

WORCESTER
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

CLARK STREET
DEVELOPMENTAL LEARNING SCHOOL

ELIZABETH A. JOHNSON
PRINCIPAL

280 CLARK STREET
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS 01606-1219
(508) 799-3545

February 27, 1996

Ms. Ruth Pelham
Music Mobile, Inc.
P.O. Box 6024
Albany, New York 12206

Dear Ruth,

It has been almost a month since your artist-in-residency at Clark Street Developmental Learning School, yet it is difficult to believe you are not still in the building. As I walk through the halls your presence is felt in many ways. I may visit a second grade class where one of your tapes is playing softly in the background as the students work busily on-task. In a first grade, the whole class may be sitting on the rug singing along with one of your tapes. The fifth grade may be proudly singing "their" song which they wrote with you. At indoor recess, a small group of children may be sitting in a corner singing another song you wrote with them. And, of course, at All-Sing, "Under One Sky" has become our very own "national anthem."

Your presence in the building for a few short days has breathed new life into our spirit of caring, sharing and learning. It is always important for our students to realize that these sentiments which we foster within the school are also important to people outside of school -- even sometimes famous people. It helps to validate what goes on at Clark Street School on a daily basis. You not only did that for us, you also added your own spirit and music and left those with us to add to the mix.

We appreciate your coming to us, caring about us, and sharing with us. We are already looking forward to a return visit. It's always nice to visit with friends.

Sincerely,



John G. Riccio
Assistant Principal



Pittsfield Public Schools

Pittsfield, Massachusetts 01201

Superintendent

John A. Kreiger

Ruth Pelham
Music Mobile, Inc.
P.O. Box 6024
Albany, New York 12206

Williams School
Edward J. Basinski, Principal

February 7, 1994

Dear Ruth:

Enclosed please find the check from our P.T.O.

On behalf of our third grade and kindergaten students, teachers, and parents at Williams Elementary School, I want to thank you for the wonderful artist in residency program you presented to us in November.

As this was our school's first experience with a residency program, we hoped for a very positive one. As it turned out, we couldn't have been more pleased. This was definitely this years' highlight for these students and their teachers.

Your instrument building workshops were fascinating to watch. The kindergartners immediately fell under the spell of your charm. The pride they felt in having built the instruments themselves and then performing with them in the concert was heartwarming.

As I watched you sitting on the floor with the third grade students, brainstorming for lyrics, I was very impressed with your ability to work with and draw from the students. You dignify their contributions as well as encourage them when necessary. I was particularly impressed with your use of the democratic process when the lyrics began to stray from the predetermined topic. These students had good reason to sing out as proudly as they did at the concert. Their songs were their own!

By the way, I have learned that since your visit these classes have continued to use your brainstorming techniques in other areas of their studies. They clear away their desks, sit on the floor in circular form, and have very successful participatory discussions.

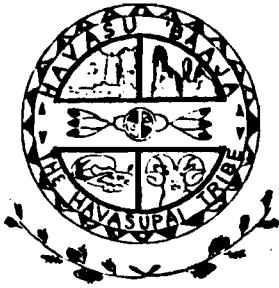
These students' lives have truly been enriched! As one third grade teacher put it, "These children will never forget this program". In fact, their bond with you was very evident when they heard the news of your accident. They were deeply concerned for your well being and very relieved to hear you were unharmed.

You are a very talented teacher and artist. We wish you well in all of your endeavors. We hope you can visit us again in the future.

Sincerely yours,

Diana Leibinger
Diana Leibinger

Chairperson - Cultural Enrichment Programs



HAVASUPAI TRIBE
EDUCATION PROGRAMS
SUPAI, ARIZONA 86435
May 30, 1990

Havasupai School P.O. Box 40
(602) 448-2901
(602) 448-2071

Ms. Ruth Pelham
Director Music Mobile, Inc.
P.O. Box 6024
Albany, New York 12206

Dear Ruth:

When I invited you to visit our school for a week during April, I thought I was inviting a musician who would spend a week with the students helping fill in the hole created by no music program at the school. We fill in with various consultants and teachers as we can.

What actually occurred, however, was beyond all expectations. You not only fulfilled your agreement to help the students write songs, sing, and engaged in a week of cooperative learning, but helped immeasurably to build their self-esteem and pride as Indians by their writing of the uranium songs.

I have worked with these students over the past six years and have seen them grow and develop, and have seen the sense of crushing hopelessness in them and in their people over the proposed uranium mining on the rim of the Canyon. They feel that their sacred ground is being violated and that they will be annihilated by the waste products. When the students told me about their songs, and when I listened to them, I could see and feel a sense of self-sufficiency and ability to control their own destiny surging within them.

