



LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Music of the Season! CCC Holiday Concert



Saturday, Dec. 13, 8 p.m.
First Pentecostal Holy Church
324 Pusey Street,
Chester PA
Admission Free! All invited!

CCC to Celebrate 15th Anniversary in 2009

Next year will mark the 15th anniversary of the day that I walked into the office of College Vice President Maurice Eldridge '61 and asked him to help me start a chorus for boys in Chester.

I had learned the joy and solace of music as a member of the Newark Boys Chorus in my hometown of Newark, N.J. Chester reminded me so much of Newark that I wanted to give Chester children the same musical nurturing that I had received.

Maurice found me \$2,000 to buy an electric keyboard, and I went off to Columbus Elementary School, where I discovered seven second-grade boys who wanted to sing. Pretty soon I found some boys at Toby Farms School, too. I settled into a routine of rehearsing with those



100 children sang in our July concerts

handfuls of children at their schools on weekday afternoons and bringing them to Swarthmore College on Saturdays and in the summer, to sing, play a little baseball, and have some "guy" time together. My motto for the chorus expressed what I hoped to help the children achieve: "Strong Voice, Strong Mind, Strong Spirit."

100 Children and a Rich Program

Today, the chorus has 100 children, and our summer program includes dance, art, piano lessons, science classes, and reading. The children give six powerful concerts each year, drawing audiences of 400 to 1,000 people. Chorus members learn to hear and sing harmony, to sing in many languages, and even to write their own music. Our December concerts fill the largest church in Chester, and our spring concert is presented in Malvern by St. Peter's Church in the Great Valley. Our most proficient musicians join the Swarthmore College Chorus, and last spring, three of our teens performed J.S. Bach's great *St. John Passion* with the College group—in German!

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Chester Upland School of the Arts Opens

Brightly painted classrooms, enthusiastic teachers, and welcoming staff members greeted 200 students in pre-kindergarten through second grade on Sept. 4, the opening day of the Chester Upland School of the Arts (CUSA). CUSA is an arts magnet public school operated by a partnership between the Chester Upland School District and The Chester Fund for Education and the Arts. Chester Children's Chorus Director John Alston is the founder and president of The Chester Fund. The school district, under the lead-

ership of superintendent Dr. Gregory Thornton, provides funding for the usual school activities. The Chester Fund contributes additional resources for music, art, and dance teachers; a teacher's assistant in each class of 20 children in kindergarten through second grade; an extended-day academic and arts program for second graders; a state-of-the-art instructional technology program, and a brand-new playground for children from 3 to 12 years old. John and Chester Fund Chair Maurice Eldridge '61 also helped the school district discover and hire teachers committed to encouraging children to learn by asking questions and through creative problem solving. "And boy, can the children sing!" John reported. The school is "a ray of sunshine"... "very inspirational," one visitor said.

Information on the school and how to support it through The Chester Fund is available at www.chestruplandschoolofthearts.org.



CCC director John Alston greeted kindergarten student Bruce Rogers and his mother, Tamar Smith, on opening day at the Chester Upland School of the Arts.

Anniversary Concerts

Friday, May 8, 8 p.m.
 Saturday, May 9, 8 p.m.
 Lang Concert Hall, Swarthmore College

Benefit Performance and Reception

Sunday, Oct. 18, 4 p.m.
 Lang Concert Hall, Swarthmore College

Look for additional 15th Anniversary information in the spring Voice

15th Anniversary Events

To make a tax-deductible contribution to the Chester Children's Chorus, please detach this coupon, complete, and mail to:

Chester Children's Chorus, Swarthmore College, 500 College Avenue, Swarthmore PA 19081

Enclosed is a check in the amount of \$35 \$75 \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1,000 Other: _____.
 (Check should be payable to Swarthmore College with Chester Children's Chorus in memo field)

Please charge my gift to my:
 Visa Mastercard Discover American Express
 Card # _____
 Expires: ____ / ____ Amount to charge: \$ _____

My gift will be matched by my employer.
 (Please enclose your signed matching gift form.)

