

Volume 47.1 September 2020

Editor: Rod Fivelstad

OUR MISSION...

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

IFRM in the World of Covid-19 by Rod Fivelstad, IFRM Global Chair (RC of Grass Valley, CA)



Well, 2020 has certainly presented it challenges to all of us. IFRM is weathering the storm and continues to be a strong fellowship, even in these challenging times.

On July 1, Rod Fivelstad became the Global Chair of the International Fellowship of Rotarian Musicians, which has been most admirably led by Lee Denlinger for the past 10 years. Part of the Global Chair responsibilities include becoming the editor of MUSIC NOTES. So here we go. There will be some changes, so here is my vision, as Global Chair, for MUSIC NOTES. You can see in the masthead that this is Volume 47.1. I am hoping to publish MUSIC NOTES, three times a year. Later August/Early September, Late December/Early January, Late April/Early May. I expect they may be smaller in size, but hopefully will be a way of increasing communications and fellowship among the members. I will continue to publish "Staccato" on a Monthly Basis, intended to provide the most current information about IFRM.



What's New?

Screen Shot from IFRM Sings

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Do you know about IFRM sings? A group of IFRMers have been meeting on a weekly basis via Zoom to sing. We have done several virtual choir performances and done singing from the Rotary Sings Song Book. We are moving to Saturday mornings at 10 a.m. Pacific Daylight Time starting on September 5. We are currently working on a lovely arrangement of "You'll Never Walk Alone/Climb Every Mountain." Our singers are literally from around the world, including India, UK, France, the Caribbean, Canada, Rwanda, and the U.S. We would love more singers. Becoming a member of the IFRM googlegroup is the best way to get information about the IFRM sings initiative. I have included the IFRM Sings Zoom link later in MUSIC NOTES.

IFRM Drop-in meeting. We started these as part of the Virtual Rotary Convention. It is a free-form Zoom meeting, designed to give members a chance to meet other IFRM members. In the future I want to encourage members to share examples of their musical talents. We will try these quarterly, and if the meetings catch on we could even go to bi-monthly approach. I do two, close together but at different times to encourage participation from around the world. More detailed information will be in "Staccato". But I will share the Zoom link later in MUSIC NOTES.

The ifrm@googlegroups.com Do you want to be connected with fellow IFRM members by email. Subscribe to our ifrm googlegroup. We exchange ideas and news, along with sharing information about IFRM sings.

Let's Do This! Plans for a NEW RI Song Book! By Susan DuPree

The RI Songbook, last published in 1999, fulfilled the needs of Rotary clubs who wished to continue the tradition of singing at their Rotary meetings. However, with the advent of new technologies that help us stay connected, we have changed our focus to be more attuned to the many cultures that make up our Rotary Family. Therefore, in the last decade, there has been an increasing number of Rotarians who have expressed their desire for a revised RI Songbook that better reflects our global membership.

IFRM Directors Curtis Reinhardt, Robert Bracegirdle and Susan DuPree, along with the Sing-a-long Director, John Ackenhusen are forming a committee to look at developing a new RI songbook. Ideas for this project include:

- adding *regional* songbooks with help from our Vice-Chairs
- making *all* editions accessible online -on our website.
- Publishing annotated, hard copy editions representing each region and used to raise funds, for example, for the IFRM Foundation.
- Creating criteria for all submissions to the IFRM Dropbox, then having IFRM musicians do the vetting.
- IFRM members vote on final selections

If you are interested in joining the new IFRM Songbook Committee, contact Susan DuPree at musicdirector@ifrm.org . **Let's Do This!**

IFRM Sings Zoom Link: Join Zoom Meeting Saturdays 10 a.m. Pacific Daylight Time

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84894662814?pwd=bUlwM0w5TGhQc1E1TzY4dWZBZzFKUT09>

Meeting ID: 848 9466 2814

Passcode: ifrmsings

Keeping the Beat... by Ada Kahn (RC of Evanston, IL)



Music Mends Minds Band in Rwanda

Gregory Bakunzi, IFRM Vice-Chair, Africa, heads the Red Rocks Music Mends Minds (MMM) band for local people who have cognitive challenges including dementia, Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's, and other neurological issues. MMM is a worldwide musical support group that connects musicians, singers and their families, friends, and caregivers, all of whom thrive on socialization while making music. An increasing number of Rotary clubs around the world now sponsor these bands.

MMM was founded by Carol Rosenstein, an IFRM member and member of the Westwood Village Rotary Club (D5280). Gregory and his group have participated in the thrice weekly Zoom sessions of MMM with a guitarist, singers and dancers performing for the faces on the screen.

