

FEATURING:

- Our Thoughts on Music
- Who are we?
- Broadening Our Horizons

OUR VOICE

1st Edition Magazine | Fall 2015

Poems.....Spoken Word.....Thoughts on Music....Advice..... Photographs..... Inspiration...
Reflections....Polls.....and More.....brought to you by the students of the Chester's Children's Chorus

WHAT THIS MAGAZINE IS A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Reader, I am delighted that you have opened the first few pages of the 1st Edition Print of "Our Voice" Magazine. This magazine is inspired from the classes, stories, music, and conversations held at Swarthmore College's 2015 Chester Children's Chorus Summer Learning Program. Students who attend this camp, wanted their voice heard not just in a newsletter, but in something larger. This magazine, specifically guided by the direction of the 2015 "Newsletter Class," and with the addition of the Middle School Literature Class, is meant to be a printed sharing of student voice. Through spoken word, interviews, polls, and more, OUR VOICE magazine is meant to provide insight to the thoughts, creativity, and daily life of the wonderful diverse students of CCC. All photographs in this magazine are taken from summer photography classes. I would like to especially thank Elisa DeNofio and Kirsten Halker-Kratz for their support in publication of this magazine, and Richard Yerkes, the photography teacher. Finally, I would like to thank the young ladies who every day came ready to work and create something different for the CCC. This magazine would not have happened without them, and I am happy to say I am at a 10 today for moving "Beyond our Horizons" in creating this. Much Love and Happy Reading. xoxoxoxo Ms. Abigail

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sat., Oct. 10, 2015, 7:30 p.m.
St. Luke Greek Orthodox Church
35 N. Malin Road,
Broomall, PA

Sat., Oct. 24, 2015, 7:30 p.m.
The Church of the Redeemer
145 W. Springfield Road,
Springfield, PA

Fri., Dec. 11, 2015 & Sat., Dec. 12, 2015, 7:30 p.m.
Lang Concert Hall
Swarthmore College,
Swarthmore, PA



INSTRUCTOR INTERVIEW HIGHLIGHTS.....



RICHARD YERKES

What is your position at CCC? "I am the photography teacher."

What do you like about working at CCC? "The students because they keep me on my toes and everyday you never know what to expect."

What is your favorite memory of CCC summer camp so far? "When we took pictures of people spitting out water."



VINCE WILSON

What do you teach at CCC? "Garage Band."

What do you like about working at CCC? "The thing I like the most about working in the CCC is engaging with students and people who are in the same position as I was in, and being able to give them something that was given to me."

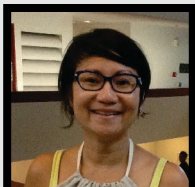


BECKY SLATE

What do you teach at CCC? "Training Chorus & Junior Choir sports classes."

What do you like about working at CCC? "The kids are great, and the members are super-positive. The concerts are also amazing."

What is your favorite memory of CCC? "When we had a good time walking in the rain - the kids were having fun."



MINDY NGUYEN-BALLI

What do you teach at CCC? "History for basses and tenors and also culinary arts."

What do you like about working at CCC? "I like the energy & enthusiasm of the kids."



JOHN ALSTON

What do is your position at CCC? "Artistic Director."

What do you like about working at CCC? "I love watching our CCC kids be happy. I love it when they prank me, I love it when they love the music, I love it when they get a great piece of music and they own it. I love watching them solve their own problems, I love when Reggie crawls into the rehearsal late and makes us all laugh. And most of all I love it when we step on stage and make the people that have never heard of you fall in love with our voice. Chester's Voice."

WHAT DID YOU LEARN THIS SUMMER AT CCC?.....

"How to make my own original beats." - Amil, 10th grade

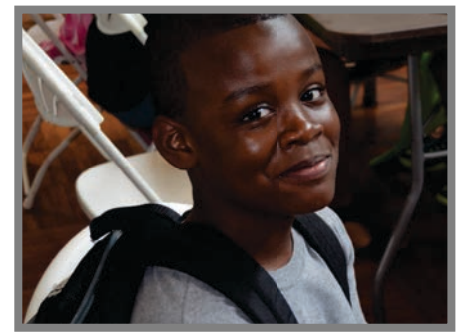
"I learned the name of cooking tools." - Tracy, 5th grade

"Get better at math and respect adults." - Rahshad, 8th grade

"Other than music, it taught me how to be independent." - Reggie, 10th grade

"How to dance." - Christian, 7th grade

"Puzzles, arts, and swimming." - Jaiden, 3rd grade



WHAT HAS YOUR OVERALL EXPERIENCE BEEN LIKE AT CCC?

