

In Our Neighborhood



Hello Neighbors,

At my children's school, with the onset of winter, parents and children participate in a lantern walk. As we walk along a candle-lit path through the forest, we all take the time to reflect on the previous days of sunlight and warmth, and prepare for the dark, colder days of winter to come. In a similar way, the staff and board members of Upper Valley Presents have been thoughtfully reflecting on the events of the past year and contemplating next year's possibilities.

Much has happened since our last newsletter. Summer Days Camp played through nine weeks of the summer with over 240 campers partaking in the Art Smart, Kitchen Science, Fair Play curriculum. Open Air saw six artists perform at the Norwich Gardens Amphitheater at the Events Center (or indoors, in the case of two rainy evenings). Rock School students not only played at Open Air but performed for another successful evening at Middle Earth in November.

In September, Upper Valley Presents added Music Together® to its repertoire of programs and welcomes more than 60 families to our musical neighborhood.

Lastly, this fall, Upper Valley Presents was acknowledged by the IRS with its 501(c)(3) charitable status retroactive to December 2005. While we always have been, we are now *officially* doing good things in our Upper Valley neighborhood!

In this issue of *In Our Neighborhood*, we've invited our Board and staff members to share with you their observations and reflections on the programs and events of 2007. We'd also welcome your observations and reflections on our updated website (www.uvPRESENTS.org).

Wishing you inspiration, magic and music in the new year.

For the Board of Trustees,

Angela Stafford

Upper Valley PRESENTS

Our Mission

To create artistic and educational programs to enrich the Upper Valley.

Board of Trustees

Betsy McGean
Neely McNulty
Terry Samwick
Jane Soderquist
Angela Stafford
Karin Thorburn

Officers

Bruce Genereaux,
Executive Director

Janna Genereaux,
Artistic Director

PO Box 75
Norwich, VT 05055

Phone: 802-526-1046
Fax: 802-526-1055

Email:
office@uvPRESENTS.org
On the Web:
www.uvPRESENTS.org

EIN# 71-0993579

Upper Valley Presents,
Inc. is a Vermont 501(c)
(3) nonprofit
corporation



Upper Valley PRESENTS

Calendar

Music Together®, Winter Sessions

Begin Monday, January 7

Brooke Wilkinson.....	January 7—March 17
Gary Barton.....	January 8—March 18
Katie Kitchel.....	January 9—March 19 CLASS FULL
Leslie Dustin.....	January 10—March 20
Gary Barton.....	January 11—March 21
Gary Barton.....	January 12—March 22

Annual Meeting of Membership

January 17, 7:00 p.m.

Events Center, Norwich

Summer Days Camp in Winter February Vacation Week

February 18—22

Register Now!.....www.uvpresents.org

Summer Days Camp in Spring April Vacation Week

April 14—18

Registration Begins March 1.....www.uvpresents.org

Rock School

www.uvrockschool.com

For session start dates..... (802) 649-2772

Open Air Summer Family Concert Series

July/August 2008

July..... Folk and Jazz, Dates TBD

August..... Family Shows, Dates TBD

Gear Up and Go!!!

20,000 Leagues Under the Snow Snow Sculpture Construction

February 2, 10 a.m.—1 p.m.

Occum Pond Party

Saturday, February 9, Noon to 3 p.m.

All past and future Summer Days Camp participants are welcome to come and help build a snow sculpture incorporating the theme "20,000 Leagues Under the Snow". Using a wooden form, snow, water and the freezing cold temperatures we will create a snow creature of significant size and breath (pun intended!).

Bring warm, waterproof boots, two pairs of mittens, shovels and an adult to help you as we pile, pack, scrape and mold the snow into a fabulous creature emerging from the depths of the ice covered pond. See you there!

Upper Valley PRESENTS

Music Together® Family Music and Movement Make Learning Fun

Upper Valley Presents now offers Music Together® classes which take place weekday and Saturday mornings at the Events Center in Norwich. Maybe you've been wondering what you can do to nurture your child's musical growth—Music Together is a great way to do it, regardless of your own musical ability. It's a fun-filled way to make music together with your baby, toddler or preschooler and it encourages you to bring music into your family's daily life—as well as gives you lots of fun ideas on how to do so.

