



## CCC'S SUMMER OF WONDER

Every summer afternoon, the songs of CCC's Summer Learning Program were heard throughout Swarthmore College's campus and Swarthmore Village. Using venues across campus and the community, this year's program welcomed thirty-seven new members to the Chorus with 153 total members singing on stage.

New classes were offered this year in drama and creative writing. In collaboration with the Scott Arboretum, rising fifth graders took a horticulture class, where they learned about recycling, sustainable planting and cared for a garden on campus.

Forty-one students worked with several faculty and students of Swarthmore College's science departments and presented a multi-disciplinary science fair.

As part of the Andrea Knox Summer Reading Program, thirty volunteers from the community read with rising third graders.



A dance performance, "Same People, Different Rhythms," featured hip-hop, modern, step and African dance numbers.

We bid a fond farewell to our Assistant Music Director, Dan Beal, who was a wonderful part of CCC for four years.

Despite the hottest days of the summer, the students were magical at the concerts. In addition to singing Handel, Rossini and Gilbert & Sullivan, John Alston also arranged a tribute to Stevie Wonder, and students Isis Dill and Cassandra Stevenson both had songs featured in the gospel music set.

A special thank you to everyone who helped: our wonderful counselors, program assistants, teachers, administrative staff and volunteers. In addition, thank you to all of the facilities

that supported the program and helped to make it a success: Swarthmore College, Lang Performing Arts Center, Lang Music Building, Black Cultural Center, Lang Center for Civic and Social Responsibility, Science Center, Scott Arboretum, Swarthmore Presbyterian Church, and Creative Living Room. A cool thank you to Sharples Dining Hall for all of the ice during the long heat wave.

### UPCOMING CONCERTS



**Saturday, October 26, 7:30 p.m.**

Church of the Holy Trinity  
212 South High Street, West Chester

**Friday, December 6, 7:30 p.m.**

St. Katharine Drexel Parish  
1920 Providence Avenue, Chester

**Saturday, December 14, 7:30 p.m.**

Lang Concert Hall, Swarthmore College

**Saturday, March 1, 2014, 7:30 p.m.**

Covenant United Methodist Church  
212 W. Springfield Road, Springfield

**Friday, March 7, 2014, 7:30 p.m.**

St. David's Episcopal Church  
763 S. Valley Forge Road, Wayne

Admission is free! Donations support CCC programs.

### THE NEXT CHAPTER...

Beginning this fall, John Alston is devoting all of his time to the Chester Children's Chorus and other work in Chester. John has given up his teaching duties at Swarthmore College, but, as Founder and Artistic Director of the Chester Children's Chorus, remains an employee of the College and will continue to be active in graduation and alumni weekends. Pictured here: John congratulates seniors at the summer concert. From left to right: J'atienne Campbell, Aliya Tanner, John, Glenn Simpson



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.)

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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!**



## Three Cheers for Handel!

This past school year was a real classical music triumph for the CCC. In the fall, we learned and performed all of Mozart's *Requiem*, and in the spring, our *Barber of Seville* overture performance stopped the show at both concerts and was greeted with standing ovations.

My classical music dilemma for the summer program was to find inspiring and fun pieces that we could learn in five weeks. Having already learned the "Hallelujah" Chorus, I thought we might try several more choruses from Handel's *Messiah*. Some are too difficult for us, but many hit the CCC classical music sweet spot: challenging, emotional, tuneful, and rhythmically exuberant.

Methodically, we began to tackle "Surely," "Glory To God," and "Their Sound is Surely" easily, and the children loved the anguished harmony and aggressive rhythm (which I explained represents suffering and crucifixion). "Glory To God" was more difficult, and took two weeks of rehearsing boys and girls separately. I promised them that they would be thrilled when they could put it together. On the third Friday of summer camp, after a few false starts, the Concert Choir sang the entire chorus, and when they finished singing the last, glorious



section, "good will towards men," unprompted by me, they burst into spontaneous cheers! With enough love and rigor, Chester children, like all children, are capable of doing glorious things. Please show them that you are proud of what they do and have faith in their ability to make their city and world more beautiful.

—John Alston

## CCC "NOTE-ABLES"

### STRONG VOICES

On May 18, the Chorus had a recording session for the 20th anniversary CD, due to be released later this winter. Selections will include hymn and spiritual arrangements by John Alston. More details on the anniversary celebration to come!



**STRONG MINDS** Deondre Jordan and Jabrea Lockett were accepted to Shipley School for fall 2013. Tienne Na-El attended Space Camp this summer.



### STRONG SPIRITS

These wonderful young ladies decided to host a Fun Fair of their own to raise money for the CCC. Pictured left to right are: Caeli Rieger, Amanda Anckaitis, Jillian Thomas, Maysie Lewis, and Gabby Verona who are students at Swarthmore Rutledge Elementary School and Nether Providence Elementary School. Together they raised just over \$200! Thank you to the Creative Living Room for the venue space.

## Community Camaraderie

Friends of the Chorus had the opportunity to buy t-shirts and play games at the Swarthmore Fun Fair on May 5. CCC thanks Coldwell Banker Preferred, Creative Living Room and Franklin Mint Credit Union for their support at this year's Swarthmore Fun Fair. We had a great time!



Board President, Cordelia Delson (left), and Executive Director, Kirsten Halker-Kratz (right), take a moment to pose in front of the tent sponsored by Coldwell Banker Preferred.

## CHESTER CHILDREN'S CHORUS

John Alston, founder and artistic director  
Kirsten Halker-Kratz, executive director  
Elisa DeNofio, assistant

**Voice credits:**  
Editor: Kirsten Halker-Kratz  
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[www.chesterchildrenschorus.org](http://www.chesterchildrenschorus.org)

CCC Celebrates its 20th Anniversary in 2014!

SAVE THE DATE FOR NEXT YEAR'S CELEBRATION:

October 11, 2014—20th Anniversary Gala at Swarthmore College

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



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