"It's been very interesting and fun." - Kyana, 10th grade

"Being in the choir molded me as a person." - Wayne, 5th grade

"Wonderful, I consider CCC a second family." - Darria, 11th grade

"It has been life-changing." - Nayomi, 9th grade

"Amazing - it really helped me better my life, and figure out what I want to do as career. The CCC honestly changed my life, and I wouldn't know what to do without the CCC." - Shalaya, 11th grade

"I love that there's a time to be serious, and there is a time to have fun." - Seoni, 5th grade



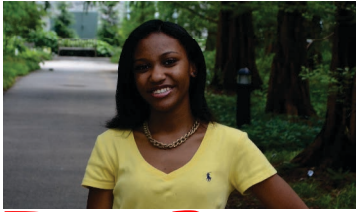
BROADENING OUR HORIZONS
THOUGHTS, REFLECTIONS, AND STORIES
FROM THE 2015 CCC SUMMER CAMP



WHO ARE WE?

BY THE CCC
NEWSLETTER
+
LITERATURE
CLASSES

Both the Newsletter and Middle School Literature Classes discussed the meaning of names as a fundamental part of one's identity. Through the reading and sharing of stories related to the history of names, each student was able to share what her name meant, and how a nickname, middle name, or changing one's name is an important part of feeling good about who you are as a unique individual. On the following two few pages are a few stories about our names.



TALIAH ROOKS

My name is the one deformed piece of cereal out of the whole cereal box. It's also the best out of the whole box. The sweetness and the texture. It rolls off a tongue as smooth as icing on a hot honey bun. Tasty in every which way as I would like to say. My name, my name. Sometimes it may taste sweet, sometimes sour. It may give your tongue a zing, but it's always full of power. Three syllables combined to create one beautiful word. Ta-Li-Ah. My name, my name, my name, my name.



RAHNAEZAH

MCDONALD

My name is rare. I like my name very much even though sometimes it can be annoying when someone says it incorrectly. In my name I see success and confidence. I also see a passion in my name, yearning to be all I can be. The sound is classy, not too straightforward or too flashy. The power in my name shows I'm ready for what's next in the game.



NIESHA DAVIS

My name is Niesha, not many people have the same name as me. Most of my teachers mispronounce it. I asked my mom what made her name me this, and she said whenever she was going to have her first daughter, she was going to name her Niesha.



CIAZSA DAVIS

My name is Ciazsa. My name doesn't really have an origin. My mom always told me I was named after the actress; Zsa Zsa Gábor. I love my name because it is very unique. I never met anyone with the same name as me. I like that because it makes me feel like I'm the only one with my name. It makes me unique and different from everyone else.



JAAMI'A BOYER

My dad told me that when I was born you are given a name to describe who you are when you get older. My first and last name Jaami'a Nahsheed means "the sound of paradise" in Arabic. As I get older I have noticed that my beautiful singing voice becomes more powerful. I have a very unique name often mispronounced. I have never met anyone with the same name as me. My name is unique. My name is power. My name is ME.



DESTINY DAVIS

My name is Destiny. It may be common but it's still beautiful. My name means fate. It reminds me everyday that there is something I am "destined" to do. People call my name and yet sometimes I forget. Sometimes I wonder about my name and why it was given to me.



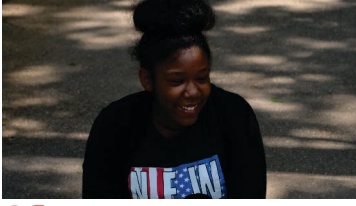
NA'JAE "CHRISSEY"

COLLINS

Na'Jae. Not a particularly favorable name. I don't like Na'Jae. She's plain. I go by Chrissy. Chrissy is goofy and playful. In my opinion, she's pretty awesome. When people call me Chrissy, I feel comfortable and accepted. I feel at home. I am not Na'Jae, I am Chrissy: creative, funny, goofy, talented, beautiful, loving, awesome. Chrissy!

