



FALL & WINTER CONCERTS

**Saturday, October 22,
7:00 p.m.**

Main Line Unitarian Church
816 S. Valley Forge Road, Devon, PA 19333

**Friday, December 9 &
Saturday, December 10,
7:30 p.m.**

Lang Concert Hall, Swarthmore College
Doors open at 6:45 p.m. Seating is limited to 450 guests

**Monday, January 16, 2017,
7:00 p.m.**

Martin Luther King Day Celebration
St. David's Episcopal Church Choir Collaboration
763 Valley Forge Road, Wayne, PA 19087

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



Soloists (left to right) Skyy Brooks, Darria Brooks and K'yana Reeves received a standing ovation in July.

DARRIA: Strong Voice, Strong Mind, Strong Spirit

Darria (rhymes with 'aria') is one of our high school seniors. She is joyful, playful, an exceptional musician and singer; and is a leader in rehearsals and concerts. For most of her 10-year CCC career, this was not the case. Darria, herself, admits that she has not always been a "people person." Until very recently, Darria was often distracted and cross. Her typical greeting to me was a half-hearted head nod and frown.

Strong Voice: Two summers ago, Darria began taking lessons with our voice teacher, Tracy Sturgis, and we quickly discovered that Darria has a beautiful and impressive soprano voice. Darria told me that when she first let out her whole voice, she felt "powerful, joyful, and free." During our recent summer concerts, Darria and two other sopranos (K'yana and Skyy) sang the soprano solo in Mozart's exquisite "Laudate Dominum." The audience rewarded the girls' performance with a standing ovation. This spring, Darria plans to give a senior recital, and to study both music and bio-engineering in college.

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Strong Mind: I first became aware of Darria's musical gifts when, a few years ago, she would play snippets of pop songs on piano that she learned by ear and through YouTube instructional videos. She then joined our Composers' Circle, where students learn the nuts and bolts of music: writing scales and key signatures, learning notation, and eventually, learning to write four-part harmony. When Darria began writing four-part harmonic exercises (short passages for soprano, alto, tenor, and bass), I noticed that she often sang while writing. I discovered that

continued inside



INSIDE: Summer 2016!

Get to Know the CCC DOREEN WEST

IN DECEMBER, the CCC will celebrate Doreen West's tenth anniversary as a van driver and transportation coordinator. Ms. West (pictured here with one of her granddaughters) has been a rock for the transportation schedule. Working closely with Elisa DeNofio and Geri Young, both of whom celebrated ten years of service last year, Ms. West ensures that both the students AND their meals arrive on time. She shared some of her thoughts about working with the CCC:



What do you enjoy most about the CCC?

I love the children. It's great watching them grow up from children to young adults.

Do you have a favorite song?

Swing Low, Sweet Chariot and Oh, Freedom

Do you remember your first concert?

Yes, it was in the summer. I loved watching the children performing, and watching them in African Dance.

DARRIA *continued*

Darria has perfect pitch, and more impressively, she told me she was singing each voice part because she wanted to make sure they all sounded good—'smooth' was the word she used. College professors long for students who do this. By the end of this spring semester, Darria should be able to harmonize a hymn melody and perhaps write her own hymn in four parts.

Strong Spirit: This past summer, we hired Darria to work as a 'Junior Counselor.' Her job was assisting Sean (our Assistant Music Director) with the Training Chorus and Junior Choir children—serving snacks, escorting restroom visits, and most importantly, helping our smallest singers focus and showing them what good singing looks and sounds like. Darria's attitude while working surprised us all. She laughed and smiled with the children, was confident and caring, and was happier than we had ever seen her. Now, when Darria and I see each other, we greet each other with a loud "Duuuude!" delivered in an exaggerated California surfer accent, followed by smiles and giggles.

There are a few other CCC children who have musical gifts like Darria, but most of our children sing because they love learning, being with each other, and the thrill and reward of singing for you. For that hour on stage, all is perfect for us.

—John Alston, CCC Artistic Director

A Legacy of Devotion to the CCC

Peggy and Allan Brick have chosen to leave a **legacy gift** to the CCC, and we are grateful for their support. We recently spoke with them, and they agreed to share their story. After two careers in teaching the Bricks were looking forward to a life at Kendal at Longwood, and were soon swept up in the activities there and a newly-found connection with the Chester Children's Chorus. "We were happy to learn that Kendal would provide transportation to the Chorus performances!"

