



LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Two Holiday Concerts



In CHESTER

Anniversary Holiday Concert

Full Chorus—100 voices!

Saturday, Dec. 12, 8 p.m.

First Pentecostal Holy Church
324 Pusey Street

In BRYN MAWR

CCC Chamber Choir

With Larks of Phila. and Men's Ensemble of Bryn Mawr Pres. Church

Saturday, Dec. 19, 4 p.m.

Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church
625 Montgomery Avenue

Community invited to both concerts.
Admission free. No tickets required.

Chorus Welcomes Assistant Music Director, Extends Summer Learning Program to Six Weeks

Of the many great things that have happened recently in the life of the Chester Children's Chorus, the most significant was the appointment of Dan Beal as our new assistant music director.

The board and I had talked for some time about the need to expand our teaching capability to serve the growing Chorus program. Dan, a graduate of West Chester University with a background in public school music teaching, joined us at the beginning of the Summer Learning Program to work with the Training Chorus and Junior Choir. He very quickly won the hearts of both the children and the staff, and his boundless energy, optimism, and genuine musical talent have strengthened our program immeasurably. It's a pleasure to

work with Dan; we have already collaborated on a new musicianship curriculum that will accelerate the children's learning of musical skills.

In addition to working with the two youngest groups in the Chorus, Dan will provide classroom music instruction in three Chester elementary schools through our new Sing-to-Learn Partnership with the Chester Upland School District. (Story on p.2.)

As I write this, the sounds of our outrageously successful summer concerts are still vivid in my ears.

The children performed secular French Renaissance pieces with confidence and just a bit of humor. Our Michael Jackson tribute was a show-stopper: the Chorus

continued, over



Dan Beal taught the Training Chorus last summer

Join Us at these CCC Special Events

CD Release Party, Saturday, Nov. 7, 7 p.m. Chester Upland School of the Arts, 9th and Fulton Streets, Chester. See 15th Anniversary Album story on this page.

CCC Shopping Night at Ten Thousand Villages, Wednesday, Dec. 9, 3 to 9 p.m. 101 W. State Street, Media. Ten

Thousand Villages carries baskets, pottery, jewelry, ceramics, woodwork, toys, and other items made by artisans from around the world, sold at prices that assure their makers a living wage. CCC Shopping Night offers the double satisfaction of helping both these talented craftspeople and the Chester Children's Chorus, as 15 percent of profits from items purchased during the designated shopping hours will be donated to the chorus. For information, call (610) 328-8286.



CCC sings with Philadelphia's Famed Singing City Choir, Saturday, Mar. 20, 7 p.m., Church of the Holy Trinity,



Rittenhouse Square, Philadelphia. In the Chorus's first Philadelphia appearance, our expanded Chamber Choir will join internationally known Singing City for the annual Family Concert. Tickets are \$20 (\$15 for students and seniors) and are available from Singing City at www.singingcity.org or (215) 569-9067. More information will be posted at www.chesterchildrenschorus.org as it becomes available.

For concert reminders and updates on chorus events, subscribe to our e-mail newsletter. E-mail aknox1@swarthmore.edu, and ask to be added to our list.

15th Anniversary Album Features Original Gospel

Enjoy the children's powerful gospel singing again and again as you listen to our new 15th Anniversary Album! The album features 10 original gospel songs written by founder and director John Alston, recorded live at our May and July concerts. At \$10 each, the album makes a great gift.



The album will go on sale at our CD release party, on Saturday, Nov. 7, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Chester Upland School of the Arts, 9th and Fulton Streets, Chester. At 7:45 p.m. the full chorus will perform songs from the album. Admission is free.

You can download a CD order form at www.chesterchildrenschorus.org. Or order from Elisa DeNofio at (610) 975-6049 or edenofi1@swarthmore.edu.

To make a tax-deductible contribution to the Chester Children's Chorus, please detach this coupon, complete, and mail to:

Chester Children's Chorus, Swarthmore College, 500 College Avenue, Swarthmore PA 19081

Enclosed is a check in the amount of \$35 \$75 \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1,000 Other: _____.
(Check should be payable to Swarthmore College with Chester Children's Chorus in memo field)

Please charge my gift to my:
 Visa Mastercard Discover American Express
Card # _____
Expires: ____ / ____ Amount to charge: \$ _____

My gift will be matched by my employer.
(Please enclose your signed matching gift form.)

Give online at www.swarthmore.edu. Choose "other fund," and specify "Chester Children's Chorus." **THANK YOU!**

Children Surprise John Alston with Song

Founder and director John Alston was overcome with delight when the children of the Training Chorus and Junior Choir, directed by Concert Choir member Jennifer Foster, surprised him at the summer dance and drum gala by singing the R. Kelly song "The World's Greatest." Jenny dreamed up the surprise, taught the children the song, and enlisted assistant music director Dan Beal as accompanist. After they finished singing, the children gave John a poster created by Concert Choir member Marquise Miles.