HELLO

my name is



NAYOMI

HARRISON

Although my name can be pretty common, it's special to me. It means pleasantness, happiness and joy. Even though I don't spell Nayomi properly, it has great meaning and it's special because I'm special. I'm unique in ways others wouldn't understand. I'm awesome, NAYOMI, it's mine - all mine.



ANERA

GOLDSMITH

My name means "unique." You don't even have to hear it to know that it's important. My name is Anera. It silences the crowd like one note on the piano. My name is me, not what you think it should be. I chose the meaning just like I chose my path. My name is Anera.



JIHAN BAILEY

My name means courage and curiosity because when I was born, my eyes were wide open observing things. My name also means bravery because I'm not scared to show the real me. My name is very sensitive to me because I get teased about it. Honestly, sometimes I want to change it, but I don't want to be another Ashley or Katie. My name is unique. I like the way people give me weird nicknames like hanie, but my favorite nickname is gink because my grandfather gave it to me, & he was my everything.



LAY'LA

HARMON

Layla, La, Lay-Lay, Leila and more. Some say my name means Dark Night, but I say it means power or conqueror. I think it means what I want it to mean. It means all the things I am and what I am to be, not what Google says. Lay'la means "Dark Night" or "Powerful."



ELSIE RIVERA

My name to me means happy, joyful, loving, caring, talented, and unique. Sometimes it means dead because it depends on my emotions if I am sad and mad. It means that I am not anything if I am not happy. I got my name because it was the family girl name for nine decades. So I love my name because it means a lot to me. I love my name.



TAYLOR

MONET-BRICE

My name means beauty, peace, love, and uniqueness. To me it also stands for courage and happiness, talent and confidence. My name is the characteristics of me - of Taylor-Monet Brice.



RACHEL PETERKIN

My name means to me that I am talented, a singer, and a violinist. One day I will go Paris and be a fashion designer who will shine.

WHO

TALENTED...AMAZING...

...GIFTED...THOUGHT-

FUL...HAPPY..CREATIVE

..SINGERS..SPECIAL....

HARDWORKERS...SWEET

....MUSICAL...CARING...

HELPFUL.....POETIC

ARE WE?

"What music means to me"

~ by Chrissy

Music lives inside of me.
It's the Only thing that sets me free -
something about sweet melodies and
symphonies.
It channels another me -
a peaceful me.
A hidden personality that only it can
release.
The side of me that is constantly
rejected by people around me.

When my soul seems trapped,
music is the key.
If the world is my straight jacket,
music makes me Houdini.
For all my pain, it's my cure.
It opens so many unseen doors.

"She Sang....." ~ by Jaami'a

I heard this sound,
it was the sound of an angel.
It was her voice.
She sang so gracefully and strong.
She sang with passion.
Her voice took you in a quiet place.
Her voice could out stand anyone else's.
She Sang.....

The way she sang was so unique.
It was like no other voice you've heard.
It was a natural voice,
with such confidence.
It was voice you could hear in your
dreams.
Her voice could sing you a lullaby.
It was the way she sang.....

"Music Poem" ~ by Rahnaezah

The music in me,
I can see the music in me.
It is as sweet as can be.
Filling me up like a hive of honey bees.
You're here when I'm up,
and you're here when I'm down.
I never have to worry about you
leaving me in the lost and found.
Expressing my emotions is what you do
best,
helping me keep my mind at relaxation
and rest.
The music in me...
The music in me...
I can see the music in me.

OUR THOUGHTS ON MUSIC

**SPOKEN WORD, REFLECTIONS,
POETRY, AND MORE....**

"Music, Music, Music" ~ by Ciazsa

Music....is a necessity for me,
like water or the air we breathe.
It is the sunshine in my life when
there's darkness.
As the sweet sound go through my ears,
all the worry in me disappears.

Music, music, music.....
From gospel, rap, pop, and r&b.
They all bring out the happiness in me.
Music, music, music....
The thing that is always there,
When I'm happy, sad, or just don't care.

Music, music, music...
It makes me smile when no one else can.

WHAT DOES MUSIC MEAN TO YOU?

