as performers, the more the hearts of the audience are opened. Everyone at the end of the concert feels richer and more connected.”

One of Betty’s former students, **Amanda Lopez**, says that when she began performing for Bread & Roses, “I didn’t realize how much the program would change my life. Bread and Roses was really an amazing experience and something I still try to be a part of today.”

“Bread & Roses,” continues Amanda, a resident of the East Bay, “is set up to benefit those in restricted/confined areas by bringing



Photo by Marian Hubler

Isabel Block, Bread & Roses intern from Oberlin College, with Elvira Petrowsky at Lifelong Medical Care in Novato.

Remembering the ‘Bread and Roses’ Poem

By Elizabeth Share
Development Director

For 100 years, the poem that inspired the Bread & Roses name, commemorating a strike at the Lawrence Textile Mill in Massachusetts, has highlighted the critical importance of nourishment for the heart as well as for the body.

Because the strike for fair wages and humane working conditions was one of the first to be led by women, it's considered historically very significant. Since 1912, many people throughout the world have used the phrase “Bread and Roses” as a call to action for social justice and human kindness.

“Our lives shall not be sweated
from birth until life closes;
Hearts starve as well as bodies;
Give us bread, but give us roses.”

— James Oppenheim, 1912

In 1974, our founder, Mimi Fariña, chose the name for the nonprofit she created to bring the vital, life-affirming power of live music to those in greatest need – the sick, the disabled and the disadvantaged. Two years later, she set the poem to music.

Mimi's vision guides and inspires our work, and her version of the Bread & Roses song is performed by countless choirs and performing artists worldwide.

In commemorating the 100th anniversary of the poem's fame, we look back with gratitude and forward with enthusiasm and hope – to the 50 shows we will present next month in hospitals, homeless shelters, convalescent homes and other caring facilities; to the children, teens, adults and elders whose hearts will be uplifted by our amazing performers; and to each of you whose generosity, commitment and compassion make our work possible.

You Make Our Work Possible – Thank You So Much

Though we say it often, we can never say it enough – you make our work possible. We could not do it without you.

Our heartfelt thanks to all of you who expressed your support with a financial gift between July 1 and December 31, 2011.

Note by note, song by song, hour by hour – you touched hearts, uplifted spirits and shattered the monotony and loneliness of isolation.



Frederica von Stade at the October 23 benefit, with accompanist Kristin Pankonin.

Photo by Ken Friedman

Photo by Kristin Rieger



Host and Board Co-Chair Toby Nady (left) with 2011 Board Co-Chair Tucky Pogue and her husband, John (right), and Jeremy Cohen after the October benefit.

For their very generous grants, we hope you will join us in thanking the following businesses and foundations: B.R. Cohn Charity Events, Fenwick Foundation, Marin Community Foundation, The May and Stanley Smith Charitable Foundation and The Rex Foundation.

Special thanks to the Sponsors of our Fall Benefit Concert with the extraordinary Frederica von Stade, Jeremy Cohen and Violin Jazz. Thank you, Bank of the West,

Christian and Jaquie Erdman, and Dede Wilsey.

Our gratitude to Phil and Jill Lesh for their year-end support. We'll look forward to the opening of their San Rafael music venue and restaurant, Terrapin Crossroads.

To all of you who supported our Fall Appeal and, in doing so, became the first members of the Mimi Fariña “Founder's Circle,” we thank you. We have not yet

MAKING A DIFFERENCE – See Page 3

YOUNG PERFORMERS – Continued from Page 1

them entertainment, the arts and joy, but I truly feel that I was the one who benefited.”

Isabel Block, Bread & Roses intern and student at **Oberlin College**, Ohio: “Bread & Roses has contributed to my education and evolution as a young performer by giving me multiple opportunities to perform in front of fabulous, involved audiences. This has allowed me to improve my performance skills and has helped me become comfortable in front of an audience, all while allowing me to benefit others.”

Isabel, who grew up in Novato, interned at Bread & Roses in January 2012. She loves performing for isolated audiences and says, “It is incredibly gratifying to see someone come out of a performance smiling and to know that you’ve made their day better.”

Austin Willacy, long-time volunteer performer and director of ‘Til Dawn, Youth in Arts’ award-winning teen *cappella* group: “Bread & Roses audiences are so full of enthusiasm that performing for them is very powerful and moving, and this definitely impacts the performers.”

Austin, who sings with the pioneering vocal rock band **The House Jacks**, states it powerfully: “Performing isn’t like giving someone something you ordered online, or liking them on Facebook, or tweeting at them. It’s showing them that they are impor-

tant enough for you to be physically there, sharing your talents.

“These performers could be doing anything else. But they choose to be performing for a Bread & Roses audience.”

Leela Pratt, director of **Young Performers International**, a San Francisco-based children’s performing arts company: “Our kids *love* to perform, and the enormous praise they get from the Bread & Roses audiences after their performance is hugely uplifting for *them*. They feel honored and thrilled to be able to bring others so much joy!”