Gregory is a member of the Rotary Club Musanze-Murera, chartered in 2015, in the northern province of Rwanda. He was instrumental in founding the club out of a need to have a local organization of professionals who understand local challenges regarding development, both businesswise and culturally. In the past, his club supported local projects ranging from planting trees to training youth in vocational skills, music and dance. The club has 17 active members and six honorary members. He has connected with Rotary clubs throughout Africa, Europe and the U.S. Now Gregory has added the MMM band to his list of international accomplishments.

Gregory heads the Red Rocks Initiatives for Sustainable Development. He is a Rwandan tour organizer and guide for international tour operators. His understanding of the needs and desires of international visitors has gained him renown among clients and as well as local communities. He is a co-founder and president of the Ruhengeri Community Eco-Tourism Association, a local group collaborating to enhance tourism in Rwanda.

The city of Musanze is near the home of mountain gorillas, endangered species remaining only in RD Congo, Uganda and Rwanda. While there are opportunities for tourism and agriculture, local people still have challenges in meeting basic needs. "Having a musical opportunity for locals with neurological challenges is major step for our area," says Gregory. "Red Rocks has a recording studio and provides musical instruments, which will be useful for the MMM initiative," he adds. Donations of used instruments are welcomed.

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Gregory has been recognized by several Rwanda-based organizations for promoting responsible tourism, conservation and community development. In 2019, he was recognized for his work in and around the Volcanoes National Park in northern Rwanda. Recently he was appointed by the African Tourism Board to their steering committee representing the interests of African countries.

In 2015 his name was added to the A-Team for Wildlife "Wall of Fame" for his work during their Giving Grid Fundraiser, which benefitted endangered species of animals.

Gregory has volunteered to assist other Rotary clubs in Africa and elsewhere in organizing a Music Mends Minds band. Contact him: www.redrocksinitiative.org

Welcome Rod Fivelstad: IFRM Global Chair by Ada P. Kahn

Rod Fivelstad has been a Rotarian for 21 years and a life member of IFRM since 2008. He has served as Treasurer of IFRM since 1996. He has become the Global Chair of IFRM in July, 2020, taking over the helm from Lee Denlinger, who held the post since 2009.

His involvement in public service and music has been lifelong. His 37-year career in public education includes 10 years as a primary school teacher, 16 years as an elementary school principal, and 7 years as Superintendent, Union Hill School District, Grass Valley CA.

"I have loved to sing all my life. I remember singing to 78 rpm records when I was four or five. An early favorite was Vaughn Monroe's *Ghost Riders in The Sky*. " Rod has sung in choirs and madrigal groups in high school, college, church and community organizations.

"When Susan and I moved to Grass Valley in 2001 to take the job as Superintendent of the Union Hill School District, I joined the Grass Valley Male Voice Choir. In 2010 I joined the Sierra Master Chorale." He still sings in both groups along with the choir at Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Grass Valley.

"We have sung with the Rotary World Choir at eight international Rotary conventions. Hawaii would have been the ninth," he says. In addition to performing, Rod enjoys all types of music including opera, classical, folk, jazz, and popular. "While attending many local InConcert Sierra concerts, I had opportunities to meet some of the world's top chamber music performers, including Joshua Bell, Sam Heywood and members of the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center. Those were exciting encounters," he recalls.

Rod is a member of the Rotary Club of Grass Valley, CA (D5190). After serving on the club's board for many years, he was Club President in 2009-10. He served as chair of "End Polio Now" for District 5190 in 2011-13.

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Rod's educational background includes a Masters Degree in Human Resources and Organization Development from the University of San Francisco and teaching credentials from San Jose State and Cal State Hayward. While working on his Bachelors of Arts degree in history at the University of California, Santa Barbara, his unofficial minor was the campus radio station where he was a morning show disc jockey and assistant program manager.

Rod is not one to sit on the sidelines and let others do the work. He has served on numerous committees and boards of educational and civic organizations. In 2002 he joined the Nevada County Habitat for Humanity and served as its chair for three years. During his tenure the Board transitioned from a working board to an oversight and policy making board. As Superintendent of Union Hill, he represented all the superintendents in Nevada County on the Economic Resource Council for six years.

Rod and Susan are docents at the North Star House, Grass Valley, a premier cultural arts events center for theater, musical events, conferences and more. They enjoy telling visitors about the house in their area designed in 1905 by renowned architect Julia Morgan.

In addition to music and singing, Rod is an amateur astronomer and a member and former officer of the Nevada County Astronomers. He also dabbles in Marklin HO model railroading. He is an active member of the European Train Enthusiasts of America, which focuses on educating the public about European railroading.

Rod taught himself to play guitar and enjoys performing his short lounge act of popular songs at church and community events. He is learning to play the piano. Rod and Susan have been married 50 years, have two adult children and one granddaughter, age six.

