

Rec'd 7.1.96

Season's Greetings

The milestone year of 1996 is drawing to a close for the Parks of Wisconsin. Let me start the highlights of the year with the calendar of music performances.

1996 Calendar of Family Music Events	
Feb. 20	Madison Symphony Orchestra & Chorus Fauré/Rutter Concert (Barbara singing) _____ <i>Barbara</i>
Feb. 24	Wis. Youth Symphony Orchestra Concert (Mischa playing flute) - at UW Mills Concert Hall _____ <i>Mischa</i>
Feb. 24	3rd annual Winter Musicale - at home (Barbara played violin, Robin played guitar, Mischa played flute) _____ <i>Barbara Robin Mischa</i>
March 3	Wis. Youth Symphony Orchestras Play-A-Thon (Mischa playing flute) - at East Towne Mall _____ <i>Mischa</i>
March 12	Madison West H.S. Bands (Mischa flute) - at 1st Congregational Church _____ <i>Mischa</i>
March 31	Ear and Now Concert - at Canterbury Booksellers Coffeehouse Underwater Rhapsody for soprano, baritone, flute & piano - by Robin (3rd place winner) _____ <i>Robin</i>
April 13	WYSO Recital (flute solo by Mischa) - St. Bernard's Church _____ <i>Mischa</i>
April 16	West High Orchestras (Mischa playing flute) - at West High School gym _____ <i>Mischa</i>
April 23	Jr./Sr./Grad. Recital - at UW Morphy Hall (two pieces by Robin) _____ <i>Robin</i>
April 29-May 3	West High School Fine Arts Week (Mischa - flute solo, duet, and quartet) _____ <i>Mischa</i>
May 11,12	Madison Symphony Orchestra & Chorus, Mahler Symphony No. 2 (Barbara singing) _____ <i>Barbara</i>
May 15	Spring Band Concert - at Akira Toki Middle School (Ian trombone) _____ <i>Ian</i>
May 18	Wis. Youth Symphony Orchestra (Philharmonia) Spring Concert (Mischa flute) - at UW Mills Concert Hall _____ <i>Mischa</i>
May 29	A Courtyard Band Concert (Mischa playing flute) - at West High _____ <i>Mischa</i>
Oct. 10 & 11	The 99¢ Concert Series - at Madison Civic Center Spotlight Room Elemental Suite for clarinet, bassoon & piano - by Robin _____ <i>Robin</i>
Oct. 22	Annual Fall (Orchestra) Concert - at West High Auditorium (Mischa on flute and piccolo) _____ <i>Mischa</i>
Oct. 24	High School State Honors Orchestra - at Madison Civic Center Principal flutist - Mischa _____ <i>Mischa</i>
Oct. 26	Madison Symphony Orchestra & Chorus Concert, Mahler Symphony No. 3 (Barbara singing) _____ <i>Barbara</i>
Nov. 12	Honor Band Concert (Mischa playing flute) - at West High Auditorium _____ <i>Mischa</i>
Nov. 18	UW Music Composition Dept. Concert - Morphy Hall Interlude, Jennifer Rush, piano - by Robin _____ <i>Robin</i>
	Three Short Passages for Trombone Solo - by Robin _____ <i>Robin</i>
<del>Dec. 5, 7</del>	<del>The Music Man (Pit orchestra) flute and piccolo by Mischa - at West High Auditorium _____ <i>Mischa</i></del>
Dec. 7, 8	Madison Symphony Orchestra & Chorus Holiday Spectacular - Madison Civic Center (Barbara singing) _____ <i>Barbara</i>
Dec. 11	Band Concert (Ian on trombone) - at Toki Middle School _____ <i>Ian</i>

2 5 6 13

Ian has continued to play trombone in his middle school's 8th grade band, and Dec. 22 marked his debut with the Prairie choir, singing bass! He has continued to pursue his interest in video photography, helping to create with friends an offbeat program which airs weekly on Madison's public access cable channel.

Mischa has continued his private flute lessons. He plays flute and piccolo in the Honor Band at his high school, and last summer he won the position of principal flutist with this year's State Honors Orchestra. Getting to perform with talented high school students from around the state at their October concert was the high point of his musical career to date. The West High Science Olympiad team won the state championship again in March. Mischa was the team's top point getter with 3 gold medals and one silver. As the top team in Wisconsin they got to travel to the nationals in Atlanta in May, and that was just the beginning of his year's travels. In July he traveled to Mexico for a week long tour from Mexico City to Puerte Vallarta on the Pacific coast which he won, with several other students from around the country, in a national essay contest sponsored by the high school Spanish Honor Society. Next he joined us on the family reunion trip to Nova Scotia. In August he traveled to Oregon with the family of friends for the Continental Congress of YRUU, the Unitarian youth group, visiting the Canadian rockies on the way back. Finally, he joined Robin, Ian, Barb and me for our recent Thanksgiving weekend trip to Warren & Patty's home in Minneapolis. He has continued Hwa Rang Do classes and has now passed the test for his 6th belt, the blue belt. Fall semester he has been taking 2 classes at the University, spanish and calculus, while taking his other 3 classes at West High School. With less than 6 months left until graduation, he has been accepted into both the University of Chicago and MIT.

