



## UPCOMING CONCERTS

**Friday, December 11 &  
Saturday December 12, 2015  
7:30 p.m.**

Lang Concert Hall, Swarthmore College  
Seating limited to first 425 guests.  
Doors open at 6:45 p.m.

**Monday, January 18, 2016  
7:00 p.m.**

Martin Luther King Day Celebration  
Calvary Baptist Church  
1616 W. Second Street  
Chester, PA 19013

**Saturday, February 6, 2016  
7:30 p.m.**

St. George's Episcopal Church  
1 W. Ardmore Ave.  
Ardmore, PA 19003

**Sunday, February 21, 2016  
4:00 p.m.**

Collaboration with St. David's Children's Choir  
St. David's Episcopal Church  
763 Valley Forge Rd.  
Wayne, PA 19087

**ADMISSION IS FREE!  
DONATIONS SUPPORT CCC PROGRAMS.**



## Practice Makes...

Every day at noon, during Summer Camp, Ray (a 13 year old rising 8th grader) stops by the office to pick up two packs of index cards. The smaller pack is all of the multiplication tables and facts he knows, and the much larger pack is all of them he does not know. Ray has always struggled with school (my wife, Sara, was his 1st grade teacher), and with much encouragement, he 'volunteered' for his summer math intervention. For one hour daily, Ray practices his multiplication facts with one of our older boys. Sometimes it goes well, and he tells me what he has mastered that day. There are many days when he is frustrated. On those days, he practices by himself, and I sporadically encourage him while teaching the altos.

After the camp day, Ray and six older CCC teenagers go with me to Planet Fitness and workout. He has surprising discipline on the treadmill and will out-run me in another year. He proudly bench presses 15-pound dumbbells for 12 reps, and then turns up his short sleeves and flexes in the mirror. (Ray can be generously described as skinny.)

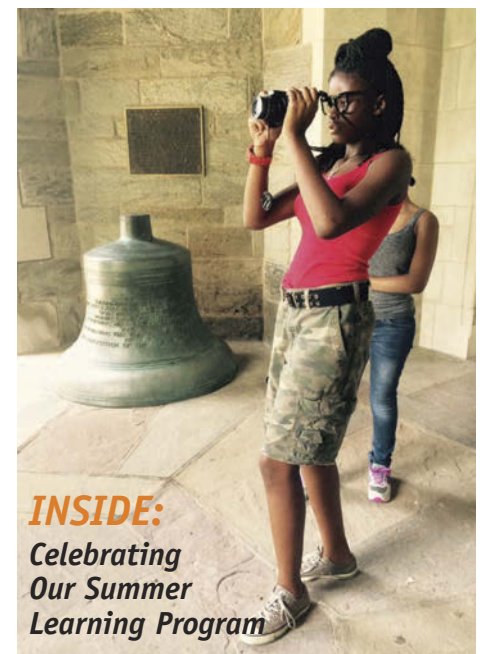
All summer, Ray dutifully practices his math facts and happily builds his fitness. As if on cue, at camp's end, Ray tells me that he knows all of the multiplication tables. We quiz each other and play with the facts. He has indeed memorized them all, though we still need to work on speed.

This fall, Ray is pressing 20-pound dumbbells on the bench, and he is coaching newer

members of our workout crew. "Keep the L in the elbows when you press" is one of his pet phrases. And again, as if on cue, during a recent evening bass rehearsal, Ray told the boys and me that he scored a 92% on his last math test.