Music Together takes the premise that all children are naturally musical—the curriculum is based on research that demonstrates that given a friendly, stimulating musical environment, all children will develop basic musical competence. Children in Music Together classes participate at

their own levels and when they are ready; there is no performance pressure whatsoever. Children are not required to sit still; rather, they are encouraged to respond spontaneously to the musical environment. In a typical Music Together class you will find singing, movement, rhythm and tonal patterns, instruments, dancing and lots of other ways to express yourselves musically.

Instructor Katie Kitchel has been teaching Music Together for a year and a half and has had the opportunity, in that time, to see the curriculum in action. When she began teaching the class she says she was taking it on faith that the curriculum would work but now says "one of the most rewarding things has been to see the musical development of the children—it's been a real privilege, particularly, to see that the ones who were very young when I started have really come such a long way [in their musicality]." As a Music Together parent, I can see how much fun my two-year-old daughter's been having.

She begs all week to go to music class and sings her songs spontaneously at home.

What a great way to spend a morning—not to mention a great opportunity to socialize your child—and for you to engage with other caregivers and parents at a similar life stage.

—Terry Samwick
Trustee,
Music Together®
Parent Participant



At Left: Leslie Dustin, one of four Music Together certified teachers, engages children in a rhythm song.

Upper Valley PRESENTS

Open Air Summer Family Concert Series

Six Magical, Musical Thursdays in '07, Don't Miss '08!

Our opening act this past summer, Cheryl Wheeler, brought families from as far as Florida and Oregon and from all over the Upper Valley. The evening was a classic New England Summer day—dry, warm and beautiful. Looking out at the crowd as I stepped to the stage to deliver the introductory remarks, I saw the setting sun illuminating expectant, smiling faces. I was reminded why we do this series: to allow families to relax in a bucolic setting with their neighbors, introduce them to national-caliber entertainers, and allow all to share in the vibrancy of our community.

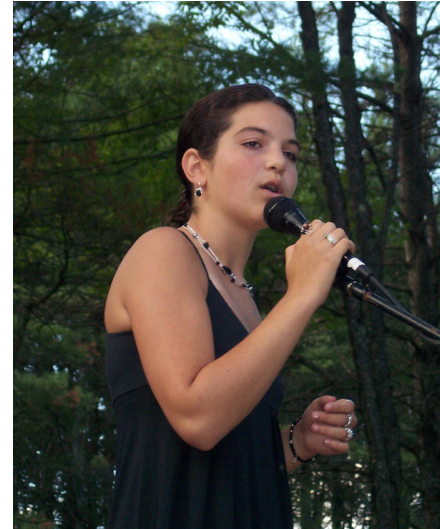
Further to our mission, we were thrilled to have local talent including Hanover native, Chloe Brisson and her band Absolut Jazz open for our national acts. Chloe, aged 12 at the time, brings a depth to jazz singing that belies her age. Following this opening show, we were

graced with sophisticated pop and jazz from Lydia Gray and her famous mother, Betty Johnson. Next, we marveled at a magical performance of rock and roll by our own Rock School students. August found us enjoying puppetry and magic with White River Junction's Gabriel Q and Upper Valley favorite Marko the Magician.

Our sponsors this summer—Upper Valley Radio, the Parent's Paper, RC Brayshaw Printing, Tele Atlas, Home Partners and Simple Energy—showcased their products and services to over 500 families over the course of our six shows.

Our goals for 2008: To bring national-caliber folk and jazz musicians to the stage in July and to fill Norwich Gardens' amphitheater with family-oriented shows in August. Stay tuned for the announcement of our line up, coming soon.

—Bruce Genereaux
Executive Director



Left to Right: Marko entrances the crowd on a magical picnic evening; Lydia Gray is joined by her mother, Betty Johnson, on a sultry, stormy night; Hanover's own Chloe Brisson opens with poise and grace to a full house for Cheryl Wheeler.

Celebrating neighborhood through arts and educational programs.

Upper Valley PRESENTS

Rocking On with Rock School

"The most amazing thing about Rock School has been seeing these nervous, young musicians come in the first night. By the end of the first class, they're tentatively performing a favorite song for their other classmates. By the end of the first session, they're performing in an ensemble at a public event. It's really an awesome transformation."—Tuck Stocking

For students in our local communities who enjoy sports—soccer, baseball, basketball—there are ample opportunities to hone their interests through support from schools, rec departments and the College. For those with musical inclination, there are school orchestras and choruses. For those whose dream revolves around rock music, performing, and recording had, prior to the development of Rock School, been relegated to garages and basements of tolerant parents.