When you returned to sing at the graduation with them, I saw adults in the audience so moved that they were crying. These were also men, who do not cry easily and did not want me to see the looks on their faces. I saw and heard adults join in the singing, and these people do not easily do that. Also, at a time such as graduation, these songs helped to bring a focus to the future and some hope in that the students feel that perhaps they can continue on in their educations and have their voices count for something in the world.

I hope that in the future you will continue your visits to the Havasupai and further develop the wonderful work that you have started here. You have been able to use music as a vehicle to stir elements deep within these children that bring out some of their best qualities and help enable them to develop as the truly great people that they are and will become.

Sincerely,

Betty Hastings
Principal

Administration
Principal
Margaret D. Perrott

Assistant Principal
Kirsten M. DeMento

Watervliet Junior-Senior High School

1245 Hillside Drive
Watervliet, New York 12189-2499
Telephone (518) 273-4240
Fax: (518) 273-1207

Guidance Department
(518) 273-4565

Kelly Creaser
Lori H. Genito
Monica Poznanski

September 16, 2003

Dear Arts and Education Coordinator,

During the 2002-2003 school year, the tenth grade English Language Arts teachers at Watervliet High School decided to deepen their already committed study of the human tragedy of the Holocaust by exploring with students a number of other 20th century campaigns of ethnic genocidal violence.

In order to ensure that student's study would allow for thoughtful response, the teachers wrote a grant application to the Creative Connections Re-Grant Program entitled: Voices of War: Visions of Peace requesting funding for artists participation in the process. Singer/song-writer Ruth Pelham was hired through this grant.

Ruth's challenge was to both help teachers inform students about the tragedy of ethnic violence by recounting her personal experiences as an ambassador for peace in Sri Lanka as well as to help students create 5 songs which were class-based reflections on student's study of violence in Northern Ireland, the former Yugoslavia, Rwanda, Ireland, as well as the Holocaust study itself, songs which might be used as teaching tools for younger students. This was a daunting task given the darkness and seriousness of the material and the age of the student participants.

Ruth embraced this challenge. In each of five sections of English 10 classes, Ruth helped students grapple with the heart of the darkness they'd encountered, prodding and gently nudging them to discover core themes and working with them patiently, tirelessly to shape these into pieces that exhibited their own garnered understanding of others.

Ruth's patience, persistence and prescience were impressive. It was clear throughout the process that her commitment to the questions and issues raised by the material matched the teachers; her passion for peace, rationality and justice were evident at every turn. This integrity of purpose gave the students, their minds, their reflections, their fears and doubts served to model the very values under study.

Under Ruth's deft guidance and personal commitment, the end result was impressive: one hundred and ten 15 and 16 year olds singing songs of wisdom for each other, at a morning "Symposium for Peace." The songs were moving but the sense that hearts and minds had been engaged, with students and artist coming to community and mutual respect was even more so.

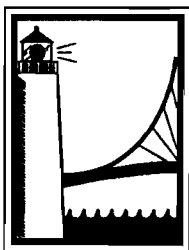
The patience, wisdom, depth of personal commitment, artistic talent, experience and flexibility of Ruth Pelham made this possible.

Sincerely,



Maureen Aumand
Project Coordinator

"Excellence for Everyone"



THOUSAND ISLANDS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

CLAYTON, NEW YORK 13624

March 27, 1990

Ruth Pelham
Music Mobile, Inc.
P.O. Box 6024
Albany, New York 12206

Dear Ruth:

Enclosed, please find the \$600.00 check from Meet The Composer.

As I reflected on the events of this school year at Clayton Elementary, your residency was truly a highlight. Your enthusiasm for composing and your sensitivity to people were absolutely contagious. The willingness and eagerness with which staff participated with you spoke of their professionalism and dedication, but also to your unique ability to motivate and inspire adults, as well as students.

As I watched you work with our students, I was impressed with your keen awareness of effective teaching strategies. You knew when to push, to accept, to dignify and to encourage. As a result, students readily shared their concerns for the family, the community and the world with you, as you helped them write lyrics and ultimately put those lyrics to music.

The tears shed by students at the final concert illustrated the fact that in five short days, you had become a dear friend to our 5th graders, as well as a musical inspiration. What a tribute to any teacher!

Since your departure from Clayton Elementary, I have received many favorable comments from the community. One parent bubbled "I really liked Ruth Pelham, she was great, the kids loved it, we enjoyed the concert so much. Sure wish we had had this opportunity when I was in school."