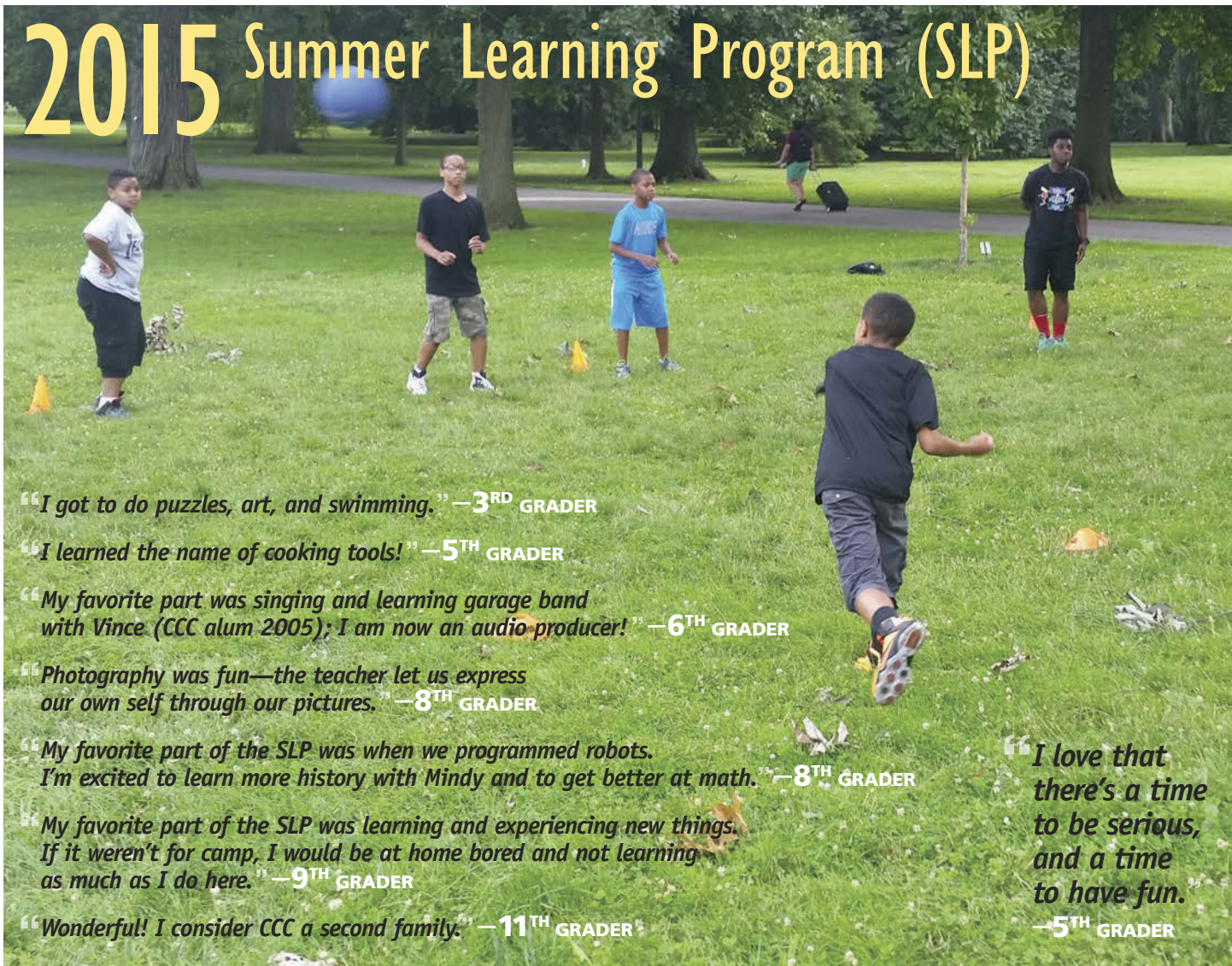
While practice rarely makes perfect, it does make better, more confident, more caring..... and smart.

**John Alston**  
CCC Artistic Director



**INSIDE:**  
**Celebrating  
Our Summer  
Learning Program**

# 2015 Summer Learning Program (SLP)



*"I got to do puzzles, art, and swimming."* —3<sup>RD</sup> GRADER

*"I learned the name of cooking tools!"* —5<sup>TH</sup> GRADER

*"My favorite part was singing and learning garage band with Vince (CCC alum 2005); I am now an audio producer!"* —6<sup>TH</sup> GRADER

*"Photography was fun—the teacher let us express our own self through our pictures."* —8<sup>TH</sup> GRADER

*"My favorite part of the SLP was when we programmed robots. I'm excited to learn more history with Mindy and to get better at math."* —8<sup>TH</sup> GRADER

*"My favorite part of the SLP was learning and experiencing new things. If it weren't for camp, I would be at home bored and not learning as much as I do here."* —9<sup>TH</sup> GRADER

*"Wonderful! I consider CCC a second family."* —11<sup>TH</sup> GRADER

*"I love that there's a time to be serious, and a time to have fun."*  
—5<sup>TH</sup> GRADER



IT IS CLEAR from the students' reactions that this year's summer learning program was a great success. We want to thank Swarthmore College for all of its support, especially the staff of the following departments: Lang Center for Performing Arts, the Science Center, Dining Services, Swarthmore Athletics and Ware Pool, The Scott Arboretum of Swarthmore College, and Swarthmore College Communications staff. Special credit goes to swimming program volunteers, Charlotte and Susan Brake. We also thank the many volunteers who helped nurture our children.

If you missed the opportunity to visit us this summer, please check out our website at [www.chesterchildrenschorus.org](http://www.chesterchildrenschorus.org) and Youtube channel, [CheChiChorus](#).



