

Writer Bios

Piano Press has published, licensed, or distributed the work of hundreds of poets, authors, and songwriters from around the world. Following are brief bios for each of the writers represented in our catalog. Please check this page frequently for updates.

Bruce Adamson (Greensburg, PA): He is a popular children's performer and puppeteer, as well as the owner of Spellbinders, a creative advertising agency specializing in radio commercials. Working with his wife, Paula Purnell, Bruce has written and produced two award-winning children's albums. *It's Halloween* won the Parent's Choice Gold Award and *Pajama Jammin'* won the Parent's Choice Silver Award. Bruce is also the author of *The Best Things Ever Said in the Dark*, a compilation of wise and witty quotations from the movies.

Nancy Kelly Allen (Hazard, KY): She has two Masters Degrees, one in Elementary Education and the other in Library Information and Science. She is a retired elementary school teacher and librarian. Her publishing credits include *Once Upon a Dime* (Charlesbridge Publishing), *The Wireless* (The Brookfield Reader), *Whose Noise Is This?*, *Whose Food Is This?*, and *Whose House Is This?* (Picture Window Books), *Trailblazer: The Life of Daniel Boone* (Pelican Press), and *On the Banks of the Mississippi* (Raven Tree Press). In February 2002, she received a \$1,500 grant for writing picture books from the Kentucky Foundation of Women. She has had articles published in *Book Links*, *Good Apple*, *Back Home in Kentucky*, *M Magazine*, *Kudzu*, and *Children's Book Insider*.

Robert Allen (Deceased): To learn more about the composer of the Christmas classic "There's No Place Like Home for the Holidays," visit <http://www.dancingfingers.net/biography.html>

Gary Alt (Wantage, NJ): Gary Alt is a songwriter and musician from Long Island now living in northern New Jersey. He has written children's songs, as well as blues, rock, folk, pop, reggae, and jazz. His song *Half Way to Two* is also featured on his first solo CD *Alien's Heart*, an album of mostly biblical songs, which includes the vocal talents of his three children. A self-taught musician, he is currently the lead guitarist and keyboard player for 10:58, a rock band that performs in the northeastern United States. He is soon to release his second CD of children's songs called *It's About the Kids*, available by e-mail at gary-alt@earthlink.net.

Roberta Annicks (Peotone, IL): Her poems have appeared in five different literary magazines, including *Profiles*, *Talisman*, *Welcome Home*, *Poetry Forum*, and *Context South*.

Elizabeth C. Axford (Del Mar, CA): Owner, Piano Press. She received her MA in Musicology from SDSU in 1995. A studio piano instructor since 1984, she is the author of *Song Sheets to Software—A Guide to Print Music, Software, and Web Sites for Musicians* and *Traditional World Music Influences in Contemporary Solo Piano Literature*, the multicultural repertoire guide for pianists. Other publications include *Merry Christmas Happy Hanukkah—A Multilingual Songbook and CD*, *I Practiced! I'm Proud!*, and *Pieces for Piano*. She is a songwriter/publisher member of ASCAP, as well as a voting member of NARAS, MTNA, MTAC, SCBWI, TI:ME, TAXI, and NSAI, for which she serves as the San Diego regional workshop coordinator. She is a published author, poet, producer, songwriter, and arranger of piano music. For full-length resume, please visit www.pianopress.com/lessons.htm.

Marc-Alan Barnette (Nashville, TN): He is an original. A self-proclaimed "square peg in a round hole," he has emerged with a unique musical sound that is in his own words, "not totally country and not totally blues...too blues for country and too country for blues!" Aptly classified as "In-Your-Face-Country-Soul," his music and Marc-Alan himself have created a huge buzz in the music scene. He is the king of reinventing himself - a dichotomy of heartfelt and hilarious, crazy and down-to-earth. Because of the variety of hats he dons for each of his shows, he certainly keeps every audience on its toes, thoroughly entertained and wanting more. He was born and raised in Birmingham. As part of a musical family (great cousin was Jimmie Rogers, one of the founders of country music, and father, Grady, was a gospel quartet singer), he grew up singing in church and in various bands and taught himself how to play the guitar. Since his first moment on stage, he knew that getting people fired up and performing was his natural calling. His band, 24 Karat, was chosen as the top band in the country in the 1984 Miller High Life Battle of the Bands out of 30,000 applicants. After a move to Nashville in 1988, he scored a cut with Shelby Lynne his first night in

town. He has had success in Nashville as a writer, several publishing deals, and cuts by John Berry and David Ball, including the single "Too Much Blood in My Alcohol Level" on the "Freewheeler" album. He has co-written with the best and along with his former back-up singers The Kinleys, he has opened shows for Charlie Daniels, Garth Brooks, Ricochet, and Patty Loveless. Besides writing and performing, he also has a passion for mentoring and coaching writers through workshops and seminar programs that he has created all over the US. Through his efforts with NSAI, SGA, and other organizations, he has helped further the goals of many writers, leading to publishing and representation deals, and greater awareness of the intricacies of the music business. His smoky whiskey voice has brought comparisons to Delbert McClinton, Otis Redding, and Travis Tritt. From his warm, haunting ballad of lost love, "Old Memories," to the driving rocker, "When Love Does the Driving," the hilarious "Too Much Blood in My Alcohol Level" to his signature tune, "Can't Blame Nobody," he has proven himself to be a prolific writer and a fantastic performer. Music critic Robert Orreman has said of him, "If you see this guy's name listed on a club, run, don't walk to get there."

T. D. Bayless (Deceased): The late Theodore Debs "T. D." Bayless, was born on Sept. 11, 1908 in Oklahoma. Early on, he and his family moved to Northwest Arkansas by covered wagon, which doubled as their home for the early part of his life. Being the youngest of six kids, hand-me-downs were a way of life. Although he had only an eighth grade education, he had a keen sense of observation. After several years of hard life, he turned to writing, first poems, then songs. Words came fairly easy to him, but melodies were not so readily available. He found Don McHan to help him. Out of that collaboration came several songs including the #1 country hit "The Pill" sung by Loretta Lynn. He wrote or co-wrote with various collaborators over 130 songs in his lifetime, many of which are southern gospel or country humor. He is remembered fondly by his family as a very good man, a talented writer, and most of all, a great "Pop."

Richard H. Behm (Stevens Point, WI): He has published poems in *The Southern Review*, *The Kenyon Review*, *Southern Poetry Review*, *Poem*, *Michigan Quarterly Review*, *California Quarterly*, and *Yankee*, among others. He has four new poems forthcoming in *The Sewanee Review*, wherein he has appeared several times since the late 1980's, and two poems coming out in an anthology of poems about baseball from Southern Illinois University Press. He is a professor of English at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, and a three-time winner of fellowships from the Wisconsin Arts Board, twice in poetry and once in fiction.

Brad Belt (Marion, IL): He is a published songwriter with ten songs on *Golf is a Cussin' Game* available at www.bradbelt.com, and two songs on *Reflections* by Carl Sanders, available at www.outbackrecords.com. He is an experienced singer and guitarist, and is putting final touches on two additional albums. As regional workshop coordinator for the NSAI Marion, IL chapter, he is active in the coffee house and club network in Southern Illinois, and makes occasional trips to Nashville where he gives acoustical renditions of his works. He is completely devoted to his family and his music. "I write about things that have an emotional impact on me personally. Things that make me cry, things that make me happy or mad, things that make me laugh, even things that drive me crazy - these are the things that end up in my songs."

Karen Benedetto (New York, NY): She has been a poet as far back as she can remember, when, at an early age, she taught herself guitar and put her poems to music. Her work has been recognized in a number of international songwriting competitions and professional showcases. Her debut songwriter CD, "Right From the Start...the Songs of She Benedetto" is a various-artists recording that includes a range of musical styles from cabaret, pop ballads, and novelty material, through folk, country, and inspirational/gospel selections. Singers from the NYC Cabaret, Broadway, and Concert stages interpret the seventeen songs in the collection, with two selections on the CD performed by Karen herself. "The Call," written in response to 9/11, received radio airplay both across the U.S. and abroad. This powerful and timeless anthem of healing and unity has had a part in numerous live commemorative events in churches, spiritual centers, and civic gatherings, and has been heard on several occasions at the United Nations. "The Perfect Gift," a unique way of looking at Christmas with love as the perfect offering, is part of "A Holiday Sampler" CD as well as of "Holiday Heart," a Hospice benefit recording. "Southern Rains," written in response to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, is part of a Red Cross benefit recording produced and performed by vocalist Pamela Palmieri. A member of the performing rights organization ASCAP, she presently has thirteen songs out with publishers in Nashville, Philadelphia, and Michigan. She is honored to be recognized for "A Pencil and A Pad" ("The Songwriter Song") in Piano Press's 6th Annual Art of Music Writing Contest. Thank you, Liz, for all of your wonderful and inspiring work! She can be reached at BenedettoBarlow@IntheFlowMusic.com

and through her web site www.KarenBenedettoSongs.com.

Toni La Ree Bennett (Seattle, WA): After receiving a Ph.D. from the University of Washington and teaching English for five years, she now divides her time between financial management, traveling, learning Italian, breeding finches, and writing poetry. Recently published works include *Inside/Outside* in *Fox Cry Review* (2001), *Thermal Pools* in *Bogg #70* (2000), *Mezza Ragna* and *No Pastel Princess* in *The Muse Strikes Back* (1997), *A Floating Face* in *Hawaii Pacific Review*, Vol. 10 (1996), and *Bennett Island, New Zealand* in *Puerto del Sol*, Vol. 30, #1 (1995).

Judith Berson (West Orange, NJ): She was born and raised in Newark NJ and went on to become a French and Spanish teacher in the public schools. Her interest in music started when she was very young and was enhanced by her French teacher in high school who taught the class the opera "Carmen" and parts of some other French operas as well. They went to see the opera more than once. When she started teaching, she too, taught her classes the opera "Carmen" and she took many classes to see the opera. In later years, when she would encounter a former student, they almost always mentioned how they remembered learning the opera and going to see it and what an impact it had had on them. Eventually, she retired from teaching and started to work with Jerome Hines' opera group, teaching the singers French diction for the operas or arias that they would be singing. This was one of the most thrilling things she ever did and it changed her life forever. Her knowledge of and interest in opera grew immensely. Combined with her love for children and her desire to impart something of interest to children, she decided to write a story about a young child who hears an aria and becomes thoroughly transfixed by it. It changes her life. She has found that that is how many people come to classical music, opera, or anything else that becomes a life-changing experience. Her story is actually based on the story of one of the singers in Jerome Hines' group. Jerome Hines was a famous basso-profundo, whose work took him all over the world and who was with the Metropolitan Opera, in NY, for a period of about forty years.

Linne Black (Winston-Salem, NC): She performed in country-rock bands all over North Carolina for years, then began writing for Excellorec Music in Nashville, headed up by well-known writer/publisher Bob Tubert. During the years she wrote for Excellorec, she had songs recorded by some major artists and a host of independent artists. In the late-70's, she was signed to RCA as an artist/writer and was produced by the famous Chet Atkins. Her songs made it to the charts and got great reviews in Billboard. Today, she has her own publishing company, Seeing Stars Music (BMI) and has entered into several co-publishing agreements with larger companies. She co-operates NextNumberOne Music Group that includes Pitchy Women (ASCAP), Target Top Ten (BMI), and Seeing Stars (BMI), with addresses in Nashville, Alabama, and North Carolina. Mickey Gilley, Alabama, Barbi Benton, Melanie Ayers, Tommy Overstreet, Linda Darrell, Mary Lou Turner, Brenda Pepper, Susan Lea, Mike Wells, Billy Crash Craddock, and a host of independent artists have recorded her songs. She was recently selected as the NSAI workshop coordinator for the Winston-Salem, NC chapter. She wrote *Sing A Love Song*, *Porter Wagoner*, one of the featured songs for Porter Wagoner's recent TNN special *Company's Coming*. She is now co-writing regularly with established Nashville staff writers, as well as other prolific songwriters in and outside of Nashville. She is happily married to Bill. Her day job is as a Registered Nurse (to support her songwriting habit), and she has spent eighteen years as EMT-D on the volunteer rescue squad/fire department.

Bob & Mary Blinn (River Grove, IL): They met in grammar school in the late 1960s. Both are graduates of Columbia College, Chicago, IL. Bob worked for several years in film post-production, and Mary worked as a graphic designer. Of their many shared interests in art and music, writing songs for children is their newest endeavor. Mary is also a published poet, and has been nominated for the Pushcart Award. Her work has appeared in *Skylark Magazine*. She has won recognition for her poetry in the literary annual *Ariel* three times. Bob is a published songwriter. He wrote the words and music to *I Still Can't Say Goodbye* recorded by Chet Atkins. British singer Charlie Landsborough also cut the song, which remained in the British Top 20 for forty-three weeks.

Jeanie B! (Bonansinga) (Evanston, IL): www.janiebmusic.com Her latest CD "Mommy Knows Best" is a 2006 Parents' Choice Recommended Award winner, a 2006 Parent to Parent Adding Wisdom Award Winner, was a finalist in the Unisong International Songwriting contest and two tracks, "Mommy's in Menopause" and "Colorblind" won songwriting awards from Billboard. Formed in 2003 in Chicago, and made up of former Americana, rockabilly and folk music veterans (most of them parents themselves), Jeanie B! and The Jelly Beans have been raising the roofs off schools, children's museums, and concert halls. The secret

is the sound Combining irresistible rootsy rhythms with sometimes hilarious, sometimes poignant, sometimes educational lyrics, the Jelly Beans rock the ages, all ages, with the most finger-snappin', hand-clappin', toe-tappin' tunes this side of Sun Records. Mommy Knows Best is Jeanie B!'s contribution to "help reshape the children's music market by offering songs that are complex in both musicality and meaning while also making people laugh." This CD offers a variety of songs and musical genres for grade school children and younger, but also features cuts that older children (as well as hipster parents) will truly dig. "Colorblind," for instance, lays down a Bangles-like power-pop riff about tolerance and peace, and "Mommy's in Menopause" recalls the Ramones and their hard-driving wall of sound while honoring a growing segment of the parenting population. "The World is a Wonderful Place" is reminiscent of R.E.M in their austere, acoustic period, and the anatomically correct, dentist-approved "Tooth Fairy Rap" creates an unlikely hybrid of surf and hip-hop (surf-hop?) from which kids will certainly learn as much groove! Offering further musical diversity, Jeanie B! collaborates with Chicago blues legend Chainsaw Dupont on "The Red Pants People" and brings home a James Brown funk rhythm on "Clap The Beats." The live shows of Jeanie B ! and The Jelly Beans are something to behold: Jeanie B! jams, jokes and cajoles kids on stage to strut their stuff with the band. And even the shyest audience member loses all inhibitions when the bubble machine kicks on! Meanwhile, parents, probably expecting "Mary Had a Little Lamb," are blown away by the tight-as-a-drum rhythm section of percussionist Teresa Drda and bassist Lisa Crowe, or the soaring guitar solos of axe-man Andon T. Davis, or the gut-bucket bluesy harmonica fills of Jeanie's husband, Jay Bonansinga. It all adds up to a rollicking great time! Jeanie B! and The Jelly Beans "I'm a Kid" 14 song CD and "Mommy Knows Best" 17 song CD are available for streaming and are getting airplay on XM Kids Radio.

Beverly Swerdlow Brown (Los Angeles, CA): A member of SCBWI, she has numerous children's books published, including *The Adventures of Kraken*, *Erica, the Ecologist*, *The Traveling Pillow*, *Mouse's Baby Blanket*, *Panda's Birthday Surprise*, *Smile Soup*, *Brothers and the Broom*, *The Foolproof Tool Kit*, *The Secret at Morgan Manor*, *The Springtime Ghost*, *The House on Winchester Lane*, *Tricky Train Ride Mystery*, *Oliver's High Five*, *The Lunch Bunch*, and *How Seven Days Became a Knight*. She has many articles published in magazines, including *Tiger Beat*, *Ranger Rick*, *Highlights for Children*, *The Instructor*, and *Hopscotch*, to name a few. She is the author of *Story for ESL (Transparent Language)* software, and has had many book signings in the Los Angeles area.

Elizabeth Brown (Los Angeles, CA): Elizabeth Brown was born in Los Angeles, California and is the older of two children. She has written several piano compositions for children as well as had her poems published in various poetry journals and magazines. She earned an Associates Degree in Music Theory and Composition and is presently employed as a legal assistant to a sole practitioner in Santa Monica. She is contemplating a career change in the social services area.

