



LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

CCC Opens Doors for Talented Musicians

Our CCC children stay with us because they've become part of a community where they experience affirmation, rigor, kindness, and laughter. Although they are all talented musically, and many will continue to sing throughout their lives, most will not pursue music as a career. But for six of our current and past members, music is a calling; they hear music all the time, as I did when I was young. They have that rare combination of talent and drive that makes it impossible for them not to do music.

Vince Wilson, now 24, is pursuing a career in gospel music as a member of the Philadelphia-based group Pastor Mark & Fresh Fire Movement. With this group he's performed at the Grand Opera House in Wilmington, Delaware, and at historically black universities including Clark Atlanta and Morgan State,

sharing the stage with gospel luminaries including Grammy-award winner Dorinda Clark-Cole and Tye Tribbett.

Marquise Miles has just entered the University of the Arts in Philadelphia to study voice and dance. The CCC children acknowledge him as our best dancer, and his vocal ability is matched by that of only one other chorus member, 11th-grader Ja'Quay Lundy. Ja'Quay has pure star power—think Beyoncé

Letter continued, over



HOLIDAY CONCERTS

In MEDIA

Friday, Dec. 9, 7:30 p.m.

Reformation Lutheran Church
102 West Rose Tree Road

In CHESTER

Saturday, Dec. 10, 7:30 p.m.

White Rock Christian Church
308 West 3rd Street

Admission free
Donations support CCC programs.

For spring and summer concert dates, visit www.chesterchildrenschorus.org

CCC Congratulates Our 2011 Grads!



Marquise Miles is a voice and dance major at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia. Marquise was one of 100 finalists in New Jersey auditions for *The X Factor* TV show last summer.

Alainna Earl is taking SAT prep courses and working on college applications at the College Access Center of Delaware County. She plans to start college in fall 2012.



Demar McKoy will enter Drexel University as a nursing major in January. She is working full time as a pharmacist technician and will continue working part time after she starts college.

Young Singers Explore Music Visually

Dan Beal, the CCC's assistant music director, is buzzing with ideas to deepen the choristers' experience of music. This summer, he brought in the visual arts to help children in the Training and Junior choirs, who are mostly 8 and 9 years old, engage with two particularly challenging pieces they were learning, "My Master Hath a Garden" and "Looking Glass River."

To approach "My Master Hath a Garden," which narrates an idea of heaven, Dan asked the students to paint a picture of what their own heavenly garden would look like. Some students focused on the intricacies of individual flowers, while others depicted themselves, friends, or lost loved ones in their imaginary landscapes.

The exercise brought Dan new insights into his choristers' individual personalities while helping the children expand their understanding of the music.



"I noticed a change in their motivation with those two songs," says Dan. "As soon as we brought in this artistic aspect of drawing pictures to go with the songs, the children got more excited and engaged. I really think they looked at the music differently."

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)

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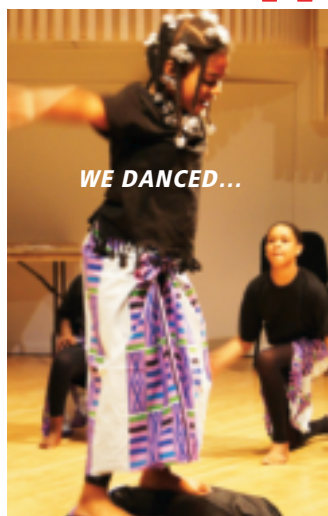
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☐ My gift will be matched by my employer. (Please enclose your signed matching gift form.)

Give online at www.swarthmore.edu. Choose "other fund," and specify "Chester Children's Chorus." For information on making a gift of securities, call Managing Director Andrea Knox at (610) 328-8286.

THANK YOU!

OH, THE THINGS WE DID THIS SUMMER!



WE DANCED...



WE SANG...



WE PAINTED...



WE TALKED ABOUT BOOKS...



WE DID SCIENCE...

... AND WE CAN'T WAIT TO DO IT ALL AGAIN!

The CCC has found its voice on the Web— Check us out online!



Visit our brand new YouTube channel for official videos of the CCC in action:

<http://www.youtube.com/user/CheChiChorus>

Be sure to "like" us on Facebook for photos, news, event information, and much more! Help us to share the joy of CCC with your friends!

<http://www.facebook.com/ChesterChildrensChorus>

Don't miss out! Receive e-mail news of concerts and other CCC events. Write ccc@swarthmore.edu, and ask to be added to our email list.

CCC SHOPPING NIGHT AT TEN THOUSAND VILLAGES

December 16, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., 101 W. State St., Media



Home décor, table linens, toys, jewelry, baskets, and ceramics
Artisan-made wares from Africa, Asia, and the Middle East
Chester Children's Chorus receives 15 percent of sales between 4 p.m. and 8 p.m.

HELP THE CHORUS, HELP THE ARTISANS!

Letter ... continued

or Mariah Carey—and, equally important, engages easily with audiences. Kaya Banton, in 9th grade, is the only jazz pianist we've ever had. She has a tremendous ear, practices obsessively, and has a remarkable gift for harmonic creativity. Eighth-grader Kassie Stevenson is our singer-songwriter, with a sense of lyricism that neither I nor any other chorus member can approach. This summer she wrote three songs, and when she sang them for the rest of the group, we knew instantly that we were hearing something special.

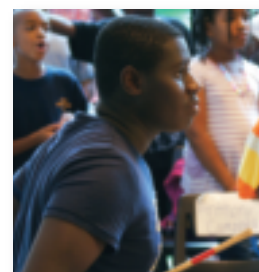
William Taylor, our 15-year-old drummer, is only happy and at peace when he's holding drumsticks in his hands. Singing in the chorus he is restless, often tapping rhythm on his legs even during a slow Renaissance motet. But behind a drum set he is all radiance and focus, smiling mightily as he delivers rhythmic combinations beyond the ability of most professional drummers. While I work with the vocal and composition students, the chorus provides drum lessons for William with Mark Beecher, who was the chorus's drum accompanist until William moved into that role.

The chorus is a special place for all our members, a place where they grow as musicians and find their inner strengths. But it is an extra-special place for these six gifted young people who are getting or have gotten their start here. Thank you for helping them find themselves, and for helping us find more children like them.

—John Alston



Kassie Stevenson studies composition with director John Alston.



Drummer William Taylor lends focus and power to the CCC sound.

CHESTER CHILDREN'S CHORUS

John Alston, founder and director
Andrea Knox '64, managing director
Daniel Beal, assistant music director
Elisa DeNofio, assistant

Voice
The newsletter of the Chester Children's Chorus
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www.chesterchildrenschorus.org



"Strong Voice, Strong Mind, Strong Spirit"

