



**From the Director** – It has been some time since we sent out a newsletter. Sarasa is still thriving despite the economy. We even hope to expand our outreach program, and to collaborate with other performing organizations - more on this below.

Our tenth anniversary concert season was a great success. Highlights were performances of Pergolesi's "Stabat Mater" in Cambridge, on the Boston Early Music Festival Series, and in New York City, on the Morgan Library and Museum Series. Our upcoming season offers a wide variety of instrumental chamber music and promises to be an exciting one.

Many of you are aware of how important our work with incarcerated teenagers is to me, to the Sarasa musicians, and to the kids and staff at the facilities we visit. But we always feel that it is not enough. How often we get feedback like this: "*The only request I have is for you guys to come back because I think all the residents and staff enjoyed the performances and other activities as well.*" ( Willgen, a resident at Worcester Secure Treatment)

We are trying to address this in several ways. We hope to raise enough funds to experiment with a more ongoing relationship in an expanded resi-



dency at one facility, where we will focus on group singing and percussion in the course of eight visits instead of the current three. Of course this will only benefit a small number of teenagers- but perhaps in

life-changing ways! Willgen also had this to say: "*Being in DYS for a long time, I have never seen a group or somebody to take their time to perform and let us participate in a musical activity*". You can't imagine how even a one-hour performance by



a visiting group lifts the spirits and opens the eyes of these teenagers. We also want to bring many more accomplished young musicians, under the umbrella of Sarasa, into these facilities, as we did on a small scale last season. Students from the New England Conservatory Opera Workshop performed opera excerpts in a Dorchester facility. By the time we left, the surly, cynical, hopeless attitude of the guys had been replaced by such a buzz of excitement and hand-shaking all around that you knew it would give them something to talk about and think about for several days.

Sarasa is very lucky to have received funding from the Amelia Peabody Foundation and the Kalliopeia Foundation for outreach residencies and concerts, and from the Massachusetts Cultural Council for organizational support. But the Massachusetts Department of Youth Services runs 96 programs. Bringing music into these facilities is not a DYS priority even though most of the kids live for their music. Perhaps you could help Sarasa with a donation so we can bring more music to more kids.

Thanks so much for your past generosity and support of Sarasa. I look forward to seeing you at our concerts and hope you will bring some friends along!

–Timothy Merton

## Reactions to the Spring 2009 Residency at Worcester Secure Treatment

*"I enjoyed Sarasa because I could sing without staff taking my points. I felt so encouraged participating in Sarasa. I have to say, the best part I enjoyed was the cello because it had me feeling sleepy because the music was so beautiful. I learned that music plays an important role in everyone's life. I think it calms the mind, body, and soul." - Ray, Resident*

*"I also enjoyed the group singing. The group singing was awesome because it is hard to work as [a] group, and we were challenged, but we worked well." - Willgen, Resident*

*"I want you to know how much it means to our residents that you take the time to come here, and that you bring such joy to them through your music. [...] They all loved being a part of this musical residency, the singing, listening, and performing. [...] Thank you for being supportive and sensitive about our residents. They all appreciated your presence here and your interest in them." - Mary, Teacher Coordinator*

**HOW YOU CAN HELP SARASA**— Sarasa, now in its eleventh year, is established in the musical life of Boston. As the organization's commitment to its purpose broadens in scope, securing its long-term financial future is more important than ever. There are a number of ways you can help Sarasa begin to achieve its goal of offering these kids in detention the chance to incorporate some of the joy, solace, and plain fun of music (performing and listening) into their lives.

**INVESTING IN SARASA**— Sarasa's account with Wells Fargo Advisors offers an easy way to contribute in a variety of ways to Sarasa. Please contact our financial advisor Chad Besegai at 617 723 3200. Several ways of making donations are listed below:

- Outright Gift
- Direct Gifts of Appreciated Securities
- Direct Gifts of Life Insurance
- Charitable-Remainder Trust
- Charitable Lead Trust
- Charitable Gift Annuities
- Pooled-Income Funds

**VOLUNTEERS**— Sarasa has been very fortunate in its volunteers who help out at concerts. We encourage everyone to contact us regarding volunteer opportunities to lend a hand with reception catering, concert set-up and break-down, concert ticket and CD sales, office assistance, accounting, fundraising, and more.

**www.goodshop.com**—Donate to Sarasa whenever you shop online at over 1000 online merchants- first go to the Goodshop website, then chose the site on which you want to shop, then choose Sarasa as the recipient of a certain percentage of the purchase price. Please see Goodshop for all the details.



**SARASA** 14 High Street, Cambridge, MA 02138  
Phone/Fax 617 492-4758 [www.sarasamusic.org](http://www.sarasamusic.org)



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