Ruth, my sincere appreciation for fitting us in your residency schedule this year. As a result, the lives of our students have been enhanced. I speak for all, when I say, "It was great, please come back. The door is always open, whenever you wish to visit the Thousand Islands."

Best wishes in all that you undertake. I look forward to hearing about your trip West!

Sincerely,

Sharon Coleman
Principal

DONALD M. BRENNAN, JR., PRINCIPAL
THOUSAND ISLANDS HIGH SCHOOL
(315) 686-5594 • (315) 654-2144

JAMES E. WATERSON, PRINCIPAL
THOUSAND ISLANDS MIDDLE SCHOOL
(315) 686-5199 • (315) 654-2145

MICHAEL F. BASHAW
DIRECTOR OF INSTRUCTION
(315) 686-2397

SHARON L. COLEMAN, PRINCIPAL
CLAYTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
(315) 686-5578

WILLIAM E. MONTONNA, PRINCIPAL
CAPE VINCENT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
CAPE VINCENT, NEW YORK 13618
(315) 654-2142

Good and Getting Better!

Merritt Memorial School

DOGWOOD LANE
CRESSKILL, N. J. 07626

JOSEPH DONNELLY
PRINCIPAL

TELEPHONE
569-8381

March 24, 1993

Ms. Ruth Pelham
Music Mobile, Inc.
P.O. Box 6024
Albany, New York 12206

Dear Ruth,

First let me apologize for running out so quickly yesterday. I had to chair a district meeting for the Superintendent of Schools at 3:15 P.M. and there was no getting out of it. It was certainly not the way I wanted to end such an incredible two days at Merritt School. I hope I can express my gratitude for such a great ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE Program in this letter.

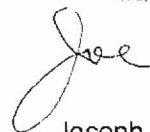
The residency was everything I had hoped for and more. I had the opportunity over the two days to see every class for a small amount of time, and I can say without hesitation that my students enjoyed every minute of your visit. Your selection of songs related to our theme was just phenomenal. I don't have to tell you how I feel about "Four Hands." I can't wait to share it with the residents at Dunroven Nursing Home. If anything, you have made the job of organizing the Mustang Day Program more difficult, because we have so many great songs to choose from.

I was delighted, but not really surprised, with the songs written by our students. I told you that they were pretty special people, with talent and the ability to work together. If you add the talent and enthusiasm provided by yourself and Karen Kupp, we had a no lose situation on our hands. I especially thank you for providing us with a song about our school. There's some talk among the students and even the teachers of making "Merritt School" our official school song. "Children Helping Children" and "Rules" were real special and will probably be the featured songs at Mustang Day.

Like all exciting events, after much anticipation, and preparation they seem to end very quickly. The two days seemed to fly by, and it's hard to believe that the program is over already. I hope that you enjoyed your visit to Merritt Memorial School as much as the staff and students, parents and myself enjoyed having you here. You can be certain that we will always have fond memories of your visit, and we'll sing your songs for a long time to come.

We meant what we said about your being an official member of our school family now. So if you are ever in the area visiting or performing, we would love for you to visit and just say "hello." Who knows, maybe we'll even rustle up some tuna fish!! Just in case you're around, MUSTANG DAY is scheduled for MAY 28th. There is also a special performance of the assembly program on MAY 27th in the evening for parents. In any case, stay in touch with your new friends at Merritt School. Again, thank you for providing such a wonderful experience for our students, and it is my sincere hope that we can do this again for a longer period of time.

Sincerely,



Joseph V. Donnelly
Principal



Cake Avenue School

126 Cake Avenue

Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

518-584-3678

Fax 518-583-4778

Marcia G. Henze, Principal

March 6, 1996

Ruth Pelham
Music Mobile
Albany, New York

Dear Ruth:

Another wonderful year! Your residency with our first graders, as always, was marvelous. The youngsters thoroughly enjoyed the instrument making, song writing and performing. Teachers were thrilled to see their youngsters so engrossed and productive.

The in-school concert for our full student body was a joy! It was a pleasure to sit in the back of the auditorium and see students of all ages totally and happily involved. Your gift of winding them up with activities and then pulling them back down to listen and sing gently is a marvel. There are not many performers who can accomplish that. Just sitting there, made me realize how lucky we were to have you there. When I was called out, I hated to go but left with a smile that lasted for the rest of the day!

The concert on Friday night was a special event for everyone involved. Parents as well as their children, enjoyed the singing, clapping and joyous atmosphere. Many have taken time since then to comment on what a wonderful evening it was! I hope you will enjoy these pictures as a small remembrance of that happy evening.

