

## What is the Annual Music Festival about?



The Interfaith Music Festival of the DCIC was conceived in 1975 as an opportunity for those of many faiths to join together and share the treasure of one another's worship music. Over the past four decades this annual event has drawn musicians of many faith communities. This yearly gathering of singers, instrumentalists, dancers, and even storytellers, has included members of the Bahá'í, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim, and Unitarian Universalist faiths. Hosted by a different house of worship in Dutchess County each Fall, the musical styles have been as varied as the participants- ranging from hand bell choir to conch shell, from chant to Gospel, and from modern local composers to Benjamin Britten and Mozart.

In recent years, a combined Interfaith Choir gathers to present selections chosen around a theme common to all believers. These adult singers usually represent as many as 20 local faith communities. Youth from all over the county are also encouraged to be a part of the Music Festival each year as part of the Interfaith Youth Choir and they perform a selection, which they learn just for this event. For the remainder of the afternoon's program several groups from churches, synagogues, and other religious communities are also chosen to be part of the Music Festival and they present what is traditional for their own worship services.

What is constant at the Interfaith Music Festival each year is that all who attend are enriched and educated by experiencing a wide variety of worship music, all those who participate are collaborating in a joyful way, and everyone leaves with a greater appreciation of how the beauty of sacred music can move us and how it truly can unite us.

**For information on participating, please contact the DCIC office at 845-471-7333.**

