



Choir Handbook

Carol, Concert, Chamber Choirs

2019-2020

www.mennonitechildrenschoir.org

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MCCL Program

Mission Statement

... training children and youth to glorify Jesus Christ through excellent choral singing.

Vision Statement

The vision of MCCL is to develop musical excellence and discipline in children and youth, equipping them for a lifetime of worship and service to the Christian community. We pass on our singing heritage through Christ-centered repertoire that affirms Anabaptist beliefs and reflects the musical diversity of the church around the world and through time.

Affiliation

The Mennonite Children's Choir of Lancaster is a program of Lancaster Mennonite School. This affiliation began in October 2001.

Our Programs

Prelude Music (kindergarten through grade 1)

Prelude Music, a non-auditioned and non-performing group, engages children with music. Playing, moving, listening and singing are important components. Greater emphasis is given to experiencing than to performing.

Choristers I & II (grades 2 – 5 and 5 – 8)

Choristers, a non-auditioned and non-performing group, provides opportunity to learn vocal and choral skills in a relaxed, fun atmosphere. Participants learn healthy singing technique, intonation, beat keeping, ear training, rhythm reading, music reading, and rehearsal skills in a highly active and engaging environment.

Carol Choir (grades 2 – 5)

Carol Choir is an auditioned performing choir. Singers:

- sing in unison and simple two-part harmony
- practice singing basics: proper breathing, posture, tone, diction, healthy vocal production, basic music reading skills, and musicianship
- develop choral disciplines such as following instructions, watching the director, and choir etiquette
- learn age-appropriate music including rounds, simple melodies, hymns, and songs from other countries
- sing in concerts of excellence for the glory of God
- develop understanding of worship to God and service to the church

Concert Choir (grades 6 – 8)

Concert Choir is an auditioned performing choir that strengthens skills learned in Carol Choir. In addition, singers:

- develop a clear choral sound with consistency throughout the vocal range
- continue musicianship and choral disciplines: sight singing, phrasing, score study, dynamics, and performance practice
- sing in two, three, and four-part harmony
- learn music of different choral styles, historical periods, languages, and cultures
- participate in a multi-day national tour

Chamber Choir (grades 9 – 12)

Chamber Choir is an auditioned performing choir that builds on fundamentals learned in Carol and Concert Choirs. In addition, singers:

- sing SATB as well as three- and four-part men's and women's ensemble pieces
- continue musicianship and music literacy: score analysis, dissonant intervals, and master class opportunities
- participate in a national or international tour

Men's Ensemble (Chamber Choir men)

Men's Ensemble is for male singers who are members of the Chamber Choir. The ensemble is dedicated to nurturing and promoting singing for the changing and changed male voice and sings diverse repertoire ranging from unison to four-part harmony.

Staff

Artistic

Rosemary Blessing

Artistic Director
Director, Chamber Choir

Sarah Wingard

Director, Carol and Concert Choirs

Jonathan Shoff

Director, Men's Ensemble
Accompanist, Chamber Choir

Sharon Ho

Accompanist, Carol and Concert Choirs

Administrative

Maria Bowman

Managing Director, interim
Choir Manager

Donna Hershey

Bookkeeper

TBD

Choir Manager Assistant

Audrey Livengood

Communications and Marketing Director

Artistic Staff



Rosemary Blessing
Artistic Director, Chamber Choir

Rosemary holds degrees in piano performance and business administration from Eastern Mennonite University and has pursued graduate study in choral music. She maintains a private piano studio and teaches piano at Franklin and Marshall College. Rosemary is an active pianist in the Lancaster area, having accompanied various choral groups and currently plays with the Allegro Orchestra. Rosemary and her husband, Josh, are ministers of worship at Landis Valley Christian Fellowship where they attend with their two young children.



Jonathan Shoff
Director, Men's Ensemble / Accompanist, Chamber Choir

Jonathan earned his bachelor's degree in music education from Millersville University with a concentration in piano and a minor in voice. He also holds a Master of Music from West Chester University. Jonathan teaches elementary school music in the School District of Lancaster. He teaches private instrumental and voice lessons and serves as artistic director for the Music For Everyone Lancaster Community Chorus. Along with his wife and their three children, he worships at Lancaster Alliance Church.



Sarah Wingard
Director, Carol and Concert Choirs

Sarah earned her bachelor's degree in music education from Messiah College with a concentration in voice and extensive study in piano. Growing up in Virginia, Sarah gained early musical experience singing with the nationally acclaimed Shenandoah Valley Children's Choir. Sarah teaches elementary music at the Locust Grove campus of Lancaster Mennonite School. Wingard also sings and regularly solos with the Susquehanna Chorale. She is a member of Crossway Church in Millersville.



