



# Take Note

A Publication of the Rockland Conservatory of Music

## An Interview with Judy Gorman

May 2015

Judy Gorman moved to Rockland County after a lifetime in NYC; she describes the move as one of her "best decisions ever." She retired in 2012 from a consuming and non-musical career as an executive in an Engineering Society (IEEE). Judy's education focused on Music Theory, and she followed that with teaching at both the college level and in a NYC private school. And so on: into the publishing industry (Music, Education, Technical/Engineering) and then finally, as it's called, "Management."



**Q. What is your earliest musical memory?**

A. Playing "Country Gardens" by ear, in imitation of my sisters who were already studying piano, reading music, and learning theory. What I don't remember, but am sure was the case, is singing, from infancy, with my family.

**Q. When did you begin studying music?**

A. I was nine when my mother enrolled me at the Dalcroze School of Music to study piano, Eurythmics, and more. From the Bronx, we took the subway "downtown" to E 73rd Street in Manhattan. My piano teacher (Viennese) heard me play (by ear), and went on to choose music that looked like Greek cave designs: totally unreadable, especially for someone who couldn't read music in the first place. Terrifying. We soon fixed that, and I leveled out with another Maestra (Dutch) who better understood where I was coming from.

**Q. What inspired you to direct the Main Street Singers? How did that come about?**

A. Eight months after retiring, I was able, finally, to sit down and make a list of what I wanted to do. Five things, and choral conducting was one of them. So while I've been passionate about choral singing for most of my life, particularly in the last five-plus decades, my inspiration came from my dreams in the form of Howard Goldstein (of the LIU Learning Collaborative and a wonderful musician/singer himself), who identified me as someone who could lead an unusually diverse group of individuals. I'd led small groups previously, in music ranging from (to steal a former teacher's line) "Bach to Bop". Howard's outreach fulfilled a lifelong dream, and came just a year after my departure from a Type A executive position that left little room for Vitamin M (i.e., Music).

**Q. What do you enjoy most about being the Music Director of the Main Street Singers?**

A. Tough question. Answer: EVERYTHING! In no particular order I relish the people, their drive and intelligence, their willingness to tackle challenges without, in many cases, the ability to read music. Then there's the music itself: the more you study it, the more you find. I started my career as a music teacher, first at the college level and then at a NYC private school. And here I am, in Pearl River, NY, back to my own basics with a group of people who gather because they love music and want to sing.

**Q. How do you choose your selections?**

A. Multiple ways: pieces I've studied and performed that I love; works performed by other groups that are inspiring; and then through research. Each year I scour publishers' collections, and select works that look promising and appropriate. SECRET: From singing in a jazz chorus and having been a NYC jazz groupie, I've learned that "stealing" is one of the ways a musician builds a story. I do that too.

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"LIU-Hudson's "Learning Collaborative" has presented courses for life-long learners for 8 years at its campus in Sparkill. **The Main Street Singers** was created as a joint program of the Rockland Conservatory of Music with LIU to extend the enjoyment of music to the broader community. It has been a roaring success due the guidance of the RCM and the energy and skills of our director, Judy Gorman."....*Howard Goldstein*





We are so proud of **Ansel Bobrow**, 13, long-time student of Jonathan Trotta, for winning 2nd place in the first ever "Rotary Knows Talent", presented by the South Orangetown Rotary Club. Here he is, pictured at left, and below with, from l. to r. Mario Giampaglia, Rudy Arietta, Kenyatta Jones-Arietta, and Patrice Pickering.



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**Q.** What music do you most enjoy listening to at home or in the car?

**A.** Jazz.

**Q.** Think of an ordinary place where music plays a big but unexpected role.

**A.** The streets of cities; in a hospital; and so many other "stages" that welcome musicians to perform for the world. Check out this: <https://youtu.be/ul0a-pGIJlAQ>

**Q.** What surprises you most about music?

**A.** How it builds human connection, trust, and community; and promotes infinite joy.



Judy Gorman and The Main Street Singers

The Main Street Singers,  
under the direction of Judy Gorman, and accompanied by Catherine Corcoran,  
will be performing spirituals, folk songs, works by Schubert, choral settings from "Alice in Wonderland,"  
and some of their favorite standards at their Second Annual Concert  
on Sunday afternoon, May 17, 2015 at 3 PM  
At Beth Haverim Shir Shalom, 280 Ramapo Valley Road, Mahwah, NJ

It's time to enroll for summer and for our upcoming school year!  
We are offering discounts and incentives to register early, so please stop into the office,  
call or go on-line to register now.

845-356-1522

[www.rocklandconservatory.org/registration](http://www.rocklandconservatory.org/registration)



*Wishing you all a Mother's Day  
filled with music and May flowers  
and lots of love.*

Take Note Editor: Martha Lerner,  
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