



LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

## Mozart's *Requiem*, and Handel's "Hallelujah" Chorus Highlight Fall Season

This fall, the festival choir and concert choir will perform some of the best choral music ever written. Our oldest children, the members of the concert choir (ages 13–18), have been working on Mozart's *Requiem* since last spring, when they learned and fell in love with the "Dies Irae" and "Lacrimosa" movements.

*"THE CHORUS MEMBERS are learning and mastering the greatest 40 minutes of classical music ever written."*

During the summer, we worked intensely on "Rex Tremendae," "Confutatis," and the complete "Offertory." On November 18, we will perform the entire *Requiem* with the Swarthmore College Chorus and Orchestra.

The choristers love the rhythmic power and musical representation of the flames of hell in the "Confutatis;" they are moved by the expressive sequences and the final cries for pity in the

"Rex Tremendae;" and they sing the "Quam Olim Abrahae" with vigor and great expression. The "Kyrie" movement is by far the most challenging music we have tried, but the children

appreciate the extraordinary harmony counterpoint, despite their occasional frustration with the level of difficulty.

Learning the *Requiem* has been a profound experience

for them, and after 20 years, I still marvel at its beauty and power and find myself continually surprised and impressed by young people's response to the work. The chorus members have grown musically because they are learning and mastering, as I often say, the greatest 40 minutes of classical music ever written.

More importantly, the children have grown as

**Fall Highlights** *continued, over*

**Saturday, October 20, 7:30 p.m.**

Church of the Holy Trinity  
212 S. High Street, West Chester

**Sunday, November 18, 7:30 p.m.**

Mozart's *Requiem* with  
Swarthmore College Chorus and Orchestra,  
Lang Concert Hall, Swarthmore College

**Saturday, December 8, 8 p.m.**

St. Luke's Christian Community Church  
320 Tilghman Street, Chester

**Saturday, December 15, 8 p.m.**

St. Mary Magdalen Church  
2400 N. Providence Road, Media  
Co-sponsor: Reformation Lutheran Church

*Admission is free!  
Donations support CCC programs.*

upcoming concerts

## Autumn Ushers in Leadership Changes

The chorus honored **Andrea Knox's** 11 years of administrative leadership at the July concert events. John Alston composed an arrangement of Psalm 133 and presented



Andrea with the framed manuscript. The chorus sang the piece to her, and John announced that the reading program would be named in Andrea's honor as a testament to her tireless efforts. During her tenure, Andrea created the administrative infrastructure, recruited the first advisory board, and developed a fundraising strategy that helped the chorus grow and flourish.



The chorus is pleased to welcome **Kirsten Halker-Kratz** as its new executive

director. Kirsten brings impressive nonprofit management credentials from her 12 years at Settlement Music School in Philadelphia in addition to her background in music performance and education. She was director of the West Philadelphia branch, manager of individual giving, and most recently manager of executive affairs at Settlement.

**Philip H. Lebowitz**

has been elected to a first term of board service for the chorus. Phil is a partner at Duane Morris, LLP in Philadelphia. He practices in the area of healthcare law and litigation. The board thanks Susan Brake for her four years of service. Ms. Brake will remain an active chorus volunteer.



**WE DID IT!**

**THANKS ... to the many Chester Children's Chorus supporters who jointly contributed \$25,000 in new and increased gifts, we were able to receive our first \$50,000 Myers challenge grant. The new challenge is underway for 2012-13! Use the tear-off form below to make your contribution today.**

**JOIN US  
for  
Give 20!**

**ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, IRON HILL BREWERY AND RESTAURANT IN MEDIA** will be hosting a Give 20 night. Twenty percent of the proceeds on food purchases between 5 p.m. and 11 p.m. will be donated to the chorus. **A coupon must be presented at the time of your meal. No coupons can be distributed at the event. Reservations are recommended.** To obtain your coupon, please contact Kirsten Halker-Kratz at khalker1@swarthmore.edu or by phone at 610-328-8286.

**IRON HILL  
BREWERY & RESTAURANT**

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

Enclosed is a check (Check should be payable to "Swarthmore College" with "Chester Children's Chorus" in memo field.)

