

www.IFRM.org



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Editor: Rod Fivelstad

Rotary 🛞

International Fellowship of Rotarian Musicians

OUR MISSION...

is to promote Rotary fellowship by encouraging clubs to sing, to organize musical activities for performance at all levels of Rotary functions, and to support community music organizations and school music programs.



October 2022

This edition, <u>Music Notes</u> will feature the introduction of our new Rotary World Choir Director, Alisan Hastey; an update on the "Lift Your Voice" IFRM Music Database; the Golden Clef Awards Recipients; RI Convention Melbourne News including The Rotary World Choir; and profile of IFRM Board Member Curtis Reinhardt; and other IFRM news.

Will You be in Melbourne for the RI Convention? Why not Sing with the Rotary World Choir? Sign up now at www.ifrm.org

The International Fellowship of Rotarian Musicians will be in Melbourne. We will have a booth in the House of Friendship and are making plans to have a Rotary World Choir. Please visit the ifrm.org website to sign-up. The registration is \$25 per singer, which will provide you with the music and rehearsal materials. The sign-up page is available on the website now. We will use the website, e-mail, Staccato and ifrm google group for follow-up information. If you are a singer and you plan to be in Melbourne for the RI Convention in late May 2023, consider singing with us. The following article will introduce you to our new Rotary World Choir Director, Alisan Hastey.

WELCOME TO THE PODIUM!



Introducing Alisan Hastey

We welcome the newest member of the IFRM family and the new Rotary World Choir (RWC) Director, **Alisan Hastey.** Joining IFRM this past June in Houston, Alisan was already familiar with IFRM through her daughter, **Beth**, who sang with the RWC at the RI Convention in Atlanta, GA, and at the IFRM booth with our favorite Australian keyboard virtuoso, **Darrell Gaukroger.**

Alisan comes to us from Marysville, California, USA via Dallas, Texas, where she was raised by two musical parents: her Dad, a high school music teacher and former WW II US Army Band member and her Mother, a pianist and singer. In fact, she and her three older sisters were all expected to carry on the family choral and instrumental tradition, which is just what they did! Throughout her school years, Alisan studied piano, violin and French Horn, among other instruments and to wit she can claim mastery. Her pursuit of music continued into higher education, culminating in a Batchelor of Arts degree, dual-majors in Music Education and Psychology (Seattle Pacific University, [WA, USA), and a Master of Arts degree in Conducting (American Band College - Sam Houston State University, TX USA).

Prior to her retirement in 2019, Alisan built an impressive career as a music educator to students of all ages in choral, orchestral and band repertoires: Choral Director for Marysville High School (34 years); Vocal Technique and Piano instructor at Marysville Charter Academy for the Arts and Choral Director for the Yuba City Methodist Church (5 years). During the Covid-pandemic (2020-), she proudly taught piano at home to her young grandkids and just this past summer, served as Choir Director at her church summer camp. This fall, Alisan can be found teaching music at Yuba Community College while concurrently leading the Yuba Community College Symphony Band in her seventh year. Remarkably, she still finds time in her schedule to play in the local Symphony, serve on their Board of Directors, and make it to the local school board meeting, of which she is an active Director.

Supporting her in these myriad musical endeavors is **Brent Hastey**, Alisan's husband since 1982, a tenor who lends his voice to the local MESSIAH concert each Christmas holiday. Only four years later, Brent joined the South Yuba Rotary, followed in succession by older son, **Jared** and younger daughter, **Beth**. In 2021, Mom Alisan joined the Marysville Rotary Club, historically known for funding music projects and forming their own band. With her background, she is excited to contribute as Club Co-Chair for Community Service. [It's *notable* that there are four Hasteys from the same Marysville, California family active in Rotary - in two clubs-at the same time!]

Alison Hastey has expressed her initial goals as she begins her tenure as World Choir Director: to continue the musical legacy of the RWC set by her predecessor, **Judy Walker** (RC, Evanston, III); to reunite choir members by rekindling and the growing the relationships that form the basis of the IFRM family; to reference new resources, such as "Saturday Sings" and the New Songbook Database; and to expand opporunities to include band and orchestral music. Ironically, this could echo a return to our roots, as our fellowship was founded by a group of Rotarians who were avid band members.

Alisan says that RWC can look forward to doing what we do best: *making music* in that special space we create when we sing together and then *sharing the unique spirit* we create with our audience. Under Conductor Hastey's baton and with her energy, guidance and inspiration, we look forward to a successful RWC presence in Melbourne 2023!

