



Raelyn (top left) performing with the Concert Choir this summer.

## Humble Pie

The Concert Choir met for its fourth rehearsal of the fall season on a recent September Saturday. The primary goal of the day was to refine Javier Busto's beautiful motet, *Ave Maria*, a contemporary classical piece our children love to sing. As I was passing out the music, Raelyn, a 9th grade soprano, shook her head and casually told me that she didn't need the music because she memorized it. "Possible, but unlikely," I thought to myself. I replied that even having memorized the music, you'd still need it, so that you would know where we are when I call out a page and measure.

To prove my point, I asked her to tell me what words were in the beginning measures of page five (I am not embellishing, here). Raelyn looked away and concentrated for a moment, and then told me, "*fructus ventris tui.*" She was right, I was shocked and impressed, and at her mercy for the rest of the rehearsal, having been served a delicious helping of humble pie. The following Monday evening, during the soprano sectional rehearsal, I tested Raelyn again, and asked her what she sings on page 5, 3rd measure (again, no

embellishing). I was sure that I had her, until she replied, "*ora pro nobis peccatoribus.*" I congratulated her with, "Respect, Lady, respect," as I enjoyed my second course of humble pie.

There is a group of 4 sopranos, including Raelyn, who insist on taking their music home after rehearsals. I suppose they do this for the same reason that many of us keep books after we've read them; to remind us of the pleasure we experienced while reading, or in our case, singing.

Raelyn is studying voice, and is a member of Composers' Circle, where she is, at the moment, learning to spell scales and play simple chord progressions at the piano. And while I have yet to convince her to use all of her fingers while playing piano, for her exceptional ability and spirit, I say, "Respect, Lady, respect!"

—John Alston, Artistic Director

UPCOMING CONCERTS

**Saturday, October 28**  
**7:00 p.m.**  
 Main Line Unitarian Church  
 816 Valley Forge Road,  
 Devon, PA

**Saturday, November 18**  
**7:00 p.m.**  
 St. Peter's in the Great Valley  
 2475 St. Peter's Road,  
 Malvern, PA

**Friday, December 15 & Saturday, December 16**  
**7:30 p.m.**  
 Lang Concert Hall,  
 Swarthmore College  
*Seating is limited to 425 guests.*  
*Doors open at 6:45 p.m.*

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



**DON'T MISS OUR OPEN HOUSE CELEBRATION**  
**FRIDAY, OCT. 27, 4:30-7 p.m.**  
**DETAILS INSIDE!**

**SUMMER LEARNING PROGRAM**  
**2017 HIGHLIGHTS INSIDE**



**WE**

**LOVE**

**SUMMER!**

# SUMMER LEARNING PROGRAM 2017:

## *New Adventures at Swarthmore College and Beyond*



**130 students** were welcomed to the College campus on June 25 for a camp experience filled with new adventures and programs. Three choral concerts were just one of several culminating events that were reflective of the expanded opportunities offered this year. We are grateful to the 101 staff, assistants, and counselors, the 67 volunteers, the 16 College departments and buildings for hosting our students, and the myriad of attendees at all of our events. We are amazing because of your help!

### NEW THIS YEAR:

- \* Partnership with Pendle Hill to provide courses in gardening and grounds, and in James Baldwin's art and literature
- \* Science of invention class
- \* Cancer research seminar
- \* Fun Fridays-trips to Garrison Lake, open swim at Swarthmore Swim Club, and bounce houses
- \* BBQ on Mertz Lawn

### EXPANDED THIS YEAR:

- \* Swim lessons for 5th grade (now 3-5th grade have swim lessons at Ware Pool)
- \* Reading book club for 4th grade
- \* Voice class (two sections)
- \* Math practice for all grades
- \* Art for all grades
- \* Photography for grades 5 and up



### SPECIAL HIGHLIGHTS:

- \* Volunteer therapy dog Lakota
- \* Crazy Aaron made putty with our science students
- \* Visits to the College gardens to taste the produce
- \* Presentation from Monell to learn about our sense of smell

### FINAL PROJECTS:

- \* Art, photography, ceramics projects exhibition
- \* Dance concert
- \* Voice recital
- \* Science fair
- \* Pendle Hill celebration

*“Steve Jobs said, ‘The only way to do great work is to love what you do.’ Those six weeks of summer camp are better than the other 46 weeks of the year! It’s wonderful working there because it’s not work—being with those amazing kids, working with the rest of the staff, following the direction of a positive and supportive administration—it’s harmonious. It’s joyful. It’s everything a great hobby should be, and I get to call it my job.”*

—Becky Slate (PHYSICAL EDUCATION TEACHER)



*You're invited to*

**AN OPEN HOUSE**

**CELEBRATION**

Please drop by to see our new office and tour our rehearsal space at Swarthmore United Methodist Church

**HESTER CHILDREN'S CHORUS**

Friday, October 27th  
From 4:30 – 7 p.m.  
112 Park Avenue  
Swarthmore, PA 19081

*Light refreshments served.*

**N E W F A C E S O F T H E C C C**

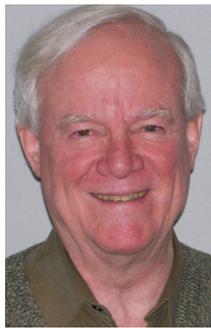
*The CCC welcomed two new staff and four board members this September. We are thrilled to have their expertise as we continue our work with Chester's children.*



**CYNTHIA STANISZEWSKI** is the Chorus's new Director of Development. Cynthia comes to the Chorus from the Province of St. Thomas of Villanova where she was the Associate Director of Advancement. She is a passionate advocate for women's education and leadership development.



**PURCELL HOLLIS** joined the CCC's van driving staff. Purcell worked at the Delaware County Intermediate Unit before joining the CCC team and has a strong commitment to working with children.



**GRANT GRISSOM** is the founder and recently retired CEO of Polaris Health Directions, a developer of software for assessment of the severity of patients' behavioral health problems. A favorite accomplishment includes winning a chess match against then-U.S. chess champion Larry Evans.



**CELESTE PETERKIN** is a wife and mother of four children, three of whom are members of the CCC. Celeste is co-owner with of Naomi's Floral Regional Fullfilment Service located in Chester. She is also a member of the Parent Caregiver Council Executive Committee at Widener Partnership Charter School.



**LESLIE STEIN** serves as Monell Chemical Senses Center's Director of Science Communications. A resident of the Swarthmore-Rutledge area for the past 30 years, she enjoys attending concerts, cooking, traveling, biking, and kayaking.



**NOLAN WOODLAND** is a CCC grandparent and serves on the board of the Community Action Agency of Delaware County where he is also an emergency shelter manager.

**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](http://www.chesterchildrenschorus.org), and select "Volunteer or Give!"

For information, call Cynthia Staniszewski at (610) 690-5533.

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  
 Cynthia Staniszewski, director of development  
 Elisa DeNofio, administrative 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.

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# CCC "NOTE-ABLES"



On September 23, five of the CCC's voice students attended Opera on the Mall to see Mozart's The Marriage of Figaro.



On September 9, 27 CCC members performed a benefit concert at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Chester to support Chester Eastside Ministries.



Six CCC members sang a voice recital for the Swarthmore Rotary Club on July 6. They are students of Tracy Sturgis.



Daniel Peterkin, age 10, accompanied the CCC this summer on piano. He is a student of Adrienne Caddell-Hopkins.

STAY TUNED LATER THIS FALL FOR EXCITING NEWS ABOUT OUR LATEST RECORDING SESSIONS!

