UPCOMING CONCERTS

Saturday, April 29, 7:30 PM
St. Luke Greek Orthodox Church
35 N. Malin Road, Broomall, PA

Friday, May 12 and
Saturday, May 13, 7:30 PM
Lang Concert Hall, Swarthmore College
Seating limited to 425 guests. Doors open at 6:45 pm.

Thursday, July 27, 2:00 PM
Matinee Performance
Lang Concert Hall, Swarthmore College

Friday, July 28, and
Saturday, July 29, 7:30 PM
Lang Concert Hall, Swarthmore College
Seating limited to 425 guests. Doors open at 6:45 pm.

ADMISSION IS FREE!
DONATIONS SUPPORT CCC PROGRAMS.

Looking Ahead to the Future CCC:
2017 Strategic Plan

After a year-long process guided by Swenson & Associates, the CCC Board approved a Strategic Plan with the following goals to guide the future steps of the program. “We look forward to new and exciting opportunities that will expand support to every CCC child,” remarked Executive Director, Kirsten Halker-Kratz. “We are grateful to Ted Swenson and Jennifer Shropshire for working with us in exploring every aspect of the CCC’s potential.” Three goals structure the Plan’s principles:

Goal 1. Achieve Musical Literacy, Fluency, and Artistry: CCC will continue its focus on excellence in performance, musicianship and skill development, and increase support of those with higher musical aspirations. The CCC will help members refine their technique, including emotional and intellectual engagement with the music, while supporting those seeking more intense musical exploration.

Goal 2. Attend to the Whole Child: CCC will help members not only to learn how to sing, but also to cope with any struggles, to have fun, and to realize their full potential. Activities in and around their pursuit of choral excellence will help the CCC members build intellectual, social, and emotional scaffolding for their future success as adults. This includes targeted academic programming, preparation for life after CCC, and a culture of respect in and outside the group.

Goal 3. Achieve Long-term Sustainability: CCC will engage Board, staff, and others in its expanded programs, develop new partnerships, document methodology, conduct outcome measurement, and find additional space. CCC will raise its profile, and generate and steward greater financial resources.

The CCC will build upon its engaged community, create a solid infrastructure with specific goals, best practices and evaluation, while heightening awareness and increasing our financial resources. We are pleased to share our goals with the community. For your own copy of the Strategic Plan, e-mail ccc@swarthmore.edu.

STUDENT REGISTRATION:
Friday, April 21, 2017, 5:30–8:00 PM at the Black Cultural Center, Corner of Elm and College Avenues, Swarthmore College

COME VISIT US AT THE SWARTHMORE FUN FAIR:
Sunday, May 7, 2017, 1–4 PM
CCC CELEBRATES OUR GRADUATING SENIORS

DARRIA BROOKS
Next steps: Majoring in biomedical engineering at Penn State
Favorite Song: I’m Not Done
Favorite memories: Getting to sing the Laudate Dominum solo and the first time I tried African Dance.
Her CCC experience: Learning how to use our music in the world is what the CCC teaches us. We can make it a career, a lifestyle, or just [let it] be [a part of] you. The CCC motivates you to make it—your voice, your music—what you want, but also to not just settle: You work to your full potential. This chorus is special.

Darria Brooks will be performing a solo voice recital at Trinity Episcopal Church, Swarthmore, on Sunday, April 9, at 3:00 pm. All are invited!

SHALAYIA SETH
Next steps: Become a mainstream artist and have enough money to give back to my city and people all of the world in need
Favorite song: Mozart Requiem, Deo Gracias, Let My People Go, Northern Lights, Battle of the Sexes set, When You Miss Him/Her … all of them!
Favorite memories: When we went to Harrisburg to sing for the Governor, the Lifetime gospel competition, and the Maryland trip
Her CCC experience: The CCC has a very strong value to the kids of Chester. It gets them [us] on the right track and shows the good part of Chester.

FROM 2007-2017: All four graduates have sung with CCC for 10 years.

