



## upcoming concerts

**Friday, December 14 &  
Saturday, December 15  
7:30 p.m.**

Lang Concert Hall,  
Swarthmore College

*Reserved seating. Check website for details  
([www.chesterchildrenschorus.org](http://www.chesterchildrenschorus.org)) December 1st.  
Seating limited to 425 guests. Doors open at 6:45 p.m.*

**Friday, January 18, 2019  
6:00 p.m.**

MLK Celebration  
Congregation Rodeph Shalom  
615 North Broad Street,  
Philadelphia, PA

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



## Beach Boys—CCC Style

Near the end of our summer concert, as the drummer lays down an easy-going groove, our 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders begin to sway in that easy way our children do. Softly they open the song, singing, "Aruba, Jamaica, oo, I wanna take, ya". The audience murmurs approvingly, as most of them know well the Beach Boys' Kokomo. The children, encouraged, continue more confidently,

"Bermuda, Bahama, c'mon, pretty mama." But then, an unexpected change of dynamics: the choir shifts to a near whisper as they sing, "Off the Florida Keys," a lyrical and elegant moment not in the original Beach Boys recording. Our drummer plays quietly while the children float through the verse smoothly, dreamily. Sean, our assistant music director, added this dynamic and rhythmic softening to showcase his little ones' ability to sing sweetly and accurately—and also to set up the approaching familiar chorus/hook.

POW!!!! "Aruba, Jamaica....."

The children hit it hard. They start clapping, and the audience quickly begins to clap along with them. Despite never having sung this song before mid-July, our children clearly own it, adding just a little more of the groove and rhythmic back-beat they've learned from years of singing and moving to R&B. Their performance generated a two-minute beach party.

Of course the original Beach Boys recording is wonderful—we just added a little CCC spice. This is what we do.

—John Alston, Artistic Director







# CCC SUMMER BY THE NUMBERS



**PEOPLE ARE OFTEN SURPRISED** to learn about all the classes and activities the children enjoyed during our 6 week Summer Learning Program. Below is the list of every class we offered, the number of children who participated, and the number of teachers, assistants and volunteers who taught.

Subject	Attendance	Volunteers, Teachers & Assistants
Arboretum	10	2
African Dance	45	8
Art	39	2
Book Club	10	5
Breakfast	85	12
Advanced Musicianship	7	1
Cooking Class	21	4
Clarinet	1	1
Daily Rehearsal	121	11
Group Voice	6	1
Hip-Hop & Modern Dance	35	2
History	8	1
Individual Voice	7	1
Math Practice	31	12
Sports & Play	24	4
Piano	22	3
Program Administration		5
Science	52	31
Sharples Lunch	57	4
Free Swim	121	20
Swim Lesson	62	26
Third Grade Reading	22	27

## “WE ARE MORE THAN A CHORUS.

*If you really look at it, we go through so many life lessons—helping us become better academically, and seeing the world differently. There are always two sides; in Chester, you imagine only one way of life, but here you have anything you want and can become anything.”* —Wendell Wimbush, graduating senior, 2018



## CCC WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBERS



New Board member **CRYSTAL HARRISON** is a proud parent of CCC member, Nayomi Harrison, now a high school senior who has been in the Chorus since the third grade. Crystal still recalls being overwhelmed at her first CCC concert: "It was just AWESOME!" Crystal is an Accountant in the Finance Department of the Chester Housing Authority, and also serves on Widener Partnership Charter School Board. She believes in the children of Chester and the hope for a better future the Chorus provides.



**THE REV. DR. MARTHA TUCKER** joins the board with great excitement and broad experience. She is an Episcopal priest, developmental psychologist and lawyer who has served as Associate Rector at St David's Episcopal Church and directed the Swarthmore Presbyterian Nursery Day School. With three children and two grandchildren, Martha is passionate about helping children of all ages discover their "wholeness."



Swarthmore resident **SUSAN CLAREY** is retired after careers in publishing in New York, fundraising at Swarthmore College and communications for the Salvation Army. Susan was "simply blown away" by her first Chorus concert. "I feel privileged to have joined the Board, not only because of the opportunities the CCC offers children from Chester, but also because it gives all of us a chance to appreciate talented singers and great music."