Sharon Ho
Accompanist, Carol and Concert Choirs

Sharon graduated from Millersville University with a Bachelor of Science in Music Education and a Bachelor of Arts in Music Performance. She teaches elementary orchestra at Conestoga Valley School District. Sharon also teaches piano lessons at Linden Hall School and the Lancaster Conservatory of Music. She has been featured as a soloist with the Pennsylvania Academy of Music Orchestra, Hershey Symphony Orchestra, and Millersville University Orchestra. Sharon has accompanied for various vocal and instrumental soloists, pit orchestras, and choirs of all ages.

Advisory Board

Jewel Sensenig, board chair
Diana Locke, secretary
Lamar Myers, treasurer
Jeremy Brubaker
Lyn Carlson
Dr. Jeffrey Gemmell
Noah Martin
Dean Sauder
Jannat Veras
Dr. Randy Westgate

Auditions and Registration

Auditions are generally conducted between May and July for the following fall. Auditions will be closed when a choir is at capacity. Prospective singers should contact the appropriate director to schedule a 15-minute audition.

Prelude Music and Choristers

Auditions are not required for the Prelude Music and Choristers programs. See the Prelude Music and Choristers Handbook for registration.

Carol and Concert Choirs

Auditions include:

- matching pitch
- singing in tune
- using head voice
- maintaining a melodic line while another line is being sung
- singing one prepared piece of music of singer's choice (sung a capella)

Chamber Choir

Auditions include:

- vocalization for range and tone quality
- exercises for pitch, aural, and sight-reading skills
- singing one prepared piece of music of singer's choice (a capella or with accompaniment)

Provisional Status

The audition process may reveal that a singer is not able to demonstrate all of the expected skills consistently. If the singer shows a strong desire to learn, he or she may be accepted into an auditioned performing choir on provisional status. Within the first five weeks of choir rehearsals, the director will determine if the singer has the skills to continue as a full member of the auditioned choir or whether the non-auditioned Chorister program would better support the singer. Provisional singers pay the non-refundable registration fee to start the choir season followed by payment of the balance due for the program they permanently join. Only MCCL staff will be aware of a singer's provisional status.

Re-Auditions

Singers who have successfully auditioned for MCCL do not need to audition again, even when moving from one choir to the next. Singers who do not sing consecutive semesters may need to re-audition.

General Information

Responsibilities

Family

- Pray for the choir, directors, performances, and audiences.
- Review this Choir Handbook as a family.
- Mark all MCCL events from the Choir Calendar in this handbook on your family calendar.

Singer

- Display a positive attitude, demonstrate Christ-like behavior and language, create an atmosphere of community, and respect leadership at all MCCL events.
- Complete weekly practice assignments.
- Accept responsibility for your choir folder. Bring your folder to each rehearsal, and take it home every week. Mark your music with a pencil, and erase pencil marks at the end of each semester before turning in your binder.

Parent

- Volunteer in areas that best suit your abilities and interest. The Choir Manager will create a parent volunteer schedule based on information given during the registration process. Certain volunteer roles require background checks. Instructions for background checks can be found in the MCCL Student Safety Policy.
- Provide rehearsal or concert snack once a semester.
- Provide finger food item for one concert reception each semester.

Attendance Policy

- Prompt, consistent attendance develops unity in choral sound and respects time stewardship for everyone.
 - Punctual attendance is expected at all events on the Choir Calendar.
 - Communicate all known and potential conflicts with any scheduled MCCL events to your director in writing at the *beginning* of the choir season.
 - Any absence must be approved in advance.
 - MCCL values the opportunity for singers to be well-rounded and recognizes other commitments like sports, Bible quizzing, and arts may conflict with MCCL schedule. Please contact director(s) about the possibility of alternative plans to address schedule conflicts.
 - In the case of illness, notify your director by email or phone as soon as possible before the scheduled event.
 - If a singer is absent from a rehearsal, retreat, or concert, make-up work will usually be assigned by the director to be completed in a designated time frame. This ensures the singer's progress matches the rest of the choir.
- If a singer is repeatedly tardy or misses more than one rehearsal a semester, the director will determine an appropriate make-up plan for that singer. Appropriate make-up plans consider the singer's history of rehearsal preparation and musical experience. This plan may include rehearsing privately with a director for a fee of \$25/half hour. Extenuating circumstances will be considered.
- Singers with unexcused absences or late arrivals may be placed on probationary status.

Choir Communication

- Read your email. Directors will email weekly updates regarding practice assignments, schedule, fundraisers, concert details, etc.
- Parents and singers are asked to email their directors rather than contacting them at rehearsals or concerts.

Dress Code

- Shorts must be below fingertip length when arms are at your side.
- Dresses or skirts must be no more than two inches above the top of your knee.
- Pictures, messages, and symbols on clothing and jewelry must be in keeping with the mission and values of the choir.
- Shirts must have sleeves.
- Undergarments may not be visible.
- Leggings are permitted with a top that is mid-thigh in length.