## Get to Know the CCC

### ELISA DENOFIO

*In December, a special member of the CCC staff will be celebrating a decade of service that includes (but is not limited to) processing payroll; paying bills; picking up jackets and dresses; typing concert programs; contacting vendors; caring for children; and ordering breakfast, lunch and dinners as needed to ensure the CCC is at its best. Elisa DeNofio is the Chorus administrative assistant, and she has been the go-to person in the Chorus office since 2005. Here's a little more about her and her experience with the CCC:*



**What is your favorite part about working with the CCC?** I love the children the most: seeing their smiles and getting hugs. I love how happy they are with us.

**Do you remember seeing the Chorus for the first time?** I do! The CCC was only about 60 students. My first concert was a holiday concert (they only sang in the winter, spring and summer camp), and John had written a parody on the *12 Days of Christmas*. Everyone had so much fun with it and enjoyed singing it.

**Besides the number of children participating in the CCC, what else has changed in ten years?** There are a lot more children involved within a family, which is kind of neat to see siblings, cousins, etc. perform with each other. There are many more concerts now. In 2005, the CCC was just starting to perform outside of the Swarthmore community.

**Do you have a favorite song?** *Rock of Ages* (arr. Alston) because it is so stirring and inspirational.

**T**wo CCC Alumni were part of the SLP staff this summer:

**Vince Wilson, CCC alumnus 2005:** Vince currently lives in Philadelphia, working for an entertainment company named EBE. He writes and



SHANAE

performs his own personal music, gives voice lessons, and produces on the side. Vince provided music production instruction to our campers, as well as serving on the planning committee for the alumni event.



VINCE

**Shanae Willis, CCC alumna 2015:** Shanae is taking classes at Delaware County Community College. This summer CCC boys and girls were ecstatic to be performing with and learning all the popular dances from Shanae. As an emerging choreographer in hip hop dance, she created several numbers for the summer dance production, "Hip Hop, Homage, and Heritage."



TWELVE CCC ALUMNI joined the current Chorus to sing *I've Got a Long Way to Go* at the summer concert on July 25. This was the first formal alumni gathering, and newly graduated students joined the 12 alumni at a pre-concert reception in Scheuer Room.

## New Faces of the CCC

**W**e are pleased to welcome two new staff members, **H. Yasmine Lee** and **Kevin Curtis**. Yasmine (pronounced "Jasmin") began



a new role as program assistant on June 1. She graduated from Earlham College with a degree in sociology and anthropology and most recently worked in program development at the Wyck Historic House in Germantown. She has a special interest in sustainable farming and hopes to start an urban garden in Chester.



Kevin began on March 15 in a new role of production assistant and van driver. Kevin is a middle school teacher with A Friend of the Family School. He studied music at Delaware State University and is a fluent gospel pianist at Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church in Twin Oaks.

**Carol Kroch** joined the Advisory Board in September. Carol is Managing Director, Wealth and Philanthropic Planning with Wilmington Trust Company. She formerly was Senior Counsel at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Please be sure to say hello to our new friends!



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## NEW REHEARSAL SPACE

*Our fall rehearsal space is now the Willie Mae Leake Center at 701 Yarnall Street, Chester. We thank Murphy AME Church for helping organize the new space for us, which aids our transportation efforts during the week.*

**SUPPORT US!** I am pleased to make a contribution to the Chester Children's Chorus in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

- Enclosed is a check (Check made 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

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



## CHESTER CHILDREN'S CHORUS

John Alston, founder and artistic director  
 Kirsten Halker-Kratz, executive director  
 Sean Tripline, assistant music director  
 Elisa DeNofio, administrative assistant  
 H. Yasmine Lee, program assistant

If you have received an extra copy of this newsletter, please notify us at 610-328-8180 and share the copy with a friend.

### Voice credits:

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# CCC "NOTE-ABLES"



**RAFFLE WINNER**, Noah Weiss, is pictured above at Swarthmore's Fun Fair event on May 3rd. The CCC enjoyed the fun-filled day, meeting community members and publicizing our spring concert events. From left to right: Board President, Cordelia Delson, Noah, and board members Frances Vilella-Velez, Karen Vesely, and Mary McTernan.

### INAUGURATING A NEW ERA:

The CCC was honored to be a part of the inauguration festivities on October 3 of the 15th president of Swarthmore College, Valerie Smith. The Chorus sang as special musical guests for the installation service.



**11 HIGH-SCHOOL SENIORS** were honored at a special dinner, as part of the spring concerts. Guests enjoyed a delicious buffet at Sharples dining hall and were given seniors gifts of bracelet charms and engraved dog tags, as well as corsages.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to CCC current student Shamar Foster who won a \$13,000 scholarship to culinary school as part of a team from the Hershey School. He hopes to attend the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, NY.