Sometimes the lessons a young performer brings home from a Bread & Roses gig cause introspection. According to Leela, “Bread & Roses concerts have not always been easy for our students. Once we performed at a community center for severely disabled children.

“It was sobering and thought-provoking for our students, and we talked about it a lot afterwards. For these kids it’s a gift and a real



Photo by Peter Mers

A teen vocalist from the Blue Star Music Camp performs at The Cedars of Marin.

learning experience to see how incredibly lucky they really are.”

Several years ago, Bread & Roses launched an ambitious effort aimed at recruiting new young performers and those whose performances are geared to youth audiences.

The result has been successful and gratifying because of the benefits that young people get out of sharing their musical artistry with Bread & Roses audiences, young and old.

For many young performers, the lessons learned will last a lifetime. Said **Arielle**, a young dancer from the **Juilliard School** in New York City: “This was a life-changing experience. I was pulled out of my self-centered world and into the world of giving.”

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

– Continued from Page 2

reached our goal of \$125,000 for this campaign, so if you have not already done so, please consider making a gift and joining the Founder’s Circle.

To our **Board of Directors**, who each contributed to the challenge for this appeal, we thank you wholeheartedly. Have we told you lately that you’re the best?

Finally, to the angels who stepped up to help us balance our budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2011, our sin-

cere thanks. Your help made a huge difference not just for last year, but for our well-being going forward.

Our Gratitude to All Active Volunteers

We gratefully acknowledge our many volunteers who helped Bread & Roses between January 1 and December 31, 2011. To view the list of active volunteers, visit www.breadandroses.org/programs/volunteer-performers.

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Benefits of Our Work – 7/1/2010 - 6/30/2011

Hope – 600 shows • Healing – 27,000 audience members

TAKE HEART: The 2012 Concert to Benefit Bread & Roses

We are thrilled to announce that the 2012 Concert to Benefit Bread & Roses will be held on March 22 at The Regency Ballroom in San Francisco. Featuring some of the extraordinary performers who inspire our audiences year-round, the evening will also honor our past Board chairs and the Mimi Fariña “Founder’s Circle.”

Our lineup for the evening is big, bold and brilliant. **Mitch Woods and His Rocket 88s**, just home from their world tour, will perform their jumpin’ and jivin’, pumpin’ ’n’ poundin’, New Orleans rhythm and blues, “rock-a-boogie” magic.

Mark Hummel, a favorite in the Who’s Who of harmonica history, will be joined by the amazing **Blues Buddies**, an all-star posse who’ll raise the roof with their signature, steamy blues power.

Phillip Percy Williams – an 11-year veteran of **Beach Blanket Babylon** – will bring

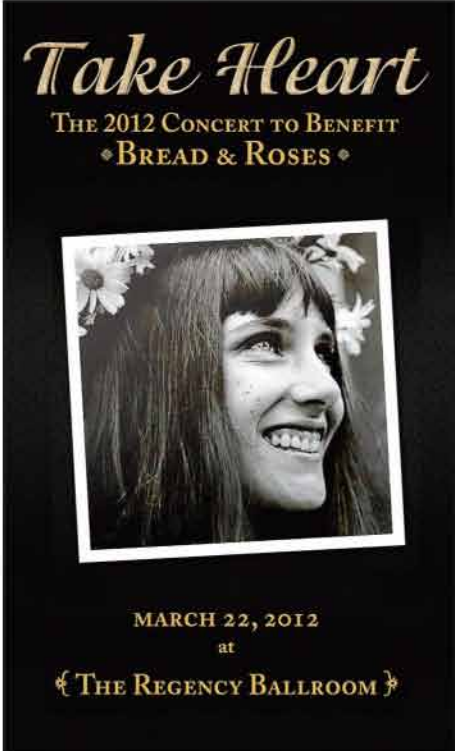
the excitement of Broadway to San Francisco with his dazzling vocals and dramatic flair. He will be joined by **Judy Hall** on piano and vocalist **Cami Thompson**.

Other special guests include **Nicolas Bearde**, **Maria Muldaur**, **Til Dawn** and **The San Domenico Virtuoso Program Quartet**. It’s a showcase of the talent that has made Bread & Roses concerts legendary for 38 years!

Concert-only tickets are \$75, and concert/dinner tickets are \$175 and \$350.

This is a great opportunity to enjoy a one-of-a-kind show with **all proceeds bringing courage, comfort, hope and joy** to children, teens, adults and elders living in hospitals, shelters, convalescent homes and other isolated circumstances.

We **TAKE HEART** from your generosity. Reserve your tickets today by calling (415) 945-7120, or visit www.breadandroses.org.



Take Heart
THE 2012 CONCERT TO BENEFIT
♦ BREAD & ROSES ♦

MARCH 22, 2012
at
THE REGENCY BALLROOM

The name of the benefit comes from the 1971 album Take Heart, by Mimi Fariña and Tom Jans.