Singer Discipline

MCCL is committed to restorative rather than punitive discipline which means talking openly about and creating a plan to change behaviors that negatively impact a singer and/or the whole choir. Since we believe singers must accept responsibility for their behavioral choices, restorative discipline may include apologies, reconciliation, actions to right a wrong, and parental involvement.

MCCL staff will work with all students involved using restorative practices with the intent of each student owning what was wrong and making things right. Parents may be asked to be a part of this process.

Yellow Cards

If a singer's behavior negatively impacts the individual or other choir members, a director or the choir manager may hand the singer yellow card.

- The singer should write down what was happening at the time the yellow card was received and ask a parent to sign the card.
- Parent(s) will be emailed.
- Return yellow card to the director the following week.
- Receiving yellow cards is cause for concern and may lead to probationary status in the choir.

Probation

If a singer does not meet MCCL expectations (behavior, attendance, practice assignments) and does not follow through with a collaborative plan to remedy the situation, a singer will be placed on probation. Singers on probation will be given a deadline to correct the situation. Probation may include sitting out at concerts or other MCCL events. If attendance or practice assignment related, singer will be required to rehearse privately with a director for a fee of \$25 per one-half hour. Probation has the potential to lead to dismissal from the choir without a refund.

Student Safety

Student Safety Policy

As a faith-based community choir, we believe that the spiritual, emotional and physical well-being of choir members is vital. The Mennonite Children's Choir of Lancaster (MCCL) has a policy in place to enhance the safety of students participating in the MCCL program. It can be viewed in the Member Portal section of the MCCL website. Ask MCCL staff for a hard-copy if desired.

Bullying

Bullying, an often-overlooked behavior, is one for which MCCL has zero tolerance. Bullying is unwanted, aggressive behavior among school-aged children that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. The behavior is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time. Bullying includes actions such as making threats, spreading rumors, attacking someone physically or verbally, teasing, name calling, embarrassing someone in public, and excluding someone from a group on purpose. Students or parents should inform staff immediately when any form of bullying is observed.

Inclement Weather Policy

- All weather-related cancelations will be emailed to you.
- Cancelations of concerts will be announced on WDAC and WJTL and posted on the MCCL Facebook page and website.

Rehearsals and Classes

Locations

Rehearsals and classes are held on Tuesdays during the school year at the following times and locations:

Prelude Music class	Blossom Hill Mennonite Church	6:00 – 6:45 p.m.
Choristers I class	Blossom Hill Mennonite Church	6:00 – 6:45 p.m.
Choristers II class	Blossom Hill Mennonite Church	6:50 – 7:35 p.m.
Carol Choir rehearsal	Neffsville Mennonite Church	6:15 – 7:20 p.m.
Concert Choir rehearsal	Neffsville Mennonite Church	7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
Chamber Choir rehearsal	Blossom Hill Mennonite Church	7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
Men’s Ensemble rehearsal	Blossom Hill Mennonite Church	6:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Singer Expectations

- Bring a pencil and a water bottle to rehearsal.
- Arrive 5-10 minutes before rehearsal begins to use the restroom, fill water bottles, and sign in.
- MCCL is a mostly technology-free space. We place high emphasis on cultivating teamwork and building relationships.
 - To this end, cell phones and other electronic devices may not be used during rehearsal. Cell phones may be used *individually* before and after rehearsal.
 - Electronic devices used during rehearsal will be held by a staff member until the end of rehearsal.
 - Carol and Concert Choirs may not use cell phones during snack.

Parent/Guardian Expectations

- Parents/guardians are welcome to attend rehearsals, but please do not talk in the rehearsal space.
- Supervise your children. Carol and Concert Choir singers are under parent/guardian supervision before rehearsal start times and during snack.
- Blossom Hill Mennonite Church and Neffsville Mennonite Church graciously allow MCCL to use their facilities. Singers and families are expected to treat facilities with care and are not permitted to be in areas of the church that are not in use by MCCL.

Drop-off and Pick-up Expectations

- Carol, Concert, and Chamber singers sign in at the start of each rehearsal.
- Parents/guardians of Carol and Concert Choir singers must sign their children out at Neffsville Mennonite Church in the fellowship hall.
- Singers will stay in fellowship hall or back of sanctuary until parent/guardian arrives to pick them up. The registration process will give opportunity for parents to indicate other adults who are indicated to pick up their children.

Snack

Each family is asked to provide snack one time a semester for each choir in which the family has a singer.

- During registration parents sign up to provide, serve, and clean up snack at one rehearsal.
- Simple and healthy snacks are encouraged.
- Please do not serve crumb-inducing snacks such as chips or popcorn.
- Singers will have water bottles, so no drink is needed.
- Bring napkins and any other items needed to serve the snack.
- Wipe all tables that were used, clean up trash, and vacuum/sweep crumbs on floor.

