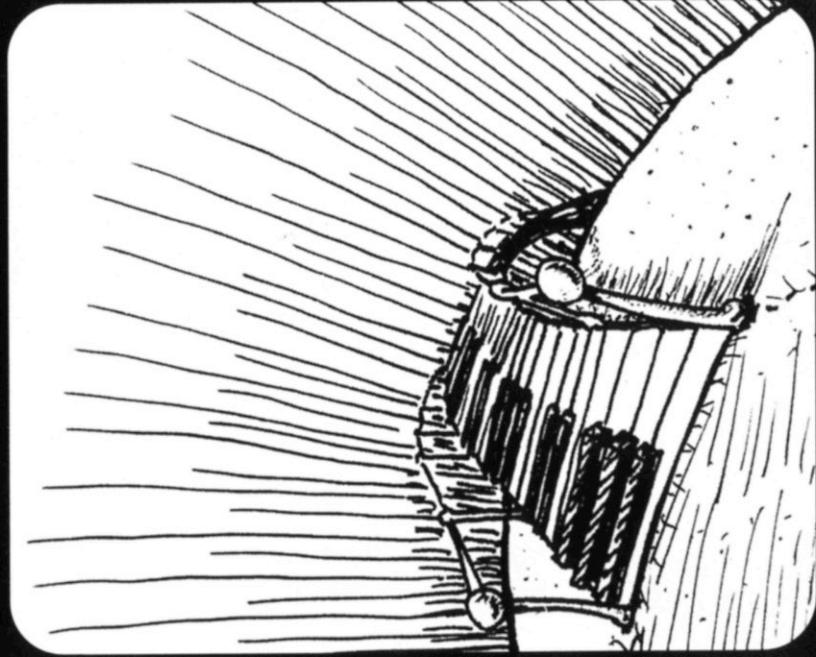


# Musical Bridges Inc.



Access, opportunity  
and good neighbors  
through cultural exchange

**M**usical Bridges works in the remote Siberian capital city of Chita and Chita Region promoting “access, opportunity and good neighbors” through cultural exchange.

Devoted to helping Chita bring itself successfully through this difficult post-Soviet transition, its work focuses on two areas: education and the arts. Education projects include promoting relationships between American and Chita institutions, sending English teachers, assisting in student and teacher exchange and providing teaching materials including books and magazine subscriptions. In the arts it promotes exchanges in the per-

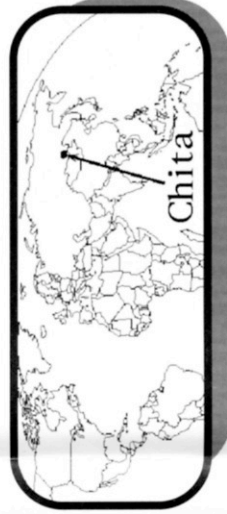
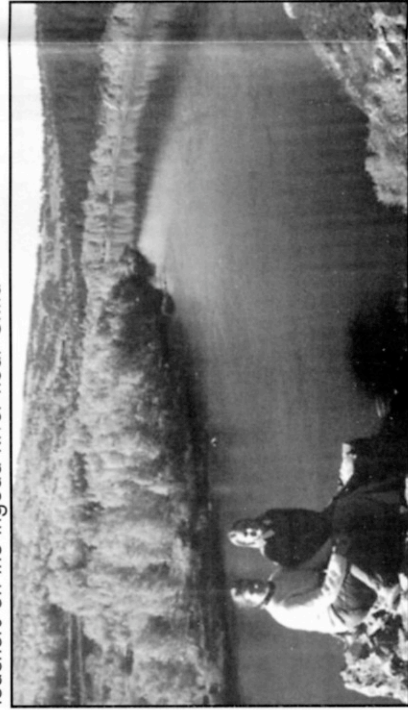


Olga Flesher, Visiting Scholar at Southern Connecticut State University giving a public lecture in Connecticut

forming and visual arts. The organization also assists institutions and individuals to access resources and develop contacts.

Musical Bridges was founded in 1993 by pianist Thomas Dickinson following his third visit to Chita. In 1989, Mr. Dickinson became the first Western artist to perform in Chita since 1922, returning on tour again in 1991. In 1992, he came to Chita a third time to teach music and English--the first Western music

Stacy Neterer and Frances Werle, Musical Bridges' 1997-98 teachers on the Ingoda River near Chita



teacher and first native speaker ever to teach English in Chita.

Its first major project was to send Mr. Dickinson back in 1995 to Chita for ten months of teaching and performing. At the same time, Musical Bridges began to provide books and magazine subscriptions for the Chita State Pedagogical Institute. The second major project began with a request by Chita State Technical University (CSTU) for assistance finding a sister university in the United States. Through Musical Bridges efforts and support, there is now a developing relationship between CSTU and Southern Connecticut State University in New Haven. Ongoing projects include assisting Chita's Intercollegiate Council with resource development and supporting English instruction by sending more English teachers to several institutions and Chita's school system, and by significantly increasing the number of English language books throughout the city and Region.



Thomas Dickinson, Musical Bridges' first teacher in Chita, 1995

**“Before we arrived in Chita it was only a place on the map which seemed fairly remote and quite mysterious. Now that we are here we know that it is VERY remote, but much less mystifying....In accordance with the goals of Musical Bridges, we believe that our presence here is making not only the English language, but also Americans and the “American way” seem much less enigmatic to Chiticians as well.”**

Frances Werle and Stacy Neterer American teachers of English sent by Musical Bridges to Chita's Zabaikalsky State Pedagogical University for the 1997-98 academic year

**Musical Bridges, Inc.**

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***“I owe the privilege of taking part in this cultural exchange to Musical Bridges without which the relationship between our two universities would never have gotten off the ground. I am proud to know some of the MB members in person and I admire their enthusiasm and ability to make things happen.”***

Professor Olga Flesher  
Chita State Technical University, Chita, Russia  
first Visiting Scholar from Chita  
to Southern Connecticut State University  
New Haven, Connecticut

***“... We wish to acknowledge with sincere gratitude receipt of your parcels with books and magazines. We are immensely grateful to you for the time and trouble you have taken on our behalf..Those materials are of great interest to our Library. We appreciate very much your efforts in our Library's stocking.”***

N. S. Lapenkova, Director  
Main Regional Library Named After A. C. Pushkin  
Chita, Russia