



CONCERT EVENTS

Saturday, March 16, 7:00 p.m.
Church of the Redeemer
145 West Springfield Road, Springfield

Saturday, April 6, 7:30 p.m.
Swarthmore Presbyterian Church
727 Harvard Avenue, Swarthmore

Friday, May 10, 7:30 p.m.
St. Katharine Drexel Parish
1920 Providence Avenue, Chester

Saturday, May 11, 7:30 p.m.
Lang Concert Hall, Swarthmore College

**Friday and Saturday,
July 26 & 27, 7:30 p.m.**
Lang Performing Arts Center,
Swarthmore College

Admission is free!
Donations support CCC programs.

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Life After the Requiem

Our November performance of Mozart's *Requiem* was wildly successful. I tell the chorus and audiences that it is the best forty minutes of classical music ever written, and its accessibility and profound expressiveness make it a singular work in the classical canon. This spring we have begun learning Faure's lyrical *Cantique de Jean Racine*. The Concert Choir members (7th-12th graders) love the music and are equally fascinated and frustrated by the French language, which only four members have studied just a bit. Therefore, I am inserting short French vocabulary lessons in rehearsals that include Racine's poetry as well as more useful and fun words and expressions. It is slow going, but by May they

Letter continued, over

CCC CELEBRATES GRADUATING SENIORS

This spring, the chorus will celebrate and honor its largest high school graduating class. The six seniors, five of whom have been with the chorus for 10 years, were invited to share some of their dreams and favorite memories of being members of the chorus. Although their farewell is bittersweet, we bid them all the very best in their next adventures.



From left to right: J'atienne, Asia, Di'Quan, Taylore, Glenn, Aliya

J'ATIENNE CAMPBELL

Years in the chorus: 10
Voice part: soprano
Aspirations: to complete a college degree and serve as a volunteer for charitable causes
Favorite chorus piece: Mozart's *Requiem*, "because it was the hardest but also the most beautiful piece of music we ever sang."

The chorus has been fortunate to have J'atienne work as an assistant to Dan Beal, the Assistant Music Director. She shared that some of her best memories are being with the younger kids, watching them work hard and learning the music with them. "...and they're so cute!"

ASIA CHERRY

Years in the chorus: 10
Voice part: alto
Aspirations: to complete college and work as an athletic trainer
Favorite chorus piece: *In the Bleak Midwinter*
Favorite Alston arrangement: *Whisper*

Asia had a difficult time selecting her favorite memory since there are so many. She recalled one time during the summer program that it was pouring rain (no lightning, of course), and they ran outside and played and laughed. She also mentioned participating in a field trip to Echo Hill, where they enjoyed singing *Kumbaya* by the campfire and riding the zipline.

DI'QUAN DILL

Years in the chorus: 1
Voice part: bass
Aspirations: to complete college and become a psychologist helping juvenile delinquents
Favorite chorus piece: "Lacrymosa" from Mozart's *Requiem*

Di'Quan may have come to the chorus much later than his friends, but the memories and relationships have been lasting. Di'Quan commented that he has enjoyed hanging out with John and meeting the other gentlemen in the bass section.

TAYLORE HARRIS

Years in the chorus: 10
Voice part: alto
Aspirations: to finish college and work as a pharmacist
Favorite chorus piece: "Lacrymosa" from Mozart's *Requiem*
Favorite Alston arrangement: *Everything I Am*

Taylore enjoyed her time at Echo Hill camp as well. She agreed with Ms. Cherry that participating in the zipline and other activities was a lot of fun!

GLENN SIMPSON

Years in the chorus: 10
Voice part: bass
Aspirations: to play professional baseball or football, finish college and work as an athletic trainer for a professional sports team
Favorite chorus piece: "Lacrymosa" from Mozart's *Requiem*

Glenn recalls spending time with John as a favorite memory, and also hanging out with the other men in the bass section. He mentioned that it has been great watching everyone grow and work together.

ALIYA TANNER

Years in the chorus: 11 (Aliya slipped in as a rising 2nd grader!)
Voice part: soprano
Aspirations: finish college either in nursing or athletic training
Favorite chorus piece: *Psalm 23* by John Alston

Aliya shared that her favorite memories are from the summer camp with her friends. She often came to camp early just to be here (even though rehearsal did not start for a few hours) and help with the younger students.