--Interview by **Susan DuPree** (RC of Tri-Valley Evening, Pleasanton, CA USA)

"LIFT YOUR VOICE" our IFRM musical database enters a New Phase by Susan DuPree

As stewards of the message "Service Above Self- Through Music", the members of IFRM would love to see our new, digital Songbook addendum, LIFT YOUR VOICE, become an invaluable *resource*. At this time, we are still adding content to the database, which we expect to complete with more volunteers coming forward to help.

Meanwhile, I regret that I cannot acknowledge everyone with whom I have been in contact about our novel online resource. However, I can thank the many volunteers who shared my vision and made important contributions- however large or small- in the past two years.

For the three dedicated Rotarians whom, without their shared passion and their invaluble help, LIFT YOUR VOICE could not have come into being, a big, loud "Thank You! "

- To **John Ackenhusen**, your advice and perserverance help lay the groundwork for song selections and the research essential for vetting each selected song;
- To **Jonathan Soifer**, your zeal and investigative doggedness with Rotary International's Legal Department singlehandedly cleared the way for IFRM to proceed with our project. Many thanks for skillfully crafting and making transparent the meaning of Public Domaine and Copyright Permission;
- And finally, thank you, **David Loufbourrow**, for your formidable effort to provide an appealing, accessible digital layout, while patiently teaching us how to navigate database technology. Your well-seasoned video editing skills put a professional's stamp on the roll-out of the songbook's database at Rotary's Annual Convention in Houston this past June, 2022.

Thank you, John, Jonathan and David and to all the other IFRM members who made up the New Songbook Committee and for whom I express special gratitude for your patience, your unfailing good-will and, of course, for the tuneful songs you contributed (and in some cases, you also reviewed): **Curtis Reinhardt, Bob Bracegirtle, Dick Erdmann, Frances-Ann Satney, Greg Bakunzi, Howard Bridgman, Jean-Louis Nguyen Qui, Judith Crowe, Malcolm Charles and Paddy** **Iyer**. Some of my most rewarding and enlightening experiences originate in the interactions I have had with members of this group!

Many thanks to our dedicated researchers and intrepid, "beta-testers" who gave thoughtful, critical feedback, such that the first online sampling of the songbook could be published: Judith Crowe, Judy Ginn, Dave Getz, Bob Bracegirtle, Jonathan Soifer and Rod FiveIstad.

For their realistic, rock-solid input, a warm, gracious thanks goes out to our two project consultants, Past Rotary World Choir Director, **Judy Walker** and Past IFRM Chair, **Chungsam Doh.** And a special "shout-out" goes to IFRM Global Chair, **Rod FiveIstad**, who has been an unfailing supporter from the beginning to the present. His steadfastness and unflappable nature has inspired us throughout the process and kept us afloat in challenging circumstances.

Apologies to anyone whom I have inadvertently failed to acknowledge. Whatever your role, whatever your input, know that you have been a part of a magnificient journey that will keep going well-beyond the present day. Your contribution is deeply appreciated.

Thank you.

Dr. Susan DuPree Songbook Moderator Past Chair, New Songbook Committee

To use the Songbook, there are 2 steps:

(1) Click on https://ifrm.org and then Log on using your Username and password. A new page will come up.

(2) Then click on "Use the Songbook" from the list on the page *OR* alternately: Click on the MEMBERS menu at the top of the page and select the "Songbook" option at the bottom.

To watch the SONGBOOK PROMO VIDEO ON YouTube: https://youtu.be/lx5fPC0AG3w

IFRM Global Chair Announces Two Golden Clef Award Recipients



As the IFRM Global Chair it is my honor and priviledge to announce the selection of Lee Denlinger and Judy Walker as recipients of the IFRM Golden Clef award. The award is given in recognition for outstanding service to IFRM and its membership. Lee served as Global Chair for 10 years and has been an outstanding IFRM member. Judy Walker served for several years as our Rotary World Choir Director. Congratulations to both and our thanks and gratitude for your service to IFRM.

IFRM Sings

We continue to build friendships and sing, but we are changing our schedule a bit. Starting in November, we will meet at 9:00 a.m. Pacific Time, on the fisrt and third Saturdays.

