

1980

## Letters (1980): Correspondence 141

Anne Utter

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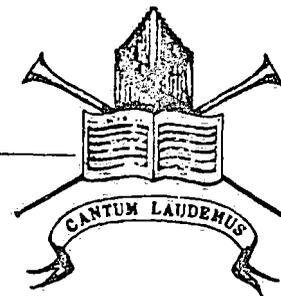
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# The Community Chorus of Westerly

119 High Street, Westerly, R.I. 02891



PC  
November 22, 1980

Senator Claiborne Pell  
418 Federal Building  
Providence, Rhode Island

Dear Senator Pell,

I am writing to let you know the progress of our project which will take the Westerly Chorus to England in August, 1981. We appreciated your suggestion that we contact Christopher Snow at the U.S. Embassy in London, and, as we were recently in London making more concrete plans for this project, we visited him and informed him of our plans. He was supportive, if not able actively to assist.

As presently planned, our tour will be as follows:  
Dates: August 1 - 16. We will take about 200 people, at least 150 of them performers. We will be accompanied by seven or eight members of the brass section of the Rhode Island Philharmonic Orchestra. We have arranged accommodations for this number at British universities and colleges. Mobil Oil Company, Ltd of England has agreed to sponsor, at least partially, our bus transportation while we are in Britain.

We have held a three-day fund-raising weekend, entitled "Hail, Brittania!" and were able to raise over \$30,000 for this project.

We have been invited to sing a service of Evensong at Westminster Abbey on August 6; it is our impression that to receive this sort of an invitation from Westminster Abbey is not common and we are pleased. We have also been invited to sing two services of Evensong at King's College, Cambridge on August 9 and 11, and to present concerts at Durham Cathedral, Ely Cathedral, and at the church in Thaxted, Gustav Holst's church. We still await confirmation of our plan to present concerts at Snape Maltings in Aldeburgh and at St. Giles' Cathedral, Edinburgh. The brass will perform, with George Kent as organist, at All Hallows-by-the-Tower in London, and at St. Michael's Church, Framlingham, in Suffolk, which has a fine historic organ.

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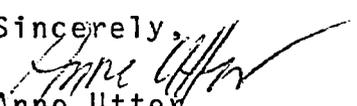
These arrangements were all made by ourselves. It is not easy to find assistance in this sort of project. I do feel, however, that this effort will further the artistic reputation of Rhode Island both within our own state and abroad. I continue to seek ways that this can be made more visible.

While in London, the most supportive and helpful person we met was a girl named Jennifer Williams who almost singlehandedly operates a fine organization called the British-American Arts Association, located at 43 Earlham Street, London. This is a relatively new organization (about three or four years, I think) originally funded by the Rockefeller Foundation. You may know of it. As Jennifer Williams has come this month to Washington to spend some weeks establishing a Washington office for this work, I told her that I would write you about it. This sort of support organization to assist in cultural exchange is definitely needed and I recommend it to your attention.

I regret that we are all involved just now in such upsetting political upheavals. I do hope and pray that the work for the arts, which you have so long pursued, will not be sacrificed in the maelstrom.

~~Thank you again for your advice and we will welcome any help that you can give to us.~~

Sincerely,

  
Anne Utter