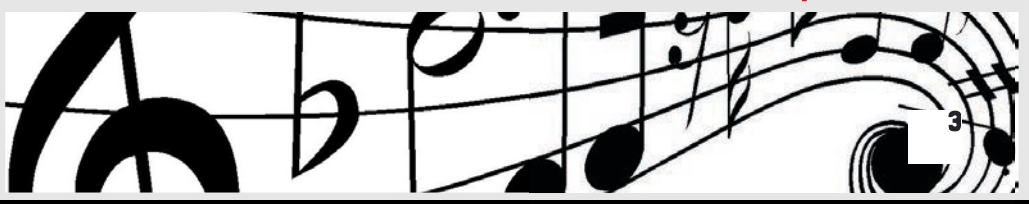
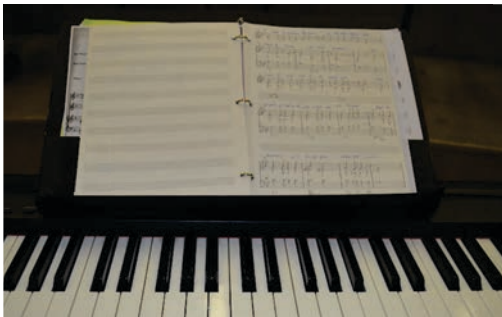
"Music helps with emotional education because it has a way of explaining and expressing how you feel in ways that words can't do. Emotional education connects with music because it can help you when you don't understand how to feel, or how to react. Songs can help you understand what you're going through." ~Nayomi Harrison

"Music speaks to me because when I'm in a bad mood, or need words of encouragement, I can just listen to music. Music really sets your mood. It can change you into a different person, and make you think differently about things. Also music has a big impact on the world." ~ Niesha Davis

"Music is my way of tuning out any and everything. It means peace when I'm arguing - my way of letting everything go, and a getaway from conflicts." ~Taylor Monet-Brice

"Music is the world to me. I joined this choir at seven. My favorite thing to learn is music. My mom used to sing to me when I was in her stomach, and the funny thing is that the song she sang to me is my favorite song now. I want people to remember me as the great Jihan, a singer. I want to teach other kids and inspire others to follow their dreams like me." ~Jihan Bailey

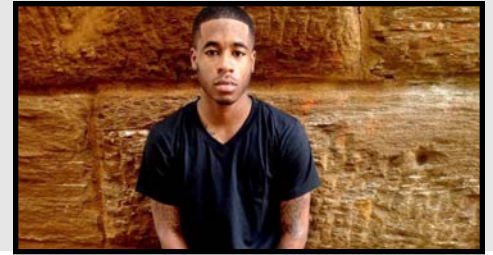
"Music is something that comes from within, that describes your feelings. That something sweet - that something of which you can't forget. Music, you're the best! Music, music, music - something of such unique mix and combination." ~Destiny Davis





SHOUT OUT TO RICHARD (1995-2015)

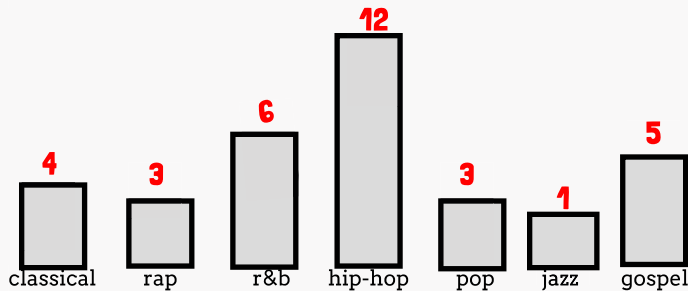
"I would like to say that we love you, and we miss you very much. Watch over us in heaven. I wish you were here right now, but you are in a better place. Just know that you are here with us in our hearts. SAVE US A SPOT UP THERE. LOVE YOU SO MUCH, BROTHER!!!!!!!!!!!" ~Jaami'a Boyer