Here is the zoom link we use for each session:

Topic: IFRM Sings Time: Monthly First and Third Saturdays, 9 a.m. Pacific Time (West Coast US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84894662814?pwd=bUIwM0w5TGlQc1E1TzY4dWZBZzFKUT09

Meeting ID: 848 9466 2814 Passcode: ifrmsings

Dial-up Meeting ID: 848 9466 2814 Dial-up Passcode: 181250 For Dial-up Find your local number: <u>https://us02web.zoom.us/u/keivO1C5bI</u>

IFRM is not just for singers

At IFRM we want to encourage all types of musical expression and forms. Instumentalists are also a very welcome and appreciated part of our Fellowship. What can we do for you? As your Global Chair, I want to hear from you with your ideas. You can reach me by email at <u>globalchair@ifrm.org</u>

IFRM goes to Houston

Several IFRM members attended the Rotary International Convention, joining with 12,000 fellow Rotarians to Celebrate the World of Rotary. The plenary sessions are always inspiring and informative. We also welcomed our newest Rotary International President Jennifer Jones who provided the entire Convention a challenging and exciting vision for what Rotary and Rotarians can do to be People of Action throughout the world. IFRM did it part by providing music at our booth in the House of Friendship and song leading at the New Rotary Presidents' Luncheon. We grew IFRM with new members joining from around the world. We hope that you might join us in Melbourne, Australia at the end of May 2023.

Photos from the Houston RI Convention June 2022





Rotary Conventions are great fun. Here are just a few photos that were taken at the Houston RI Convention in June 2022.

Top right: Making music together at the IFRM booth in the House of Friendship

Bottom left: After we sang at the Incoming Club Presidents' Luncheon, we were invited to eat-a-long, after we led a sing-a-long

Bottom right: Our colorful crew of IFRM singers led a sing-a-long using of IFRM Virtual World Choir Videos.

Website News (<u>www.IFRM.org</u>)

Reigistration for the Rotary World Choir is now open on our website: <u>www.ifrm.org</u> Look at the top of the home page and click on "Rotary World Choir Registration." Complete the brief form, make your payment of \$25. Once you are registered you will begin to receive through e-mail specific information about the music and schedule.

Technology is always changing and it has significantly impacted our website. Our Web Architect, David Loofbourrow is continuing the refinement of our completely redesigned website. We are working on new features including Regional Web Pages within the site. The most exciting new enhancement is the development of "Lift Your Voice" Rotary Musical Database which will be available to members. It will be introduced at the Conventions, actual and virtual. I believe you will find it an incredible resource for music appropriate to Rotary Meetings and gatherings, with the ability to drill down by country of origin, style, where to find the music and even video resources, if they are available. This has been a massive under-taking led by Susan DuPree, a past Global Chair of IFRM and her committee and our web architect. It is designed to grow, but we will need your help in finding music and the requisite permissions.

Membership

Our membership numbers are increasing, many are joining in India due to the continuing work of **Paddy Iyer (Regional Vice Chair India and Sri Lanka**. Currently, IFRM has more than 1200 members in 43 countries of more than 90 are Lifetime Members. We have over 1,500 on the database, but not all of their dues are current so they are not counted as "active" IFRM members. The programmatic addition of IFRM Sings through Zoom has also helped increase our membership as well as our partnership with Music Mends Minds.

Our database is now being maintained by our Membership Chair, **Barry Oxford**. Barry, David and I are working to make the database available to all members.

We continue to try to address some persistent issues:

- Updating the membership database: All our communication is by e-mail, and we get many "bounces" from sent mail because members do not update their membership information. We encourage all members to go to the website (www.IFRM.org) and update their e-mail address and other information on their profile. Your changes will automatically update on the IFRM database.
- Renewal of dues: Members pay \$35 USD dues for a three-year membership. Dues always expire on June 30—the end of the Rotary year. Please check your profile on the website. After you log in, you can renew online through the membership link on the website. Starting in April of the year membership expires, member receive a reminder notification when they visit the website.
- Communication with IFRM Membership: As Chair, I publish a bi-monthly e-bulletin, Staccato, as well as a periodic newsletter, Music Notes. We are seeing a slight increase in those who open Stacatto, but it remains less than 40% of our members, who actually open Stacatto. We continue to use Staccato as our best communication tool. All issues of Music Notes are published on our website and can be accessed by going to www.IFRM.org, go to 'newsletters' on the menu bar, and click on the top entry for the latest issue. (You do not need to sign into the website.) IFRM also has a very active mail list on googlegroups and is another benefit of IFRM membership. If you are not already signed up, you can do so by

going to <u>ifrm@googlegroups.com</u>. The link to our Saturday IFRM sings Virtual Choir zoom meetings for the *Virtual* RWC is listed here.