Tuck Stocking approached Upper Valley Presents in October 2006 about starting a *Rock School* for aspiring musicians. Tuck is a Berklee College of Music-trained guitar player who has been a touring musician in his own right, has been featured on several CDs, and just released his first recording, *Goblins (Off the Grid)*. Upper Valley Presents is proud to report that *Rock School* has had 25 participants from 12 different towns in the last year, and just celebrated its first anniversary. The program runs four classes a week and includes four public recitals a year.

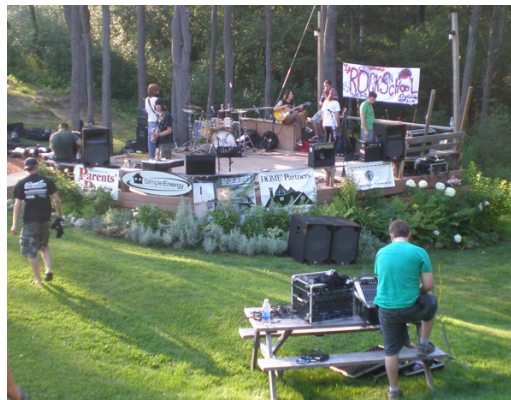
Tuck uses his musical skill, confidence, and passion to help students gain a better understanding of the power of music and the world of ensemble

performance. One parent recently wrote to Upper Valley Presents, enthusiastically reporting, "[my boys] have had guitar lessons individually, but have never had this experience working as an ensemble. I was in awe of the music [Tuck] was able to pull out of them... music lately had separated them as they seemed to be in competition with one another...it was wonderful to see them working in concert."

Currently, *Rock School* includes three components: a beginner class (introduction without a performance); Intermediate (including a performance); and a third class that teaches recording and sound techniques. Tuck remains flexible to modifying the course curriculum according to what the assembled group wants to accomplish. Many sessions begin with the sharing of each other's favorite songs in order to learn how to play them as a band.

Witnesses of the *Rock School* performance at *Middle Earth Music Hall* (who generously donated their facility for the occasion) in Bradford, Vermont in November 2007 found it hard to believe the students performing did not know each other before beginning their *Rock School* class together. They are not classmates from school or even from the same town. They are united by their common experience learning from Tuck Stocking, their maturity and musical talent, and their desire to learn how to play in a band. Tuck's guidance gives them the confidence and professionalism to come together as a band and perform as a cohesive ensemble; the experience of performing gives them a glimpse into the dedication and commitment required to be a rock musician.

—Jane Soderquist
Trustee



Left to Right: Students perform at Middle Earth, Bradford, Vermont; Rock School takes the stage at Open Air; Tuck Stocking instructs student in the Lewiston Hall studio, Events Center, Norwich.

Celebrating neighborhood through arts and educational programs.

Summer Days Camp

The Gift of Time

Reflecting on the third season of Summer Days Camp I am proud to acknowledge how our program has grown. It is strong in return attendance and new campers. We have a mature staff that is committed, skilled and professional. Our Art Smart, Kitchen Science and Fair Play program components consistently explore new recipes, projects and games. The Events Center continues to add improvements to the grounds, play area and indoor facilities that enrich each day.

I have grown as a program director and teacher and have developed the program to make the fullest of the child's week. From the continuity that results from the return of a camper either for more than one week or for more than one summer, I can provide a rich layer to the child's experience. We can meet their maturity with new projects or introduce a favorite and challenge them on new levels. Having these campers for 40 hours during one week is the equivalent of 40—45 minutes of class sessions at the elementary or middle school level. What each child gets to explore in one week at camp is what an art teacher hopes to accomplish in a semester! This is a gift of time we have with the students and, as we

continue to develop the program, I continue to focus on choice: allowing the children to choose the activity and allowing them the time to work on one project to their sense of fruition. This is a hallmark of the Summer Days Camp program and a program priority.

February break will be here shortly and Summer Days Camp in Winter will take place again this year at the Events Center. Art Smart, Kitchen Science and Fair play will fill the day. It is my delight to spend this week infusing your child with new talents, ideas, and accomplishments. Last year we (among other things): ran in the snow playing tag, lit a camp fire in the snow, cooked hot chocolate, popped popcorn many different ways, sewed by hand and with the machine, knitted, and made bread. Due to the weather, and our room size we have a limited enrollment for February. Go to www.uvPRESENTS.org to register and see pictures that are worth a thousand words.

