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Sue Anne consented by be interviewed by ... herself!

**What is your art background?** I studied Fine Art at the University of New Hampshire, with a BA in 1968. In 1974 I bought a huge motorized press and used this to print limited edition etchings and woodcuts in my Maryland studio. When we as a family moved to England for three years, the press came with us.

When I tired of etching zinc plates with nitric acid, relief prints appealed to me more. Stenocut is a relief printmaking method that I invented and developed.

After a ten-year detour into hooked rugs, I have returned to my roots ... drawing and painting. My husband is the printmaker now! He digitally reproduces my drawings onto notecards and larger prints too, which we sell at the Market on the Green in New London and other local art, craft, and farm markets, including the Old Time Fair in August at Potter Place.

**What is your DRAW-New Hampshire project?** After putting drawings of local and faraway scenes onto my blog for a couple of years, I decided last year to draw every town in New Hampshire, put them all online, and present them in a book.

**How did you get the idea of a book?** I haven't seen any other book similar to this, and I think it would be enjoyed. And I love the way drawings can tell a story.

**What have you drawn in Andover?**

I have drawn the Potter Place railroad station, and, on the Proctor campus, the Old Carriage House with the ski hills in the background, and Maxwell Savage Hall.

Often I find myself doing research on the background of what I have drawn. The details of the life of Richard Potter, for example, are amazing.

**Do you draw other places?** I draw wherever I am. So the images on my monthly blog are of Boston, Maine, Maryland, as well as Canada and beyond. I don't leave home without pencil and paper!

**How do you decide what to sketch for your DRAW-New Hampshire project?** I tend to head for the center of the town. Looking for places where people may gather, I try to sense the story in the town green, the library, or sometimes a general store or school.

Then I walk around and look at this place from many angles. I always draw on site, not from a photograph. The experience is richer, and the resulting art is more lively.

**What materials do you use?** White paper, and usually a pencil. BIC mechanical pencils are my favorites, as they are always sharp. Sometimes I will start right in with a black pen line. In my studio, colored pencils and watercolor washes are the final steps.

**How long does it take?** It varies a lot based on the complexity of the scene. Are we including thinking time, too? Driving time? Seriously, a couple of hours per drawing.

**What's the strangest situation you've encountered while drawing?** I'm generally pretty inconspicuous, but once, when drawing on my little pad in a city, somebody thought I was a meter maid writing out a ticket!

Another time I was gazing at a roof line, without my art supplies in hand, and a kind person told me to sit right down on the curb, and she would call me an ambulance.

That last one illustrates the benefits of drawing on site ... it causes you to slow down, stop, look, and see your surroundings.

**Is there any subject that you don't care to draw or don't plan to include in the book?** Despite the fact that they are indeed a place for people to gather, I am not including any graveyards in the book.

More: SueAnneBottomly.com. 



Gloriana Brown, Cope Makechnie, Jacqui Morris, Annika Johnson, and Youth Chorus Director Sue Berlenbach. Photos: Pam Brown

## Andover Youth Sing With The Concord Chorale

By Pam Brown  
For the Beacon

Andover was well-represented this year in the Concord Chorale's Christmas concert, *Exhultavit*. Directed by Kristofer Johnson, choral and vocal music director at Proctor Academy, the Chorale was joined by a 30-member youth chorus that included Andover's own Annika Johnson, Cope Makechnie, Gloriana Brown, and Jacqui Morris.

The girls began practices in Andover in October, then attended weekly rehearsals in Concord during November and December. The Chorale, along with a 26-piece orchestra, performed at St. John the Evangelist Church in Concord on December 10 and 11.

Recently the Andover Youth Chorus members answered a brief questionnaire about their *Exhultavit* experience, and their responses capture the essence of their adventure.

**Verbs defining preparation:** Practice, sing, have fun, work, never give up.



Gloriana Brown and Director Kristofer Johnson.

**Adjectives describing Chorale experience:** Enlightening, exhilarating, not an everyday experience, awe-inspiring, incredible, intriguing.

**How you felt while performing:** Happy, proud, hopeful, excited, tentative, alive in the moment, confident, wow!

**Something you loved about the experience:** Singing with the orchestra, experiencing it all with friends, feeling proud of my accomplishment.

**Something learned or improved, or a difficulty overcome:** Blending with other personalities and voices, hearing and remembering harmony parts, improving vocal range and pitch.

**Someone who made an impression on you:** Chorale Director Kris Johnson – patient with everyone; Youth Chorale Director Sue Berlenbach – convinced 30 girls to stop talking and sing the music; everyone involved, because they were so passionate and involved and welcoming. 

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