Dr. Ronald K. Burke (Sherman Oaks, CA): He is professor emeritus of Speech Communication at Syracuse University and a free lance writer residing in southern California. His three published books include *Samuel Ringgold Ward: Christian Abolitionist*, *Frederick Douglass: Crusading Orator for Human Rights*, and *American Public Address: A Multicultural Perspective*. Other publications include articles for academic journals and poetry. His poems have appeared in *New Mirage Quarterly*, *Poet's Corner*, *Blue Collar Review*, *Timbooktu Online Journal*, *Mayhem Publishing Online*, *Tucumcari Literary Review*, *Raskolnikov's Cellar*, *Melting Trees Review*, *Clark Street Review*, *Nomad's Choir*, *AIM*, *Thorny Locust*, among others. "In Jazz There is Unity" appeared in the *Haight Ashbury Literary Journal*, Vol. 19, #1, 2000.

Marianna Busching (Walkersville, MD): She has been a compulsive writer since age seven. She is a serious professional classical singer who is winding down a career after having appeared in such places as Carnegie Hall and the Kennedy Center. She is on the faculty of The Peabody Conservatory. She won a Poet's Award at Converse College and has been invited to read her poems at Border's. The latest of her poems to be accepted for publication include "Supper" by *Living Church*, and "Songs from the Couch I and II" by *Mausoleum*. A Washington composer set five of her poems to music especially for her voice. She premiered them at the Renwick Gallery in Washington, D.C., and they have been performed frequently since.

Stephen Butterman (Ypsilanti, MI): He is currently pursuing a Masters degree in creative writing at Eastern Michigan University. He has published two nonfiction books on bicycle touring, one with Wilderness Press, the other with Anacus Press. He has published poetry, essays, and fiction in several dozen

publications including *Immaculate Cauldron* and *Cornfield Review* (two literary journals of Ohio State University), *Inland*, *Baja Times*, *Wyoming Rural News*, *American Gardening*, *Hartford Woman*, *Paperback Parade*, *Atrocity*, and *Catholic Forester*.

Tommy Byrd (Austin, TX): A very young Tommy Byrd began his musical career in El Dorado, Arkansas, after seeing the Beatles play on the Ed Sullivan Show in 1964. Inspired by their remarkable harmonies and catchy lyrics, Tommy purchased his first guitar and began teaching himself to play. In 1986, Byrd wrote the winning song in the Official Song of Austin Contest sponsored by the Austin Chamber of Commerce. He was a top finalist in a national songwriting contest sponsored by TNN in 1998. Byrd's songs have been recorded by Austin band *Stop the Truck* and Austin singer Mady Kaye. In 2001, Kids Acting used three of his songs in the production *The Emperor's New Shoes*. Piano Press has recorded a song that he co-wrote called "All of Us Together" for a CD called *KidTunes*. Tommy has sung in various bands in Arkansas and Texas since 1967 and has been under contract with STAX Records in Memphis. He sang with the Geezinslaws and did harmony vocals with Willie Nelson on "Amazing Grace" on the LP *The Sound in Your Mind*. He was a major label-recording artist in the 1970s. He has co-owned a recording studio, and plays guitar and keyboards. He is a BMI-affiliated writer and has written many award-winning songs. He and his singing partner Kathy Street are about to release their CD "Stories of Life, Songs of Love". It will be available through their web site <http://home.austin.rr.com/byrdstreet/index.html>.

Loraine Campbell (Seattle, WA): Her poems and short stories have appeared in *Grit*, *The Sun*, *Chrysalis Reaer*, *Aim*, *Writing for our Lives*, *Works and Conversation*, *Potato Eyes*, *Sweet Pea Review*, *Papyrus*, *Pulse*, *Chiron Review*, *Circle Magazine*, *Struggle*, *Dana Literary Society*, *Hard Row to Hoe*, *Bellowing Ark*, *The Awakenings Review*, and *The California Quarterly*. "Silent Way" is from a self-published chapbook titled *Marooned*.

Fern G. Z. Carr (Kelowna, BC, Canada): She is a musician, lawyer, language teacher, and past president and director of the local Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. Music is an integral part of her life. She has given private piano lessons, served as an accompanist, and taught choir at the high school level. She plays the piano every day and enjoys singing and performing with a university choir. Her poetry has been published in Canada, the USA, England, Wales, and Australia. Her publication credits include: *Canadian Writer's Journal*, *Thalia: Studies in Literary Humor*, *Green's Magazine*, *Writer's Guidelines and News Magazine*, *John Milton Magazine*, *Jewish Women's Literary Annual*, *Once Upon A Time*, *FreeXpression*, *Time for Rhyme*, *SPCA Connection*, *Dream International Quarterly*, *VQ Online*, *Gentle Reader*, *Krax*, and *Candelabrum*.

Todd Cecil (Nashville, TN): He is a UNC Chapel Hill Graduate. He is currently a musician and songwriter in Nashville, TN working on original music featuring slide collage guitar with emphasis on lyrical content and performance. Song clips and further information can be found at www.toddcecil.com. His publication credits include "Buick s" in *Penmanship: A Creative Arts Calendar 2001*, "Raising Perfect" and "Kiosk" in *Way Station Magazine 2001*, and "Next" and "When She Writes" published in *Offerings 2002*.

Shannon Casey Celia (Thousand Oaks, CA): She has a degree in journalism from Pepperdine University. She has been writing for children for four years, and is a member of SCBWI. She is the author of "ABCs of the Sea" and is a mother and a painter.

Kelly Clark (Glenview, IL): She is a teacher and a writer of poetry. She is the fourth of seven children.

Nan Clark (Bronx, NY): She received her M.A. in Musicology and B.A. in English from Hunter College in New York City. She has taken additional courses in music, the arts, education, and environmental studies at Hunter, NYU, SUNY, the Manhattan School of Music, New York College of Music, and the Metropolitan Opera Guild. Her published works include ten songs for "Step Out in Faith" by His Notes, Inc., including all piano arrangements in the accompanying songbook, and "Jesus as Messiah," by Dove Publications. Her live performance programs include "Discovering the World of Opera," "The Opera Scene," "An Introduction to Dance," and "The Dramatic Experience," which she co-authored. She co-translated one-hour, updated English adaptations of "Carmen" and "La Bohème." She wrote the words and music to "Msgr. Scanian School Song," as well as many sacred and secular songs. She is the author of "The World's Greatest Star-Trek Quiz," now a collector's item. A college instructor, she was an avid Star Trek fan.

Laura Cobrinik (Boonton Township, NJ): She graduated from Caldwell College (magna cum laude) in May of 1988. She is a former member of Women Who Write in New Jersey, and is now a graduate student at The Palmer School of Library and Information Sciences, Brookville, NY. Her other works of poetry have appeared in *Interface*, *The Delta Epsilon Sigma Journal*, *The Storyteller*, *Library Mosaics*, *The Jewish Woman's Literary Annual*, *The Quarterly of The National Writing Project & The Center For The Study of Writing and Literacy*, *Manna*, *Haiku Headlines*, and *The Aureorean: A Poetic Quarterly*. Her poem, "If Emily Dickinson Was Jewish," won third prize in the National College Poetry Contest, 1996. She has also been published in the "Chatter, New Jersey" column of the New Jersey section of the *Sunday New York Times* on numerous occasions. Her poems have also appeared in the Spring 2002 issue of the ALA/ASCAL journal, *Interface*, and the December, 2002 issue of *TheAureorean: A Poetic Quarterly*.

Robert Cooperman (Denver, CO): He is the author of three collections of poetry, most recently *The Widow's Burden* (Western Reflections). His second collection, *In the Colorado Gold Fever Mountains* (Western Reflections) won the Colorado Book Award for Poetry for 2000. His first book, *In the Household of Percy Bysshe Shelley*, was published by the University of Central Florida Contemporary Poetry Series and was nominated for several national awards. *The Emigrants' Buffalo Hunt* is forthcoming from Conundrum Press. His work has appeared in *The American Poetry Review*, *Mississippi Review*, *California Quarterly*, and many other prestigious literary journals. He lives in Denver with his wife Beth. Previously published poems included here are *A Member of the Orchestra* (Plainsongs), *Gregorian Chants* (Willow Springs), *Impetus* (Purple Monkey Review), and *Attempted Music* (Potomac Review).

Jennifer Olson Crook (Hot Springs, AR): She is a kindergarten teacher and mother of two. With a degree in Early Childhood Education, she draws from her classroom teaching experience for her writing ideas. "After having taught young children, I know what kind of teaching materials are available and what things teachers really need to teach a dynamic classroom."

Jamie Cutler (North Ft. Myers, FL): Born in Philadelphia, PA, this singer of country songs hasn't always been just country. Over a twenty-year period, she has sung with the rock, pop, and country bands Andalusia, Mystery, Mother Goose, Southern Fire, Fox Fire, and Rich Country. She has been accompanied by musicians who have also played with Garth Brooks, Clint Black, KT Oslin, The Mandrell Sisters, The Forrester Sisters, and at Opryland, and to name a few. Most recently, she toured Europe and is about to go back with Western Heart Productions. With Florida sunshine, Nashville savvy, and New York rhythm, she has a dramatic flair to her personality that will win your heart. She has had twenty-one Independent #1 singles on Cashbox, and Nashville Tracker. She has been named songwriter of the year with the Country Music Associations of America for over eight years, and is very involved with the Nashville Songwriters Association International. She is a finalist in the 2001 John Lennon Songwriting Contest, and was in the Grammy nomination listings for Best Female Pop Vocalist.

Maureen Danson (Desert Hot Springs, CA): She is originally from Chicago where she went to school to become a nurse. In 1980 she moved to the Palm Springs, CA area as a live-in nurse for one of her patients and has been there ever since. Maureen took a camera class at a local public access TV station and wrote an environmental documentary about the Salton Sea. The story was a little dry and needed a music video so she wrote a song about mother earth, which can be heard and viewed at <http://bluelady.alexdanson.com>. In 2000, she started writing a children's book but the stories felt more like songs. She decided to turn the short stories into children's songs. She and her husband Alex will be spending the summer of 2004 in Paris working on an industrial video. She will also be writing more children's songs with her four-year-old niece Exie as an inspiration.

Dorothy Danzig (Santa Monica, CA): She received her musical education at Julliard and Vassar College before journeying to France to study with Robert Casadesus at Fontainebleau. She has also studied at California State University, Northridge (CSUN), and on scholarship with Jakob Gimpel at the Academy for the Performing Arts at the Music Center. At CSUN she won a first prize in chamber music and graduated summa cum laude. She has given Docent lecture-demonstrations of Los Angeles Philharmonic programs for that organization. She has performed on the East coast as well as locally in the Los Angeles area at colleges, concert series, support groups of the L.A. Philharmonic, and in retirement homes. Additionally, she has been heard on radio stations KPFK, WNYC, and WQXR as well as on television in New York. A piano instructor for many years, her other music activities include piano coaching for two films and three television shows. She has composed songs and band arrangements as well as cues for both film and tele-

vision, including Charlie's Angels, Rookies, and SWAT. She performed Alex Shapiro's Piano Suite on a CD for NACUSA. She is a member of ASCAP, Pi Kappa Lambda, The Dominant Club, and Mu Phi Epsilon. www.myspace.com/dorothyspafardhull

Deborah A. Dessaso (Washington, DC): She is a native of Washington, DC and a published writer and poet. Her essays and poems have appeared in the *Washington Post*, the *Washington Informer*, and several local and national literary and small press publications including *Obsidian*, *Parnassus Literary Journal*, *Writer's Exchange*, *The Mage*, and *Dialogue*. Her poem "The Tuning" was previously published in *The Aardvark Adventurer*, April, 1998.

Jim Dewitt (Deceased): An educator for over thirty-one years, he taught Language Arts from the elementary to university levels. He also authored linguistics textbooks. Over 2,000 of his poems and writings appeared in various publications, including journals and university presses, throughout his writing career.

Katherine Dines (Denver, CO): She is a songwriter, recording and teaching artist, and a keynote presenter. To date, she has created seven albums with accompanying activity guides and songbooks in the award-winning series "Hunk*Ta*Bunk*Ta." She is affiliated with many arts organizations, and is on the Board of Directors of the Children's Entertainment Association. She has performed in Africa, Australia, Europe, the Mediterranean, Southeast Asia, and on military bases for the U.S. Department of Defense in honor of "Military Child Month." Various other projects including her songs are the platinum selling and Grammy-nominated *A Child's Gift of Lullabies* (1987), *Chicken Soup for Little Souls - What a Wonderful World* (1998), *Dreamship: Lullabies for Little Dreamers* (1995), *Songs of Faith for Baby* (Wal-Mart), and *Big Country* (WB).

Gelia Dolcimascolo (Atlanta, GA): A former modern dancer and the daughter of a concert pianist and composer, she is currently a writing lab assistant and facilitator of The Writers' Circle at Georgia Perimeter College in Atlanta. She has taught creative writing through the college's Continuing Education Division. Her poems have been published in *Poets, Artists & Madmen*, *bluemilk*, *Dancing Shadow Review*, *Mediphors*, *The DeKalb Literary Arts Journal*, and *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*. She has co-authored two poetry chapbooks, *Adagio* and *Encore!*, and is preparing a collection of her own poems. Her poetry addresses familial and personal relationships through the arts. Previously published poems included here are *Pianos* (*bluemilk*, 1998; *Adagio*, 1997), *Opus* (*Adagio*, 1997), and *Papa's Imbalance* (*Adagio*, 1997). "Danse Poetica" was previously published in *Adagio*, 1997.

Adam Donmoyer (Austin, TX): Adam Donmoyer is an unconventional and unpredictable artist who combines an ear for melody with a pop culture sensibility that celebrates the absurd. His training as a stage performer has helped him craft a piano-driven, modern-day pop cabaret act that has won over audiences of all types, in addition to critical acclaim. The subject matter of his story songs runs the gamut, and they usually include an O'Henry twist that keeps listeners guessing until the end. "Similarities to Tom Lehrer and Randy Newman come to mind when I listen to Adam's music. His approach is warped and wonderful, and he is not afraid to be unique and himself," said Wilory Records recording artist Terri Hendrix. Through the satire, Adam's songs have been honored for their serious undertones. A song inspired by a schizophrenic cousin who believes himself to be Jesus Christ recently contributed to his nomination for the "Humbie Heart Award" from Humble Time: The Texas Songwriters Radio Showcase. A favorite at Humble Time, Adam often leaves people laughing so hard, they cry. He calls his music "tragically funny." "Adam's like a car accident: you walk by, and you can't take your eyes off of him," says producer David Love of Love Monkey Studios. Adam's sensitivity to the spectrum of human feeling, interpreted with and tempered by humor, has acquired attention on MP3.com, where he was highlighted as an "Artist Success Story." His songs have been featured on various Internet sites and radio shows, adding to his international following. Adam is most enchanting on stage, where he forges an instant bond with even the largest of audiences. His new album "Naughty Bits" www.cdbaby.com/donmoyer was just released. The album will be an opportunity for new listeners and devoted fans alike to hear at home what they love when they see him on stage. Adam has a BFA in Musical Theatre from Otterbein College. He hosts "Songwriters in the Round" on the Austin Music Network www.austinmusicnetwork.org. He plays in the house band for Humble Time: The Texas Songwriters Radio Showcase www.humbletime.com. He serves as co-president of the Austin Songwriters Group www.austinsongwriter.org. He teaches piano at The Austin School of Music www.austinschoolofmusic.com. Adam has earned international awards and recognition, including Grand Prize Winner in the ASG 2001 Bare Bones Contest and Finalist in the 2003 USA Songwriting Competition.

To learn more about Adam, his new album *Naughty Bits*, or his awards, visit www.adamdonmoyer.com.