Robin is in his senior year as a music composition major at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, with only one semester to go until graduation! He has continued his classical guitar lessons, and has composed a variety of musical works during the year, as the calendar above shows. His 4 movement Elemental Suite performed at the Madison Civic Center in October was a commissioned work. I am always impressed with the creativity and originality of his work.

Barbara has continued as our choir director at Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society, and has continued to sing regularly with the Madison Symphony Chorus. She has also been serving as Vice President of Prairie and is taking over as President on January 1st, and until recently was on the Central Midwest Board of the UUA. She is on the Cascade Mountain Ski Patrol again this winter, but is giving her elbow a chance to recover from falls in the church kitchen and at our front doorway before actually doing any skiing. She and Casey made several trips to Syracuse during the year to help out her parents since her mom is dealing with the problem of Parkinson's and is using a walker.

Robert has continued to sing bass in the Prairie choir. I have survived the upheaval of department-wide reorganization at the Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources relatively unscathed. I ran again in the local county Senior Olympics in June, and managed to injure myself less seriously than last year.

Casey and John Koperczyk plan to join us on Dec. 28 to celebrate Christmas with us. They have set a wedding date of Oct. 4, 1997 in northern Illinois near where they are living in Round Lake. Casey continues to successfully sell Real Estate, a job Barb feels was tailor made for her. She is taking a course on Income Tax and will supplement her busy schedule by doing tax work this spring.

Our reunion trip included visits with relatives along the way. James and Daniel Park from Minneapolis joined Robert, Robin and Ian for the first leg to Casey & John's house in Illinois the first night and Wesley and Irene Leonard's near Port Rowan Ontario for the next two, with a day at the nearby Sandhills, an old family gathering place on the Lake Erie shore. Next we joined Barbara in Syracuse, where she had flown earlier to help get things ready for our arrival at her parent's house. After 2 nights in Syracuse our next stop was the home of Barb's cousin Margot Hull in Cambridge. Getting a late start from Wisconsin because of his trip to Mexico, Mischa flew to Boston to join us. Warren and Patty flew to Boston the next day in time to join us in a walking tour of the Back Bay, and Mischa, Barb and I also got a tour of the MIT campus. Next, Warren's daughter Catherine arrived in Boston from Cleveland in time to join the next leg of our trip, to Bar Harbor Maine (in 2 vehicles). That stop gave us a morning to spend at the seashore of Acadia National Park before continuing on to the Fredericton, New Brunswick home of our family reunion hosts, for the night. Betty and Charlie had already gone to their summer home on the Bay of Fundy near Parasboro, Nova Scotia, where we joined them the next day. There some 30 of the Park clan from preschool to retirement age participated in almost a week of memorable sight seeing and family activities. Another night in Fredericton and a visit to Linda and Tony's farm, and we were on our way back west. A night in Portland Maine gave Barb and me a chance to visit the harbor-side home of Margot's father, Bill Hull, and see some of his collection of Danish pottery. After another night in Cambridge we parted company with Warren, Patty, Daniel and Robin, who flew back to Minnesota and Wisconsin, and with Catherine, who took a bus to Cape Cod. Barb, James, Mischa, Ian and I headed west to Glens Falls, New York, for a brief visit with Barb's cousin Bert, his wife Anna and their little boy Ben before continuing on to Syracuse for another night with Barb's parents. The next day it was on to Ithaca and a tour of the Cornell campus and a long drive to Cleveland where we arrived at the apartment of Catherine and her husband Ben a few hours after Catherine got back from the coast herself. Then one more night at Casey and John's in Illinois and we were back in Madison. The next family reunion is scheduled for 2001 in Minneapolis. (The Bay of Fundy reunion will be a hard act to follow.)

By this time next year, Ian will be a high school student thinking about driver's ed, Mischa will be a (full time) college student, and Robin will be a college graduate. Time rushes on.

Best wishes to all,

*Robert* *Ken (Ian)*

Robert

*Thanks for hosting us those 2 nights in July. The boys all enjoyed our day at the Sandhills. RWP*

*I was sorry that I missed the leg of the summer trips that included seeing you folks. Best wishes for a wonderful Christmas and New Year. Hope to see you during the next year.*  
*Barbara*