You are indeed a special lady who brightens the world and brings joy with her music, personality and love for what she does. I feel privileged to have been able to share a small piece of your world. I hope we will see more of you in the future.

Sincerely,

Marcia
Marcia G. Henze



Germantown Central School

123 Main Street
Germantown, New York 12526

Phone: (518) 537-6281
Fax: (518) 537-6284

April 25, 2000

"Sail To Success"

To Whom It May Concern:

For the last 3 years the Germantown Central School has been privileged to host an artist-in-residence program featuring Ruth Pelham's Musicmobile.

Ruth's program consists of a 3 day visit during which she shows the 1st grade students how to build and use rudimentary instruments to accompany the songs they learn. During this same time period she also meets with each 4th grade and helps them to write a class song based on a class-selected theme. For the final activity of her visit Ruth organizes a concert for students, parents and friends during which the 1st and 4th grade students share the products of their labor.

Ruth is a high energy artist who has the knack for establishing a relationship with the students within minutes of visiting their class for the first time. Before you know it she has the kids totally engaged in making instruments and writing songs. If you are fortunate enough to attend the concert you will see that Ruth has the full attention of the audience as she coaxes them into a sing-a-long. You will find that you will leave the concert with a feeling of well-being and some wonderful tunes that you just can not get out of your head!

Through the message of her music, Ruth leaves students with a better understanding and appreciation for the diverse population of our world. Her message of understanding, love and peace comes through loud and clear.

Sincerely,

**John Smith
Elementary Principal**



" Sail To Success "

Germantown Central School
123 Main Street
Germantown, New York 12526

Phone: (518) 537-6281
Fax: (518) 537-6284

Germantown Central School
123 Main Street
Germantown, N.Y. 12526

Music Mobile, Inc.
Ruth Pelham
P.O. Box 6024
Albany, N.Y. 12206

Dear Ruth,

We really enjoyed your visit to our classrooms! It was wonderful to have such an enriching opportunity for the children! They thoroughly enjoyed it and can be found singing the song on different occasions!

We wanted to thank you for giving the children a chance to write a song together that they generated the ideas for themselves. This is essential for them to feel good about themselves and their contributions to the song!

The concert went very smoothly and your wonderful personality once again, shone through! You were easily able to get the entire audience involved in the concert and everyone had a wonderful time. You radiate happiness to those who have the good fortune to be around you!

We are having the children sing their songs for their grandparents on Grandparent's Day. Mr Teaney, the music teacher, has been practicing the song with the children and will be creating a tape of it for our classrooms.

We have also decided to have the children illustrate different lines of the song. These illustrations will be put on a large bulletin board along with the words and an explanation of how the song was created! Thanks again for a successful endeavor!

Sincerely,

Deborah Fraleigh

Jennifer McLaughlin

Mike Pudney



Cake Avenue Elementary School

*126 Cake Avenue
Saratoga Springs, New York 12866
518 - 584-3678
518 - 583-4778 fax*

Mrs. Marcia Henze, Principal

February 24, 1995

Ruth Pelham, Director
Music Mobile, Inc.
P. O. Box 6024
Albany , New York 12206

Dear Ruth,

This is a much overdue letter to let you know how much we enjoyed having you here for your recent residency in first grade. It was spectacular ! Children, teachers and parents are still talking about all of the things that went on: instrument making, singing, song writing, and performing.

You came in and truly mesmerized everyone here. Your enthusiasm, fun, talent and charm enchanted our youngsters, brought out the best in them and enabled them to have a performance experience they will not forget. Your organization, sensitivity to the style and needs of each teacher helped to make the classroom experiences as positive for the teachers as it was for the students.

Enclosed are some of the pictures we took while you were here. I thought you might enjoy adding them to your collection.

Many thanks for coming, for providing such a great experience and most of all for being you !!

Sincerely,

Marcia
Marcia G. Henze

West Canada Valley Central School District

Newport, N. Y. 13416

Telephone: 315-845-8802

May 15, 1990

Ruth Pelham
Music Mobile, Inc.
PO Box 6024
Albany, NY 12206

Dear Ruth:

On behalf of all the children and teachers at the Newport Elementary School, I want to thank you for the excellent workshops you presented to our second grade students. At all times during this two day residency, the students and teachers were excited about working with you on this song writing project. Each class now has a wonderful song that they will never forget. The children learned so much in the brief two days, and they will always remember not only your professional skills but, also your willingness to share your art with them.

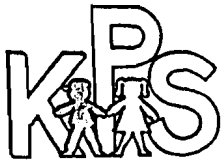
I also want to commend you on the enjoyable concert/sharing session at the conclusion of the residency. The entire school enjoyed hearing the newly composed songs as well as having an opportunity to sing with you.