Carolyn Downie (Newhall, CA): She is a composer, pianist, writer, and teacher. She studied jazz composition and performance at The New England Conservatory of Music and Berklee College of Music and earned a degree in composition from the California Institute of the Arts ('01). Carolyn has two independently released solo piano albums of original music, "Waves at Bathsheba" and "Etudes." Currently, pieces from these recordings are being used in various multi-media projects online, in radio and film. Impressionistic, expressionistic, ambient and improvisatory, these albums explore new sonorities and approaches to piano performance, composition and interpretation. These works were inspired by composers such as Debussy, Chopin, Morton Feldman, Bartok, and Ginastera, along with various concepts of traditional and Eastern theory, third-stream composition and the work of modern visual artists. In 2007, she finished writing and producing a book and audio CD of piano pedagogy and music research entitled *Piano Traveler, Songbook 1*. With this product, she hopes to educate students in a creative and entertaining way. Also with story and theme-based lyrics, music theory, history, and instrumentation information included with each song, this book aims to provide fun imagery, educational topics, and positive messages to students of all ages. She was recently awarded as a Top Finalist in the Unisong International Songwriting Competition 2006 (children's music category). She is also the recipient of Third Place/Honorable Mention Award in the 2005 International Narrative Song Competition for another one of her songs included in this new book. www.cdbaby.com/carolyndownie www.carolyndownie.com

Randi Drucker (Long Island, NY): She has been writing music since she was seventeen. She was a backup singer in a local band in New York. She became involved with the Nashville Songwriters Association International (NSAI) over ten years ago, and has been one of the New York coordinators for nine years. One of her songs was a finalist in the ASCAP Lilith Fair songwriting contest.

Mary E. Duncan (Greensboro, NC): She is a poet, author of children's stories, and writes songs for children.

Jim Dunlap (Des Moines, IA): His work has appeared in over sixty small press magazines to date, including *Plainsongs*, *Candelabrum*, and the *Paris/Atlantic*. He has been in the Writers' Digest's Top 100 three times. For the past five years, he has been newsletter editor for his local writers' group and has recently resigned to spend more time on writing and other priorities.

Leonard G. Eckhardt (Lincoln, NE): He has been songwriting for many years and got serious about it about ten years ago. He has written over 500 songs. Various independent artists from all over the United States have recorded nineteen of his songs, and he currently has songs on hold. He also writes original songs for weddings, written and performed especially for the couple. He has received many awards from songwriting contests.

Danny Einbender (Gardiner, NY): He lives in an apple orchard in the Hudson Valley. As a performer, music therapist, and environmental educator, he has sung a million songs. He also sculpts, plants his garden, writes and records the occasional tune, and still finds time to put up about 300 quarts of applesauce every fall. His song *It Really Isn't Garbage* won sixth place in the 2001 Just Plain Folks Music Awards in the children's song category.

Elaine Erickson (Urbandale, IA): She is a composer and a poet, and teaches piano in her home. She has five books of poems published by Chestnut Hills Press in Baltimore, MD. She has previously been published in *The Maryland Poetry Review*, *Briar Cliff Review*, *Opus Literary Review*, and *Lyrical Iowa*, among others. She won first place in the Barnes and Noble Contest in Des Moines, IA in April 2003.

Anne G. Estey (Portsmouth, NH): She is a piano instructor and author of numerous piano teaching pieces. Her songs *My Raindrop* and appear in *The Music Box and Other Delights*.

Elaine Ezell (DeSoto, TX): She was born in Middletown, Ohio. She is married to James Ezell. Together they had two children. She earned two degrees from Cedar Valley College, one in Composing and Arranging, the other in Performance. As a participant in the Music City Song Festival Contest, she won a top twenty-five award for lyrics and several honorable mentions. Her interest in music began in church choir, where she was a soloist for numerous cantatas and a member of several ensembles. In high school she

sang in a mixed ensemble, the symphony choir, and was voted most outstanding female vocalist. She was the featured soloist for commencement as a member of the Tucson Community Chorus. She has written several published songs and is currently developing an Easter cantata. She is also working on other Christian music. Her hobbies include collecting Coke memorabilia.

David Fagen (Deceased): He was a retired attorney who enjoyed creating humorous satire. He considered himself the illiterate man's Jonathan Swift. He played the flute, specializing in the Baroque scores of LeClair, Blavet, Naudot, Stamitz, and Corelli. His nephew Donald Fagen is of Steely Dan.

Donna Fant (Ormond Beach, FL): She has been a regional workshop coordinator with NSAI since 1990 and a member since 1984. She loves writing songs and meeting other songwriters. She has had songs cut in the US and Europe. One of the songs she co-wrote with Ed Snyder and Jimmy Williams, *Cheatin' Roses*, was performed on the Ralph Emory Show. She has also had a song and a video made in Nashville of *Don't Try That at Home*.

Jose Feliciano (Fairfield County, CT): Songwriter of the Christmas classic "Feliz Navidad," learn more about this master musician at <http://www.josefeliciano.com/biography.html>

Mardelle Fortier (Lisle, IL): She has won many contests in creative writing. She won two contests recently in *ByLine Magazine*, one for poetry and one for fiction. She has about sixty poems in print, in journals such as *Chicago Literary Review*, *Rhino*, and *Piedmont Literary Review*. Some years ago, she was an assistant editor at *Rhino*, and is now a poetry editor at *DuPage Arts/Life* published by Benedictine University. She teaches writing at various Chicago area colleges such as the College of DuPage, and has taught in colleges for seventeen years. She holds a doctorate of comparative literature from the University of Illinois. For years she has been a member of Phi Beta Kappa, and is currently president of the Illinois State Poetry Society. "Katerina Witt Competes" was previously published in *DuPage Arts Life*, Fall 2003. "Skater to Red Violin" was previously published in *Quantum Pulp*, Spring 2002. "Composing Poems as Music Plays in a Coffee House" was previously published in *Byline Magazine*, February 2000.

William Fowler (Saugus, CA): During the Great Depression of 1929, young Bill Fowler taught himself to play blues harmonica, dirt-band mandolin, Dixieland tenor banjo, and finally jazz guitar, ending up at age 17 in a Salt Lake City speakeasy trio. Still unable to read music at 21, Bill headed a Continental combo at Sun Valley, Idaho, Union Pacific's plush ski resort. In 1944, Bill married Beatrice Cottam, the daughter of University Botany Professor Dr. Walter P. Cottam. Marrying into this family meant your "degree" was a PhD and nothing less, but Bill's education would have to wait until after the war. At 25, after induction into the U.S. Army during WWII, he put together a non-official battalion marching band, which upon landing in Marseilles, became a dance band/show group servicing ETO GI's. An exhausting attempt to write a parade arrangement of the French National Anthem soon convinced Bill of the wisdom of learning how to read music. At war's end, Bill enrolled as a Music Major at the University of Utah. He studied there for seven years, broken only by intensive periods at the American Conservatory in Chicago and the Eastman School of Music. As Bill was pursuing his MFA and PhD degrees, Beatrice was caring for their growing musical aggregation, the five Fowler Brothers - Bruce, Steve, Tom, Walt, and Ed - all now pro performers. While beginning his twenty-year stint at the Univ. of Utah, teaching subjects like 16th Century Counterpoint and Bach Chorale Harmony, Bill stayed active in classical composing - receiving a Rockefeller Foundation commission; winning the Siena International Choral Composition contest; and co-winning the American Division of the Prix Italia. He designed the first college Guitar Degree Program in the United States, which led to an invitation from Andres Segovia to study the Segovia techniques and teaching methods at the Accademia Musicale Chigiana in Siena, Italy. All the while Bill headed combos around town; wrote and narrated a popular multi-media History of Jazz lecture; directed the Western Division of the National Stage Band Camps; and produced the Intermountain Jazz Festival and the clinics at the Mobile Festival. Along with C. Richard Evans, he co-invented the first Piezo-electric guitar pickup for Star Valley Electronics. Unsatisfied with strictly traditional music theory and wanting to prepare students for the real world, Bill initiated the Jazz Major at the U of U. The program focused on nomenclature and methodology used in motion pictures, television, and records. Bill designed a visiting faculty feature, inviting many great professional musicians from LA, NYC, and elsewhere to come to the campus and teach week-long seminars. This approach proved hugely successful for the students, and many went on to highly successful careers. Building on the diversity of his musical background, Bill opened a new career - writing -when he joined the staff of Down Beat magazine as Education Editor and regular columnist, a position he held some 13 years. Then

he joined the staff of Keyboard magazine as Theory Columnist for 7 years. In 1974, Bill moved to the University of Colorado at Denver. The same year he formed his own publishing company, Fowler Music Enterprises, which has produced more than 22 books. After retiring from the University of Colorado in 1994, Bill moved to Los Angeles, where he continues to compose in a variety of styles, from symphonic works to popular songs. www.myfavoriteholidays.com

Martha Frater (Fremont, OH): She is married and a mother of two grown boys. She is a writer of children's stories and a member of The Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI). She gleans her story ideas from her experiences as a school bus driver and playground aid, where there is never a dull moment.

G. G. Gilchrist (Deceased): A Brooklyn, NY native, he was published in *Armadillo/Candlelight*, *Timelapse*, *Iliad*, *Black Creek Review*, *Aurorean*, and *Smile*, among others. His poem *inexpressible is music* won an Honorable Mention in the Spring 2000 Iliad Literary Awards Program.

Howard Gold (Las Vegas, NV): He writes on the humorous side of life, on a variety of subjects, sings, and plays the piano. He has been published in the Las Vegas Chapter of the *Menza Newsletter*.

Scott Gregory (Mooresville, NC): He has been playing the guitar and songwriting since high school. After establishing a career in engineering, he returned to songwriting as a hobby. Most of his material is of the country/folk genre mixed with children's music and bluegrass. He has traveled to Nashville to further his ambitions as a songwriter, and seeks to have his material published for commercial use. He is affiliated with ASCAP as a writer and producer and is active in the Nashville Songwriters Association International (NSAI) Charlotte, NC chapter.

Peter Grimaldi (Broomall, PA): His poetry has appeared in the following publications: *Trains*, *Philadelphia Poets*, *The Plastic Tower*, *Poetry Motel*, *The White Crow*, *The Advocate*, *The Oak*, and is forthcoming in *Hidden Oak*, *Red Owl Magazine*, and *Cleaning Magazine*. "Piano Moving," "Piano Dust," and "Music Child" are previously published, having appeared in *Fearless* and *The Oak*. He is a lifelong resident of the Philadelphia area, and he teaches language arts in the city of Chester.

Anita Metz Grossman (Deceased): She was a pianist and a composer. She performed both classical and jazz on piano. Writing about music was her chief joy. Her poem *Cadences* was published in *bluemilk*. She published with her colleague, Gelia Dolcimascolo, two chapbooks, *Adagio* and *Encore*.

Michelle Gunning (Battle Creek, MI): She writes poetry and songs, and is the mother of three children, Sarah, Alissa, and Trey. Her poem "Reminded" won an Editor's Choice Award at www.poetry.com.

Kathleen Gunton (Orange, CA): She received her degree from CSULB. She has been publishing poetry for twenty years. Her poems have been published by *Hellas*, *NCR*, *Free Lunch*, *The Aurorean*, *The Christian Science Monitor*, *Sing!*, *Heavenly Muse*, and *Fox Cry Review*, among others. She was nominated for a Pushcart in 1999. Her first collection, *Something Untamed*, was published in 2000. She is a professional photographer and lives with her husband.

J. M. Hall (Birmingham, AL): He is an undergraduate at Samford University, majoring in philosophy and psychology, and a manager at a small local restaurant. He won awards for poetry in high school, and has had several poems published in the university's annual literary journal *Sojourn*. *The Penwood Review* will also be publishing *To Immanuel Kant* in the fall 2002 issue. He loves reading classic literature, listening to a wide variety of music, and writing. He volunteers at the Crisis Center, a suicide/crisis hotline, that serves Birmingham and the greater metropolitan area.

Mark Hall (Nashville, TN): He graduated from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville in 1987 with a BS in Communications. As a singer/songwriter, his goal is to reveal the hope, humor, and meaning to be discovered in even the "commonest" of life experiences. He tries to write from life, applying his imagination and his own point of view. The result is a unique combination of entertainment, artistic endeavor, and affordable therapy. He has performed since 1983 in a variety of settings, including coffeehouses, church group retreats, the Riverbend Festival, the Fall Color Cruise Festival, and the KUDZU Festival. Chattanooga Independent Artists nominated him "Acoustic Songwriter of the Year" in 2000. His travels have put him in front

of a wide range of audiences in the Northwest, Puerto Rico, Hawaii, San Francisco, Harlem, Las Vegas, and Minsk, Belarus, in the former Soviet Union. He was co-coordinator of the Chattanooga NSAI chapter, dedicated to developing the craft and business songwriting.

Peggy C. Hall (S. Miami, FL): Her avocation has always been music-related (piano, organ, tenor sax). Whether playing the score in a local production of *The Fantasticks* or writing a free-verse "review" of a Graham Steed organ recital in Salisbury Cathedral, she has been intimately involved with the notes and the rhythms. Most recently, she received an Honorable Mention in the Soul-Making Literary Competition 2000 for "Keats Writes to His Brother Tom." Her diminishing-verse poem "Gus n' Us" and a sonnet were included in Sandra Riley's 2000 children's book, *The Greenbear Chronicles*.

John Hammond (San Diego, CA): John Hammond teaches elementary school in San Diego, CA. He has taught every grade, kindergarten through sixth. He has written dozens of songs for children on such topics as helping mother earth, having fun, being positive, and treating everybody with respect. John enjoys getting others to sing along and participate using easy chorus, simple sign language, and rhyming and story songs. John has performed 100s of times at churches, schools, libraries, and community events. "Enjoy your voice. You were born to sing your own song."

Joyce V. Harrison (Nashville, TN): Joyce is a Nashville transplant from Chicago and before that, Northern Canada. With a background in broadcasting and advertising, she has been a professional writer and voice over for her entire career. She began singing at age three and later in school choirs, which led to songwriting. She began serious pursuit of music in Chicago, initially composing on guitar and currently on keyboard. Her first break came with a Chicago band who recorded an album for a California label distributed by Capitol Records. One of her songs became a single as well for a New Zealand artist on Epic Records. Joyce initially focused on country in Nashville and landed two songs on albums by a new artist then named LeAnn Rimes. Her catalog includes pop, rock, reggae, dance, Latin, blues, chorale and jazz vocals and is now up to over 450 songs. Joyce is a voting member of the Recording Academy and a songwriter/publisher member of ASCAP. Her website is <http://www.luvuluvumusic.com>

Joseph Hart (Visalia, CA): Before he met his dearest friend, his poems were very impersonal, but have since become more feeling. His heroes in poetry are Keats and Millay. His favorite composers are Bach, Mozart, and Donizetti. He has been published in *Fauquier*, *Riverrun*, *Parnassus*, *Raintown Review*, *Ship of Fools*, *Adept Press (Small Brushes)*, *Catamount Press (Cotyledon)*, *Lucidity*, *Homestead Review*, *Dana Literary Society*, *Northwoods*, *Beggar's Press (Raskolnikov's Cellar)*, *Red Owl*, *Muse's Kiss*, *Kaleidoscope Review*, *Offerings*, *Nanny Fanny*, *Alura*, *Old Hickory Review*, *Mind In Motion*, *Straight Ahead*, and various other magazines.

John R. Haws (Olympia, WA): He was born and raised in California. He is sixty-six years old and busy raising his second family of two sons, John-John and Joshua. The Olympia Copy and Printing Center first printed *Poetry Book-1* in March of 1991. He has been writing poetry since his college days at San Jose State College back in 1961. His poetry can be read online at <http://mywebpages.comcast.net/John-R-Haws>.

Darin Hazen (Ladera Ranch, CA): The aggressive blend of honest lyrics, catchy melodies, and funky grooves can mean only one thing-Darin Hazen. Hazen (ex-Sofa vocalist) takes a minimalist approach to his music; creating a raw, stripped down, Lo-Fi sound that's enjoyable for the whole family.

Derryl R. Herring (Farmington, NM): He was born in Mesa, AZ, and left immediately for Toadlena, NM, where his parents, Charles and Grace Herring, owned a trading post. He spent his childhood on the Navajo Indian reservation, where he attended the first eight grades in a one-room school. He was often the only anglo child in his school. His music education began at an early age. His mother drove Derryl and his Navajo sister, Jill, to the Waterflow Academy sixty miles from Toadlena. There they took lessons from the Ursuline nuns, with Derryl studying voice and piano. His high school years were spent in Farmington, NM, where he graduated in 1953. Before receiving his BA and MA in music education from Brigham Young University, he spent two and a half years in France and Switzerland, where he served as a missionary for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. During that time he met his wife, Michèle Dunoyer, in Grenoble, France. They have three children, André, Ariane, and Pierre, and three grandchildren. He spent forty years teaching elementary school music, with the last ten spent on the Navajo Indian reservation. He has

now retired from the classroom and spends his time taking care of church responsibilities, writing, and composing new music. He has choral works published with Shawnee Press and Alfred Publishing.