**LISA DENNIS** is a proud life-long Chester resident and the parent of Alisa, a current CCC 7th grader. Lisa is the Director of the Office of Community Liaison in Chester's Department of Public Affairs, the founder of The Chester Bereavement Project, and is also a Police Chaplain. As a musician and singer-songwriter, Lisa "values the Chorus' ability to touch the hearts of its listeners with the message of the music."



### ***Cordelia Delson Steps Down As Chorus Board Chair***



After 16 years as the leader of the Chester Children's Chorus Board, Cordelia Delson has stepped down from the position of Board Chair. Cordelia's many contributions have been essential to the growth of the Chorus and we are very grateful for her sustained period of successful leadership.

In Jan. 2002, Cordelia was asked by John Alston to form and lead a board for CCC. John knew Cordelia from her leadership work with the Friends of Music and Dance at Swarthmore College and as an "older" member of the Swarthmore College Chorus. Cordelia agreed and approached people she knew who were involved in community work and had the needed skills: legal, financial, and fundraising. From that point on, everything CCC grew organically—the staff, the board, the number of children, the number of concerts, and the donor base. As Cordelia says, "We figured it out as we went."

Cordelia has continued to value her involvement with the Chorus: "From the very beginning, I have felt privileged to be part of such an essential and visionary program for children in Chester and to work with such dedicated and talented people. Seeing the Chorus grow in size and improve the quality of their performances, and experiencing the sheer joy they bring to audiences has been rewarding."

Cordelia has been elected as an emerita member of the Chorus Board and will remain involved, serving this year as chair of the Program/Education Committee.



**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.)
- ☐ I would like to make a monthly gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ I have remembered the CCC in my will.
- ☐ 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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To give online, visit our website  
[www.chesterchildrenschorus.org](http://www.chesterchildrenschorus.org),  
and select "Volunteer or Give!"

For information, call director of development  
Cynthia Staniszewski at (610) 690-5533.  
Please return this form to our address below.



## CHESTER CHILDREN'S CHORUS

John Alston, Founder & Executive Artistic Director  
Sean Tripline, Assistant Music Director  
Cynthia Staniszewski, Director of Development  
Elisa DeNofio, Administrative Assistant

### Voice credits:

Editor:  
John Alston

Designer:  
Karlyn Rosen Aires

### Photography:

John Wehmiller, Andrea Knox,  
Jonathan Hodgson,  
CCC Summer Learning Program  
Staff & Volunteers

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

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[www.chesterchildrenschorus.org](http://www.chesterchildrenschorus.org)

## THE CCC CHECK IN: Ci-Ci

I would like you to meet Ci-Ci, because Ci-Ci is the CCC. Let me tell you why. Ci-Ci (real name Ciazsa) Davis joined the Chorus unusually late, as a high school junior. Shy at first, Ci-Ci worked hard and steadily to become a wonderful Concert Choir soprano who sang both Mozart's and Faure's Requiems with us. She shares, "I didn't feel like I was a singer until I joined the CCC. It was strange and new. Now, we all have that bond and look out for each other. It's like my second home." Currently a first year Nursing student at Neumann University, where she was awarded a full scholarship, Ci-Ci continues to sing with us this fall semester—



in addition to taking courses in Anatomy, Chemistry, Rhetoric & Writing, and Theology.

This past summer, Ci-Ci was one of our math coaches, and worked 1-on-1 daily with several of our middle and high school students. She enjoyed that work tremendously, telling me, "I was happy when I helped my students learn something new. We looked forward to seeing each other."

We were fortunate to be able to hire Ci-Ci to be one of our math coaches for this school year.

This is why I wanted you to meet Ci-Ci—she represents what the CCC is all about. We are lucky to have her continue to be with us, singing with and teaching our children. —JA



## Thank you, Kirsten

FOR THE PAST SEVEN YEARS **Kirsten Halker-Kratz** has been instrumental in supporting the growth and success of the CCC. Her passionate and dedicated service has positioned the Chorus to take this next step, the development of a rigorous academic program to support our children. To accomplish this mission, we have restructured the organization and created a Managing Director position, who will guide educational programming and replace the Executive Director position. We are grateful to Kirsten for all that she has done on behalf of our program: greeting the thousands of people who have come to our concerts during her tenure, nurturing the dozens of friendships on behalf of the Chorus, creating our private voice and piano lessons program, and for her dedicated service to the children and their families. We will miss her. We wish her the very best in her future endeavors.



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[www.youtube.com/user/CheChiChorus](https://www.youtube.com/user/CheChiChorus)