

# MUSICAL BRIDGES, INC.

Route 1 Box 1484, Williamstown, Vermont 05679  
41 North Lake Drive, Hamden, Connecticut 06517



## President's Report

Access, opportunity and good neighbors  
through cultural exchange

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# MUSICAL BRIDGES, INC.

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Established 1993, Provisional Tax-Exempt Status Awarded By The Federal Government April 1994

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Charles A. Dickinson (new member)  
Thomas G. Dickinson (since 1993)  
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## Where IS Chita, anyway?



# President's Report

November 10, 1996

Dear Friends,

Musical Bridges' goal is "access, opportunity and good neighbors through cultural exchange", and thanks to you, what a terrific year we've had fulfilling it, especially in Chita, Russia!! With your continued help, what potential there is for 1997!!!

First and foremost, we want to thank our contributors without whom we would never have come this far. Please look at the list on pages 6-7. In addition, the following good neighbors have given generously of their time to help our friends in Russia:

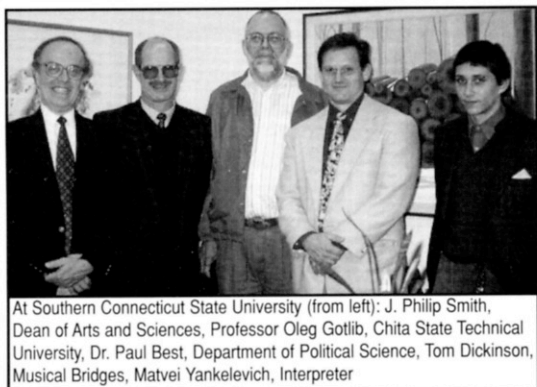
- **Chris Krahn**, East Montpelier, VT, and **Sue Wilcox**, Denver, CO, have each recorded a book and the tapes are on their way to Chita.
- Thanks to **Eileen Ogle**, Hamden, CT, who sent basic texts on Pediatrics to the Children's Hospital in Chita, **John DesRochers**, East Barre, VT, who donated books, and **Jean Woods**, Cold Spring, MD, who now has an empty attic after donating shelves full of books, old National Geographics and Smithsonianians.
- Thanks to **Dmitry Ilyin** of Chita who has provided the invaluable e-mail link with many of our Chita contacts.
- Thanks to **Dr. Paul Best**, Professor of Political Science, Southern Connecticut State University in New Haven, CT, whose efforts and enthusiasm created the connection between his university and Chita State Technical University. (Read more about this below.)
- Special thanks to **Jean Dickinson** who continues to be our head cheerleader and has recently also taken the volunteer position of "Grantmeister". She has already spent countless hours in the library researching grant opportunities.
- Very special thanks to **Eileen Ogle** for the work she performed as Vice President for Musical

Bridges, providing great ideas, insight and unflagging support. Eileen has stepped down as Vice President, but will remain on the Board, and we look forward to her continuing participation. Eileen has also helped in innumerable concrete ways through the year, including hosting Professor Oleg Gotlib in her home during his visit.

- I also want to thank **Tom Dickinson**, who, as Musical Bridges' [as yet] unpaid Executive Director, put his performing career on hold and lived off his savings this past year so that Musical Bridges could get the time and effort devoted to it to jump from simply being a nice idea to an organization with the resources and energy to really do some good. Let's hope that 1997 will bring us a salary for the Executive Director position so that this work can continue with the same momentum.

## PROJECT UPDATE

As I mentioned at the top, 1996 has been an excellent year for this young organization! The highlight of the year was the visit--underwritten and hosted by Musical Bridges--by **Professor Oleg Gotlib**, Head of the International Studies Faculty and Deputy Head of the Foreign Relations



At Southern Connecticut State University (from left): J. Philip Smith, Dean of Arts and Sciences, Professor Oleg Gotlib, Chita State Technical University, Dr. Paul Best, Department of Political Science, Tom Dickinson, Musical Bridges, Matvei Yankelevich, Interpreter

Department, Chita State Technical University (CSTU) to the United States. Professor Gotlib came for the three-week visit under the auspices of Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU)

through the initiative of Musical Bridges and **Dr. Paul Best** of SCSU's Political Science Department in order to create a sister relationship between CSTU and SCSU. Professor Gotlib had the opportunity to meet several professors and administrators of the Connecticut State University system, both at SCSU and at the Central Connecticut State University campus, as well. The documents were signed, and as a result, several visits between the two institutions are planned for 1997 and a professor from CSTU will teach fall semester at SCSU.