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

Enclosed is a check (Check should be payable to "Swarthmore College" with "Chester Children's Chorus" in memo field.)

Please charge my gift to
 Visa Mastercard Discover American Express

Card # _____

Expires: _____ / _____

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

Name _____

Street _____

City, State, Zip _____

Email _____

Phone number _____

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

For information, call Executive Director Kirsten Halker-Kratz at (610) 328-8286.

Please mail to: Chester Children's Chorus, Swarthmore College, 500 College Avenue, Swarthmore PA 19081

THANK YOU!



CCC OUT AND ABOUT!

- ★ CCC enjoyed a night out with the **Phillies Phanatic** and **Phillies Charities, Inc.** A recipient of a \$10,000 gift, the chorus opened the festivities singing "Let it Be." Posing with the Phanatic left to right is **Kassandra Stevenson**, **Dai'Shona Jones**, **John Alston** (*Founder and Director*), **Asia Cherry**, **Kirsten Halker-Kratz** (*Executive Director*) and **Shanaé Willis**.
- ★ **The Young Men's Club** went to the Philadelphia Theatre Company to see "The Mountaintop," a fictional play depicting Martin Luther King, Jr.'s final hours after delivering his "I've Been to the Mountaintop" speech.
- ★ We will be at the **Swarthmore Fun Fair, Sunday, May 5**. Stop by the chorus table and say hello between 1-5 p.m. We will have t-shirts for sale.

READ WITH A CHILD THIS SUMMER!



WE ARE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS to read one-on-one with third graders for up to five weeks this summer.

Mondays through Thursdays, 10:30-11:30 a.m. June 24 through July 24, 2013
Lang Music Building, Swarthmore College

Must be at least 21 years old. Criminal background checks and child abuse clearances must be obtained. Please allow 6-8 weeks to receive both clearances. We can provide the documents. For more information: 610-328-8180

Letter ... continued

will understand every word of the Racine poem, and have developed enough interest in the French language that some may want to study it in college.

The classical showstopper this spring is *The Barber of Seville* "Overture," which I am arranging for the chorus. We did it seven years ago with a very talented group of baritone, but now the entire Concert Choir has developed enough skill and love for classical music (thank you, Mozart!) that they have internalized classical harmony and gestures. Even with no words (we are using nonsense syllables), the children recognize the emotional qualities in the "Overture" and, more importantly, are willing and able to convey them in their singing. After 19 years, we have grown from singing folk songs not terribly well to performing Mozart and Rossini with skill, commitment, and understanding. One day, our Chester children will achieve genuine bicultural fluency in classical and popular music, and they will be one step closer to achieving the intellectual and social bicultural fluency they will need to improve their city and successfully navigate the wider world.

—John Alston

CHESTER CHILDREN'S CHORUS

John Alston, *founder and director*
Kirsten Halker-Kratz, *executive director*
Daniel Beal, *assistant music director*
Elisa DeNofio, *assistant*

Voice credits:

Editor:
Kirsten Halker-Kratz
Designer:
Kartlyn Rosen Aires '87

We make every effort to maintain accurate mailing lists. If you have received an extra copy of this newsletter, please notify us at 610-328-8180 and share it with a friend.

Photography:
Jonathan Hodgson
Andrea Knox

Swarthmore College • 500 College Avenue • Swarthmore PA 19081
(610) 328-8180 • ccc@swarthmore.edu

www.chesterchildrenschorus.org



The chorus was pleased to receive a \$50,000 grant from the Judith Haskell Brewer Fund of The Community Foundation serving Richmond and Central Virginia. "Judith believed in uplifting the world through beauty, science, arts and education. She showed compassion to and acceptance of others..." We thank them for believing in the work we do every day to continue making the world a beautiful place through song.

CCC RECEIVES GENEROUS GIFT TO MEET THE 2013 MYERS CHALLENGE

Check us out on the web: www.chesterchildrenschorus.org



www.facebook.com/ChesterChildrensChorus

www.youtube.com/user/CheChiChorus