Linda Oatman High (Narvon, PA): She is an award-winning author of many books for children and teens, including *Sister Slam and the Poetic Motormouth Road Trip*, *Maizie*, *Hound Heaven*, *The Summer of the Great Divide*, *A Stone's Throw from Paradise*, *A Christmas Star*, *Beekeepers*, *Under New York*, *Barn Savers*, *The Horse Carvers*, *Winter Shoes for Shadow Horse*, *The Last Chimney Of Christmas Eve*, *The Girl on the High-Diving Horse*, *Abe Lincoln's Log*, and *A Humble Life: Plain Poems*. Linda's writing workshops include "Writing to the Beat of a Different Drummer," and "Writing by the Seaside." She is an instructor with the Pennsylvania Young Writers Literature Project and a member of the Board of Trustees of the Highlights Foundation. For more information, please visit www.lindaoatmanhigh.com.

Gregory D.V. Holmes (Parlin, NJ): He is a trial lawyer practicing in New York City. He earned a Bachelor of Music in Theory and Composition Degree from the University of Miami. For several years, he was a Staff Composer and Recording Engineer for Maryland Public Television. His opening theme music for Public Television's "Terra: Our World" won a George Foster Peabody Radio and Television Award. He has composed and arranged TV show themes, film scores, and commercials including *Project Basic...is a lot more than ABCs*, *Consumer Connection*, and *You Can't Go Wrong by Eating Right*. He won First Prize in the ASCAP-sponsored Nathan Burkan Memorial Writing Competition on Copyright Law at the University of Maryland for *Copyright Infringement and Commercial Popular Songs: Beyond Melody and Lyric*. He has given lectures on scoring music for television at the University of Miami School of Music and before the Black Media Association in Baltimore, MD.

Cynthia Honeycutt (Hickory, NC): She lives by a lake with her two small children, one great husband, and a very hairy dog. Days are spent writing, teaching art to children, and opening a new business that tutors children in grades k-12. She is a native of North Carolina and enjoys traveling to nearby beaches with her family to search for seashells, ride the waves, and gain new inspiration for art and work from God's beautiful world. Her short story "The Music" appears in *The Music Box and Other Delights*.

Tim Hopkins (Luton, UK): He has had a song on BBC, and four songs released in the U.S. His songs have been performed in churches, and one of his lyrics won second place in the Gibraltar Song Contest. He is a published poet and children's author.

Kathryn B. Hull (La Quinta, CA): She is a Nationally Certified Teacher of Piano and Theory, maintaining an active studio in the California desert community of La Quinta. She is a poet and author of children's stories. The National Library of Poetry has published several of her writings. She has been published in children's magazines including *First Opportunity* and *Young Generation*. She served on the Music Teachers National Association Board of Directors for a number of years, as well as holding significant offices in her residence state. As an advocate for the arts, music and the arts are often the central theme in her writings.

Paul Humphrey (Spencerport, NY): With thirty years of commercial writing experience, he has published verse poetry in the U.S., Canada, and the U.K. He learned to love opera after a stint as a scenery mover's helper at the old Met in NYC. A member of the Author's League and Poets & Writers, he is listed in *Gale Contemporary American Authors*, *Coda Directory*, and *The International Biographical Center*.

Kevin Hurst (Salt Lake City, Utah): He has gradually evolved into Utah's "Mr. Halloween." A favorite holiday since his childhood, he started writing Halloween songs for his own children when they were very young. Relying on the inspiration of his six-year old son, his first song was about a ghost that eats people. From that macabre beginning, his Halloween "career" was off to a boo-tiful start. In the fall of 2002 he released a CD of original Halloween songs titled "What's in the Haunted Old House?" The CD opens with "A Magical Halloween Night," his first published song. Passionate about writing music and stories for children, Kevin is a member of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators (S.C.B.W.I.). He has been playing guitar, composing songs, and performing since he was fifteen. He now enjoys entertaining families in school and library settings, especially in October when he's booked all month long. He and his wife Nancy are the proud parents of five children. They live in Salt Lake City, Utah. Kevin can be contacted at khurstcreations@netzero.com.

Joe Johnston (Nashville, TN): He is a Grammy-nominated, Dove Award-winning songwriter, and a veteran of over twenty years in music. He's worked on records with sales of over twelve million copies. His song "Honestly" appeared on LeAnn Rimes' debut album, "Blue." He's the co-writer of the Number One Hit "Count Your Blessing," and the Christmas standard, "Go Tell." He's also written for Mark Chesnutt and a host of Gospel artists, for television and motion pictures. As a producer, he has worked in the studio with such stars as Vince Gill, Charlie Daniels, Marty Stuart, and Riders In The Sky. www.joejohnstonarts.com

Wendee Katell-Hersh (Santa Clarita, CA): So, you thought you would sit and listen to a nice concert? Well, get ready to rock, roll, wiggle, jump and spin while WENDEE takes you on a wild musical trip that's fit for an aerobics class!!! With her colorful outfits, crazy dances, and a few sing-a-longs, WENDEE will definitely get your kids attention and maybe even wear them out for a nap. With an eclectic mix of musical styles you will rock while you *Brush Your Teeth and Comb Your Hair 20 Times*, you'll boogie to the *Thumb-Pinkie Rap* and sizzle in the bath as you get *Clean Again* jazz style. Watch out or the Stray Cat style *Allie Alligator* puppet might come right up to you and take a bite! Oh, and don't forget the beach sounds of *Animal Dance*, put on your swim fins. "Interaction in the music as well as the live concerts is one of my main goals in writing" says WENDEE. "How cool is it to see 300 kids wiggling their fingers and stomping their feet or maybe acting like an elephant?" Her fun-loving style and ability to relate to the two to nine year old audience is what keeps families coming back time after time, and venues calling to book shows year after year. Whether at a shopping mall, festival, library, preschool, birthday party or a hospital, WENDEE sings and laughs WITH you, and brings a smile. Her newly released CD *Animal Dance and Other Silly Songs* contains fourteen original songs guaranteed to keep the kids listening, moving and singing along. This album won third place in the 2001 Just Plain Folks Music Awards in the children's category. Adults may want to listen even without the kids! With degrees in music and elementary education, and years of performing experience playing rock, jazz, show music and even orchestral music, it's easy to see where the musical influences come from. Wendy Katell-Hersh has been teaching piano and preschool music in Castaic, in addition to raising a son and performing her concerts all over Southern California. She was featured on a cable TV show called *1-2-3 Grow*. For more information or booking call WENDEE at 661-294-1289.

Mary Kendall (North Staffordshire, England): She was born and bred in Yorkshire and now lives in a converted farmhouse on the North Staffordshire moorlands near the highest village in England, called Flash. She has drawn and painted for sixty-five years since being a child of five, and is a self-taught artist. She has used pen and ink, oils, watercolors, and acrylics. She has illustrated several children's stories. She has drawn cartoons, painted portraits, landscapes, created posters, and done one or two abstracts, but they are not her 'thing' being a traditionalist. It gives her great pleasure to be creative, whether drawing, painting, writing, needlework, or even occasionally, woodwork. Painting is her first love. She met author Phyllis Perry through a mutual friend and very much admired her work. When asked if she would be interested in doing some illustrations for her, she readily agreed.

Richard Kennison (St. Charles, MO): He lives with his wife, Renee, and their children, Book, Zoe, Tea, and Nadia. His poems have appeared in *Mid Rivers Review: A Literary Journal*, *Potpourri: A Magazine of the Literary Arts*, *Raw NervZ Haiku*, *Once Upon a Time: A Magazine for Children's Writers and Illustrators*, *Haiku Headlines*, and *The Mid-America Poetry Review*, among other publications.

Ann Levorson Kieffer (San Francisco, CA): She is a retired teacher and theatre director who is now living and writing in San Francisco. Some of her pieces have appeared in "Plainsongs," "Alive Now," "The Poet's Art," "The New York Times Metropolitan Diary," and others.

Ken Kilback (Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada). He is a full-time Kindergarten teacher in Vancouver, Canada. He loves writing for children, and he has been blessed by all the students he has come to know over the years. One of his picture book manuscripts, *Benita Mah and the Biggest, Baddest, Meanest Teacher in the Whole World*, received Honorable Mention in the 75th Annual Writer's Digest Writing Competition in 2006. *FellowScript* magazine has published two of his articles on children's writing, and a third has been accepted for publication in 2008. Not only has *Western Tale Spinner*, the e-magazine for SCBWI-Western Canada, published several of his articles, but he also writes a regular column for that magazine. In addition, he writes book reviews for both *Resource Links* and *Canadian Children's Book News*.

Bob King (Pense, Saskatchewan, Canada) Originally from Manitoba, he has been a Saskatchewan resident for three years and teaches music in the Regina School System. He has recorded seven albums, in-

cluding five for children and two for adults. He has been performing for thirty years at different venues across Canada and the United States. He now performs in Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba with his family, including his wife Leanne and daughters Sandra and Amy. He is mostly known for writing the songs *Sandwiches Are Beautiful*, recorded by various artists including Nancy Cassidy, Fred Penner, and Peter Alsop, and *Brother For Sale*, recorded by Mary Kate and Ashley Olson (The Olson Twins) for their album by the same name. Both of these songs have sold a million copies. His children's book, *Sitting on the Farm*, is published by Kid's Can Press in both book and CD-ROM format, and is available in French and Spanish. He has written television scripts for Fred Penner's Place and commissioned songs for Sharon, Lois and Bram. He has written humorous articles for newspapers and magazines, radio comedy, plays, and poetry. His latest CD, *The Giant Hot Dog That Ate Regina*, was the winner of the 2001 Just Plain Folks Music Awards for Best Children's Album, and two of his songs placed second and fifth in the children's song category. He is the host of the children's cable TV show *House of Songs*.

Pat Lakatta (Timonium, MD): She is a singer, songwriter, and educator. Her Parent's Choice Award-winning CD, "Everybody's Got a Place," is a favorite among children aged three to eight and their families. Each of the thirteen tracks provides wholesome, educational, upbeat, original music with a sing-along, lively beat. Featured songs are in a variety of musical styles: pop, reggae, waltz, Broadway, lullaby, calypso, and more. She teaches music to pre-school and school age children. She has performed for children and families in many settings. She also gives musical workshops for teachers and educational professionals. As a mom, she believes that fostering an early love of music helps children artfully express their thoughts and feelings in a fun loving way. "Musical activities often help a child focus and organize thought more clearly in later years," she says. "Everybody's Got a Place," her second album, is available on cassette as is her first release, "Sunny Side Up."

Susan Landgraf (Seattle, WA): A writer and photographer, her poems have most recently appeared in *Nimrod*, *Kalliope*, *The Green Hills Literary Lantern*, and *Riverwind*. She also has been published in *The Laurel Review*, *Third Coast Review*, *Pikeville Review*, *Interim*, *A Room Of One's Own*, *Ploughshares*, *Cincinnati Poetry Review*, *Calyx*, *Spoon River Quarterly*, *Sun Dog Review*, and *Paintbrush*, among others. Honors include a Fulbright-Hays Grant in 1999 to South Africa and Namibia; Pablo Neruda, Society of Humanistic Anthropology, and Academy of American Poets awards; a Willard R. Espy Writing Residency in 2003 and a Theodore Morrison scholarship at Bread Loaf. In 2002, she taught PhD students for one semester at Jiao Tong University in Shanghai, China. A former journalist, she teaches writing and media classes at Highline Community College.

Candie Gibson Lemaire (Newport News, VA): She is a former third grade Virginia schoolteacher, having taught at Plaza Elementary in Virginia Beach, VA as well as Stony Mill Elementary in Pittsylvania County, VA. She enjoys writing songs and has written commercial releases, ad jingles, and also penned a melody for a community event, The Miss Springfield Pageant, an event held annually at Springfield Mall, Springfield, VA during "Springfield Days." She especially enjoys writing stirring patriotic melodies, including a tribute to veterans, "Remember The Ones." Her song "Here's To Virginia" was a finalist in the Virginia State Song Competition. She also has written songs for weddings and special events. Having worked two days a week at News Channel 8 in Springfield, VA, she was able to give studio tours to school children. Her work experience has included working for Delta Air Lines, Inc. Marketing and Reservations Sales, as well as 8+ years on Capitol Hill, working on both the House and Senate sides for two high profile Members. She has a Master of Education degree, and lives with her husband Rick in Newport News, VA, along with their beagle, "T-Bone." She has written numerous children's poems and stories, with her most recent publication in *Hopscotch Magazine*, a children's poem, "Rain-Ger Beagle."

Allen Lenicheck (St. George, UT): He received his BA and MM degrees from The Julliard School. He is a piano instructor, as well as a composer, and writer of short stories and poetry. His teaching piece for piano *Cornhuskin' Time* was published by Montgomery Music in Buffalo, NY, and has been used in national piano festivals and competitions. His poem *Music* has appeared in print five times previously, including *The National Library of Poetry* and *The Poetry Society of Pennsylvania*.

Carol Limburg (Sumner, IA): She was born in 1950 in Appleton, Wisconsin. Her father was a violinist and orchestra director in the Appleton schools and later taught in Waterloo, Iowa where she spent most of her growing up years. In those years, she learned to play the violin, instructed by her dad and encouraged by her mother, a pianist. Carol and her siblings spent much time gathered around the piano, singing and

playing musical instruments. Music was a family affair. Carol also enjoys writing poetry and children's books on various subjects in hopes of publication. She has been published in *Reminisce* and *Good Old Days* magazines and writes occasional features for the local paper, *The Sumner Gazette*. She now lives in Sumner, Iowa, where she continues the tradition of giving violin lessons. Carol lives with her husband, Jeremy, and two teenage children, Jake and Katie.

James Lipsky (DePere, WI): He is a retired university professor who also taught in elementary schools. He earned his Ph.D. in Elementary School Counseling, and for thirty years taught teachers and other professionals to be school and community counselors. While teaching, he loved to write poems and published many, especially in professional counseling journals. Some of his poetry hangs in the USS Arizona Museum in Pearl Harbor and a National Shrine in MA. His song "Addicted to the Dictionary" is included on the *KidTunes* CD by Piano Press. This song received honorable mention in the 2002 John Lennon Songwriting Contest in the children's category. He also received 4th and 6th places in the Just Plain Folks 2002 Songwriting Contest. Jim is from a large family and has been around young people for years. From these experiences, he learned to enjoy writing songs and poems.

Lisa Stokking Lutwyche (Landenberg, PA): A writer for over thirty years, Lisa's poetry has appeared in *dotdotdot*, *Mad Poets Review*, *The Tamafyr Review*, *Sea Change*, *Image and Word* (a collaboration of poets and artists, in 1994), and other literary magazines and anthologies. In 1999, she was nominated for a Pushcart Prize. She has taught creative writing to adults and teens at a community arts center since 1992, and is now working on two anthologies and a novel. She is also a watercolorist and watercolor teacher, and has been showing and selling her work for many years. Lisa lives with her English poet husband, two teens, and six pets. Her father, William Stokking, is principal cellist of the Philadelphia Orchestra, affording Lisa a lifetime backstage. Like Elizabeth Axford, Lisa is a breast cancer survivor.

Mark Alan Lyle (Carrollton, GA): He was born March 8, 1958 in Guam. He has a lovely wife Deborah, and two beautiful children, Tyler and Cassie. He is one of three boys to James and Janice Lyle. He attended elementary school in Sunnymead CA and High School at Central High in Carrollton, GA. He attended N.Y. American Academy of Dramatic Arts and is presently working on a Degree in Music Education from West Georgia College. He has worked as a salesman in the family mobile home business at "Lyle Enterprises" since 1985 and has been a Workshop Coordinator for NSAI for many years. He is also a part owner of "Southside Tracks" recording studio and plays in the country variety band "Renita and The Jate Gang." In addition, he leads the choir at his church and runs his son to Little League, which leaves a limited amount of time for writing songs, but he can always find time for his love of writing. He played the Liads as General Bolregard Winslow on "The Chronicles of 1812," which was a mini-series for Canadian television in 1984. He worked for four years as a singer/dancer at Six Flags at the Crystal Pistol in Atlanta, GA and Magic Mountain in Los Angeles, CA.