Please charge my gift to

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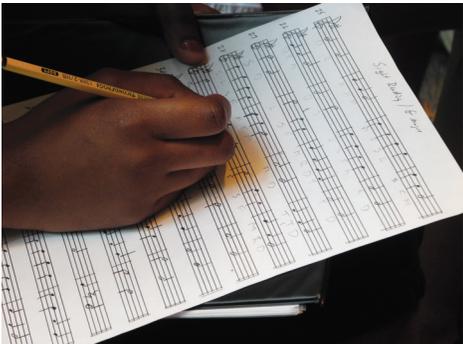
Give online at [www.swarthmore.edu](http://www.swarthmore.edu). Choose "other fund," and specify "Chester Children's Chorus." For information, call Executive Director Kirsten Halker-Kratz at (610) 328-8286.

Please mail to: Chester Children's Chorus, Swarthmore College, 500 College Avenue, Swarthmore PA 19081

**THANK YOU!**

SINGING, SCIENCE,  
STUDY AND MORE

**THIS JUNE**, 140 choristers, the largest summer chorus to date, met on Swarthmore College campus for the 2012 Summer Learning Program. The sounds of singing, reading, dance, and drama blended to form the background for an amazing summer of activity. Twenty-eight new training-chorus members were invited to the program to learn classical, gospel, and pop repertoire, while enjoying the experience of meeting new friends and mentors. Forty students also worked with volunteers through Swarthmore College's science department, as part of a generous grant from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute and showed off the fruits of their research to members of the College community in a science fair during the final week of camp. Other classes offered included music theory, critical thinking, math, history, literature and art. Many choristers participated in dance classes from step to hip-hop, African dance, and modern dance. The summer culminated with a dance performance, art show, and two choral concerts whose audiences filled Lang Music Hall.



S T U D E N T S P O T L I G H T S

- ★ **Darrin Wood**, a 9th-grader at Episcopal Academy attended a five-week music camp at the Walden School's Young Musicians Program in Dublin, N.H. He is also a junior varsity quarterback this fall.
- ★ **Demiah Jones**, a 9th-grader at The Christian Academy attended a two-week agriculture discovery program at the University of Maryland.
- ★ Congratulations to our 2012 high-school graduates **Bruce Blanding** and **Asr McCready**.

**Fall Highlights ... continued**  
people—knowing they have persevered and risen to the challenge of learning a difficult cultural monument—and have enriched themselves with a profound work of art.  
The festival choir (ages 11–12) will be joining the older choristers in their first experience with Handel's "Hallelujah" Chorus. These younger children are enthusiastically learning

this most famous piece of classical music, often demanding to sing it again. A very few measures are just beyond their facility, but most of the music is well within their grasp and ability to understand and appreciate. They are thrilled to be learning such a powerful and important piece and are wildly excited to perform it in December. We hope that you will be able to join us for any one of these musical celebrations.

CHESTER CHILDREN'S CHORUS

John Alston, *founder and director*  
Kirsten Halker-Kratz, *executive director*  
Daniel Beal, *assistant music director*  
Elisa DeNofio, *assistant*

**Voice credits:**

*Editor:*  
Kirsten Halker-Kratz  
*Designer:*  
Karllyn Rosen Aires '87  
*Photography:*  
Jonathan Hodgson  
Andrea Knox  
Jeff Lott

*We make every effort to maintain accurate mailing lists. If you have received an extra copy of this newsletter, please notify us at 610-328-8180 and share it with a friend.*

Swarthmore College • 500 College Avenue • Swarthmore PA 19081  
(610) 328-8180 • ccc@swarthmore.edu  
[www.chesterchildrenschorus.org](http://www.chesterchildrenschorus.org)

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CCC is now a registered charity with GoodSearch. Each time you use a GoodSearch service (web searches, online shopping or online dining), a donation comes back to the chorus. Simply visit [www.goodsearch.org](http://www.goodsearch.org).

Check us out on the web: [www.chesterchildrenschorus.org](http://www.chesterchildrenschorus.org)