Give online at www.swarthmore.edu. Choose "other fund," and specify "Chester Children's Chorus." **THANK YOU!**

Summer Memories, 2008



What a summer! For five exhilarating weeks, 100 children were immersed in music, art, dance, drumming, reading, science, sports, and swimming. They enjoyed thousands of encouraging words and affirmative experiences from our staff of 18 adult teachers, 25 student teachers' assistants, three junior counselors, 45 adult reading volunteers, and 12 student program vol-



unteers. Field trips took the Concert Choir members to New York City and the Junior Choir and Training Choir singers to Brandywine Picnic Park. They wrapped up the summer with a Science Fair, where science students explained their projects; a performance for the community of dance and drumming of Africa and the African diaspora; and the two summer concerts that were a tour de force of singing and poise! Our thanks to everyone who made it possible, especially the many volunteers whose contributions were invaluable.



... 15th Anniversary, *continued*

Hallelujah Chorus

Last summer, the CCC's 50-member Concert Choir gave me one of the best gifts ever: They fell in love with Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus" and performed it with passion at our July concerts. An audience member declared this to be one of the most moving performances of the "Hallelujah Chorus" he had heard in a lifetime of concert-going.

Graduates Remain Involved

Last summer, too, we were fortunate to have chorus graduate Vincent Wilson back with us as a staff member. Vince, one of the earliest chorus members, is in his fourth year at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, majoring in sound engineering and communications. He showed impressive maturity in his work with the children. Another long-time chorus member, Craig Robinson Jr., also returned to help fill out the Men's Ensemble for a performance at a Chester School of the Arts reception. Craig is a first-year student at Pennsylvania Institute of Technology in a program that will prepare him to transfer to Drexel University.

The Chorus Office Has Moved!

The Chester Children's Chorus office moved in August from Lang Music Building to more spacious quarters in the Swarthmore train station, to free up office space for music and dance faculty members. We thank the Department of Music and Dance for seven happy years in their midst and are immensely grateful to Swarthmore College, to Vice President for College and Community Relations Maurice Eldridge '61, and to Vice President for Facilities and Services Stuart Hain for finding us a wonderful new space and making it available to us at no cost. The children's Saturday rehearsals and Summer Learning Program will continue to be held in Lang.

I invite you to join us next year as we celebrate our 15th anniversary and embark on the next 15 years of helping Chester children build strong voices, strong minds, and strong spirits.

—John Alston

Chorus Adds Board And Staff Members

To strengthen our management and fundraising capacity as we grow, the chorus has named three new board members and completed a significant staff expansion.

New board members are:

- **Marlene Mackason**, the mother of second-year chorus member Darria Brooks and an administrator at the Morgan, Lewis, Bockius law firm in Philadelphia.



Marlene Mackason

- **Susan Brake**, a human resources consultant and a former human resources executive at American Express and Pizza Hut.



Susan Brake

- **Barbara "Bunkie" Darlin**, regional vice president of the Costume Society of America and co-chair of the society's 2005 national symposium in Philadelphia.



Barbara Darlin

Marlene and Susan replace retiring board members Edmund Jones and Sandra Robinson. Bunkie's appointment expands the board to 10 members.

In the office, **Anjali Gallup-Diaz** joined the chorus in April as managing director, with responsibility for all program activities and concerts. She previously was program coordinator for the Scholars Program in Culture and Communication at the Annenberg School for Communication at the University of Pennsylvania.



Anjali Gallup-Diaz

Former managing director **Andrea Knox '64** fills the new position of development director, responsible for fundraising and marketing to support a budget of nearly \$400,000.



Andrea Knox

Elisa DeNofio continues as the chorus' administrative assistant.



Elisa DeNofio

CHESTER CHILDREN'S CHORUS

John Alston, founder and director
Anjali Gallup-Diaz, managing director
Andrea Knox '64, development director
Elisa DeNofio, assistant

Voice
The newsletter of the Chester Children's Chorus
Andrea Knox, editor
Philip Stern '84, designer
Photos by Jonathan Hodgson, Andrea Knox, and Jeff Lott

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