Brenda Lyons (Waxahachie, TX): She is married and a mother of three children, a fifteen-year-old daughter and twin eight-year-old boys. Now that her children are in school, she has gone back to The University of Texas at Arlington and is working on an English degree. She enjoys music and poetry and was inspired to write while listening to a cellist play during a poetry class.

Bruce Madole (Brampton, Ontario, Canada): He is a writer of short fiction, poetry, and songs. An active member of the Canadian Country Music Association (CCMA), the Songwriters Association of Canada (SAC), and the Nashville Songwriters Association International (NSAI), he is co-coordinator of the NSAI Toronto regional workshop. For his daily bread, he has worked in journalism, public relations and technical communications for over twenty years, and has operated his own consulting firm, Bruce Madole and Associates Inc., since 1988.

Alana Merritt Mahaffey (Hot Springs, AR): She teaches writing at Garland County community college, is founder and editor of the *Arkansas Collective*, and is associate editor of the *Arkansas Literary Forum*. She has been recognized repeatedly by the Arkansas College Media Association, and received the Mark of Excellence Award from the Society of Professional Journalists in 1997. The National Society of Arts and Letters, the Arkansas Society of Arts and Letters, and the Poets Roundtable of Arkansas have recognized her. Her work has been described by poet and writer Josip Novakovich as "beautiful." Recent publications (1999-2001) include *Fugue*, *Lucid Stone*, *New England Writers' Network*, *New Authors Journal*, *Agnieszka's Dowry*, *Poetry Motel*, *Midsouth Poetry Collection*, *Eureka Literary Magazine*, *Long Line Writer*, *Ab-*

bey, Grasslands Review, Spadra, New Works Review, Arkansas Literary Forum, and Aura Literary/Arts Review .

Mark Mansfield (Arlington, VA): He is a document analyst and musician. He has been the Assistant to the Publications Officer at the U.S. Supreme Court, a guard on sound stages in Hollywood, a proofreader for a Christmas card printer, a theatre usher, a janitor at an art school, a night watchman for a concrete company, a telemarketer, and a gas station attendant. He received his M.A. in Writing from Johns Hopkins University. His work has recently appeared (or is forthcoming) in *Aethelon, The Antietam Review, California Quarterly, Candelabrum Poetry Magazine, City Works, Concho River Review, Confluence, Creosote, The Evansville Review, First Offense, Frank, Front Range, Good Foot, The Ledge, Lilliput Review, Limestone, Literary Lantern, The New Writer, Poetry Depth Quarterly, Poetry Motel, Poetry Nottingham International, Potomac Review, Scrivener, Ship of Fools, Tulane River, Windhover, and Words of Wisdom*. He was Feature Poet in the Spring 2003 issue of *Poetry Nottingham International*. *The Ledge Press* previously published "Für Elise." *The Bay Area Poet's Coalition* previously published "The Surf Aces" and "Wonderful World" in the Summer 2002 and Autumn 2002 issues, respectively.

Tracey James Marino (San Diego, CA): She is a pianist and singer, as well as a songwriter and producer. Although classically trained, she plays all styles of music and can learn just about any song "by ear" after listening to it once or twice. Her songwriting career started at the age of five, when she wrote her first composition on the piano. At ten, her professional career started when she was asked to sing and play the organ at a small church in Poway, CA. Tracey's CD recording of original piano music, "Dream-Songs," was inspired by the classical pieces she learned as a child. It includes the song "Dusk To Dawn," a composition she wrote when she was eight. "Although I play and sing just about any kind of music, I really enjoy the complexity of classical music and the tranquility of New Age music. This CD is a blend of these two styles." Along with being a recording artist, composer, keyboardist, and vocalist, she is an editor, copywriter, and a producer. She and her husband Vance own SongMaker Productions www.songmakerpro.com a commercial music house in San Diego, CA. They specialize in creating customized radio jingles and original background music.

Vance Marino (San Diego, CA): He is a composer, guitarist, bassist, drummer, producer, engineer, vocalist, and guitar teacher at Ozzie's Music in Poway, CA. Vance and his wife Tracey own SongMaker Productions www.songmakerpro.com a commercial music house in San Diego, CA. They specialize in creating customized radio jingles and original background music. At SongMaker Productions, their staff will research a company, write the advertising copy, do voice-overs, sing and record all the instruments, and customize music to meet a client's specific needs. Using the latest digital ProTools technology, they can have an ad or jingle ready in 1-3 days. They also create and produce music for shows and productions. Their expert musicians can play, compose, and record all styles of music for auditions, recitals, school projects, and professional and community theater.

Steve Maudsley (Liverpool, England): At an early age, he developed a keen interest in music, painting, and theatre, which was to continue to the present day. Steve relocated to Los Angeles, CA in 1984, working as a lead scenic artist for people like Micheal Jackson, David Bowie, Brad Pitt, and movies like *Alien*. Steve is currently working on some musical projects with co-writer Kenny O'connell.

Kim McLean (Nashville, TN): She is an international recording and performing artist who has scored number one songs in the U.S. and Europe. She is a Grammy-nominated, Dove Award-winning songwriter, the co-writer of the Number One Hits "Angels And Eagles," and "Count Your Blessing," and the Christmas standard, "Go Tell." She's also written for a host of Gospel artists, as well as Tim McGraw, Trisha Yearwood, Lisa Brokop, Pam Tillis, and many others. Her songs have been featured in major motion pictures and on television. Kim is an evangelist minister of the Church of the Nazarene, and appears regularly in churches, as well as being a star attraction at festivals, clubs, and listening rooms. www.kimclean.com

Arthur McMaster (Valrico, FL): He has served until recently as the faculty adviser to his college's poetry club, and has published widely in the U.S. and Ireland. His latest acceptances are from *Blueline* and *Beggars Press* . He was honored to win the "Best of the Festival" award for poetry from the College of William and Mary. As an undergraduate at Indiana University, he lived in a house full of music majors. He studied under the poet Philip Appleman. The previously published poem included here is *Visage (Flipside Magazine, Fall 1999)*.

Chip Mergott (Stockton, NJ): "Chip Mergott is one of my favorite songwriters"--Bonnie Raitt. He recorded his first album for London Records in 1979. He is currently recording for Notebook Records (www.notebookrecords.com) that has a roster of 3 artists. His releases include the instrumental CDs "Hymns for Acoustic Guitar" and "Silent Night, Christmas Carols for Acoustic Guitar;" and the new Contemporary Christian "In a Quiet Moment." He lives and performs in the Philadelphia area, where he also teaches guitar and songwriting.

Earl Meyers (Louisville, KY): He wrote and sang the songs on the albums "Kidding Around" & "Christmas Sing-a-long Songs" by Earl & The Girls. He has written songs recorded by Rachel Coogle, Larry Hale, and Kelly-Kool, among others. He performs regularly on local Louisville Cable, Ron's Variety Show, has road-managed artists, and on occasion has worked in several films. He enjoys running (7 marathons), golf, and basketball.

Lou Anne Michel (Mansfield, OH): She has her own kid song CD, "For All The Kid In Me." It can be found at <http://cdbaby.com/louanne> and has gotten good reviews. She completed a four-song master with producer Scott Mathews. He has worked with the Beach Boys, Eric Clapton, and many others. It was a real thrill to work with him. The songs are "The Potion"(pop/rock), "Walk In"(love song/ballad), "For Me"(pop/love song), and "I Need The Light"(gospel/rock/blues). DaisyRock, Inc. Guitars for Girls www.DaisyRock.com endorse her (guys play 'em too). She is excited about this as they do many fundraisers to support women's health issues and young girl's music education. Katie Curic is a promoter of DaisyRock as well as Lisa Lobe. She is working on two books. One will be done for this Christmas season about baby Jesus, and the other about a family of worms. She has three new children's songs completed, "Neatobossiosome," "The Submarine Sandwich," and "Turtle with a Girdle." She is busy in a new job as a Recreation Coordinator of a large MRDD county agency. "Be good to each other."

Fern Michonski (Simsbury, CT): She is a lively, lighthearted mother of three who has dedicated her life to children as an entertainer, songwriter, musician and teacher. She has created Fern Forest Enterprises, which is devoted to wholesome and inspiring entertainment for children. Fern has a BS in Early Childhood Education and is also certified in Elementary and Music Education. She has always had an inner desire to perform. At age 5 she started with dance classes and at 9 years old she began taking organ lessons. By the age of 12 she was playing the organ for public functions. Fern decided to go to college to become a teacher because she loved children, and upon graduating from the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, she became the Head Teacher at a preschool. Fern immediately began implementing music into all of her lesson plans using instruments such as guitar, recorder, flute, clarinet, piano and banjo, and soon realized that she had created enough materials to record her own album of children's music. Thus Fern Forest Enterprises was born in 1989! Fern used her experiences in dance, music and teaching to develop a package that would reach the "whole" child. Since it's creation 15 years ago, Fern has written 12 albums and to date has produced and published 6 of them on her own and distributed them locally. She does live concerts throughout New England with her 6-foot tall costume character "Charlie the Chipmunk," who dances along side of her during her shows. Fern's philosophy is to offer today's child a multidimensional, holistic approach to learning through the arts. Original songs, stories and interactive exercises teach, entertain and stimulate children's imaginations. Currently, Fern's daughter has graduated from Barnard College of Columbia University in New York City where she now works and resides, and her son is in his junior year at the University of Connecticut. Her youngest son is a senior in High School. Each of her children helps out with her business, either by maintaining her website, assisting with performances, or writing press releases. Fern was once advised that she would find fame long before fortune and she has found this to be true. Recommended by USA TODAY, one of the most requested artists on "The Playground," a well-known children's radio program at WERS in Boston, featured from coast to coast in Wireless Flash News, and known as the ad campaign face for Virgin Mobile during 2004, Fern, nonetheless, continues to struggle with maintaining her small business and trying to finance the projects dearest to her heart. Fern's future vision includes a public television show for children, starring herself and Charlie the Chipmunk, as well as publishing all of the books that have been written to accompany each of her CD's, including her angel project Angels Are Out With You Today. Like her angel project, Fern would like to see all of her books published in the "universal approach to education" format, a format which allows children of all abilities to appreciate the story book experience by using the written word, Braille, sign language, music and art with raised, embossed images. Fern also has toys to accompany each of her CD's/ books and would like to see them marketed as well. Ultimately, Fern hopes to travel the world, bringing smiles to children everywhere through her music, books, and live performances. www.fernforest.com

Carlton Miller (Tate, GA): He grew up listening to the Grand Ol' Opry on Saturday nights. He worked as a disc jockey for WYYZ Radio in Jasper, GA where he began to hone his skills as a country and gospel songwriter. Through the years, his biggest influence was Gene Autry, but he also took inspiration from Bob Wills, Lefty Frizzell, Hank Williams, and Wanda Jackson. As a BMI affiliated writer for nearly thirty years, he has enjoyed having some forty of his songs commercially recorded. In 2000, three of his songs were included on the *Halloween Bash* compact disc album, recorded by Victor R. Vampire and Friends and released on the Allegheny Music Works label.

S. Minanel (Marina Del Rey, CA): She is a poet and artist. Her work has appeared in literary magazines and anthologies, including *Becoming the Woman I Wanted*, *When I Am an Old Woman I Shall Wear Purple*, *New Millennium*, *Light Quarterly*, and *The Advocate*. Internationally, her work has appeared in *The Gentle Reader* and *Krax* in England, and in *The Dawn* in Australia.

C. J. Minster (Encinitas, CA): Over the years, she has become increasingly concerned with the prevalence of racism and intolerance of individual differences. In an effort to actively address these issues, she has gathered together a group of talented individuals to form the Protecting Our Diversity (POD) partnership. She is presently serving as POD's Executive Director. Early in her professional career, she was a psychological counselor. She has a master's degree in Psychology and a state license in Marriage and Family Therapy. Since then, she has spent a number of years participating in and managing the design and development of training products ranging from paper-based instructional manuals to computer-based lessons. She has always had an interest in creative writing, and is currently working on two children's books that focus on respect for diversity.

Jenny Mischel (Arlington, VA): She founded Perfect4Preschool in 2005. She is a former elementary and kindergarten teacher with four children of her own. She holds a Masters of Arts Degree in Psychology, a Bachelors of Arts Degree in Liberal Studies, a Language Development Specialist Credential, and a Multiple Subject Teaching Credential. Her company focus is to produce quality educational kits for preschool-aged children in preparation for kindergarten. She follows the Orton-Gillingham approach, a language-based, multisensory, structured, sequential, and cognitive approach to developing language skills. www.perfect4preschool.com

Lori Mula (Hazlet, NJ): She writes about nature and family.

Becky Muncy (Bedford, IN): She is an elementary music teacher, grades 1-5. She wrote and composed *Blueprints for Life*, including eighteen fun, character-building songs to use in her classroom to reinforce good character skills. The songs are short and catchy, and help children remember the meaning of each skill, such as "problem solving" or "cooperation." Her school corporation is involved in a program called CLASS (Connected Learning Assures Successful Students). Part of the CLASS curriculum is to help create a better atmosphere in all classrooms and teach children to be respectful and use skills that will help them all through their lives. She lives with her husband and two daughters.

John David Muth (North Brunswick, NJ): By trade, he is an academic counselor working for Rutgers University, his alma mater. Music is his great passion, particularly from the Late Romantic (Tchaikovsky and Brahms) and the Post-Romantic (Mahler) periods. Having never learned to play an instrument, he uses poetry as an outlet for the way the music makes him feel. He tries to create the sounds of an orchestra through words. *Parnassus Literary Journal* published his poem "Cello Sonata in G Minor" in Spring 2000.

David Napolin (Port Washington, NY): He is a retired English teacher, having taught in the New York City schools. Since retiring, he has been published in over 150 magazines including *Hollins Critic*, *The Amherst Review*, *Parnassus*, *Sonora Review*, *The Connecticut River Review*, and other poetry journals. One of his poems was nominated for the 1999 Pushcart Poetry Prize.

Pat Norman (East Bend, NC): She is a songwriter and a self-employed cosmetologist. She loves poetry and music. She is a member of NSAI and has had the pleasure of attending Song Camps and Workshops including songwriters Ralph Murphy, Angela Cassett, Rick Beresford, James Dean Hicks, Jon Ims, Jai Josefs, Steve Seskin, Kelly Lovelace, Jason Blume, Pat and Pete Luboff, and Byron Hill. She attends Linne Black's monthly NSAI workshops in Winston Salem, NC. She has four songs published, including three with Fumpty Fump Music (BMI) and "Giddy Up Reindeer," a co-write with Jeff Canter, arranged by Liz Ax-

ford for Piano Press and used in *My Christmas Fun Book Level Two*.

Dennis Norville (Lattimore, NC): He is the owner of a poetry business in North Carolina called Poetic Potpourri Concepts. He has written some 800 poems and songs. He has been published 200 times and has won 150 contest awards, including many first, second, and third-place winnings. He is author of ten books and his poetry is circulated in all 50 states of the USA and in five foreign countries as well. He spends his spare time playing the piano and guitar, singing, hiking, and mountain biking.

Caroline Nye (Rockville, MD): She was born in Wisconsin and is eighty-three years old. She served in the Marine Corps. She was married and has eight children, and her husband passed away three years ago. She is a lyricist and has been writing for eight years. She met her collaborator Jack Reid at a writer's conference. Her great niece performed "The Wip Wop Song" in a piano recital. This song along with "Teddy Bear Bedtime Song" and "The Merry-Go-Round Song" appear in *The Music Box and Other Delights*.

Dr. Shari O'Brien (Toledo, OH): She is a lifelong Ohioan. She earned master's and doctorate degrees from the University of Michigan and Bowling Green State University, respectively, and a law degree from the University of Toledo. She is a lecturer in English at the University of Toledo and a practicing attorney, representing neglected/abused children in juvenile court. She also serves as a volunteer for the Children's Rights Council and sits on the Citizens' Review Board of the Lucas County Juvenile Court. A pianist and dancer, Shari lives with her husband Gary and enjoys spending time with her family. Dozens of her poems and essays have appeared in such journals as *Icon*, *Sweet Annie & Sweet Pea Press*, *Poetry Motel*, *Palo Alto Review*, and *Piano Guild Notes*.

