

Alumni Corner

Spotlight on Debbie Gruber

Debbie Gruber sang alto in the Tanglewood Festival Chorus from 1989 to 1997. She left the TFC when she got married and moved to Burlington, MA to raise her family. She is married to Ralph Viscione and has two children, Joseph, 6, and Claire, 8.

Debbie has very fond memories of the TFC—like getting the privilege to go out to Tanglewood two days early to rehearse *Pique Dame* with a few other members of the chorus, plus six Russian leads and Maestro Ozawa. Other highlights included singing Mahler's 2nd with Jessye Norman, singing the Verdi Requiem at the International Choral Festival in Toronto, being conducted by James Conlon, and Simon Rattle (and running into him at a pizza joint with his two children after a rehearsal!), plus, singing many times in Carnegie Hall and

Avery Fisher Hall. In her words, "the most thrilling and profound musical experiences of my life were with the Tanglewood Festival Chorus".

Presently, Debbie leads a busy life teaching at the Brookline, Boston and Cambridge Centers of Adult Education. She also founded a 55-voice children's chorus based in Burlington and performs with her group The Wicked Pitches.

The Wicked Pitches are a 6-voice *a cappella* group founded in 1993 (originally with TFC members!). They perform a variety of styles, including jazz, contemporary, and classic pop. Their sound is marked by tight harmonies, intricate rhythms, innovative arrangements, and a touch of Latin beat. "We started out singing mostly lush Gene Puerling arrangements but have moved more into the pop genre with a jazz influence".



Debbie Gruber, back row at far left, with members of The Wicked Pitches.

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They have performed at Johnny D's, Ryles, Scullers, The Harvard Club, The Taste of Boston and at resorts in the Catskills.

Debbie would love to hear from you TFCers! Her address is 11 Harris Drive, Burlington, MA 01803. Or you can reach her at dgruber@rcn.com.