You have a very special talent to share and we hope that you will be able to visit us again in the future. We will all miss your bubbly personality around the halls!

Sincerely,



William F. Van Patten
Arts in Education Coordinator



KENT PRIMARY SCHOOL
ROUTE 52
CARMEL, N.Y. 10512
(914) 225-5025
Rhoda Friedman, Principal

May 15, 1997

Dear Ruth,

Just a note to let you know how well-received your instrument-making/song-writing residency was at Kent Primary School. The participating first grade teachers enjoyed working with you and are continuing to find ways to extend the ecology theme in their own lessons. The music teacher expressed her delight with your work and indicated that she will use the strategies observed in her own teaching as well as your very fine CDs and books.

Parents who attended the various sessions were thrilled with the level of participation of each child and the pure joy they observed in musical expression. Many commented on the extraordinary way in which you prepared for and facilitated the making and playing (in unison) of 220 instruments in a single day. For many parents who see little value in the arts, this residency was an eye-opener.

It was a pleasure to have you with us. You are truly an inspired artist and teacher who has much to offer children and adults alike. Thanks so much for your fine work with my staff and students!

Sincerely,

Rhoda Friedman
Principal

Wynantskill Union Free School District

P.O. Box 345 Wynantskill, NY 12198-0345

Phone: (518) 283-4600 Fax: (518) 283-3684

June 10, 1997

Ruth Pelham
Music Mobile
P.O. Box 6024
Albany, NY 12206

Dear Ruth,

On behalf of the Arts in Education Committee, I'd like to extend our appreciation for the wonderful performance you put together with our kindergarten through 4th grade students. Each class, with your guidance, created a musical tribute to the Hudson River. The children hand-crafted unique instruments to accompany their original songs.

Your inclusion of the community audience was well received and elicited many favorable reactions. Your mention of Dr. Fennell was a tasteful and fitting tribute to her memory. All in all, it was a perfect day for our "Hudson River Fest"!

Through the years you've never let us down. Again, thank you for the large part you played in making our celebration a success.

Sincerely,



Sue Grimm
Co-Chair, AIE Committee

Primary Plus School

**3500 Amber Dr.
San Jose, CA 95117
(408) 248-2464**

January 8, 1997

Ruth Pelham
Music Mobile, Inc.
P.O. Box 6024
Albany, NY 12206

Dear Ruth,

As I reflect on the music workshops and our week filled with song, I am still touched with your warmth, joy and inspiration!

Coming together as a community and hearing your songs and the songs and messages of other children is so important for our students.

Your songwriting workshops in our classroom brought that experience even closer to home and their own lives. Seeing and then hearing their experiences and concerns put to music, gave them a great deal of empowerment and confidence.

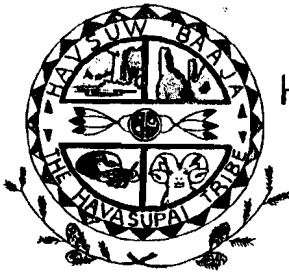
I can't recommend this experience enough to other educators. I look forward to spending even more time with you next year.

Best wishes for a successful and happy New Year, Ruth.

Sincerely,



Kim West
4th Grade Teacher



HAVASUPAI TRIBAL COUNCIL

P. O. BOX 10 • SUPAI, ARIZONA 86435 • (602) 448-2731

April 20, 1990

Ms. Ruth Pelham

Ruth,

On behalf of the Havasupai Tribal Council and the Havasupai Elementary School Children , we appreciated your music teachings to the school children, everone loves singing when their heart feels good for it.

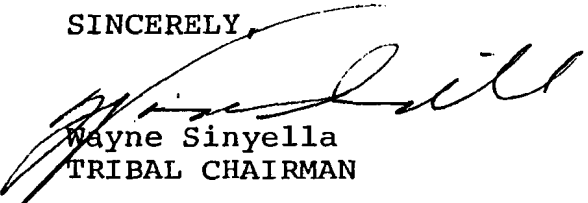
As I have stated before , the eighth grade students did very well with their music class and they did it with a very short practice session. Also, I agree their project should be put on video for everone to see and hear.

The eighth grade class music/scenery video project will be a very good product to tell the world of the concerns of the Havasupai youngsters regarding the danger of uranium mining near their homeland at the Grand Canyon.

If funding can be found our dream can be implemented for the concerned Havasupai youngsters.

Please contact my office if there should be any questions.

SINCERELY,


Wayne Sinyella
TRIBAL CHAIRMAN