Welcome to your new role as IFRM Chair, Rod!

IFRM Goes around the World

Did you know that IFRM has more than 600 members from 43 different countries? We are truly an international fellowship bound together by the joy of music. Whether you simply love music or are a performer, this Rotarian Fellowship is for you. The IFRM Board of Directors includes its officers (President, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Chair, Past Global Chair and Vice Chairs connected to various geographical areas around the world, and Board Members with special responsibilities). Following is an opportunity to meet some of these IFRM members and learn a little about them and their connection with IFRM.

Madu Bishnu IFRM Social Media Director

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Hello MUSIC NOTES readers. Following is a narrative on my responsibility on the IFRM Board, a brief statement about myself and the music world I would like to share.

I joined the Board in 2017 as Social Media Director. I publish IFRM news on Instagram, YouTube and currently on any music video we are recording as Virtual World Choir, I'm uploading in the YouTube, uploading in IFRM Facebook page. I'm also the Admin in the IFRM Facebook page and 'approve' membership from Rotarians showing interest. Ron Carey and myself are the only two Admins

I've been associated with Choir Music from school in Calcutta, India. I studied in a Roman Catholic school and we would have concerts as Annual programme where I sang in the Choir. I learned Indian Classical Music from 6 years of age and can play Harmonium and Tanpura. Tanpura is a 4 string instrument. I sing pure Indian Classical Hindustani Music and songs of Tagore.

I am a part of the IFRM World Choir and have performed in Interfaith Service several times. Currently I am a part of the IFRM Virtual World Choir and sing every week through Zoom

I'm Immediate Past President of E Club of Melbourne, Dist 9800, Australia. Be sure make connections on Social Media by following the International Fellowship of Rotarian Musicians.

Meet Gregory Bakunzi Vice-Chair/Africa



It was a great pleasure to see Red Rocks band given an opportunity to be featured on the weekly sessions performing music to the participants. I am called Gregory Bakunzi, I molded Red Rocks to be a social enterprise where we showcase our traditional culture to visiting tourists, thus we interchange cultures and learn from each other. I thought of the idea that once local communities are integrated in the tourism chain so that they may generate some income through cultural tourism.

We since started performing at MMM all our members were happy and they entertained the live interaction we have with the audience, thanks to Carol for making this happen. Due to logistical constraints, we will only be performing on Fridays,

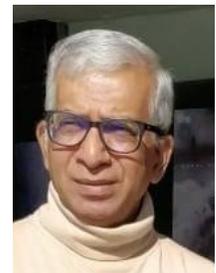
We appreciate MMM, since we joined we have promoted our musical art, and the platform created an ideals of peace and friendship between us and the MMM community, they learn about our cultural songs and establish the exchange of experience and of mutual appreciation.

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The whole Band was so happy to be a part of the CNN, this is something they were not expecting in their life, thanks again Carol for making MMM, an exciting program Please find attached here my Picture, as we look forward to welcome more members from out Continent

Greg Bakunzi,
Red Rocks Initiatives For Sustainable Development
www.redrocksinitiative.org

Music and Cricket make strange bedfellows by Paddy Iyer Vice Chair for India and Sri Lanka



It all started when I visited Bengaluru 4 years ago to play cricket under IFCR (International Fellowship of Cricket-loving Rotarians). The evening entertainment program featured some talented singers performing on stage for the cricketers. I spotted a banner that said that the program was conducted by IFRM. The crowd wanted me to sing along with the singers on stage. After my performance, MR Prakash Kamath of IFRM 3190 approached me and said "You are the right guy to start IFRM in the Western region of India". When he briefed me about IFRM, my musical notes started going off the charts. With the help other Rotarians in our district, IFRM Chapter in District 3142 was formed soon. I then lost no time in initiating IFRM in our sister-district 3141.

Indians love music; it is in their blood. Rotarians in India are no exception. There is enough talent among Rotarians all over our country. I believe there is great potential for IFRM in every city in every state of India. I was soon given the responsibility of Western Zonal head of IFRM and subsequently Nagesh recommended me for the post of Vice-Chair (India and Sri Lanka).

The responsibility is challenging but exciting. Since July 2020, we have already formed a chapter in District 3030 with a strength of 24 members, and are on the verge of starting IFRM in District 3250 with 24 members. Several other districts are in talks with me to start their own chapters.

It is not just about song and dance. The chapters have also initiated worthwhile service projects in the field of music. They are identifying under-privileged schools and schools for the blind where music could be taught or musical activities could be supported by

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IFRM. We are also targeting old- age homes to visit and entertain senior citizens with music performances.

The road is long and the destination is far away. But we shall strive to achieve substantial growth in IFRM in India this year, and the years ahead.