Kenny O'Connell (Liverpool, England): He signed to State Records/Odyssey Music in 1987. He has done publishing deals with Peter Robinson (Dome Records). He also has a song published with Independent Music and two songs on single song assignments with publishers Atlanta Music and Boa Records/Publishing, U.S.A. He played in the local band Pool of Life, performing on radio & TV and main venues the Marquee Club and the Cavern Club, etc. They were also featured on the benefit album *Never Again* along with Sham 69, Nutty Boys, Pop Will Eat Itself, and many others. He signed a management deal with Chris Gilbert of Rockmasters. His song "Give It Up" won the pop category and came in third in the 1996 South Pacific Song Contest. The song went on to get cut by Geena Lisa (EMI Belguim). His song "Tell Him" won a BASCA award for the best UK entry in the 1998 South Pacific Song Contest. His song "I'll Be Waiting" was featured in the movie *Murder Story* starring Christopher Lee and Bruce Boa in 1987. In 1998 he signed to Hug who manage the Liverpool band Space. He has co-written with Winston Sela, Tom Nicholls, John Pppard, and Barry Mason.

Hans Ostrom (Lakewood, WA): His work has appeared in a variety of magazines, including *Ploughsares*, *Wisconsin Review*, and the literary section of the *Washington Post*. He is also the author of *A Langston Hughes Encyclopedia*. He teaches at the University of Puget Sound.

Patricia Otto (Idaho): She received her degree in music education from Occidental College in 1961 and began a thirty-five year teaching career, primarily in grades K-3. Her musical expertise has made it especially fun to do many musical plays and programs over the years. Her career was exemplary, and she received an Outstanding Teacher Award in the Saddleback Valley Unified School District and became a Master Teacher. For five years, Patricia was the director of a women's choral group in Mission Viejo, California. A highlight was producing Gilbert & Sullivan's *Mikado* with a cast of all women. Patricia also sang with Dr. Howard Swan's Fullerton Chorale for five years and with the Saddleback Concert Chorale for twenty years. Patricia now resides in Northern Idaho where she continues to foster her loves of music and children by volunteering at nearby elementary schools, teaching art, language arts and occasionally directing a musical play with primary children. She also sings with the local Sweet Adelines Chorus.

Laura Pastor (Austin, TX): She was raised in Colorado where she started taking piano lessons and writing songs at the age of four. Laura started singing professionally at age fifteen when she was hired as the weekly entertainment at the local country club. Upon graduating from high school, Laura moved to Texas to attend college. She paid the majority of her college tuition by playing the piano and singing at multiple venues. Laura obtained her degree in communications and is currently working on writing songs and teaching music.

Barbara Pelman (Victoria, B.C., Canada): She teaches English at Reynolds Secondary School in Victoria and is presently Head of the English Dept. She has conducted poetry workshops at BCTELA and in Victoria. She has had poems published in the *English Quarterly*, out of U.B.C., and in *Fireworks*, an e-magazine. Two of her poems were published in *Event* in August 2003. At the weekly Mocambopo Poetry series, she is a frequent speaker at the Open Mic, and she was the featured poet on April 11, 2003. She has recently taken up flute and drawing.

Dr. Phyllis J. Perry (Boulder, CO): She is the author of more than forty books for children and educators. Formerly a teacher, principal, and Director of Talented and Gifted Education for the Boulder Valley Schools in Boulder, Colorado, she now writes full time. She earned her doctorate from the University of Colorado in education, majoring in curriculum and instruction. In recognition of her work, she has received the Governor's Award for Excellence in Education from the State of Colorado, as well as the Distinguished Leadership Award for Outstanding Contributions to Education. Her recent books include *Trains, Keeping the Traditions: A Multicultural Resource*, *Crafty Canines: Coyotes, Foxes and Wolves*, and *Bats: The Amazing Upside-Downers*. Two of her books have received the Top Hand Award from the Colorado Author's League.

James Pierpont (Deceased): Learn more about the songwriter of the Christmas classic "Jingle Bells" at http://www.songwritershalloffame.org/exhibit_home_page.asp?exhibitId=195

Wanda Podgorska-Russell (Fresno, CA): She teaches at California State University, Fresno, and is also an RN. She has written articles for the *Fresno Bee*, and has co-authored a book on Fresno history. Her poetry has been published in The *San Joaquin Review* and in *Flies, Cockroaches, and Poets*.

Gordon Pogoda (Canoga Park, CA): He has had worldwide success as a songwriter in several mediums. In film, his credits include two songs featured in the 2007 Academy Award winning motion picture "Little Miss Sunshine," the top 10 film "Josie and the Pussycats" and the Burt Reynolds film "Cloud 9." In television, Gordon Pogoda's songs have been featured in over thirty T.V. shows including "CSI: Miami," "Sex and the City," and "Will and Grace." His songs can be found on albums released in North America, Europe, and Australia. He has had a top 5 hit recorded by Patrick Jurdic, the winner of "Pop Idol" in Croatia ("Pop Idol" is the European version of "American Idol") and has had a top 5 hit in Russia for pop artist Sergey Lazarev. He's also had a platinum record with the Australian "Popstars" group Scandal'us, and three platinum and gold records with the Greek "Popstars" group Hi-5. In addition, he's had a platinum record for Finnish female rock band Tiktak. He's also had his songs featured on various Disney projects including the television show "Kim Possible," the CD "Radio Disney: Jingle Jams," the film "Get a Clue" and the DVD "The Secret Files." Gordon has had a top 10 hit on the U.S. Contemporary Christian singles chart with sister group Aurora. He has written songs with some of the most respected artists and writers in the business including Melissa Manchester, Dan Hill, Albert Hammond, Allan Rich, Jeff Silbar, John Bettis, Dennis Morgan, Michael Jay, Denise Rich, Ken Hirsch, Wayne Hector, Vince Degiorgio, Kasia Livingston, and Cutfather & Joe. In the past five years, he has signed sub-publishing deals with EMI Music, Universal Music, and Warner Chappell Music.

Kristeen Polhamus (Salt Lake City, UT): She is an accomplished composer and music arranger, formerly of Kaysville, Utah where her musical education began. She was a Sterling Scholar in music as a high school senior, and graduated with a BS degree in music education from Weber State University, attending on a music scholarship. Her piano solo compositions are published and distributed nationally and include "Polka Dot Notes" and "Trick or Treat Night" by FJH Publishing. Various other musical works have been produced in book, CD, and tape form. A professional pianist and violinist, she frequently performs throughout the Salt Lake City area.

Rowena Priestley (Vancouver, BC, Canada): She is a visual artist, poet, and songwriter. She has had two books of poetry published by Mellen Poetry Press, USA: "Bears and Other Shadows" and "The Dream That Becomes Us." These were published under her former name, Martine Silk. She was born in Shrewsbury, England and is a member of the British Haiku Society. She lives in Vancouver near the Lost Lagoon in Stanley Park where she daily keeps company with the beautiful white swans.

Paula Purnell (Greensburg, PA): She is a singer-songwriter and educator. For the past twelve years she has been writing and performing curriculum-based music programs at schools, libraries, and community events throughout western Pennsylvania. She conducts residencies and workshops on historic folk music

for the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts *Artists in Education* program. She is a Commonwealth Speaker through the Pennsylvania Humanities Council, and is also an outreach artist and professional development instructor for The Children's Museum of Pittsburgh. She has released six albums of original music, including two Parent's Choice Award winning children's albums. Her current band, The NewLanders, celebrates regional history and heritage, performing historic songs by and about the people of western Pennsylvania. She holds a Masters degree in elementary education from Seton Hill University in Greensburg, and is currently pursuing her Doctorate in Curriculum and Instruction at Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

Suki Rae (aka Debbie Spitz): (New York, NY): The flutist/singer/songwriter has been performing internationally for the last 15 years. Classically trained with an M.A. in Music/Film from NYU, she was musician in residence at Cornell Univ. and performed in Israel for a year under the auspices of the Arad Arts Project. She has performed in Canada, the U.S., and Europe. She has 3 recordings out, 2 of original music. She has written over 200 songs in all styles. She has won awards and been on TV, radio, and film. She is published and has had much record industry interest. She has also acted, directed and worked with dancers and multimedia. She is presently working on her 4th and 5th CD's of all original material in the pop/rock and comedy genres, on which she sings, plays flute, keyboards, and produces with the aid of a well-known producer. She is available as a flute soloist (classical/jazz); with an outstanding guitarist as a duo (flute/guitar classical/jazz); with a jazz trio or quartet or any classical combination of instruments. She is versatile and available in all styles of music for recordings, weddings, parties, concerts, festivals, and workshops. She is willing to travel throughout the U.S. and abroad.

Charles Rampp (Harpers Ferry, WV): He is a high school teacher and football coach. He has taught some college English, and edited a weekly newspaper while in Seminary. He interned in Buffalo, NY. He has served Lutheran Parishes in Pittsburgh, Miami, FL, Rockville, MD, Baltimore, and Manor Parish in Frederick County, MD, where he also led a poetry group. Twenty-three of his short stories have been printed; 776 of his poems have been published in the U.S., Australia, Canada, and Great Britain. He has completed four novels. He retired eight years ago to write by the Shenandoah. He accepted interim ministries at five different Lutheran Churches in the Shenandoah Valley. He is currently serving at Trinity, Arden, West Virginia.

Ande Rasmussen (Martindale, TX): He is an award winning songwriter and music publisher (Gotcha Covered Music Publishing--ASCAP) from Austin, TX. He co-writes with wonderful songwriters, artists, and producers. He has a diverse and interesting catalog of songs in the country, pop, and rock genres. He gets terrific ideas for songs all the time and writes them down. Because of this, some of his co-writers call him a "Hook Machine" or "Captain Hook." He writes country, pop, and adult contemporary songs. He prefers to write positive uplifting lyrics, but will write risqué and cheating songs. He keeps a journal and writes every day. Unless inspiration strikes, writing a lyric is like solving a difficult word puzzle. He has always been good at solving puzzles, mainly because he refuses to give up until he solves it. He always begins a song with a strong hook or an interesting story. His goals at this point are to 1) keep writing when the muse strikes (daily) 2) collaborate with outstanding composers, songwriters, lyricists, artists, and producers 3) get cuts, and 4) hear his work all over the world on radio, TV, and Films. He does 95% of his songwriting by email. He and his co-writers take a hook and develop it into a lyric. He attended and graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with a BA in Finance. He was a walk-on member of UT's Varsity Swimming Team and earned a letter. When he was growing up, his father worked as an officer in the Air Force. He belongs to and participates in the Austin Songwriters Group (ASG) and Nashville Songwriters Association International (NSAI.). He and his co-writers have won numerous awards in songwriting contests, and he has had cuts with independent artists. He is the author of the Yahoo Newsgroup *Inspirations for Songwriters (IFS)*. In February 2004, his song "Home Made of Stone," performed by and co-written with John Arthur Martinez and Steve Seskin, debuted at #56 on the Billboard Country Charts. He also co-wrote the title cut on jAm's CD *Lone Starry Night* on Dualtone Records, distributed by Sony.

Jack Reid (Deceased): He was a musician who attended Maryville College in Maryville, TN from 1947-50. He composed many songs and collaborated with other writers. He taught piano and organ in the schools and at Kitts Music Co. in Washington, D.C. He wrote music for his students as well as for church. He and his wife Margarette S. Reid enjoyed attending writer's conferences. He met his collaborator Caroline Nye at one of them and together they co-wrote "The Wip Wop Song," "Teddy Bear Bedtime Song," and "The Merry-Go-Round Song" which appear in *The Music Box and Other Delights*. He and his wife also enjoyed collecting wildflowers. His widow Margarette is the author of *The Button Box* and *A String of Beads*.

Al Rita (Johnstown, PA): For over thirty years, he has been involved in the music business as a teacher, songwriter, and music publisher. After graduating from Penn State, he began his career as a piano teacher, founding his own music studio, and offering beginning through advanced instruction for both children and adults. As a songwriter, affiliated with BMI, Al has written songs in a variety of genres including Country, Pop, MOR, Theatrical, Novelty, Seasonal, Religious, Children's, Inspirational, and Educational. His published works include: "Don't Mess With the IRS," a country-novelty song co-written with Dan Rita, recorded by Marlon Frizzell (son of country music legend Lefty Frizzell) and released in 1989 on the Trend label; "Raincheck On Your Love," recorded by former Miss Nevada, Jacqueline Moore and released on the Comstock label; and many more. Al's educational piano solos include: *Be A Star, It's Fun To Learn, Trick or Treat Parade, Going By, Merrily, Just Imagine It, and Water Park Fun*, all published by Schaum Publications, Inc. In 1991, Al founded Allegheny Music Works, www.alleghenymusicworks.com, a company offering a wide variety of resource publications for songwriters.

Dan Rita (Mt. Holly, NJ): He has been a Special Education teacher for thirty-one years and is still going strong. His favorite passions when he's not teaching or thinking about teaching are: spending time with his wife and family, kayaking, reading, and writing poetry.

Peter Roberts (Studio City, CA): He is a classically trained musician and award winning producer/songwriter who has also recorded several highly acclaimed albums of his own material. Winner of the Pop category of the 14th (2006) Billboard Songwriting Contest, Winner of the People's Voice of the 2007 International Songwriting Competition, Nominated for Best New Artist by the Oasis Smooth Jazz Awards. He has produced and written songs for artists like George Benson, La Toya Jackson, Daechelle, The Beu Sisters, Irene Cara, Survivor, the Roberts Bros., Lisa Frazier, Under Suspicion, Luisa Lubell and many others. Several of his songs and recordings are also being used on TV shows and feature films. For further information please visit www.BlueDanubeMusicProduction.com

Edwin Romand (Wind Gap, PA): He is the author of three books of poetry, *Home Fire, Macaroons*, and *Blue Mountain Time: New and Selected Poems about Baseball*. His work has appeared in many journals such as *The Sun, The English Journal, Poet Lore*, and *The Rockhurst Review*. He has received poetry fellowships from both the New Jersey and Pennsylvania State Councils on the Arts. In 1994, he received an award from the National Endowment for the Arts, Washington, D.C. He lives with his wife, Mary, and their son, Liam.

Polly Rosen (Branford, CT): She attended Colby College and Southern Ct. State University. She is married and has three sons and three grandchildren. She is presently on the Board of The Neighborhood Music School in New Haven, CT. She is a pianist with the String of Pearls Swing Band as well as a writer.

Ruth Rotkowitz (Matawan, NJ): She is a freelance writer residing in New Jersey. She has published non-fiction in "Chicken Soup for the New Mom's Soul," "Chicken Soup for the Sister's Soul 2, Expecting," and "The Woman's Newspaper of Princeton," where she was a staff writer and member of the editorial board. One of her articles received a first-place award in feature writing from the National Federation of Press Women. She has published poetry in *Piano Press, Hopscotch*, and *Shemom*. She has completed two novels and begun work on a third. She is also an English teacher, and has taught on both the college and high school levels, in New York and New Jersey. She currently tutors English at The Tutoring Club in Marlboro, New Jersey.

Jennifer Rudsit (Wayland, MA): She received her undergraduate degree from Purdue University and a Masters in Creative Writing from Northern Michigan University. She is a Midwest girl at heart, born and raised on the shores of Lake Michigan in Northwest Indiana, recently transplanted into a strange world called Boston. She moved there three years ago and has never, ever gotten used to the traffic! Jennifer currently works in the education field to support her poetry addiction. Her poems have appeared in publications, including: *Spirits, North Coast Review, White Pelican Review, Alembic, Anthology, Sierra Nevada Review, Nanny Fanny, Small Brushes, Hard Row to Hoe, Limestone, Zillah, Free Fall, Thought Magazine* and *Into the Teeth of the Wind, The Advocate, Omnific*, and *360 Degrees*.

Bonny Barry Sanders (Jacksonville, FL): Her poems have appeared in many literary magazines and journals including *Blueline, California Quarterly, Ginger Hill, Hayden's Ferry Review, Kalliope, The Louisiana Review, Midwest Quarterly, Negative Capability, Pig Iron, Plainsong, Red Owl, Red Rock Review*,

South Dakota Review, *White Pelican Review*, and several others. She has also published book reviews, literary essays, and children's stories. She lives with her husband. "Sequoias" was published by Pig Iron in *Environment: Essence and Issue*.