Allan's family has a long history in Delaware County, and in Chester. There were "Grubbs and Schofields all over Chester, and the Bricks lived for many years in a row home on West 7th Street. My father and mother were 'stars' at Chester High School. He was an athlete and she was the accompanist for all of the choral groups." For several generations, music has been a part of the family, and part of their contribution to



the Chester community. "My grandfather Schofield, a foreman at Chester Steel, sang bass in the Episcopal Church quartet and was a lead singer in many of Chester's Gilbert and Sullivan productions." The family witnessed the changing fortunes of the City of Chester.

After a time away, Allan and Peggy—newly married—returned, he as a teacher and she as Adult Program Director at the Chester Y.W.C.A.

The Bricks remain concerned about the future of Chester and how they might make a difference. "When John Alston gave his informative talks at Kendal, full of enthusiasm about the work of the Chorus, we were convinced that the program is making a vital difference in the lives of Chester's children. We can see that a city devoid of hope is now becoming a city of education and of beautiful music by—and for—its people."

"With our **bequest** we and our children will share the small resources left from our two teaching careers. The Chorus brings new hope for the children of Chester. We are happy to contribute to that hope."

For more information on legacy giving, please contact us at 610-328-8286 to learn just how simple it is to direct funds to the CCC.

2016 SUMMER LEARNING PROGRAM (SLP)

What We Did Last Summer...



If I wasn't at CCC's SLP, I would be:

- At home
- Bored
- Sleeping
- In trouble



"At next year's SLP I'd like to have fun like I did this year."



Next year I would like to:

- Sing more
- Play more
- Swim more
- Dance more
- Do it all again!



"SLP was another place I could be with my friends."



2016 Summer Learning Program By the Numbers:

143 registered students | **68** volunteers | **57** staff
27 Swarthmore College student counselors and interns
26 camp days | **7** College buildings | **INFINITE FUN!**

Besides singing, favorite activities by Chorus:

TRAINING CHORUS (3RD GRADE): *reading and swimming*
JUNIOR CHOIR (4TH & 5TH GRADES): *swimming and dance*
FESTIVAL CHOIR (MIDDLE SCHOOL): *everything!*
CONCERT CHOIR (HIGH SCHOOL): *art and photography*

There are so many wonderful people who help make the program possible each year. The SLP accounts for 1/3 of the annual CCC budget of \$800,000. We especially thank the Swarthmore College Class of 1966 for their support of the Science for Kids program. The class raised over \$125,000 to endow the program's college student internship positions.



"Seeing the inside of the College buildings was really cool."

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 _____

City, State, Zip _____

Email _____

Phone number _____

To give online, visit our website
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.

THANK YOU!



CHESTER CHILDREN'S CHORUS

John Alston, founder and artistic director
Kirsten Halker-Kratz, executive director
Sean Tripline, assistant music director
Elisa DeNofio, administrative assistant

If you have received an
extra copy of this newsletter,
please notify us at
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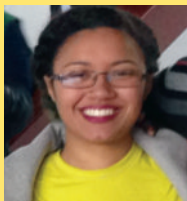
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CCC "NOTE-ABLES"



We received alumni updates from **KAYA BANTON** (left) and **J'ATIENNE CAMPBELL** (right). Kaya started EMT training this summer. J'atienne will be finishing an Exercise Science degree and is in the Pre-Physical Therapy program at Adelphi University in New York.



DEONDRE JORDAN (left) and **GREG BROWN** (right) joined the Advisory Board in September. Deondre is the first CCC alum to join the Board and is a sophomore neuroscience major at Swarthmore. Greg is the College's Vice President of Administration and Finance.

The CCC performed for the Salvation Army's awards ceremony on September 10. Earlier that day, Kirsten Halker-Kratz and Sean Tripline were guest speakers for Main Line Unitarian Church's Black Lives Matter banner dedication.

We note the passing of CCC friends, Jane Fox and Veronica Wyller and CCC alum, Alainna Earl. We send our light and love to their families.



MICAH WALKER, a 7th grader at Mother of Providence School and CCC bass, was Mustafa in their school production of "The Lion King."



www.facebook.com/ChesterChildrensChorus



www.youtube.com/user/CheChiChorus