Regards

Paddy

VC IFRM India & Sri lanka

Meet the Vice Co-Chairs for the Carribean Frances-Ann Satney and Dr. Malcolm Charles



Editor: The Carribean presents quite a geographical challenge with hundreds of island and multiple languages. We look forward to learning about IFRM and music in the Carribean in the next edition of MUSIC NOTES.



Jean-Louis Nguyen Qui

Vice-Chair/Asia

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



Meet Judith Crowe Vice Chair Europe

Editor: Frances Hook asked to step down from this position. Thank you Frances for your work on behalf of IFRM the last couple of years.

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As a new recruit to the Board, I have little yet to report. To get to know my region a little better, I searched the IFRM membership list, which shows that Europe as a whole has 27 members recorded, the largest numbers being in Germany (9) and the Netherlands (6). France has 3 (including me), with 2 each in Italy, Denmark and Sweden. Hungary, Spain, Romania, and Austria have 1 each. Between the difficulties that Covid-19 presents, plus the lack of a common language, I do not see great activity currently in Europe. Maybe the arrival of the IFRM virtual choir will change this, and I encourage existing non-members of the choir to come and join us - after all, for a choir made up mainly of amateur singers we are now producing excellent, almost professional results, and it is a wonderful way to enjoy fellowship together and keep our voices alive!

Judith

Also joining the IFRM Board of Directors in 2020-21

Robert Bracegirdle will be Vice Chair for the UK and Howard Bridgman for Australia, New Zealand, and Pacific Islands. We will learn more about Robert and Howard in the next MUSIC NOTES.

IFRM Foundation



Peter Sotheran
CEO, IFRM Foundation

Did you know that IFRM has a Foundation that is a 501c3 Charitable Organization in the United States? Donations to the IFRM Foundation are tax deductible. The Foundation has supported many worthwhile music literacy programs around the world particularly focusing on youth projects. Take a look at the IFRM website for more information and consider making a donation to further the wonderful work of the IFRM Foundation.

Expect a new look website around October 1

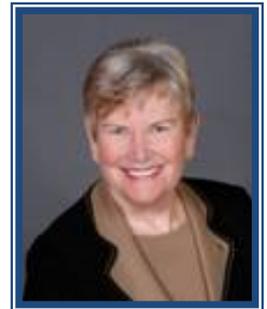
After years of faithfully serving as our IFRM Website, Francois Daoust, is stepping away. We are working with a new web developer to update our website look, feel, operability. Visit ifrm.org to check on progress and see what develops. The website will be a significant tool in keeping you up to date of what is happening in the IFRM world.

One of the real advantages to IFRM membership is our ability to build lasting friendships through our mutual love of music.

Lee Denlinger is hanging up her IFRM Gavel

After more than 10 years at the helm of the Good Ship IFRM, Lee has passed her gavel and is now proudly calling herself, IFRM Past Global Chair. Lee has done a spectacular job as our leader, but will not be far away.

She is not planning to go to the Taiwan Convention, but she plans to be in Houston in 2022 and we will give her a proper IFRM send-off.



IFRM is keeping a close eye on developments around the 2021 RI Convention scheduled for Taiwan

IFRM is staying in close contact with Rotary International concerning the RI Convention scheduled for Taiwan. Plans are still quite fluid. We do not expect to have a Rotary World Choir in Taiwan, but plan to have one in Houston. Watch the website and Staccato for the latest information concerning IFRM.

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Membership Application/Renewal Form

Available to Rotarians, spouses, Rotary program participants and alumni

Please Check One

Dr. Mr. Mrs. Ms. Rotarian Spouse Rotaractor

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____ New Member Renewal

Rotary Club Name _____ District No. _____ Country _____

Mailing Address _____

Home Phone _____ Mobile Phone: _____

Work Phone _____ Email (Required) _____

I am a Rotary Song Leader Piano Player My Voice is (circle one) S A T B

Musical Talent/Occupation: _____

I am enclosing my dues of

US \$35 for **3 years** membership (includes pin for new members)

US \$35 for 3 years **renewal**

US \$200 for **Lifetime Membership**; \$100 for member's **spouse** Total: _____

Plus donation _____ for IFRM projects Total: _____

Plus # _____ of Small 1/2" x 1" G Clef Pin(s) at \$5 each & \$2 for Shipping Total: _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: US \$ _____

Date: _____

Signature: _____

Make checks payable to IFRM, and *mail to*: **IFRM** <<<NEW ADDRESS<<<
P.O. Box 2438
Grass Valley, CA USA

*Or pay on-line through **PayPal** at www.IFRM.org (membership)*

IFRM operates in accordance with Rotary International policy, but is not an agency of, nor controlled by, RI.

IFRM Board of Directors (2020-21) and Webmaster

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