While here, Musical Bridges arranged for Professor Gotlib to meet with American foundations and educational organizations to learn how his university



The Budashkin Russian Folk Instrument Ensemble of Chita, Russia. Musical Bridges will bring them on tour in the US in October 1997.

may become more independent and self-supporting.

Professor Gotlib gave public talks and interviews introducing the American public on a grassroots level to eastern Siberia and its unique situation. See page 4 for more about Professor Gotlib's visit.

In addition, Musical Bridges continues to provide educational materials to various institutions in Chita. Magazine subscriptions were renewed for the Language Faculty of Chita State Pedagogical Institute (CSPI) and expanded to include CSTU and the Pushkin Library, Chita's main public library.

# Professor Oleg Gotlib visits the United States

We are very proud to have sponsored a three-week visit this September-October to the United States by Professor Oleg Gotlib, Head of the Faculty of International Studies and Deputy Head, Office of Foreign Relations, Chita State Technical University (CSTU) in Chita, Russia to develop a sister relationship with Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU) in New Haven, Connecticut. Dr. Paul Best, Professor of Political Science, headed up SCSU's efforts. Documents were signed on October 4, 1996 with initial plans focusing on faculty exchange, program development and material assistance. Plans are being made for two trips to Chita in 1997 by Dr. Best and other SCSU representatives and for Professor Olga Fleshler to come to SCSU to teach a course on the history of Siberia next September.

Professor Gotlib met with many people at SCSU including President Adante, Academic Vice-President Pinciario, Dean of Arts and Sciences J. Philip Smith, and the heads of several departments. He travelled to Central Connecticut State University in New Britain



Lecturing at St. James Lutheran Church, Southbury, Connecticut with Matvei Yankelevich interpreting

to discuss cooperation with the Center for International Education, which serves the entire State University system, and was met with great enthusiasm.

In addition, Musical Bridges arranged for trips to Washington, DC, Boston and Vermont. In Washington he met with a representative of the Eurasia Foundation which funds projects directly in the former Soviet Union. In Boston he learned about

the activities of, and received wonderful advice from, the Education Development Center. In Vermont he was the guest of honor at luncheons at the Geonomics Center, Middlebury College and the Department of International Studies, St. Michael's College. He presented public lectures about his city and region's situation, in Southbury, Connecticut and Montpelier, Vermont.

Despite all this work, we had a few opportunities to show him a little of our country—peak foliage in Vermont, Yale University, the Capitol in Washington, trips to Ellis Island and the top of the World Trade Center in New York...and shopping at a huge Stop & Shop supermarket (which both awed and depressed him—why, he asked, are his countrymen unable to provide such wonderful services?)



Oleg at SCSU

Professor Gotlib said he went home with more information, ideas and images than he knew quite how to assimilate! We hope that this is only the beginning of a steady stream of Chita visitors to the United States for teaching and study.



The Musical Bridges brochure mailed in May 1996 is still available. It contains more complete information on the history and direction of Musical Bridges. Please feel free to ask for copies of it.

# Our Contributors

## 1996 (January - October)

Note: We'd like to recognize those contributors who have made contributing to *Musical Bridges* a part of their regular giving plans. Their names are followed by an asterisk (\*).

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Eileen Ogle, Hamden, Connecticut\*

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Eileen Ogle, Hamden, Connecticut  
Paul Best, Higganum, Connecticut  
Chris Krahn, East Montpelier, Vermont  
Sue Wilcox, Denver, Colorado  
Jean Woods, Clear Spring, Maryland  
Jean Dickinson, Williamstown, Vermont  
Kathy Wilson, East Haven, Connecticut

## 1995

### **ANGELS**

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### **SPONSORS**

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## 1994

### **ANGELS**

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Myra Taylor, New York, New York

### **VOLUNTEERS**

Donald & Charlotte Currier, Guilford, Connecticut

Jean Dickinson, Williamstown, Vermont

## President's Report continued from page 3

Over 500 pounds of books have been donated and sent to these institutions.

### ORGANIZATION UPDATE

Musical Bridges is now on the Internet! You can access us <http://www.quest-net.com/musicalbridges>. The web site includes history, current projects, lots of photos, a map of the region and links to other web sites that may be of interest. Sincere thanks to **Shawn Mowery and CyberQuest of Randolph, VT** (<http://www.quest-net.com>) for providing the webspace and help in getting this technospace working. You can also e-mail us at [musicalbridges@usa.net](mailto:musicalbridges@usa.net). I encourage you to check out the web site and also e-mail your comments, suggestions and encouragement!