Keeping the Beat...with IFRM Board Member Curtis Reinhardt by Ada Kahn (RC of Evanston, IL)



Curtis Reinhardt has been on the IFRM Board of Directors since 2001. He joined Rotary in 1988. He is a charter member of Passport Club of the Central Coast (San Luis Obispo County, CA) D5240 and just completed his Presidential year, 2021-22.

Prior to the Passport club, Curtis belonged to Rotary clubs in Santa Rosa ,CA, West RC, Steamboat Springs, CO, RC Centralia MO, and RC Arroyo Grande, CA. He served as Foundation chair for several clubs

He has helped with various public relations and international service projects over the years. He has been on many committees in the District and led Districtwide events. He helped produce a District 5240 Foundation Gala which featured an appearance of then RI President Ray Klinginsmith and his wife, Judy.

"Our club has 33 members and membership has remained flat during Covid," says Curtis. "The Passport concept is still trying to find its legs. It's lower costs and fewer attendance requirements are attractive, particularly to aging, long-time Rotarian. However, having members from such a large area creates attendance problems. Our next year will be important for the club's development since we will again be able to meet freely and more often."

"My club has an increasing interest in International involvements. I'd like to connect the club in an international project with IFRM," says Curtis.

He was active with the Ambassadorial Scholarship and Group Study Exchange programs when they existed. He has also been an officer of the International Fellowship of Railroading Rotarians (IFFR).

Curtis was born in St. Louis, MO and grew up in Centralia, MO. He attended college at the University of Kansas. He now resides in Grover Beach, CA. His working career included programming, marketing and management at Night clubs and performing arts Centers. Now he is active volunteering with various music, athletic and Rotary organizations.

Curtis' dad, Bill Reinhardt, was a Rotarian for over 50 years. "From him I picked up his ability to be a doer and not merely a follower," he says.

Curtis just turned 70 but says he doesn't look and feel that old. He enjoys exercising with friends, following college football and basketball and attending all types of life music events.

His favorite places to visit include Yosemite and Grand Canyon National Parks, Tence, France, Merida ,Mexico, Kigali, Rwanda, Santa Marta, Colombia, Vienna, Austria and Barcelona, Spain.

How has Rotary evolved since you joined? "I think Rotary is becoming too politically correct and overly bureaucratic. It's too much like the United Nations! There is too much focus on international efforts. I'm all for working on worldwide health projects. But our country and world face substantial societal and political problems which I think Rotary should address. Personally, I want to focus my Rotary work toward domestic concerns."

"At conventions, I love the excitement in peoples' faces when they join in singing at the IFRM booth," says Curtis.

Curtis has attended 14 international Rotary conventions, Starting in 2001. He plans to attend the International Convention in Melbourne in 2023 and sing in the Rotary World Choir.

The sun never sets on IFRM...

Did you know that IFRM has more than 1200 members from more than 40 different countries? We are truly an international fellowship bound together by the joy of music. Whether you simply love music or are a performer, this Rotarian Fellowship is for you. The IFRM Board of Directors includes its officers (President, Secretary, Treausrer, Membership Chair, Past Global Chair and Vice Chairs connected to various geographical areas around the world, and Board Members with special responsibilities). Following is an opportunity to meet some of these IFRM members and learn a little about them and their connection with IFRM. Here is a quick update on our IFRM Board of Directors.

Report from Europe

Whilst it has been a quiet summer due to the intense heat and drought, it is good to have something to report from this region.

I contacted a new IFRM member, Francesco Ragonese, a Rotarian from Messina in Sicily, when alerted to a new arrival on my patch by our IFRM Membership Secretary. It was unexpected, but great, to hear back from him, especially since he had a project supporting youth making music which he wanted to use our logo on ..for publicity and for which permission was happily given.

Neither of speak the other's language, but it is amazing how much can be achieved by using computer translation and I paraphrase the story from his emails :

In the last three years, with other partners, we have donated \in 500 to the best student of our music conservatory, to recognise and support their start in the profession. The name of the award is "The Tree of Music". Award winners are invited every year to a pro RF concert.

To promote the fellowship, we would like to present the award in the name of IFRM

for the academic year 2021-2022. I'm not asking you for money since we already have the necessary funds, but just to write the name of IRFM on the poster.