Dr. Kathleen Scheide (Arkadelphia, AR): She holds degrees in harpsichord and organ performance from the New England Conservatory and the University of Southern California. Her major teachers have been John Gibbons, Frank Taylor, and Cherry Rhodes. She tours the United States, Canada, Mexico, and Europe as an organ and early keyboard (clavichord, fortepiano, and harpsichord) soloist. She is the recipient of a California Arts Council *Touring Artist Grant*. She has been sponsored in concert by many chapters of the American Guild of Organists and the Royal College of Canadian Organists. She has been a featured recitalist at conventions of the American Guild of Organists, the American Musical Instrument Society, the Music Teachers' Association of California, the National Association of Pastoral Musicians, the Organ Historical Society, and the Western Early Keyboard Association. Her collaborators include Claire Rottembourg, recorder, with whom she forms the ensemble *Mvsica Poetica*, and Zofie Vokalkova, flute soloist of the Czech Philharmonic Chamber Orchestra. She is a published composer whose works are included on her solo organ compact disc *Liszt and Scheide* (Raven Compact Disc OAR-350). Her performances for OHS meetings are included on the CD sets *Historic Organs of Philadelphia* and *Historic Organs of Michigan* (OHS). A Mozart recording with Vokalkova was released in 2001 on the Dutch label HLM. She taught piano, harpsichord and music history at Grossmont and Cuyamaca Colleges in El Cajon, CA. At St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, San Diego, where she was Music Director and Organist for eight years, she oversaw the installation and restoration of an historic mechanical action organ by Giles Beach/Wm. Visscher. She was appointed Organist at First Church of Christ, Scientist, Rancho Bernardo/Poway, CA, where she was involved in another organ expansion project. She was a Founding Member and Advisory Board Member of both the San Diego Harpsichord Society and the Western Early Keyboard Association (WEKA). She was on the Advisory Board of the San Diego Early Music Society and is a past Dean of and frequent volunteer for the San Diego AGO chapter. While she has relocated to Arkadelphia, AR to fill the position of Assistant Professor of Organ and Music History at Henderson State Univ., she retains close connections and is an active member and advisor.

Sharynn Rose Schibig (Seattle, WA): She was born in Seattle and has lived in the great Pacific Northwest for thirty-nine years. She loves the culture, arts, and entertainment that the city of Seattle has to offer. She has been writing poetry for over twenty years, and has had work accepted for publication many times over the last ten years. Each acceptance is an honor that she appreciates and greatly enjoys.

Sue Schnitzer (Boulder, CO): In December of 1992, she was a Special Agent of the FBI in the San Francisco Division. When her daughter Jamie was born, she took a few months off to enjoy motherhood and lots of hilly walks. She also took out her guitar and sang and played for Jamie. She sang songs she remembered from when she was a child, songs from youth group, and lots of folk songs. In the fall of 1993 after thirteen years as an agent, she decided to turn in her badge and move to Boulder, CO with her husband and Jamie. She also decided she wanted to go "back to music" and start a children's music business. That was great news to her Mom, a former librarian, because she had sung at her Mom's library in Malden, MA, over twenty-five years ago. In the summer of 1994, after a lot of research and practice, she contacted local preschools and began doing shows. In September 1994, soon after the birth of Becky, she began teaching a music and movement class one evening a week at Parenting Place in Boulder. After a few months, she added a day class and then more classes, and became known as "the music lady," "Miss Sue," "the music teacher," and of course, "Jamie and Becky's Mom." She is well known throughout the Boulder-Denver area as a singer, songwriter, guitarist, and teacher who specializes in music for young children and their families. She was the founder and director of Boulder County's Community Music School, a non-profit organization which offered classes, concerts, and other programs for infants and children through age eight. She teaches in Boulder, Broomfield, and Denver. Her web site is www.weebeemusic.com.

Joyce Seamone (New Germany, Nova Scotia, Canada): She was born in Maplewood, Lunenburg County, Nova Scotia, Canada. While growing up in a rural setting, she was introduced to all types of music, as that was the format played at her local radio station. As a teenager, she listened and danced to all the rock-n-roll tunes of the day, and was later drawn to the country genre. She was involved in school drama, school and church choirs, entered local contests, and made guest appearances at local variety shows. She performed occasionally on local radio programs and TV. Her first encounter in a recording studio led to a

number one country song in Canada, *Testing 1-2-3*, and a Gold Record. Other albums followed with charted singles. After years of entertaining steadily on the road, she gradually cut back and attended to raising her family. By the mid 1990s, she once again became more involved in music. In 1996, 1997, and 1999 she performed overseas to promote her current CD. She enjoys writing songs, and in 1998 wrote and recorded the winning song for Bridgewater, Nova Scotia's 100th Year Celebrations. Recently, she wrote and recorded *Maplewood*, about the community where she grew up. Her latest song to be recorded is a children's song, *If you Feel Like Doing It*. It was recorded on the *Children's Millennium Project* CD, raising over \$6000.00 for her local hospital. She is active in SANS, the Songwriters Association of Nova Scotia. She arranges and hosts Song Circles and special events. She also belongs to the South Shore Bluegrass Music Association. She has organized song circles for the Annual Hank Snow Tribute Weekends, performing on the main stage as well. She is a member of several other music related organizations. In May of 2001, she became a published author as a contributor of one of fifty-four stories in *Music Horror Stories: A Collection of Gruesome, True Tales As Told By Actual Innocent Victims Seeking A Career In The Music Business*. Her story about a trip overseas that took a turn for the worse because of a bad accident made it into the collection. She custom writes songs for anyone wanting a specific song for an occasion, project or jingle. She is available to speak at workshops and entertain at events from large concerts to small functions. Music is a big part of her life, and she enjoys sharing it with anyone who will listen. She has been voted as an inductee into the Nova Scotia Country Music Hall of Fame.

Robert Sedgwick (Del Mar, CA): He is a retired research scientist. He currently is writing his autobiography, children's stories, poetry, and songs. Some of his work can be viewed on his two web sites, www.ussongs.com and www.poARTry.com.

Bobbi Sinha-Morey (Brentwood, CA): She is a freelance quote researcher for Running Press Book Publishers, poetry editor for *Dark Regions*, secretary, editor of her own Selected Poetry Series, and a poet. Her work can be seen in a variety of publications such as *New Thought Journal* and many others. She has done a number of poetry books, including *The Lighter Side Of The Writing Life*, *Serendipity*, *The Sixth Vision*, and *The Lilac-Bleeding Star*. On the Internet, her books of poetry *The Sylvan*, *Tears Of A Mourning Rose*, *Sorceress At Breakfast*, and *Heart Of An Indian* can all be seen at ebooks.net. In addition, she has won first place in the First Annual Science Fiction/Fantasy/Horror Poetry, Short Story, First Chapter Contest in 1996 held by the North Texas Professional Writers Association, the 1997 Cedar Bay Press LLC Poet's Award for Outstanding Achievement, and as Best Poet of 1994 by the Small Press Genre Association. In the past, she has been co-editor of *Horror Magazine*, editor of *The Genre Writer's News*, associate editor for *Aberrations*, poetry editor for the original *Aberrations*, poetry editor for *Midnight Zoo*, and writer for *The Orinda News*. She has also done a variety of nonfiction that can be seen in many magazines. She has been a poetry columnist for years. Her fiction includes work in *Alternate Realities* and *Lost Ages Chronicle*, among others. While a student at Wright State University she worked on the student body literary magazine, *Nexus*. In 1987 she graduated from WSU with honors and a BA in Communications. In her lifetime she has been to France, India, and England.

Melanie J. Simms (Liverpool, PA): She is an emerging poet and has been publishing poetry for the past four years under the mentorship and editing talents of Gary Young. Her poems are published in *Zuzu's Petals*, *Angel News Magazine*, *Red Coral*, and various newspapers such as the *Monterey News Herald*, *York Times*, and *Santa Cruz Sentinel*. She has been a private opera student and soloist with various opera companies and universities including the University of the Pacific in Stockton, CA, Cabrillo College Opera Festival, and a private student of Jean Garson with the San Jose Opera Company. She is the recipient of several operatic scholarships.

Wanda D. Simoni (Sacramento, CA): A Massachusetts native, she is a graduate of Smith College and the mother of five children. She has taught English in high school as well as at colleges in Breckenridge, CO, Miranda, CA, and Yuba College, CA. She supplemented her own education with creative writing courses, and is a member of the Range of Lights Workshop in Sacramento. She has been published in forty-three journals, newspapers, and magazines, including *The Writer*, *The Village*, *Piano Quarterly*, *Science of Mind*, *Sierra Journal*, *San Fernando Poetry Journal*, *American Rose*, *Orphic Lute*, *The Acorn*, and *Reflect*. Her poem "Piano" was first published in *Piano Quarterly* in the Fall 1987 issue, Vol. #139. She begins her day gravitating to the piano before her first cup of coffee. At one point, she had three pianos in her home.

Christopher Smith (Lubbock, TX): Born on the Massachusetts coast, he has played blues, jazz, and tra-

ditional Irish music since childhood. Now professor of music history at Texas Tech Univ., he plays and teaches in Ireland and across the US. He cites T'ang poetry, Zen Buddhism, the Beats, and San Francisco Poetry Renaissance, and the colloquialisms of musicians as influences on his writing. He has published books, book chapters, scholarly articles, liner notes, and teaching materials on many topics in jazz, classical, and world music, and records and tours internationally with Altramar medieval music ensemble, Last Night's Fun, and the Juke Band.

R. T. Smith (Deceased): From Akron, OH, he was a long time member of BMI. As a songwriter, he enjoyed writing country and country novelty songs. In 2000, he was honored to have five of his songs, three of which were co-written with Carlon Miller of Georgia, included on the *Halloween Bash* compact disc album, recorded by Victor R. Vampire and Friends and released on the Allegheny Music Works label.

Claudia Ann Sodaro (Tarpon Springs, FL): She is an educator, with a Master of Science Degree in Elementary Education. She also has experience as a playground director, a volunteer library storyteller for toddlers and preschoolers, and an art museum docent. In addition to freelance writing for a local newspaper, she has had articles, essays, short stories, and poems published in *A Spindrift Anthology*, *Stories of Strength*, *My Halloween Fun Book* (Piano Press), *Guidepost's Positive Thinking Magazine*, *Writer's Digest Magazine*, *Start Writing Now Magazine*, *St. Petersburg Times Newspaper*, and *Tampa Tribune Newspaper*. For several years, she wrote reviews of children's books and toys for *Kaboose Network*. She was awarded the "O. Henry Prize" by the St. Petersburg Library of Florida for one of her children's stories and recently received Honorable Mention in a SCBWI Contest. *Wee Ones Online Magazine For Kids* is publishing her poems and craft in their 2007/2008 issues. A musician and member of BMI, she received formal instruction in music by Maestro Elmer Broast. Piano is her primary instrument of expression. The past eleven years, she has composed her own music predicated on a lifetime of musical experience. She has performed locally at *Leepa-Rattner Museum of Art*, *Historical Stafford House of Tarpon Springs*, *Feather Sound Country Club in Clearwater*, *Stratford Court and Allegro*. Her second CD, *Destiny*, consists of eighteen piano instrumentals. She is working on a third CD of eighteen songs, as well. A song that she wrote, "Christmas Bells," was published in 2006 by Piano Press in *My Christmas Fun Book* and *My Christmas Fun Songbook and CD*. Her website is: www.geocities.com/claudia_sodaro/

Jena Smith (Scarsdale, NY): She makes her living as a musician. Music is not only her livelihood, it is her joy. Initially a mezzo-soprano, Jena attended the Julliard School on scholarship, toured with The Robert Shaw Chorale. She later formed and conducted The Performing Arts Society, an opera and chamber music organization in Westchester, NY. She also has conducted musical comedy on Cape Cod. Presently conductor of the chorus "Cantemus." she also teaches voice, paints, sculpts, composes, and writes poetry. She has had numerous poems published in *The Iconoclast*, *Sunday Suitor*, *Sunflower Dream Summer*, *The Writer's Gazette*, *Creative With Words*, *Long Island Quarterly*, *Northern Star*, *Syncopated City*, *Twilight Ending*, and many others. She has placed in poetry contests, and was awarded a \$1,000 grant for poetry from the Vogelstein Foundation in 2000.

Mary Beth Stone (New York, NY): An award-winning songwriter (finalist in Lilith Fair and NSAI songwriting contests), she performs solo, with her band, *Stone Pulse*, and with the *Good Ol' Boys (& girls!)* Songwriters Circle. Making her home in New York City, she is regional coordinator of the NSAI chapter there. She is also a member of ASCAP (and an alumna of ASCAP's Advanced Songwriters' Workshop), NARAS, the Songwriters Guild of America, the National Academy of Popular Music, Women in Music, and the New Jersey Country Music Association. She is currently at work on her own CD. Her song, *Strange and Wonderful Thing*, is the theme song for the radio talk show, *Brainline*, hosted by Rev. George Soroka. The song is included as an insert in a book by Rev. Soroka, *Focused or Dead: How to Live in Joy*, on which she also has a prose-writing credit.

Sarena Straus (New York, NY): She spent five years working as a prosecutor at the Bronx District Attorney's Office. The last three years of her career were spent prosecuting felony cases in domestic violence, sex crimes, and crimes against children. She began writing poetry as a way to cope with the trauma that she faced in dealing with the victims of these crimes. She first showed her work to her father, also a published poet, about a year after she began writing. He encouraged her to enroll in a workshop. She has been writing ever since, and had the honor of studying with Thomas Lux, Molly Peacock, and Marie Ponsot over the last three years. Her poems have since evolved to not only function as a coping mechanism, but also as an outlet for the things she loves, such as singing and music. To that end, she has also been a

member of the New York Choral Society for the last four years. Her grandmother was a librarian and a piano teacher. She wrote her first draft of *Remembering Schubert* shortly after her singing Debut in Carnegie Hall, as she stood there wishing that her grandmother could have seen her. *Symphony Beat* combines her love of music with her coping with tragedy as it acknowledges peaceful moments that we all have even in times of personal difficulty.

Vicki Stringer (Riverdale, NY): Her publication credits include *American Poets & Poetry, Troubadour, Light, and Amelia*. At poetry workshops within the last ten years, she has studied with Nicholas Christopher, Scott Cairns, and Stephen Dunn. She has an MA in Music from Columbia University, and is a retired professional violinist and actress. She had a long, successful career in theatre, film, and TV. She appeared as solo act on twelve major TV shows, including the Steve Allen show, and has worked all over the world. She taught Music/Drama for nine years in the NYC public schools, including all the orchestra instruments.

Katherine Swarts (Houston, TX): She has published three articles with the *Institute of Children's Literature*, one article in a Houston parenting magazine, and one devotional in *Keys for Kids* with a second, pending publication. She also has a poem in an issue of *Holidays and Seasonal Celebrations*. Her articles cover such topics as versatility, creativity, persistence, and love of learning. She has a bachelor's degree in English and a master's in journalism, and is a member of SCBWI.

Ann Taylor (Woburn, MA): She is a professor of English at Salem State College in Salem, MA, where she teaches writing courses, English Literature, Arthurian Literature, The Art of the Essay, and Poetry Analysis. She has written two books on college composition, academic and free-lance essays, and most recently, a book of personal essays, *Watching Birds: Reflections on the Wing* (Ragged Mountain/McGraw Hill, 1999). She has recently published poems in *Wavelength, Mobius, Pine Island Journal of New England Poetry, Ibbetson Street Press, Tiger's Eye, Reflect, The Aureorean, Sahara, The Unrorean, InLand, Arion, and The Dalhousie Review*. She lives with her husband, Francis Blessington, and their two children, Geoffrey and Julia.

Erin Alan Thomas (Willits, CA): He has lived in Mendocino County, CA since July of 1999. Born in Riverside, CA and raised in various locations up and down the coast, he has been a resident of CA throughout his life. His interest in poetry began at age twelve with a publication from Doubleday, *The Best Loved Poems of the American People*. He has since never ceased to be an avid reader of poetry. Over the years, he has developed an interest in the lyrical works of many classical poets. Aside from developing his skills as a writer of poems, he has made a hobby of memorizing and reciting poems, many of which he also sings, or cantillates.

Holly H. Thomas (Meadowview, VA): She was born in Texas, and now lives in the mountains of far Southwestern Virginia. She and her husband, Jim, run a small decorative painting and mural business in the region, and their work has been featured in several regional and national publications. They have been writing songs for over twenty years. Holly is currently a coordinator for the Johnson City, TN, NSAI songwriters workshop, very near Bristol, VA/TN, recognized by Congress as the Birthplace of Country Music. She also writes poems and short stories, one of which won the 1993 Lou Crabtree Award for fiction.