Finally, I am pleased and proud to announce that Tom's and my father, **Charles Dickinson**, has joined Musical Bridges as Board member and Vice-President. Mr. Dickinson is a retired business executive with 50 years of experience in helping organizations develop and achieve significant goals. His most recent affiliation is with Solectron, Inc., a worldwide leader in the contract manufacturing market. He has served on the Solectron Board for many years, including serving as Chairman, and also spent time as President of Solectron Europe. Prior to Solectron, his experience included executive responsibilities at Dataproducts, Memorex, Control Data and RCA. Aside from his for-profit experience, Mr. Dickinson has served on the Board for United Way of Southern California and given generously of his time and talents to the Endowment Fund, Inc. in Williamstown, Vermont. We look forward to his insights and guidance in continuing to develop Musical Bridges as an organization that will be vital and viable for years to come.

### LOOKING FORWARD TO 1997

This year has been the best so far, and 1997 has the potential to be even more!! The biggest project of

1997 is to bring the Chita's own Budashkin Russian Folk Instrument Ensemble to the United States on tour next October. You can get a preview of their delightful work (and support Musical Bridges) by purchasing a cassette tape of some of their performances. See page 12 for details.

We are actively looking for teachers to send to Chita to teach English. The pay is only slightly more than peanuts, but the experience is unmatched. Chita State Pedagogical Institute and Chita State Technical University have both asked us for English teachers, and more opportunities will arise across the next few years. We are also working to bring students and teachers here to study. And there are always book and magazines to be sent and libraries to be filled.

### HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Well, I'm glad you asked! While we are vigorously pursuing grant monies from a variety of sources, we cannot continue without your help, and we need it in a variety of ways. Basic cash is critical. Donate to the general fund. Or perhaps you would like to earmark your donation for a particular project—sending teachers to Chita, or teaching materials and postage to send them. There are many possibilities.

But money is not all that is needed, or maybe you can't afford to send money right now. Do you have some books you've been meaning to clear out that could be sent to Chita (perhaps you could donate the postage)? The most needed are dictionaries and other reference materials, American literature, history and economics texts, children's books, etc. Both CSTU and CSPI can use 486 and 386 computers, printers, typewriters, etc. in good condition. Or maybe you're a whiz with a database and can help us with that mundane stuff that can keep an organization from stumbling. Would you be willing to read a book onto tape? Maybe you can help us give a presentation in your community. Any of these things and more would be

very helpful.

Friends, with your help, Musical Bridges laid the foundation in 1995 to facilitate cross-cultural exchange and understanding with a part of the world that really needs it. Musical Bridges' scope has expanded and developed in 1996 through your generous support and encouragement. 1997 promises even more, but this is only possible with your continued support, both financial and in-kind. Tax deductible contributions are key, as are your ideas, suggestions and time. Let us know what you're thinking and how you might help!

And don't forget to check out that web site!!

Sincerely,

Anne L. Dickinson  
President



**P.S. Hey! Have you finished your holiday shopping yet?** If you're like most of us, the answer is no.

So, for the person who has everything, how about a contribution to Musical Bridges in his or her name? Or if you're looking for gifts and weary from poring through all the catalogs that clog your mailbox, read on, because right here in this very brochure we have a few items of our own. Yes, just a few to read through (see page 12) and all top quality. How about a snazzy Musical Bridges t-shirt with our distinctive logo for someone? They are heavyweight, all cotton, dynamite looking t-shirts, suitable for most any occasion. Or are you or any of your pals music lovers? Well, then this is the place—where else can you, in just three cassettes, span the music spectrum from classical to folk to computer generated not-quite-pop-and-not-really-New-Age? If you send them as gifts, we will even wrap them in distinctive Musical Bridges gift wrap, include a gift card, and ship them right to the recipient!

# How You Can Help

## Monetary contributions

- General Fund
- Operating budget
- Field projects: postage for mailing books, underwrite a teacher to Chita, etc.
- Endowment

## In-kind contributions

- Printing services
- Books
  - \* -Dictionaries, Encyclopedias, Histories- American and of other countries
  - \* -Books on business and economics, textbooks
  - \* -Novels, literature, children's books, first readers
- 386 and 486 personal computers, computer printers and manual typewriters in good condition
- Host a member of the Budashkin Ensemble when they come to the United States

## Volunteer

- Help with a mailing, do research at the library, record English teaching texts on your cassette player
- Take on a project
- Offer your skills & talents: marketing, fund-raising, graphic design, experience in non-profit corporation issues, event management

## Musical Bridges outreach

- Tell people about us
- Help us give a presentation in your community

## Recommend contacts

### MUSICAL BRIDGES' 1997 BUDGET

*(We will be happy to send you a copy of the budget in detail)*

*NOTE: Many of these items can be reduced through in-kind contributions and volunteering. We encourage you to see how your interests match the needs of Musical Bridges and help as you are able.*

#### ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROJECT

Teaching	24,000
Books/Magazines	2,000

#### ARTS PROJECTS

Budashkin Ensemble 1997 US Tour	65,850
Touring exhibition of photographs by Chita photographers	500

#### STUDY ABROAD

Scholarships	30,000
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#### CHITA EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Educational Development Travel Fund	6,900
Chita State Technical University	4,400

OPERATING:	66,100
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**GRAND TOTAL:**

**\$199,250**

# Premiums

**Recipes from Chita** — Hospitality is one thing for which Siberians are justly famed and it all centers on food. The cuisine is simple country-style cooking and it should solve any dietary shortages of salt and fat you may be suffering. This amusing collection was gathered by Tom Dickinson during his stay there in 1995. It contains not only recipes, but also articles on how to entertain Russian-style, picking berries and, of course, the Russian banya (bathhouse). *Receive the "Recipes from Chita" as a thank you gift for a contribution of \$50 or more.*

*Receive the following items as premiums for contributions of \$100 or more, or purchase them separately.*  
*Net proceeds go to Musical Bridges, Inc.*

**The Musical Bridges T-Shirt** — The t-shirts are silk-screened with the Musical Bridges logo (see front cover) in classic black ink on white, heavyweight, 100% cotton...and look darn classy! (Value: \$15.00)

**Two New Cassette Offerings!**

**Tape 1. Budashkin Russian Folk Instrument Ensemble of Chita, Russia** — Founded in 1984, the Budashkin Ensemble has performed all over Russia to wide acclaim. This tape exhibits their virtuosity, broad range and high spirits. Musical Bridges will bring them on tour in the United States in October 1997. (Value: \$15.00)

**Tape 2. Thomas Dickinson, Pianist** — A one-hour showcase of Tom at his other job, featuring works by Beethoven, Schumann, Brahms, Debussy and Gershwin. (Value: \$15.00)

**Tape 3. Twelve Pieces by Tom Dickinson** — A one-hour cassette of lively and melodic original compositions, not quite pop, not really New Age, but always utterly appealing. He uses his computer and synthesizer to recreate familiar and friendly sounds in a new context. (Value: \$15.00)



# Giving Levels

Your tax-deductible contribution will be recognized in our newsletter and in all Musical Bridges programs. Thank you for your support!

- \$500 and up .....Angel\*\*
- \$250-\$499.99 .....Sponsor\*\*
- \$100-\$249.99 .....Patron\*\*
- \$50-\$99.99 .....Contributor\*
- \$25-\$49.99 .....Friend
- \$0.01-\$24.99 .....Neighbor

\* Receive the "Recipes from Chita" as a thank you for contributions of \$50 or more

\*\* At the \$100 or more level, you may choose to receive, in addition, one of the three cassettes or the Musical Bridges t-shirt as a thank you. Please note: the value of the tape or t-shirt cannot be counted as tax-deductible according to Federal law.

# Return Mailer

please fill out, detach and mail to:  
 Musical Bridges, Inc.  
 Rt. 1 Box 1484, Williamstown, VT 05679

cut here

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zipcode \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_

Musical Bridges, Inc. is recognized as a not-for-profit charitable organization by the Federal Government, and your contributions to it are tax-deductible.

Please check this box if you would like your contribution to remain anonymous.

If your contribution is \$50 or more you will receive the "Recipes from Chita" booklet. At \$100 or more you may choose to receive one of the following as well. Check the box next to your choice. Please note: the

*Read about the following items on the previous page.*

- Musical Bridges T-shirt Check size:  Medium  Large  X-Large
- Tape 1--The Budashkin Russian Folk Instrument Ensemble
- Tape 2--Thomas Dickinson, Pianist
- Tape 3--Twelve Pieces by Tom Dickinson

## Order Form

**Musical Bridges T-shirt (\$15.00)**  
 Number \_\_\_\_\_ Sizes (M.L.XL) \_\_\_\_\_  
**Tape 1 (\$15.00)** Number \_\_\_\_\_ T-shirt total \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**Tape 2 (\$15.00)** Number \_\_\_\_\_  
**Tape 3 (\$15.00)** Number \_\_\_\_\_ Cassette total \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Please add \$3.00 postage and handling for the first two items and \$1.00 for each additional

*Make checks payable to "Musical Bridges, Inc."*

**Grand Total \$** \_\_\_\_\_

Please add your comments, questions and additional names on the back of this form.