I spoke with the president of our historic theatre in the city of Messina. He greatly appreciated my initiative and he offered to host the public event with the concert by the winner of the Tree of Music Award. He offered me a September evening and it seemed appropriate to accept.

After listening to everyone's performance, in which pieces of classical and contemporary music played, the standard was very high and we had a very difficult choice to make.

We hope to continue the association with IFRM in following years, and also next year extend the competition to all over Sicily not just Messina.



The results are shown below. Congratulations are due to Chiara Bonarrigo, the winning student, and indeed, to Francesco for such a brilliant idea.



Judith Crowe Vice Chair IFRM Europe

Bonnie Sirower IFRM Treasurer is keeping busy, working on grants for Music Mends Minds and a Water project in Central America. Bonnie helps us keep IFRM financially sound. Bonnie is also very involved with her Rotary Club and District.

Madhu Bishnu IFRM Social Media Director



Madhu helps coordinate all of our Social Media including Facebook, YouTube, and Instagram. Madhu helps us keep our evergrowing collection of songs sung by the IFRM Virtual World Choir. Take a look, there is something for everyone: https://youtube.com and searching for #ifrmvirtualchoir.

Gregory Bakunzi Vice-Chair/Africa



Greg Bakunzi, Red Rocks Initiatives For Sustainable Development <u>www.redrocksinitiative.org</u>

We would certainly like to see growth for IFRM in Africa. There are such rich musical traditions to share with the rest of the world. Please let

Greg at the email above know about your interests and how IFRM could help.

Paddy Iyer Vice Chair for India and Sri Lanka



Paddy is the IFRM membership recruiting SuperSTAR! New memberships come in from India on an almost daily basis. Plans are underway for an all IFRM-India nationwide gathering of IFRM members in 2022. One of the most intriguing concepts to come out of India, is the formation of IFRM Chapters by Rotary District. I challenge you leaders in Districts around the world to learn more about the concept and build local chapter units to bring fellowship and the love of music in your region with Rotary Service Through Music.

Vice Co-Chairs for the Carribean Frances-Ann Satney and

Dr. Malcolm Charles. Frances-Ann and Malcolm continue to keep the beat and music going for IFRM througout the Carribean.





Jean-Louis Nguyen Qui

Vice-Chair/Asia

Jean-Louis is another director with large geographical, language, and cultural differences. We will learn more about these challenges and successes in a future MUSIC NOTES.

Robert Bracegirdle *Vice-Chair United Kingdom* has a very busy Zoom and In-person Schedule. Robert loves music and singing and is very active in local choirs near his home and in the IFRM Sings Virtual Choir.

Alisan Hastey Our New Rotary World Choir Director, see the article about her near the top of this edition of *Music Notes*. She is very excited about the challenges and possibilities that lie before us.

Susan DuPree continues to work with the new Song Book project, but is winding down and hopes that we can find new energy to take over and lead the project forward. Phase 1 is now up on the website in the members section, go to the songbook tab. replacement. She has said that she will continue to work in an advisory role with the new director.

Howard Bridgman is a busy guy in Australia, he is already thinking about plans for the Convention in Melbourne in 2023.

Barry Oxford is our Membership Chair. He is extremely busy as we bring the new website on-line and re-activate the new members registration.

Lee Denlinger, our immediate past chair continues to provide insights into all aspects of the operation of IFRM.

Curtis Reinhardt helps with coordination of various projects including work the IFRM Foundation and the New Song Book Committee, and will be helping out in Houston. Please read the article about Curtis, in the "Keeping the Beat" earlier in this edition.

Susan Fivelstad, our IFRM Secretary keeps our Global Chair, Rod, in-line and focused on the work of IFRM. She is also successfully overcoming a major health issue that surfaced a year ago. She had a great time in Houston. With husband Rod, Susan stays involved with The Rotary Club of Grass Valley and plans to be Melbourne and sing in the Rotary World Choir.

IFRM Foundation



Peter Sotheran CEO, IFRM Foundation

Did you know that IFRM has a Foundation that is a 501c3 Charitable Organization in the United States? Donations to the IFRM Foundation are tax deductible. The Foundation has supported many worthwhile music literacy programs around the world particularly focusing on youth projects. Take a look at the IFRM website for more information and consider making a donation to further the wonderful work of the IFRM Foundation. Peter also moderates our IFRM google group and sometimes drops into the IFRM Sings Virtual Choir, although only as a cheerleader.

IFRM Board of Directors (2022-23)

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