Celebrate your days with experiments, art and fun!

—Janna Genereaux
Director, Summer Days Camp



Above: Campers trek through the snow during Summer Days Camp in Winter during the February vacation week.



Above: Sharing creativity and experiencing the joy of a summer's day.

Upper Valley PRESENTS

Dear Friend and Members of Upper Valley Presents:

As executive director, I am pleased to report 2007 as a year of managed growth for our arts and education programs, with an increase in total revenue from \$41,895 in 2006 to \$105,731 in 2007. The following lists those individuals and companies who have supported our mission. I hope to thank you personally at one of our events in 2008.



Members and Contributors

Yashi Ahmed & Claudio Pikielny
Anonymous (2)
Laura & Mark Beliveau
Nannette & Francois Bertschy
Alisa & Mark Brisson
Robert B. Buckley
Margaret A. Caudill-Slosberg
Keri & Kinson Craft
Ruth Craig & Lou Maresca
Anne P. Downey & Glenn G. King
Olivia C. & Silas M. Ford
Jennifer & Kurt Gantrish
Olivia J. & Bruce M. Genereaux
Cadence A. Genereaux & John Stoffel
Michelle & Daniel Gottlieb
Lydia Gray & Stephen Bartholow
Polly & Robert Henkel
Wendy & Howard Kleckner
Deb Kunhardt
Michele Lauria
Dominique & George Lightbody
Roger Lohr
Betsy McGean & Tom Blinkhorn
Neely & Richard McNulty
Lyn & Donald Miller
Amy & Joseph Morel
Judy Music & John Vogel
Alison J. O'Connor & Stephen H. Genereaux
David O'Neill
Miriam & Stuart Richards
Terry & Andrew Samwick
Sue Schiller

Mindy Schoor
Ephraim Shulman
Jane & Chris Soderquist
Angela & Michael Stafford
Ardietta & John Stafford
Ingrid Svensborn & Mike Cole
Karin S. Thorburn
Lucinda Walker & Peter Money
Marion & Bruce Waters
Holloway & Craig Westling
Cindy & Mark Winberry

Corporate Sponsors

American Speedy Printing
Bliss Tavern Music
Blue Mountain Guitar Center
Byrne Foundation
Hanover Strings
King Arthur Flour Baker's Store
Lebanon Opera House
Lyme Elementary School
Middle Earth Music Hall
Norwich Wines & Spirits
R.C. Brayshaw Company
River Road Holdings, LLC
Simple Energy
Tele Atlas
TransCanada
Upper Valley Parent's Paper
Upper Valley Radio

Upper Valley PRESENTS: Join Our Neighborhood!

As a non-profit organization, UV PRESENTS depends on membership contributions, underwriting, and grants to support its programs. Please consider becoming an Upper Valley Presents member for 2008. **With a \$50 donation, members receive a free family pass to one of the Open Air concert events, advance registration for Summer Days Camp and invitations for special member events.** Contributions may be unrestricted or directed to specific programs including the Summer Days Camp Scholarship Fund and Open Air Artists Fund.

Become a Friend:

- \$50—minimum for membership benefits (including free family pass to one Open Air concert event)
- Other amount \$ _____
- Unrestricted Open Air Artists Fund Summer Days Camp Scholarship Fund
 Rock School Scholarship Fund Please contact me—I have other ideas

Please make checks payable to: **Upper Valley PRESENTS** and mail to: **UV PRESENTS, PO Box 75, Norwich, VT 05055**

Please print your name as you would like it to appear in our annual report, or check here indicating you would prefer to remain anonymous.

Name: _____

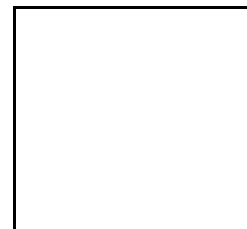
Street Address: _____ City, State & Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

(E-mail addresses are held in strict confidence and are used for some communications and notice of events by UV PRESENTS).



Upper Valley PRESENTS
PO Box 75
Norwich, VT 05055



It is the joy of creation and the appreciation of creativity that inspires and excites us all each day.

—Janna Genereaux, Artistic Director