

Greenwich Historical Society

Explore our colorful past

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Encore Performance of “Over Here and Over There”: Music of WWI To Be Performed at Greenwich Historical Society

Cos Cob, CT, March 19, 2015—Music played a key role in the development of popular opinion during WWI. Everything from lyrics to cover art was designed to sway popular opinion, and as political sentiment shifted from neutrality to direct support for the allies, so did the tone of mainstream music. Prior to US involvement in 1917, many songs supported neutrality and would even invoke a mother’s love as good reason to keep a son at home. Once the US began sending troops to Europe, patriotic themes prevailed.

Back by popular demand, on Friday, April 17, the Greenwich Historical Society, in conjunction with its current exhibition *Greenwich Faces the Great War*, will present an encore performance of “Over Here and Over There,” an exploration of the music of WWI in a program performed by Stefanie and Bill Kies, Peggy De La Cruz, John Goldschmid and Dan Swartz—all long-standing and well-known members of the Greenwich music scene. Notes group leader Stefanie Kies, “We plan to honor the music of the time as we honor the 100th anniversary of this world-changing historical event. At the time, popular music directly reflected political views at home and abroad, with songs written to drum up support or evoke a sense of duty. There were stirring marches, paeans to patriotism, and songs about home, parents, sweethearts, camp life and sacrifice. Some songs were simply comical, told stories and poked vicious puns at the enemy! Be prepared to sing a few songs yourselves! The sing-a-long was a venerated institution of the time.”

Stefanie and Bill Kies, both avid history buffs, met while singing in a folk group at Christ Church Greenwich in 1980 and have been involved in a variety of musical activities ever since. For the past 15 years Stefanie has acted as co-music director at the Dingtletown Church along with John Goldschmid, where Bill is a favorite soloist. Through Greenwich Chaplaincy, Stefanie provides music weekly for nondenominational services at both Nathaniel Witherell and River House.

Suprano Peggy De La Cruz has been well known in the local vocal scene since the 1970s. A mainstay of the famed sextet Bob Button and the Bows, she also remains involved in groups 3 For the Road, the Park Street Singers and Connecticut Playmakers.

Old Greenwich native John Goldschmid formed his first band at Eastern Junior High School in the 1960s. If it’s Sunday, you will find him at the Dingtletown Community Church. If it’s Saturday night, look for him in any number of local spots playing a wide range of music from jazz standards through classic rock ’n’ roll.

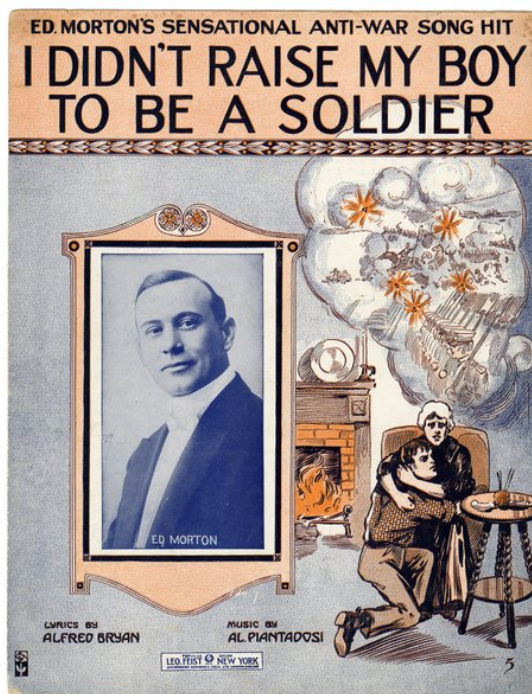
Dan Swartz, baritone and guitarist, is best known locally for his performances through the Connecticut Playmakers, Greenwich's Angel Choir and local a cappella groups, drawing material from *American Songbook* standards and pop music. Locally, Dan volunteers weekly at Nathaniel Witherell and plays special engagements at restaurants, bars, art centers and senior centers.

The group's first creative work at the Greenwich Historical Society was a musical production of Civil War music performed at the Historical Society's Vanderbilt Education Center on Lincoln's Birthday, 2012, to a sold-out crowd. Don't miss this unique blend of music and history. Because of the snow storm on March 1, unused tickets for that performances will be honored.

Friday, April 17, 2015, 7:00 to 8:30 pm
Greenwich Historical Society, Vanderbilt Education Center
39 Strickland Road, Cos Cob, CT 06807
Members: \$10; nonmembers: \$15

Attendees also receive free admission to the current exhibition in the Storehouse Gallery, *Greenwich Faces the Great War*, one hour before each performance.

For tickets, visit www.greenwichhistory.org or call 203-869-6899, Ext. 10. Reservations are not required.



More sheet music covers may be seen and period music may be heard on iPads that are part of the interactive experience of *Greenwich Faces the Great War*. The exhibition ends March 22; hours are noon to 4:00 pm, Wednesday through Sunday. Admission is free to members; \$10 for adults; \$8 for students and seniors. Admission is free to the public the first Wednesday of each month.