New College President Attends Summer Concert

New Swarthmore College President Rebecca Chopp (right) and her husband, Fred Thibodeau, attended our July 25 concert as guests of Chorus president Cordelia Delson. After the concert, Chopp greeted and spoke with director John Alston (back row, left) and chorus members (from left) Olivia Moncrieffe, Damir Fleming, Destiny Sharp, Christian Rodriguez, and Ja'Quay Lundy.



Sing-to-Learn Partnership Uses Music as Academic Resource in Eleven Chester Classrooms

An exciting new initiative this fall is our Sing-to-Learn Partnership with the Chester Upland School District. Through this partnership, our assistant music director, Dan Beal, is providing music as a curriculum resource in 11 kindergarten and first-grade classrooms at Columbus, Stetser, and Main Street schools. Sing-to-Learn focuses on using music and songs to help children learn

and practice academic skills in disciplines including reading, math, science, and social science. Dan is working with each classroom teacher to develop songs appropriate to the curriculum and the needs of the children in that class. Of course, the children are also becoming better musicians, learning to love singing, and building skills in listening and cooperation as they sing together.

Letter ... continued

sang, danced, played with the audience, and stoked the crowd to a fever pitch with their version of "Thriller," for which they donned 100 sets of vampire teeth.

We closed the concerts with the original social gospel music that has become our signature repertoire. We recorded the gospel sets at our May and July concerts to become our 15th Anniversary Album. The CD will be released Nov. 7 at a party at the Chester Upland School of the Arts. (Story on p.1.)

We added a sixth week to the Summer Learning Program, giving us a week after the concerts for the Science Fair, field trips, and our Summer Gala dance and drum performance. In those six weeks, we didn't just sing: we played piano—56 children took lessons!—danced, wrote poetry, swam, made puppets, read books, learned karate, tried tennis, did biology and chemistry experiments, looked at modern art, argued, made up, and just plain enjoyed each other's company. It was all wonderful—but the best part was that we sang a lot and sang really well.

—John Alston

15th Anniversary Benefit Honored Eldridge

Many thanks to all who made our 15th Anniversary Benefit on Oct. 18 a success. At the benefit we paid tribute to Maurice Eldridge, who obtained funds for John Alston to found the Chorus in 1994 and has been a champion of and trusted adviser to the Chorus ever since. Eldridge, a CCC board member, is vice president of college and community relations at Swarthmore College.

The Ward Marston Trio with vocalist Rosemary Benson entertained with a program of jazz and cabaret standards. Benefit co-chairs Mary McTernan and Susan Brake headed a committee of nearly 20, whose dedication and hours of work pulled the benefit together.

The benefit raised more than \$15,000 to help fund the children's new CD (Story p. 1) and our new Sing-to-Learn Partnership with the Chester Upland School District (Story on this page).



Benefit honoree Maurice Eldridge surrounded by half the first-year Training Chorus members.



Wilcox Joins Board

The Chorus welcomes Ian Wilcox, vice president and global head of Hay Group's Life Sciences Practice, to our board. Ian works with executives at client companies worldwide on issues of organizational effectiveness. An avid lay musician, he has studied piano and voice and served on the board of Philadelphia's Astral Artists, a nonprofit that helps musicians launch their careers.

Coming Attractions: Spring and Summer Performances

Saturday, Mar. 20: Expanded Chamber Choir performs with Singing City chorus in Philadelphia. See "Join Us at These Special Events" on p.1.

Saturday, Apr. 24: Chamber Choir sings at Kendal retirement community, Kennett Square, Pa.

Friday, Apr. 30: Chamber Choir sings at annual Law Day observance of Delaware

County Bar Association, Media, Pa.

Friday, May 7 and Saturday, May 8: Full chorus sings at annual spring concerts, 8 p.m., Lang Concert Hall, Swarthmore College.

Sunday, May 16, 4 p.m.: Full chorus presents "Spring Concert on Tour" at St. Peter's in the Great Valley, Malvern, Pa.

CHESTER CHILDREN'S CHORUS

John Alston, founder and director
Anjali Gallup-Diaz, managing director
Andrea Knox '64, development director
Daniel Beal, assistant music director
Elisa Denofio, assistant

Voice
The newsletter of the Chester Children's Chorus
Andrea Knox, editor
Philip Stern '84, designer
Photos by Eleftherios Kostans and Jeff Lott

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www.chesterchildrenschorus.org



Training Chorus members Shaughnessy Dill and Suhayla Tillman share a triumphant hug with CCC piano teacher Amie Richan after a July concert.

