

## **Vermont Composers Project, the Social Band**

by Mark Sustic, October 31, 2005

*Calendar of Folk, Traditional and Roots Music and Dance Events in (or close to) Northern Vermont*

Although the Social Band has been around for only about 7 years, they have significantly put the Burlington area on the region's choral map (after decades of the genre having a Central Vermont center-of-gravity) with performances, recordings and most recently the Vermont Composer's Project, a collection of 26 newly commissioned choral works by Vermonters. The group has honed and perfected selections from the project in performances throughout the state over the past year or so, and have recorded 23 selections for this CD. Some of the composers on the collection may be familiar to you as musicians, singers and performers, perhaps not for composing choral works..... Anna Patton, Seth Houston, Moria Smiley, Billy Drislane, Jon Gailmor, Robert Resnick, Patti Casey. Others have well known with strong backgrounds in this type of music..... Peter and Mary Alice Amidon, John Harrison, Liz Thompson, Pete Sutherland, Troy Peters. Still others may not be so familiar..... Katie Shimizu, Stephen Spitzer, R.W. Keller, Susan Coman, Thomas Read, Sara Doncaster, David Gunn, Jorge Martin, Betsy Brigham. But they are Vermonters all, contributing to a selection of choral pieces that are 'glorious, witty.... often complex.... sometime quirky..... always accessible and fun' (Tom Slayton, Editor, Vermont Life Magazine). The music on this CD is in many ways a soundtrack for the people and pulse of life in Vermont, capturing a wide scope and depth of experience that is uniquely who Vermonters are and where we live.

The Social Band will be presenting a Homecoming Concert and CD Release Party on November 12th at 7pm at the Unitarian Church in Burlington, which is an ideal place to pick up the new CD, perfectly times for the holiday gift-giving season! The concert will feature selections from the new CD as well as other pieces from the Vermont Composers Project that didn't make it onto the recording (so much good material to choose from!). Or you can find ordering information on their web site at [www.socialband.org](http://www.socialband.org).