Joe Thompson (Annapolis, MD): A song that he introduced at his Cabaret in the summer of 2001, *P.U.* won the gold prize in the children's category of the 2001 Mid-Atlantic Song Contest. He attended the gala held at the Hard Rock Cafe in Washington, DC. He performed the song, and afterwards met Tom Paxton, one of his favorite songwriters. Tom told him that he had been looking for him to tell him how much he enjoyed the song. The song will be included on a compilation CD of the winners. His song *Pirates in the Bath* won best children's song in the 2001 Just Plain Folks Music Awards, and his CD *Every Kind of Magic* came in second for best children's CD.

Ceinwen Mary Topper (Nepean, Ontario, Canada): She is a SCBWI member with a background in journalism, editing, and teaching. Much of her published work has been newspaper articles written while she was an editor with Thompson Newspapers. She has written educational guidelines for the Ottawa Board of Education. She is a part-time professor at Algonquin College in Ottawa, Canada, where she teaches advanced writing.

Bud Tower (New Orleans, LA): He has been a writer throughout most of his career. Majoring in English

and Economics, he received a BA from Lake Forest College and went on to graduate with an MBA from Tulane University. Various jobs in public accounting and the oil industry led him to the securities industry where he spent thirteen years in sales, investment banking, and ultimately research. As a stock analyst and Director of Research for regional investment bank, Howard, Weil, Labouisse, Friedrichs, Inc., Mr. Tower wrote 100s of research reports concerning the oil industry in general and major and independent oil companies and refiners. He is an accomplished guitar and bass player and has been writing music for thirty years. His song *We Are America* has received airplay in various U.S. radio markets in the wake of the September 11, 2001 tragedies. He recently completed the soundtrack for a locally produced play about survivors of Hurricane Betsy, which devastated parts of New Orleans in 1965. He is a single parent of one 21-year old daughter, Elizabeth.

Nelson Trout (Millville, NJ): He has spent more than twenty years perfecting the art of songwriting with over forty songs published, and a dozen songs recorded by others artists. Twice his songs have reached the Billboard Top 100. He released his first solo CD in 1996, titled *Beggar's Dance*. The CD sold out it's first pressing and continues to sell in its third pressing and still receives airplay. Nelson released his second CD, titled *Ridin' Out the Storm* in 1999, a successful blend of pop-rock, alternative country, and power ballads. He wrote and recorded the theme song *World Series Time* for the 2000 Girls Softball Babe Ruth World Series. He wrote and recorded *Fishin' with Mike* for the television show Fishing with Mike. His song *Inside Out* was chosen to be included on the compilation disc for the McDowell Foundation, a children's cancer research organization. *All My Dreams are Coming Blue* was recently recorded by Simon Lee of England (Guitar Magazine, Guitar Player of the Year 1998) and will appear on Lee's upcoming CD. His song *Separate Lives Together* has attracted the interest of the pop group, N'Sync. He wrote and recorded the official theme song for Cumberland County, New Jersey. He wrote and recorded the jingle for Ike's Famous Crabcakes. His song *Ridin' Out The Storm* is included on the compilation disc for Kid Antrim Music of New York City. He is a member of the Austin Songwriters Group. He is concert writer for Purrmag.com, an Internet entertainment and variety magazine. He is presently working on his third CD as well as other commercial projects. In 2003, legislation was put in motion to adopt his song *New Jersey, USA* as the official New Jersey state song, Assembly bill 2665. His song *The Battle* was included on a special project CD by Goodnight Kiss Records. He co-wrote *Hold On 2u* and *Another Dream Come True* with James Bradley Jr., the fabulous drummer and vocalist with such people as Chuck Mangione, George Benson, Tower Of Power, Crazy Town, etc. for his new CD with his current Band E.X.P. He received an honorable mention for his song *Special Friend* in the 2001 John Lennon Songwriting Contest.

Doak Turner (Nashville, TN): He is originally from St. Albans, WV. He is a songwriter with the cut *Righteous Right Hand* on the *Sacred Call* CD. His song *Dreamin' 'Bout Sunday Afternoon* played on the NASCAR USA syndicated radio show to over 200 radio stations across the country. He was the NSAI regional workshop coordinator for Charlotte, NC. He organized and worked with sponsors and media for the very successful "Music Row To Charlotte" event in coordination with NSAI in July of 2001. He has twenty years of experience in the radio, sports marketing, sponsorships, concert, and events business. He is the publisher and editor of *The Nashville Muse* www.nashvillemuse.com

The Uncle Brothers (Orangeburg, NY): Tom Gardner, father of three, has been writing music for over twenty years. He recently began performing family music with his partner, Danny Quinn. They formed The Uncle Brothers in 1998. Their debut CD, *Two Big Kids*, won both the Parents Choice and The Parents Guide Awards. They also won the Children's Music Web Award as Best New Artist in 2001. Tom won KIDSING 2001, a national composers competition, for his song *Rainbow*. Their latest CD, *Just Say Uncle*, is already being heralded for its original upbeat songs like *Just Say No To Drugs*, *I Will Never Smoke*, *Man in The Moose*, and others. They received "5 Stars" from *Parents Guide Magazine* who described them as "delightful and entertaining!"

Melissa Vardey (Los Angeles, CA): She is an award-winning songwriter, multi-instrumentalist, composer, arranger, producer, engineer, educator, and entertainer. Discography Albums: "Living in Divine Time" featuring Chaka Khan and endorsed by Quincy Jones, and "Where The Truth Lies." Award-Winning Songs: Platinum record "With Your Hand Upon My Heart" sung by Michael Crawford & Patti Labelle; "Why Should Christmas Be Only Once a Year" sung by Chaka Khan on the Columbia 1996 release *Twelve Soulful Nights*. Film: "A Day In The Life of London," "The Class Struggle of Beverly Hills." TV Themes: "The Good Life Guide" (London Weekend Television). Spoken Word: "Going For Great," "SoundEmotion" Winner of Commercial of The Year for Gary Crowley Show, Capitol Radio London. Meditation Music: The Enlightenment

Tape Documentaries (EMI/Music House Library) compositions licensed for use in nature films. All-In-One Music is dedicated to raising consciousness through music. It's about spiritual activism and vibration healing, laughter, a commitment to protecting the environment, nurturing souls, and being of service. The All-In-One Music Catalog covers a range of styles from contemporary new age, jazz, ambient, to inspirational songs, R & B, hip-hop, cinematic, relaxation and meditation music. Please visit: www.all-in-one-music.com for music licensing, seminars, etc.

Michael J. Vaughn (Tacoma, WA): He is the author of *Gabriella's Voice* (Dead End Street Publications, 2001). His poetry has been published in more than forty journals, and has garnered awards from *Plain-songs*, the 2000 Austin International Poetry Festival, and the Emily Dickinson Poetry Competition. For day jobs, he is a literary columnist for the *Tacoma News-Tribune* and fiction editor for *The Montserrat Review*.

Laura Warfield (Fairfield, CT): A native New Yorker, she writes and co-writes songs, which range from folk/pop to country/blues, rock, and children's music, as the spirit moves her. She has been writing songs since the age of ten. Her topics are wide-ranging, from love rejected (*Leave Your Love Behind*) to love renewed (*Get Closer*), from what passes for the economy (*Unemployment Line*), women's issues (*Lord Have Mercy*), from the pitfalls of seeking the truth (*Lost In Transit*), to those of overcoming prejudice (*Live In My World*), and the possibilities of bringing peace to the world (*New Millennium and Bronx to Baghdad*). Her music -- with more than a touch of rueful humor, along with memorable melody, rhythm and rhyme -- also embodies many styles. Her independent releases on SamStar Music are: "On The Train," "Rocket to The Moon," "Lost In Transit," "Heaven in my Mind," and a new 2008 release for children and families, "Seasons and Other Reasons 2 Sing." "The music is unique in that it should appeal to both adults and children and grow with repeated listens. It's catchy and captivating." - *Sing-Out Magazine*. Victory Review says, "It's the kind of music you play loud while driving in the car or doing the dishes." Mary Travers, of Peter, Paul and Mary says, "There's good poetry in those lyrics." In Connecticut, she has appeared at the Levitt Pavilion, Acoustic Cafe, Milford Performance Coffeehouse, Borders, Barnes and Noble, Roots Coffeehouse, Unity Church, Seven Angels Theatre, Stratford Library, Southbury Library, Westport Senior Center, Watermark, Sterling Glen, Ridgefield Crossing, etc.

Rex West (Ventura, CA): His music career began in Ohio in 1942 at the age of twelve with a Father and Son act in Vaudeville and Burlesque. In 1956, he moved to Los Angeles and joined Local 47. Max Herman got him part-time work with Capital Records as he played many instruments. He got many calls from them and later Crown Records as well. He went to work at Cals Corral working for Cal Worthington, and then went to work at the Palomino Club in North Hollywood. He met many stars there. He then moved to Ventura, CA. He worked at the Ban Dar Club for many years for Johnny and Jonie Mosby of Capital Records. He went on the road with them doing Rodeos, where he met Casey Tibbs, World Champion Rodeo Man and friend for many years after. He wrote *The Rodeo Kid* and *A Cowboys Riches* to honor Casey. He then met Mike Newman who offered him the use of the recording studio in his home to record his songs. Mike introduced him to Albert Lees in Malibu, and Albert gave him lots of pointers about writing songs, and he really liked the songs he had written. His house was full of guitars and things from the Everly Brothers, with whom he had worked. Then Johnny and Jonie Mosby later had him perform solo at the Ban Dar. This opportunity gave him a one on one experience with the public that he enjoyed and helped him gather material for songs. He later worked in Lake Tahoe, CA playing mandolin for Hoyt Axton. He loved working with Sheb Wooley (*Purple People Eater*), who got him a job working for Roger Miller, a relative of Sheb's. When he retired in 1992, he became more serious about songwriting and sending songs to publishers and record producers. He has a three-year exclusive contract with Stevie Ray Hansen Music Group in Murrieta, CA for three of his songs. His songs "Mississippi Blues," "Ghost Train," and "The Heavenly RR Train" are on the *Ride the Train* CD on NBT Records, Berkeley Springs, West Virginia. He has sixteen other songs signed with The Heath Group LLP in Louisville, KY for Hillview and Estate Records International and MVT Productions.

Beverly White (London, Ontario, Canada): She began writing just after the birth of her children 18/20 years ago. She started by making up lullabies and singing them, later putting the words on paper. She has a large variety of rhymes, and short verses (approx. 150) for almost any occasion. She loves writing for children and has performed for Kindergarten and Grades 1-2. Two of her collaborations with Liz Axford, "Come Ride" and "Spider," appear in *My Halloween Fun Book*. Two more, "Gingerbread," and "Jingle, Jingle, Santa's Coming!" appear in *My Christmas Fun Book Level One*.

Kimberly White (Mason, OH): She is originally from Endicott, NY, and now lives in Ohio. After years

spent building a business with her husband, she took time off to raise their two daughters. At this point in her life, she put her immense love for children together with a lifelong passion for writing and started writing children's books.

Penny Towers Wilber (Plainfield, VT): She is a singer/songwriter living and performing in Vermont with a strong background in the performing arts. She studied at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in New York City and at Robert O'Neil's Actors Workshop in London, England. She received a BA in Liberal Arts from Goddard College and spent four years touring the United States and Europe with the Two Penny Theater, working as a mime and actress. She was commissioned to write five comedy songs for actor director Donny Osman of Vermont for his original children's show on health called "Mission Nutrition." This show was performed throughout New England at elementary schools and elsewhere. It was also televised on the show "Crossroads" on PBS. Penny performed with an improvisational comedy group in NYC called "Oddvark" with actor Paul Zaloom, star of the television show "Beakman's World." Currently she performs throughout Vermont singing jazz and original songs with a small band called "Penny Arcade" and with other combinations of local musicians. She also conducts creative songwriting workshops at Oxbow public high school in Vermont. As a songwriter, Penny mainly writes adult contemporary, jazz, and comedy novelty songs. She currently has twenty songs on contract and two songs "Flying In The Sky" and "Forever Barely There" have been published and released on a Halloween album by Allegheny Music Works. Penny also goes by an alias "Victor R Vampire" who performs on the "Halloween Bash" album.

Brandon Williams (Placerville, CA): He is a recent graduate of the University of California, Riverside. He writes a lot. Sometimes, he reads. When he does, it's usually the greats, which is probably why he often looks to be chewing on something not quite agreeable. He is a firm believer in down-home country music and is probably a strict constitutionalist. None of this matters if he can't take a good picture.

Debbie Williams (Waukegan, IL): She has a journalism degree from Northern Ill. Univ. and played clarinet in the marching band for 4 years. She also played in the Waukegan Municipal Band for 10 years under the direction of Bernard Stiner. She was a writer and editor of the St. Mary of Vernon Church Parish Post Newspaper for 6 years. Currently employed as a production planner for the Cardinal Health Glove Plants in Malaysia and Thailand, she finds joy and inspiration for her writing in her 4 nieces and nephews, Marial, Steven, Melinda, and Andy.

Kaley Willow (Montoursville, PA): She is a published ASCAP songwriter who lives in Central Pennsylvania with her husband, two kids, and big white dog. She began writing in the fall of 2000 and enjoys writing children's songs, along with contemporary Christian, country, folk, and adult contemporary. Her first CD, *Andy & Friends* (co-written with Wy Griffith) is under a publishing contract with Hannon-Hawkins Music, a division of Atlanta Music Group and a second CD is underway. Electric Empires, Inc., Los Angeles, CA, has animated some of her children's songs. Her song *Dragonfly* has been chosen by a Children's Cancer Foundation and will be used to help children face cancer Issues. She has developed a children's songwriting workshop called "Let's Make A Song" and is visiting schools, daycares, and children's centers. Her tune "The Goodnight Song" appears in *The Music Box and Other Delights*.

Pearl Mary Wilshaw (Center Moriches, NY): Her background includes teaching and librarianship. The Center Moriches Library, where she is reference librarian, subscribes to many literary journals. A member of the Academy of American Poets, Southern Poetry Association, SCBWI, and NYSUT, she has had hundreds of poems published by literary journals in the United States and abroad.

Sheryl Ann Winters (Crookston, MN): A member of SCBWI, she has been a legal assistant for her husband for twenty years. She has run a Bed & Breakfast for eight years, and has designed promotional brochures for her business. Her poem *Courage* was published in a greeting card by The Courage Center in Golden Valley, MN. She attends writers' conferences and takes piano lessons.

Betsy M. Zavell (So. Orleans, MA): She began composing in 1983. Her compositions range from gospel, R&B, and patriotic songs to special occasion songs, instrumentals, and holiday pieces. Her song "Christmas Magic" was published, recorded, and released in 1990 by Oak Street Music. Between 1999-2001, she scored two musicals by play write/lyricist Libby Hughes as well as twelve of the nineteen songs for her third musical. Her songs "U. S. of A." and "It's Party Time" appear in *The Music Box and Other Delights*.

Gerald Zipper (New York, NY): Author of the play *A Little Madness*, produced at the Provincetown Playhouse in New York, he produced two seasons of Shakespeare at New York's Cherry Lane Theatre and Eugene O'Neill's *Desire Under the Elms* at the Barbizon Theatre. Rivercross Publishing published a collection of his poetry, *Wounded Hopes*. He served as Admin. Sgt. Major in an infantry division during the Korean War, later becoming active in social and political issues. He was appointed by New York's governor as Deputy Commissioner of a New York State Agency and then as "Consultant on the Arts" to the New York State Senate. His poetry appears in over 200 poetry, literary, and university publications throughout the U.S. and Canada. He has managed a successful career in business, is married and lives in Manhattan. Several of the publications that have published his poetry over the 1997-01 period include: *The Pegasus Review*, VA; *The Pointed Circle*, Portland Community College, WA; *The Poet's Pen*, GA; *Skylark*, Purdue Univ.; *AURA*, Univ. of Alabama; *ICON*, Kent State Univ., OH; *The Amherst Review*, Amherst College, MA; *Piedmont Literary Review*, VA; *OYEZ Review*, Roosevelt Univ., IL; *NEBO Literary Journal*, Arkansas Tech Univ.; *Maryland Review*, Univ. of Maryland E.S.; *Bay Area Poet's Coalition*, CA; *Ellipsis*, Westminster College; *Sounds of Poetry*, MI; *Parnassus Literary Journal*, GA; *Apropos*, PA.