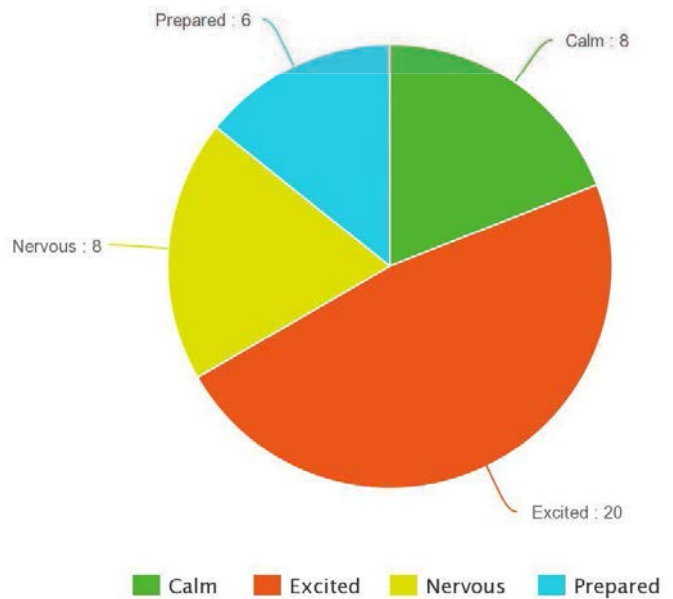
POLLS.....THE VOTES HAVE BEEN COUNTED!!!!!!

All numbers are percentage figure of overall votes.

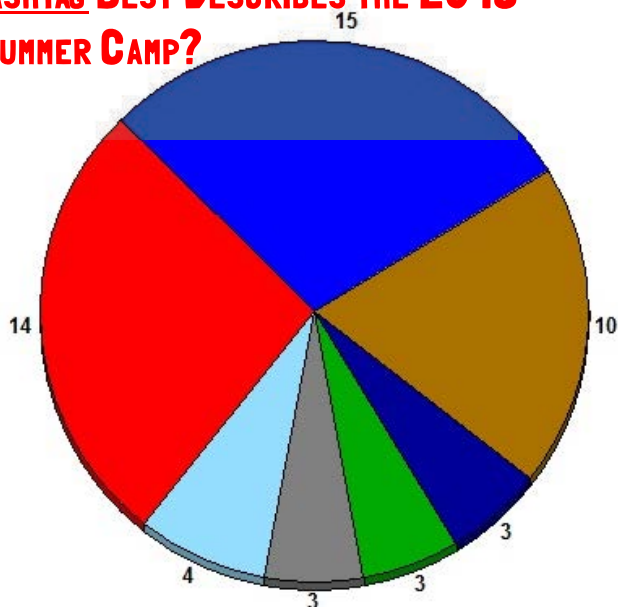
WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE TYPE OF MUSIC TO LISTEN TO?



HOW DO YOU FEEL RIGHT B4 YOU PERFORM @ A CONCERT?



WHAT HASHTAG BEST DESCRIBES THE 2015 CCC SUMMER CAMP?



- #Chester'sVoice
- #FamilyForever
- #Fun&Exciting
- #NotBoringatAll
- #LiftEveryVoice
- #Johnny'sCreation
- #VoicesInUs





MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I wish to thank Ms. Abigail Henry for her role as lead instructor and editor for this special edition of the CCC Magazine and to Mr. Richard Yerkes for his role as lead photography instructor. To the students who contributed to these pages: I thank you for sharing your hearts through your words and photos. You inspire so many people each and every day with your voices, minds, and spirits. You are truly awesome. (Kirsten Halker-Kratz)

Our Voice Credits

Editor:

Abigail Henry

Designers:

CCC 2015 Newsletter +

Literature Classes

Photography:

Richard Yerkes + CCC

2015 Photography Classes

CHECK CCC OUT ON

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ChesterChildrensChorus

YouTube: www.youtube.com/user/CheChiChorus

Instagram: #chesterchildrenschorus

Twitter: @CCC_Swarthmore

SUPPORT US

I am pleased to make a contribution to the Chester Children's Chorus in the amount of \$ _____

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To give online, visit our website www.chesterschildrenchorus.org, and select "Volunteer or Give!" For information, call Executive Director Kirsten Halker-Kratz at (610) 328-8286. Please return this form to the address below.

Swarthmore College - 500 College Ave - Swarthmore, PA 19081

THANK YOU!!!

John Alston, founder and artistic director

Kirsten Halker-Kratz, executive director

Sean Tripline, assistant music director

Elisa DeNofio, administrative assistant

Yasmine Lee, program assistant