NA’JAE “CHRISSY” COLLINS
Next steps: Investment banker, singer, producer
Favorite song: I’m Not Done, The Lord is My Shepherd, See and Ye Shall Find
Favorite memory: When I brought a water gun to summer camp and surprised (and soaked) John on his birthday.
Her CCC experience: The CCC taught me more about music. I became more friendly and social.

KADRAYA TAYLOR
Next steps: Get a degree in dance
Favorite song: “Lacrimosa” from Mozart’s Requiem
Favorite memory: When we first made the festival choir, and we were the ‘originals.’ (Note to our readers: this class was the first Festival Choir division for the CCC!)
Her CCC experience: We come here to be free and find love in music.
Mary McTernan

Mary McTernan remembers hearing her first CCC performance in 2002 when the Chorus numbered just 35 members. Volunteer extraordinaire, Mary has served as a swim and reading volunteer, secretary of the advisory board, chair of the development committee, and led the executive director search in 2012. We invited Mary to share her CCC experience:

What were your first CCC concert impressions:
We were instantly convinced that John Alston was doing something positive and powerful that we wanted to support. The 35 beautiful Chester children sang so well that the audience stood up and cheered! I loved that John provided the children with an opportunity to demonstrate their potential and that the concerts and the universal language of music provided a bridge between our communities.

Who asked you to join the board?
In 2005, Cordelia Delson reached out to us to ask if we would contribute toward the purchase of one keyboard for a CCC student taking piano lessons. Until then we had been very modest donors, but Cordelia began to open our eyes about the scope of the program and the need for more substantial support. Those conversations continued until I agreed to join the board in 2007.

How have you seen the CCC change over your tenure?
There were 75 Chorus members in 2007 and now we have almost double that number. Under John’s dedicated guidance, the program has flourished in terms of the breadth, depth and quality of the musical experience. As anyone who has been to a concert recently can attest, the concert choir is performing challenging classical pieces with such enthusiasm and polish that standing ovations are now a given. John’s original compositions have always delivered positive messages to the children, but lately he has become much more sophisticated in using the music to help the children process challenging issues such as violence in their community (If I Had Known) and social injustice (I Still Can’t Breathe). In addition to the intense music experience, CCC offers a rich summer learning program on Swarthmore’s lovely campus featuring a reading program staffed by community volunteers, a comprehensive science program, African Dance, a learn-to-swim program started by a local high school volunteer, math tutoring, and horticultural classes through Scott Arboretum.

What excites you about the new strategic plan?
It was gratifying to be part of an inclusive process involving board, staff, supporters, CCC families and alumni. Consultants Jennifer Shropshire and Ted Swenson brought valuable experience and insights as we built a vision for the future together. We learned from surveys that CCC families strongly believe that Chorus participation has a positive impact on their children, but they would welcome more academic support as well as college and career planning guidance. We came to appreciate that the CCC offers important and rare continuity through its year-round programming and ten-year participation in an intense choral learning and performing experience that emphasizes excellence.

The strategic planning process helped all stakeholders to re-commit to the belief that all children deserve the opportunity to realize their full potential. It will guide us as we continue to strive for excellence and diversity in musical artistry while providing more focused academic support and attention to the needs of the whole child.
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

Voice credits: Editor: Kirsten Halker-Kratz
              Designer: Karlyn Rosen Aires
              Photography: John Wehmiller, Andrea Knox, Jonathan Hodgson

If you enjoy reading or swimming, we need you to join us for the 2017 Summer Learning Program. Volunteers read with our third and fourth graders, and swimmers help grades 3–5 at Ware Pool. Volunteers need to be 18 or older. For more information on the Andrea Knox Reading Program, contact us at ccc@swarthmore.edu. For more information on the swim program, contact our swim coordinator, Charlotte Brake, at cfrake@gmail.com.

THE CCC MOURNS THE PASSING OF DEAR FRIENDS Robert Coleman ’43, Edith “Billie” Hebble, David Moobery, John Nikelly, and Lorene Yates. We will miss their kindness and support.