



Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership



2018 CVNHP Local Heritage Grant

Revitalizing Franco-American Song in the Champlain Valley of Vermont

Project Summary

The Revitalizing Franco-American Song in the Champlain Valley of Vermont project brought together the Vermont Folklife Center (VFC), Young Tradition Vermont (YTV), French Canadian song scholar Lisa Ornstein, and Franco-American singers Carmen Beaudoin Bombardier and Kim Chase with the goals of: creating a songbook and associated website presenting 12 songs from the family repertoires of Bombardier and Chase; holding a multi-week “Franco-American Singing School” to teach these songs. Over the course of the project, partners created teaching resources and promoted the Singing School. The Singing School met for six one-and-a-half-hour sessions in the fall of 2018 at Beaudoin Bombardier’s home in traditional Franco-American soirée settings.



French-Canadian families traditionally hosted “soirées” in their homes to eat, sing and dance.

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Output: A songbook and recordings of traditional French-Canadian songs, which were used to teach and interpret a diminishing element of Franco-American culture.

Outcome: Tasks addressed in the **2011 CVNHP Management Plan:**

Task 9.1.2: Support ethnographic research and documentation of the cultures within the CVNHP.

Task 9.4.2: Develop criteria for selecting priority cultural/natural heritage resources based on their importance, fragility, recreational opportunities and economic benefits and develop consistent strategies for conservation.

Tasks addressed in **2017 Opportunities for Action:**

III.C.1.a: Provide support for needed historical and archeological research, and accelerate the identification, evaluation, protection, and interpretation of heritage resources, including ethnographies of the cultures within the CVNHP.

IV.A.5.c: Promote cultural exchanges and international scholarship programs

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