

LONG TRAIL SCHOOL

founded 1975

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LONG TRAIL MUSIC TEACHER GOES ON NATIONAL TOUR

Dorset---Melissa Chesnut-Tangerman, one of three alto voices in Robert De Cormier's acclaimed group Counterpoint, is excited to go on national tour this month. A member of the singing group since its 2000 inception, Chesnut-Tangerman will be returning to teach her vocal music classes at Long Trail School after a two-week tour of the American Midwest. In March, this Counterpoint tour will conclude with another two weeks of engagements in Minnesota, Nebraska, North and South Dakota, Wisconsin, and Indiana.



Melissa Chesnut-Tangerman,
of Counterpoint and Long
Trail School

“Singing in harmony is one of my great passions,” enthused Chesnut-Tangerman. “I am truly lucky and very blessed to be able to work with these fine singers. While I may be dragging myself north after a busy week for a Thursday night practice, I am so reenergized by our sessions that I can’t settle down when I get home late that night.” Group members live predominantly in northern Vermont and practice sessions are in Barre, a significant drive for Chesnut-Tangerman. All members have jobs – many as music educators or teachers – so this tour had to be arranged around personal and employer schedules.

Counterpoint was founded by De Cormier to promote choral chamber music and to give the public the opportunity to hear rarely performed works, unique arrangements and the work of contemporary composers. A graduate of the Julliard School of Music, Robert De Cormier's conducting engagements have taken him from Broadway and opera to numerous concert tours nationally and internationally. He spent many years as conductor and arranger for Harry Belafonte and has been music director for the popular folk trio, Peter, Paul and Mary for the past 20 years. De Cormier has also arranged extensively, from African-American spirituals to American and international folk songs. He has served on the New York State Council for the Arts, been a member of the Choral Panel of the National Endowment for the Arts, and recently received the Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts. De Cormier is an energetic octogenarian who will lead his group through this rigorous and exciting concert schedule.

Chesnut-Tangerman serves as President of the Board of Trustees of SolarFest, a non-profit devoted to renewable energy education through the arts. She lives - and sings - with daughters Jeni and Malindi and husband Robin in the solar-heated house he built. She further spreads the joy of choral singing by directing adult, children's, and teen a capella groups in Middletown Springs.

There are two local chances in this holiday season to hear Counterpoint perform. On Friday, December 12, the group will present an a capella concert at Rutland's Grace Church. On Sunday, December 21, Counterpoint will perform with the VSO Brass at the First Congregational Church in Manchester.

For more information about the arts or other programs at Long Trail School, please contact Courtney Callo at 802.867.5717 x141.