Concerts

Concert Details for Singers

- Singers are expected to arrive in uniform and be ready to sing at communicated report time, generally 1½ hours before concert time.
- Leave cell phones and electronic devices at home or in your car. Technology used during the pre-concert warmups or concert (even while other choirs are performing) will be taken and returned at the end of the concert.

Concert Etiquette for Parents

MCCL concerts are well attended by members of the local community, congregations, and choir families. Please be courteous toward everyone who attends a concert.

- Be considerate of concert guests by parking in spaces farthest from the church entrance.
- Parents and other concert guests should not enter the sanctuary during rehearsal before a concert. The doors will open for concert seating 30 minutes before concert time.
- Consider sitting toward the back of the venue if you attended a previous concert.
- Please do not save seats before the concert.

Pre-Concert Snack

- Parents provide, serve, and clean up snack before each concert.
- Sign-up for snack is available during registration.
- Wipe all tables that were used and clean up trash and crumbs on the floor.

Formal Concert Attire

Carol and Concert Choir Girls

- MCCL provides blouses and black skirts.
- Singers provide black dress shoes (no flip flops, clogs, or boots).
- Carol Choir girls wear white tights.
- Concert Choir girls wear either flesh-toned nylons or no nylons.
- All girls should wear white or tan undergarments under their blouses.
- Jewelry should be limited to stud earrings.
- Bracelets, watches, and hair bands should not be worn on wrists. Medical bracelets are an exception.
- Hair should be away from the eyes so singer can see director.
- Any hair accessories should be the same color as singers' hair.

Carol and Concert Choir Boys

- MCCL provides white dress shirts and ties or bow ties for each season.
- Singers provide black dress pants, black socks, black dress shoes (no sneakers) and white undershirt.
- Hair should be away from the eyes so singer can see director.
- Bracelets and watches should not be worn on wrists. Medical bracelets are an exception.

Chamber Choir Ladies

- MCCL will order a black dress for each lady during her first year in ChamberChoir.
- Singers purchase a dress through MCCL (approximately \$80).
- Singers provide black dress shoes (no flip flops, clogs, or boots).
- Jewelry should be limited to stud earrings and/or a pearl necklace.
- Bracelets, watches, and hair bands should not be worn on wrists. Medical bracelets are an exception.
- Hair should be away from the eyes so singer can see director.
- Any hair accessories should be the same color as singers' hair.

Chamber Choir Men

- Hair should be away from the eyes so singer can see director.
- Bracelets and watches should not be worn on wrists. Medical bracelets are an exception.

Fall

- MCCL provides ties which singers return at the end of fall semester.
- Singers purchase gray dress shirt through MCCL (approximately \$30).
- Singers provide white undershirt, black dress pants, black socks, and black dress shoes.

Spring

- Singers purchase blue dress shirt and plaid bow tie through MCCL (approximately \$50).
- Singers provide white undershirt, black dress pants, black socks, and black dress shoes.

Casual Concert Attire

Carol, Concert and Chamber Choir

Casual concert attire will be required for local tour day, informal events, and some social activities.

- MCCL t-shirt
- Khaki or tan bottoms
 - Guys wear long pants.
 - Ladies may wear long pants, knee-length (or longer) skirts or capris.
- Nice shoes or sandals; flip flops are not permitted.

Concert Recordings

Please note that if you record MCCL concerts using your personal recording devices, you are *not* permitted to make copies of your recordings due to copyright laws. Thanks for your cooperation. Any recordings made by the host church are solely for internal use by the directors for evaluation and growth.

Concert Offerings

MCCL accepts a free-will offering at concerts instead of requiring concert guests to purchase a ticket like many other arts organizations do. Contributions are welcome from everyone who attends a concert, including parents. Donors who write a check for \$25 or more will receive a tax-deductible receipt from Lancaster Mennonite School. Checks should be payable to LMS/MCCL; write MCCL on the memo line.

Tours

Local Tour Day

An annual spring one-day tour for Carol, Concert, and Chamber choirs, this tour includes singing at schools, retirement communities, and local ministries with the purpose of serving the local community, increasing confidence in singing, and broadening awareness about MCCL.

Attendance is expected. MCCL will provide a letter requesting permission for singers to be excused from school that day.

Summer Tour

A multi-day tour in mid-June for Concert and Chamber choirs, this tour promotes a sense of community within the performing choirs as well as the broader church. Educational components include a choral master class and local attractions. Tour also provides an opportunity to share the outcome of the choir year, often in communities where there is no children's choir. Fee for this tour is not included in tuition. Tour-specific fundraisers may be offered.

Attendance is expected. However, MCCL understands that due to vacation or other conflicts some singers may not be able to participate. Tour commitments forms will be given out during the fall semester.

Proposed Tour Schedule

- June 2020
 - Concert and Chamber Choirs to southern states, likely Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi (7 days)
- June 2021
 - Concert Choir to Maryland, Washington DC, and Virginia (4 days)
 - Chamber Choir to an international location with Eastern Mennonite Missions (two weeks)
- June 2022
 - Concert and Chamber Choirs to Canada

Chamber Choir International Tour

MCCL partners with Eastern Mennonite Missions (EMM) for an international choral mission trip every three years.

- To be eligible to participate in an international tour, singers who sang with MCCL in prior years are expected to have participated in stateside tours.
- Space is limited for international tours. Singers who want to participate must apply and be approved by EMM and MCCL. Priority will be given to singers who meet requirements and who sang the year preceding the international tour year.

Choir Calendar

Rehearsals and classes are held on Tuesdays during the school year at the following times and locations:

Prelude Music class	Blossom Hill Mennonite Church	6:00 – 6:45 p.m.
Choristers I class	Blossom Hill Mennonite Church	6:00 – 6:45 p.m.
Choristers II class	Blossom Hill Mennonite Church	6:50 – 7:35 p.m.
Carol Choir rehearsal	Neffsville Mennonite Church	6:15 – 7:20 p.m.
Concert Choir rehearsal	Neffsville Mennonite Church	7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
Chamber Choir rehearsal	Blossom Hill Mennonite Church	7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
Men's Ensemble rehearsal	Blossom Hill Mennonite Church	6:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Calendar Key

BHMC	Blossom Hill Mennonite Church	LVCF	Landis Valley Christian Fellowship	NMC	Neffsville Mennonite Church
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2019 Fall Semester

Rehearsals are held each Tuesday evening. Dates listed below indicate specific times, locations, or changes.

Day	Date	Time	Location	Activity	Carol	Concert	Chamber
M	Aug. 19	7:00 – 8:00 p.m.	NMC	Rehearsal for returning 7 th /8 th gr. guys		X select	
Tu	Aug. 20	6:15 – 7:00 p.m.	NMC	Rehearsal for <i>new</i> singers	X		
		7:15 – 8:15 p.m.	NMC	Rehearsal for <i>new</i> singers		X	
		6:30 – 8:00 p.m.	BHMC	Rehearsal Men's Ensemble			X men
Tu	Aug. 27	6:15 – 7:20 p.m.	NMC	First rehearsal for <i>all</i> singers	X		
		7:00 – 8:30 p.m.	NMC			X	
		7:00 – 8:30 p.m.	BHMC				X
Tu	Sept. 3	7:00 – 7:20 p.m.	NMC	Parents join singers for info meeting <small>A parent/guardian for each family is asked to attend</small>	X	X	
		8:30 – 8:50 p.m.	BHMC				X
Sat	Sept. 14	8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Oregon Dairy	Car Wash Fundraiser			X
Sun	Sept. 15	1:00 – 6:00 p.m.	NMC	Rehearsal retreat <small>Wear MCCL t-shirt; uniform distribution</small>		X	
				Rehearsal retreat <small>Wear MCCL t-shirt; dress fitting</small>			X ladies
Sun	Sept. 22	1:30 – 5:00 p.m.	NMC	Rehearsal retreat <small>Wear MCCL t-shirt; uniform distribution</small>	X		
		1:00 – 6:00 p.m.	NMC	Rehearsal retreat <small>Wear MCCL t-shirt; tie distribution</small>			X men
F	Nov. 1	4:15 – 6:30 p.m.	NMC	Rehearsal with Sherrie Strange-Pratt <small>Wear MCCL t-shirt</small>	X	X	X
		1:00 – 4:00 p.m. 5:30 – 9:30 p.m.	BHMC	Jar Fundraiser <small>Parent & singer participation encouraged Siblings age 10+ may help Supper provided</small>	X	X	X
Sat	Nov. 2	8:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	NMC	Rehearsal with Sherrie Strange-Pratt <small>Wear MCCL t-shirt</small>	X	X	X
		12:30–1:00 p.m.	NMC	Parent/singer tour information session <small>Pizza provided</small>		X	X
Tu	Nov. 19	n/a	n/a	Tour deposit due		X	X
		6:45 – 7:20 p.m.	NMC	Uniform swap	X	X	
F	Nov. 22	Evening	BHMC	MCCL Alumni Songs and Sweets <small>Past MCCL songs will be sung together Attendance optional</small>	X	X	X

2019 Fall Semester (continued)

Rehearsals are held each Tuesday evening. Dates listed below indicate specific times, locations, or changes.

Day	Date	Time	Location	Activity	Carol	Concert	Chamber
Tu	Nov. 26	Regular rehearsal times	NMC	Rehearsal Different location than normal for Chamber Choir.			X
Tu	Dec. 3	Regular rehearsal times	NMC	Dress rehearsal Wear MCCL formal attire. Chamber Choir meets at NMC. Last fall rehearsal Music folder collection Jar Fundraiser payment due	X	X	X
Th	Dec. 5	5:30 p.m. Report time: Chamber & Concert 5:45 p.m. Report time: Carol 7:00 p.m. Concert	St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Lancaster	Concert	X	X	X
Sat	Dec. 7	2:30 p.m. Report time: Chamber & Concert 2:45 p.m. Report time: Carol 4:00 p.m. Concert	Forest Hills Mennonite Church, Leola	Concert	X	X	X
Sun	Dec. 8	2:30 p.m. Report time: Chamber & Concert 2:45 p.m. Report time: Carol 4:00 p.m. Concert	Highland Presbyterian Church, Lancaster	Concert	X	X	X

2020 Spring Semester

Rehearsals are held each Tuesday evening. Dates listed below indicate specific times, locations, or changes.

Day	Date	Time	Location	Activity	Carol	Concert	Chamber
Tu	Jan. 7	Regular rehearsal times	NMC/ BHMC	First spring semester rehearsal	X	X	X
		6:15 – 6:45 p.m.	BHMC	Men's Ensemble begins at 6:15 p.m. starting today through March 24			X men
		7:00 – 7:20 p.m.	NMC	Parents join singers for Do-Re-Mi \$ Fundraiser Kickoff info meeting. A parent/guardian for each family is asked to attend	X	X	
		8:30 – 8:50 p.m.	BHMC				X
Tu	Jan. 14	7:00 – 7:20 p.m.	NMC	Parent meeting for new second semester families	X	X	
Tu	Jan. 21	n/a	n/a	Do-Re-Mi \$ fundraiser envelopes due	X	X	X
		Regular rehearsal times	NMC	Rehearsal Different location than normal for Chamber Choir.	X	X	X
Sun	Jan. 26	1:00 – 5:00 p.m.	NMC	Do-Re-Mi \$ Rehearsal Marathon Wear MCCL t-shirt; uniform distribution	X		
		12:45– 5:45 p.m.	NMC				X men
Sun	Feb. 2	12:45– 5:45 p.m.	NMC	Do-Re-Mi \$ Rehearsal Marathon Wear MCCL t-shirt; uniform distribution		X	X ladies
Sun	Feb. 9	TBD	TBD	Do-Re-Mi \$ Rehearsal Marathon Snow make-up	X	X	X
Tu	Feb. 11	n/a	n/a	Summer tour payment #1 due		X	X
F	Feb. 21	7:00 p.m.	TBD	Family Fun Night Music game show and ice cream social Participation strongly encouraged	X	X	X
Tu	March 10	n/a	NMC/ BHMC	Photo night Wear MCCL formal concert attire. Concert and Chamber Choirs extended rehearsal until 8:45 p.m.	X	X	X
Sun	March 15	1:00 – 5:00 p.m.	LVCF	Rehearsal retreat			X
Tu	March 24	n/a	NMC	Chamber Choir rehearses at NMC			X
Th	March 26	5:30 p.m. Report time: Chamber & Concert 5:45 p.m. Report time: Carol 7:00 p.m. Concert	Pleasant View Retirement Community, Manheim	Concert	X	X	X
F	March 27	5:30 p.m. Report time 6:30 p.m. Concert	TBD	Concert <i>Festival of Voices Music for Everyone</i>		X	

2020 Spring Semester (continued)

Rehearsals are held each Tuesday evening. Dates listed below indicate specific times, locations, or changes.

Day	Date	Time	Location	Activity	Carol	Concert	Chamber
Sat	March 28	1:30 – 5:00 p.m.	Weaverland Anabaptist Faith Community, East Earl	Rehearsal: Men's Chorus Festival			X men
Sun	March 29	2:00 – 6:00 p.m.	Weaverland Anabaptist Faith Community, East Earl	Rehearsal: Men's Chorus Festival			X men
		6:30 p.m.		Concert <i>Men's Chorus Festival</i>			X men
Tu	March 31	n/a	n/a	Summer tour payment #2 due		X	X
		Regular rehearsal times	NMC	Rehearsal Different location than normal for Chamber Choir.	X	X	X
Th	April 2	7:45 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.	TBD	Local Tour Day		X	X
F	April 3	8:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.	TBD	Local Tour Day	X		
Sun	April 5	2:30 p.m. Report time: Chamber & Concert 2:45 p.m. Report time: Carol 4:00 p.m. Concert	First Presbyterian Church, Lancaster	Concert Prelude Music and Choristers will participate.	X	X	X
Sat	April 18	5:30 p.m. Report time: Chamber & Concert 5:45 p.m. Report time: Carol 7:00 p.m. Concert	Lancaster Church of the Brethren, Lancaster	Concert	X	X	X
Sun	April 19	2:30 p.m. Report time: Chamber & Concert 2:45 p.m. Report time: Carol 4:00 p.m. Concert	Derry Presbyterian Church, Hershey	Concert	X	X	X
Tu	April 21	n/a	NMC	<i>Join the Song</i> open rehearsal for potential singers			
Tu	April 28	n/a	NMC/ BHMC	Music folder collection Concert and Chamber singers going on summer tour keep their binders for tour.	X	X	X

2020 Spring Semester (continued)

Rehearsals are held each Tuesday evening. Dates listed below indicate specific times, locations, or changes.

Day	Date	Time	Location	Activity	Carol	Concert	Chamber
Sun	May 3	2:30 p.m. Report time: Chamber & Concert 2:45 p.m. Report time: Carol 4:00 p.m. Concert	NMC	Concert Finger food reception following concert Uniform collection	X	X	X
	May 5-26			No rehearsals	X	X	X
Tu	May 19	6:15 p.m.	Lancaster County Park, Pavilion #1	Choir picnic Bring a hot and cold dish. Bring your own place settings. Participation strongly encouraged	X	X	X
Tu	June 2	6:00 – 7:15 p.m.	NMC	Rehearsal To prepare for Mt. Gretna and tour	X		
		7:00 – 8:45 p.m.				X	
		7:00 – 8:45 p.m.					X
		6:15 – 7:00 p.m.					X men
		8:45 – 9:15 p.m.	NMC	Tour meeting For parents and singers		X	X
Sun	June 7	5:00 p.m. Report time: Chamber & Concert 5:45 p.m. Report time: Carol 7:00 p.m. Concert	Mt. Gretna Tabernacle, Mt. Gretna	Concert Wear informal concert attire.	X	X	X
Tu	June 9	7:00 p.m.	Landis Homes Retirement Community in Lititz	Concert Pre-tour		X	X
	June 10-17	TBD	TBD	Summer Tour		X	X
Th	June 17	TBD	TBD	Concert Post-tour		X	X
Sat	July 11	TBD	Hans Herr House, Willow Street	Singing at Eastern Mennonite Missions Global Fair Participation strongly encouraged	X	X	X

Financial Responsibilities

Registration Fee (non-refundable fee per singer)

Only performing choirs (Carol, Concert, Chamber)

\$ 50 on or before July 26

\$100 after July 26

Annual Tuition

The Mennonite Children's Choir of Lancaster is a tuition-based choir. Tuition funds about one third of our budget; offerings, fundraisers and donations make up the balance of our income. Operating expenses include things such as music, uniforms, printed concert programs, salaries, facility rental, insurance and publicity.

Annual tuition includes more than 35 rehearsals, numerous concerts, retreats, local tour day, an annual picnic, as well as opportunities for extracurricular events.

First Child Tuition

Prelude Music*	\$180 per year (\$90 per semester) <i>no registration fee</i>
Choristers*	\$180 per year (\$90 per semester) <i>no registration fee</i>
Carol Choir**	\$265 per year
Concert Choir**	\$335 per year
Chamber Choir**	\$335 per year
Men's Ensemble	\$ 25 per year

Composed of all
male singers in
Chamber Choir

Additional Child Tuition

\$180 for each additional child in Prelude Music, Choristers

\$265 for each additional child in Carol, Concert or Chamber Choir

* In addition, families participate in a fall semester fundraiser.

**In addition, families participate in one fall and one spring semester fundraiser

Tuition is not pro-rated for singers who participate in performing choirs for one semester only.

Tuition for Transfer from Prelude Music or Choristers to Carol Choir or Concert Choir

If a singer who has paid for the full year transfers from Prelude Music to Carol Choir or from Choristers to Carol or Concert Choirs for second semester, fifty-percent of the Prelude Music or Choristers tuition will be credited toward one semester of Carol or Concert Choir tuition.

Fundraisers

Fundraisers serve as team building events for singers and their families and provide a portion of the MCCL budget. They help offset the difference between tuition and the actual cost of the MCCL program. Singers and families are expected to participate in fundraisers or pay an opt-out fee, if preferred. If a family bypasses fundraiser participation through a required opt-out fee, the payment is not tax deductible.

- Fall Jar Fundraiser
Each family receives 16 jars to sell. Jars are \$8 each.
Opt out fee is \$128 per family.
- Spring Do-Re-Mi-Dollars Fundraiser
 - 1 singer per family 10 names or opt-out fee of \$110
 - 2 singers per family 20 names or opt-out fee of \$220
 - 3+ singers per family 25 names or opt-out fee of \$275
- Chamber or Concert Choir might participate in a fall car wash.
- Specific fundraisers for multi-day tours and other events might be offered.

Business Sponsorship and Tuition Discounts

Each year business sponsors are invited to partner with MCCL. Partnering with local business owners who support the arts strengthens the MCCL program and provides a portion of the MCCL budget. There are four levels of sponsorship:

Concert Series Underwriter	\$5,000 per concert season
Presto	\$3,000
Allegretto	\$1,500
Allegro	\$1,000
Andante	\$ 500

Benefits vary depending on the level of sponsorship and include options for advertising in the concert program, on concert posters, and at concerts.

Family and friends of singers often are significant supporters of MCCL. Please send names of potential business sponsors to Managing Director. If a business you recommend has not already been contacted, we will prepare a sponsorship packet for you to share with them.

A tuition discount for the forthcoming year will be applied to your family for each business sponsor you recommend and contact if they partner with MCCL. Total Tuition discount may not exceed total tuition owed by each family.

- \$500 per family for a Concert Series Underwriter
- \$300 per family for a Presto business partner
- \$150 per family for an Allegro business partner
- \$100 per family for an Allegretto business partner
- \$ 50 per family for an Andante business partner

Refer a new MCCL family and Tuition Discounts

For the 2019-2020 choir season, current MCCL families will receive a tuition discount for each new choir family who joins a choir or class as a result of your personal invitation. The new invited family will also receive a discount.

	New MCCL family with singer in Prelude Music or Choristers	New MCCL family with singer in Carol Choir	New MCCL family with singer in Concert Choir	New MCCL family with singer in Chamber Choir
Discount for each current and new family	\$10/semester \$25/full year	\$40/full year	\$50/full year	\$50/full year

The discount is per family (not per singer):

- If a new MCCL family registers singers in multiple classes or choirs, the highest discount available will be applied.
- If two current MCCL families invite the same new family (who joins MCCL), the discount is shared between the current families.
- As part of registration, current MCCL families will list new families they invited to join MCCL this spring.

Tuition Assistance

Tuition Assistance is available to those who sing the entire year. It is also available to families new to the MCCL program in January. Tuition assistance applications, along with the non-refundable deposit, are due with choir registration. Application is available during the registration process. Applications received by early deadline will be given priority.

Uniform Fees

All Carol and Concert singers pay a \$25 yearly fee to rent MCCL concert attire. Each Chamber Choir lady is responsible to purchase a black dress (approximately \$80) from MCCL, which will be hers to keep. Each Chamber Choir gentleman is responsible to purchase two colored dress shirt and bow tie (approximately \$80) from MCCL, which will be his to keep.

Carol and Concert Choir uniforms will be collected at the end of each season. MCCL will charge \$60 if uniform is not returned by the due date. Chamber Choir men’s ties will be collected at the end of the fall season. MCCL will charge \$30 if tie is not returned by due date.

Singers are also expected to purchase an MCCL t-shirt for causal concert attire. The \$10 fee is included on Tuition and Uniform Rental Payment forms.

Music Fee

Music folders will be collected at the end of each season. MCCL will charge \$50 if your music folder is not returned by the due date. There will be a \$5 charge for any individual piece of music that is missing or damaged.

Tour Fee

An additional fee is charged for the annual Concert and Chamber Choir summer tour.

Contributions

Tax-deductible gifts may be sent to:

LMS/MCCL
PO Box 10984
Lancaster PA 17605

Please make your check payable to LMS/MCCL and write MCCL on the memo line. Lancaster Mennonite School will send a tax-deductible receipt for donations of \$25 or more. For the Do-Re-Mi-Dollars fundraiser tax-deductible receipts will be sent for donations of \$50 or more.

Payment Policy

Payments include fees for tuition, uniforms, lost uniforms, lost music, fundraisers, tour, etc. Payments should be submitted via check; cash will not be accepted.

Outstanding payments are defined as payments that are not remitted according to the schedule defined by MCCL or an alternate payment schedule approved by the choir manager.

Any singer who has outstanding payments will not:

- receive a music folder
- receive a uniform
- participate in concerts, go on tour, or attend special activities

Refund Policy

Tuition paid, less the registration fee, may be refunded until the fourth rehearsal of the semester. Tuition will not be refunded after the fourth rehearsal of the semester.

Payment for lost music or a lost uniform is refundable if the music or uniform is later returned in usable condition.

Fundraiser payments, uniform fees, and tour payments are not refundable or transferable.

Returned Check Fee

A \$40 fee will be charged for returned checks.

Instructions for Registration

1. Go to www.mennonitechildrenschoir.org
2. Click **Member Portal** at the bottom of any page or under *Join/Register* main navigation menu.
Username: mcclmember
Password: MCCLMemberFamily2019-20 (case sensitive)
3. