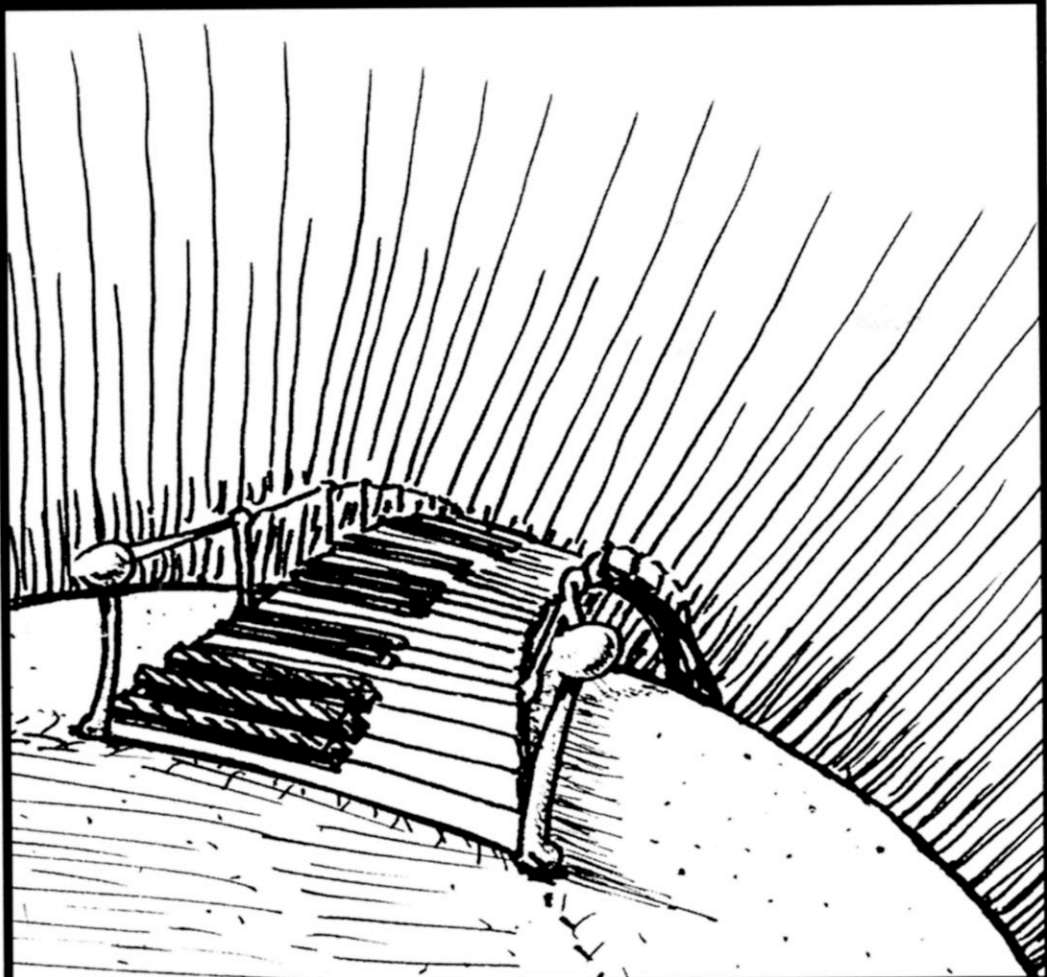


# MUSICAL BRIDGES, INC.

Route 1 Box 1484, Williamstown, Vermont 05679



*Access, opportunity and good neighbors  
through cultural exchange*

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# MUSICAL BRIDGES, INC.

Route 1 Box 1484, Williamstown, Vermont 05679

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Incorporated April 6, 1993, Provisional tax-exempt status awarded by the Federal government, April 14, 1994

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Anne L. Dickinson**

President

**Eileen M. Ogle**

Vice-President

**Thomas G. Dickinson**

Secretary, Treasurer

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Music Director, Orchestra New England, New Haven, Connecticut

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Director, Newberry Opera House Foundation, Newberry, South Carolina

## **Musical Bridges' Mission**

Musical Bridges, Inc., a charitable, fund-raising organization, is dedicated to promoting mutual understanding and good neighbor relations between countries by providing educational and cultural exchange support and direct services.

## **Musical Bridges' Statement of Principles**

We are all brothers and sisters by virtue of our humanity. Mutual understanding breeds tolerance; tolerance breeds peace. Increasing contact can lead to increased understanding and tolerance, to being good neighbors and therefore, to greater peace in our world.

Musical Bridges, Inc. recognizes the equal value and dignity of the diverse cultures of our world and in no way intends to promote one culture or value systems as superior to any other.

Musical Bridges and its representatives abroad will represent the United States in an honorable and responsible way.

The primary responsibility of Musical Bridges' officers and directors is to identify the resources for the organizations' activities and provide the leadership that will support the implementation of the organization's strategic plan.

# Letter from the Field

(Tom Dickinson writes on his Musical Bridges-sponsored teaching trip to Chita, Russia and Jinan, China, January-November 1995)

*My ten months abroad, teaching and performing in Chita, Russia and Jinan, China were eye-openers for me. I had been to Chita three times already, and once to Jinan. This, however, was my longest stay in Chita—nine and a half months—and the chance to settle in, to learn a little Russian and to get past the initial warm welcome and make some deeper friendships forced me to rethink my views of Russia, of what Musical Bridges is all about, and, generally, to get some perspective on the great variety of ways there are to be human.*

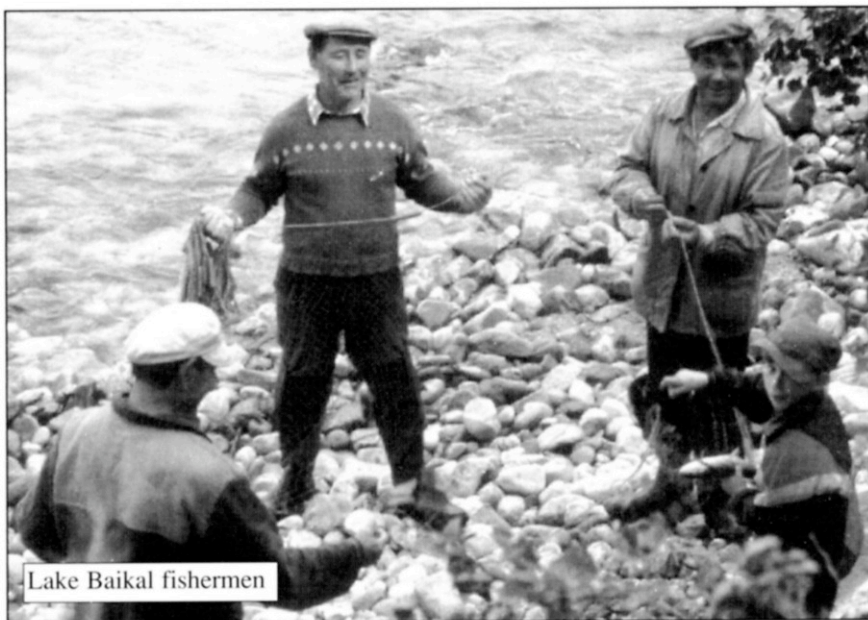
*It was so easy to come to Chita from a wealthy, successful country and assume that the way I thought the world turned was probably right—at least better than how they did. And the warm respect I received for my being there and for the things I had to say did not help me wake from this dream very quickly.*



Tom teaching at the Pedagogical Institute

*Slowly, though, as I settled into the rhythms and patterns of Chita, I began to appreciate the charm and beauty of Russian life, and became more careful not to present my American ways as things to take on lock, stock and barrel. I began to enjoy walking and using the excellent public bus system, eating home-cooked meals all the time, dropping by unannounced for visits and getting such visits from my friends. I became spoiled by the attention to hospitality and by the way clock time was treated as a stiff, barely tolerated cousin to “hospitality time.” And I cannot slight the wonderful tradition of the long, leisurely Russian banya (bath) with friends and family.*

*Without exception, however, my friends, students and colleagues in Chita thought of America as some kind of paradise, and I found myself teaching about how much work this “paradise” really is—from the complexities of American banking and mortgages, to writing resumes and finding a job, from all the bills that weigh on the average person on a monthly basis, to finding the money for a child’s college education.*



*These attitudes about the US didn’t arise out of the blue, of course. The Russians participated in one of the greatest social experiments of the 20th century which had been presented as being in direct competition with our American system. It is no wonder a strong curiosity and almost envy for “the winners” should appear. Within the context of Russia’s long, sad history, Chita itself was closed to the outside world for over 60 years. Its citizens simply don’t have the contacts yet, or even a clear notion of what the rest of the world is like and how to deal with it. They are now part of another of the great social changes of our time--learning entirely new ways to govern themselves, work, deal with money and property and even to relate to each other (discussions about “business” vs “personal” relationships were fascinating.) It is a most remarkable and difficult transformation--radically shifting, yet again, the direction of their nation--and trying to do it without revolution and without war. Heirs to the mess of the failed Soviet Union, living far away from the centers of Russian culture and faced with herculean tasks, the citizens of Chita tend to see anywhere else as a better place than home.*

As this context became clearer to me, the value of an organization such as *Musical Bridges* came into better focus, also. Democracy and free market economics function poorly in a completely centralized system. Chita, always a satellite in the past, now must develop some economic and political independence. To do that, especially in these first stages, the citizens of Chita need to look for partnerships, help and ideas outside Moscow, outside Russia. The best single tool for doing this is English. They need to meet people. They need to hear stories and see examples of success in these new systems. They need models to inspire, encourage and light a fire. *Musical Bridges* can do these things.



I realized after a while that my value as an English teacher did not lie in my teaching abilities. It lay half in being a native speaker, and half in simply my being there so students, teachers and friends could make contact--find out what "American energy" is really like. They could hear stories from an old free market, an old democracy, and see how these things affect one person for good and bad, knowing they are headed in this direction themselves. Such contacts can be held up as a mirror so they can see what it is they really want, and if they need help, can then ask for it specifically.

These requests are already coming in. The Chita State Technical University, a new institution grown out of the old Polytechnical Institute, asked *Musical Bridges* to help them find a "sister" university in the US for curriculum assistance, books, guest lecturers and student exchange. They also asked me to return and help write and record texts. The Chita State Pedagogical Institute has asked for more English teachers. I was asked to make a cassette of the text of a young girl's first reader. There are no tapes like this, only long-play records which cannot be taken home. *Musical Bridges* and its friends here in America can make such tapes for many of the texts. We were asked to help a student, already accepted to college in the US at over half

scholarship, find the rest of the money for the first year (personal salaries in Chita average less than \$2000 a year, making it impossible for a parent to even consider helping his child take advantage of such an opportunity.) We were invited to bring an exhibition of photographs to the US of Chita Region by Chita photographers. I haven't mentioned Jinan, China, yet, mainly because our relationship there is still in its early stages, but I've been asked to come back to advise on the formation of a new music school and for more teaching and performing.

I wish I could bring you all to Chita to have a look and to meet my friends. There are some deep-down similarities between our cultures going hand in hand with wonderful, often exasperating, differences. The intensity, even seriousness, of their hospitality is something we can learn from, while they seem to cherish our "Let's go!" spirit. But even more important than learning anything was simply the joy of being with them, of sharing time, possibly a toast and a banya, of learning that fundamental thing my nine year-old niece, Allison, seems to know already.

Allison, along with her family (my brother, Joe, Karen and Dan), my sister, Anne, and Eileen Ogle all came to visit last August. It was, in my brother's words, "the trip of a lifetime," to the far side of the world. But walking along a Chita avenue one day, Allison said, "You know, there's no reason to come all the way here. It's just the same as home." She may be wise beyond her years, but I suspect most of us need to see, to shake hands, to say hello and how are you—to find out we all have the same last name.



The Dickinsons and the Checheotkins. (Sergei C., seated 2nd from left, was my first link to Chita.)

If you can't come, I hope you will let Musical Bridges help you make this connection. Support its activities; read about them; find some way you can participate.

*Tom Dickinson*

# History of Musical Bridges

The seeds of Musical Bridges are found in a trip pianist Thomas Dickinson made at Christmastime 1988 to China to meet concert presenters and arrange a concert tour there. His contacts took him to northeast China, an area which, at that time and even now, receives few Western artists. There was great enthusiasm for having him come back on tour.

The first glimpse of China is always eye-opening, but it was made all the more remarkable for Mr. Dickinson when he found himself sharing a train compartment with six Russians from the Siberian city of Chita while travelling from Shenyang to Harbin, the two provincial capitals in that part of China. When they learned why Mr. Dickinson was there they encouraged him to come to their city, the closest Soviet city to Beijing and lying on the Beijing-Moscow train route.

What made this chance encounter so wonderful was how it reflected the enormous changes taking place in our world. Chita had been closed to the outside world—a military center, a repository of nuclear missiles aimed at the US and China—since shortly after the Revolution in 1917, opening to the world only five months before in August 1988. These men, representing various state enterprises, proudly showed their brand new international passports. For them it was a miracle that they were actually travelling in China, when only a few years before, China and the USSR were edging toward war, and then that they should meet an American!

The meeting was momentous for Mr. Dickinson, as well. He never imagined when he was practicing as a child, or beginning his concert career, that one day it would bring him to perform in the two great socialist countries of the world, countries he grew up learning to hate and fear, let alone on one tour—and not only in major cities like Shanghai and Beijing, but in parts of these countries that rarely see Americans.

It was momentous for another reason, for it was the beginning of Mr. Dickinson's expanding relationship with the city of Chita. The 1989 tour was followed by another in 1991 to China (Shenyang, Harbin and Jinan) and the Soviet Union (Chita, Irkutsk, Khabarovsk, Angarsk, Ulan Ude). In 1992, following the collapse of the Soviet Union, he returned to Chita a third time to teach music and English, becoming the first foreign teacher at the Music College and the first native speaker ever to teach English in Chita.

It was on this third visit that the lessons of his several trips began to sink in and he became aware of the serious need for neighborly contact between the West and these remote parts of China and Russia. This awareness was intensified by how warmly, and almost desperately, his teaching was welcomed in Chita. All this led him to form Musical Bridges, Inc. with his sister, Anne, and Deborah Smith as a way to facilitate addressing these needs.

Musical Bridges was incorporated in 1993 following his return home from Chita, and its first major fund-raiser took place the following year—sending Mr. Dickinson back in 1995 to Chita for ten months of teaching and performing and a week-long residency in Jinan, China. The first monies also provided books and magazine subscriptions for the Chita State Pedagogical Institute.

The success of these projects and the interest shown for the work of Musical Bridges both by his Russian and Chinese hosts, and also by the “charter donors” here in the United States who made the projects possible through their contributions, are very encouraging. Some contributors have even donated their own books, magazines and tapes to worthy institutions in Chita. These successes contain the promise of a major expansion of Musical Bridges’ activities in 1996 and the years following.

The primary objective of Musical Bridges is still, as it was from the start, to encourage good neighbor relationships through cultural exchange. For now, these activities will be confined to working with various educational institutions in Chita and Chita Region and, to a lesser extent, Jinan, China. In the long run, it is hoped that Musical Bridges will be able to expand to include other cities of Chita Region and Siberia, and to develop stronger ties with Jinan and other Chinese cities.



Chita's farmers' market



# Completed Projects

- Tom Dickinson taught English and consulted with teachers and students at the Language Faculty of the Chita State Pedagogical Institute (CSPI) from February-October 1995. He also taught piano and lectured at the Chita State Music College from February-October and at the Chita Central Music School in October. He presented a recital at Philharmonia Hall in Chita. He was in residence in Jinan, China presenting recitals and master classes at the CPPCC Hotel in November.
- Subscriptions to Newsweek, Business Week and Good Housekeeping were provided for the Language Faculty of the CSPI.
- Books were sent to the Language Faculty of the CSPI, the Chita State Technical University (CSTU) and The Ornament Children's Aesthetic Center.
- Books were donated and mailed to the CSTU by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Dickinson, Ms. Stella Werner, Miss Jean Woods and Dr. Paul Best. Cassette tapes of primarily American artists and music were donated and mailed to the Chita State Music College by William Wright.



# Current and Future Projects

## CHITA

- Send English instructors from the US to Chita to teach at CSPI, in the public school system and possibly in small cities in the region such as Aginskoye and Krasnokamensk.
  - Make study tapes of Russian textbooks used in the schools for English study to be copied and distributed throughout the city.
  - Musical Bridges has been given permission to act on behalf of the new Humanities Department of the CSTU in the following capacities:
    - To help create a relationship with a higher education institution with a focus on business, economics and/or American studies. Through this relationship the CSTU hopes to gain technical assistance on curriculum, on teaching free market economics, business practices and [non-Soviet] country studies,
    - To develop a program of guest lecturers
    - To develop a student exchange program and
    - To receive teaching materials.
- Musical Bridges will help find teaching materials, especially dictionaries, textbooks and business-related books.
- Books and periodicals
    - Continue to provide the Newsweek, Business Week and Good Housekeeping subscriptions to the Language Faculty of the CSPI and possibly expand to include other periodicals. Also continue to send books there.

- Send books to other institutions, including medical texts and periodicals to the Regional Children's Hospital and all types of books to the main city library.
- Arrange for sending the complete "The Frances Clark Library for Piano Students" (a gift of Frances Clark) to the Chita Central Music School.
- Study in the US
  - Research study opportunities and funding in the US for students and teachers.
  - Continue to send materials and advise students on their own efforts to study in the US
  - We are already helping two students: Sergei Gomziakov, student at the Language Faculty of the CSPI has been accepted to a university in Wisconsin and we are helping him find funding. Marina Yakovlyeva, a student at the Irkutsk State Economic Academy, Chita Branch, has applied to study banking in the US under a US government scholarship. If she does not get it, we will help her find an alternative program.
- Tom Dickinson (spring-summer 1997)
  - Help prepare texts for English language and American country studies at the CSTU
  - Teach at the Central Music School and Music College
  - Present concerts in Chita Region and other parts of Siberia.

## JINAN

- Identify and develop projects based on the expressed interest of Musical Bridges' hosts for Tom Dickinson to return and advise and teach at a new music school.

## USA

- Organize and manage a photo exhibition(s) in 1996 of work by Chita photographers showing the region and its inhabitants.
- Organize and manage a concert tour in 1997 for the nine-member Budashkin Folk Instrument Ensemble of Chita.

## ***Musical Bridges Development***

- Seek out and establish a loyal and responsible group of volunteers.
- Consult with experts in non-profit management, planning and fund-raising.
- Make detailed project plans for staff and volunteers so that potential help will be encouraged to take on responsibility for projects (given the small size of Musical Bridges' staff, volunteers will be working much of the time without close supervision).
- Increase public knowledge of Musical Bridges' organization and activities through development of a comprehensive brochure, placement of a "World Wide Web" page on the Internet, mailings using an expanded mailing list, fund-raising events (slide and lecture presentations, musical performances, etc.) and local media attention.
- Raise funds to administer and underwrite already identified projects, to be able to hire staff and/or consultants and to establish an endowment.

***See anything that interests you?  
Go to page 13 And see how you can volunteer!***

# Our Contributors

## *1996 (January - March)*

### *Angels*

Eileen Ogle, Hamden, Connecticut

### *Sponsors*

### *Patrons*

Paul Best, Higganum, Connecticut (Donation and In-kind)

Tom Dickinson, New Haven, Connecticut

Jim Sinclair, New Haven, Connecticut

### *Contributors*

Dave Benson, Athens, Georgia

Donald Currier, Guilford, Connecticut

Anne Dickinson, Hudson, Massachusetts

Deborah Smith, Newberry, South Carolina (Donation and In-kind)

### *Friends*

Doris Senstad, Minneapolis, Minnesota

### *Neighbors*

## *1995*

### *Angels*

Charles & Jean Dickinson, Williamstown, Vermont

### *Sponsors*

Eileen Ogle, Hamden, Connecticut

### *Patrons*

Anonymous

Dave Benson, Athens, Georgia

Kay Boyce, Stillwater, Minnesota

Ed Chansky, Westport, Connecticut

Rosalie Wahl, Lake Elmo, Minnesota

### *Contributors*

Nancy Barrer, Westport, Connecticut

William Wright, East Lansing, Michigan (Donation and In-kind)

Jean L'Allier, Wilton, Connecticut

### *Friends*

Jean Woods, Clear Spring, Maryland (In-kind)

Richard Stoll, New Haven, Connecticut

Paul Best, Higganum, Connecticut

Olivier & Joelle Perz, Kula, Hawaii

Stella Werner, Anchorage, Alaska (In-kind)

G. & A. White, North Branford, Connecticut

### *Neighbors*

Kevin McDonough, St. Paul, Minnesota

Paul Bloom, New Haven, Connecticut

### **VOLUNTEERS**

*Jean Dickinson, Williamstown, Vermont*

1994

**Angels**

Anne Dickinson, Hudson, Massachusetts  
Charles & Jean Dickinson, Williamstown, Vermont

**Sponsors**

**Patrons**

Anonymous

Dick & Cheri Dickinson, Santa Monica, California  
Peter Dickinson, MD, Gibsonia, Pennsylvania  
Tom Dickinson, New Haven, Connecticut  
Greg & Mary Sue Huckabee, Boulder, Colorado  
Il Jin Sunim, Seoul, Korea  
Ron & Andrea Konetchy, New Haven, Connecticut  
Chris & Gloria Krahn, East Montpelier, Vermont  
Anne Mauro, North Haven, Connecticut  
Jean Woods, Clear Spring, Maryland

**Contributors**

Charles Duncan, MD, New Haven, Connecticut  
Bruce & Heather St. John, Mendham, New Jersey  
Jean Dickinson, Williamstown, Vermont  
Sue Wilcox, Denver, Colorado

**Friends**

Joseph Dickinson, Minneapolis, Minnesota  
Doris Cotton, Boulder, Colorado  
Robert St. John, St. Petersburg, Florida

**Neighbors**

Erwin Eckson, Williamstown, Vermont  
Myra Taylor, New York, New York

**VOLUNTEERS**

*Donald & Charlotte Currier, Guilford, Connecticut*  
*Jean Dickinson, Williamstown, Vermont*  
*Eileen Ogle, Hamden, Connecticut*



Zabaikalyan forest

# Board Biographies

## Anne L. Dickinson, President

Anne Dickinson is Treasury Manager for PerSeptive Biosystems of Framingham, Massachusetts. She has held managerial positions in Treasury and Sales Operations and Commercial Contracts with GenRad, Inc. Her business acumen, her strengths in cash management and understanding of the complexities of the world economy, with which she has long experience and works daily, serve the interests of Musical Bridges well. She received her BA from Kalamazoo and MBA from Babson College. Ms. Dickinson is also a marathoner and has run the Pittsburgh, Twin Cities and Burlington marathons.

## Eileen M. Ogle, Vice President

Eileen Ogle is a Physician Assistant and Lecturer in pediatric neurosurgery at Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut. A member of the Board of Directors of the New Haven Chorale, Ms. Ogle is actively involved in grant writing and fund raising. She has had a life long involvement in traditional Irish music and dance, both locally and abroad.

## Thomas G. Dickinson, Secretary, Treasurer

Concert pianist Thomas Dickinson has brought his music and expertise to audiences and students across the United States and around the world. From Alaska, where he was President and a founding member of Augustine's Artists Music Festival, to England, where he debuted in London with the Orchestra of St. John's Smith Square, to China and Russia, where, on his landmark 1989 tour, he was the first Western artist to cross the Sino-Russian border since 1959. He was a two-time recipient of an ITT Fellowship for study in Paris. He received his Doctor of Musical Arts degree from Yale University.

# Participation

## Giving Levels

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

Over \$500 .....	Angel**
\$250-\$499.99 .....	Sponsor**
\$100-\$249.99 .....	Patron**
\$50-\$99.99 .....	Contributor*
\$25-\$49.99 .....	Friend
\$0-\$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, the "Twelve Pieces by Tom Dickinson" cassette 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.

# How You Can Help

## **Monetary contributions**

- Operating budget
- Field projects
- Endowment

## **Other 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
- Old 386 and 486 personal computers, old computer printers, good quality manual typewriters

## **Volunteer**

- Help with a mailing
- Do research at the library
- Record a tape 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**

***Join the team:  
VOLUNTEER!***

## 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, the Musical Bridges bridge and name (see front cover) in classic black ink on white, heavyweight, 100% cotton and look darn classy! (Value: \$15.00)

Twelve Pieces by Tom Dickinson — Tom Dickinson has composed 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)

We will soon have a World Wide Web page! Send your email address and we'll tell you when!



Homeward after a day at the dacha

# A Letter of Appreciation

from the Department of International Studies ("Countrystudy"),  
Chita State Technical University



Dear Friends !

We are happy to inform you that we have received the three parcels, which you so kindly sent for the benefit of the newly established Department of Countrystudy in Chita State Technical University. We'd like to express our deep appreciation for your contribution to promoting the cause of education in our city. This concrete deed testifies to a real concern, which American people have for Russia, which is going through a difficult period of transition now.

We are very grateful to the "Musical Bridges" Organization which more than once sponsored humanitarian programs in cultural and educational spheres and thus aided our city's development.

We thank you again.

With hopes for further cooperation and deep respect

Head of the Department

of Countrystudy

 O. Gotlieb

15.01.96.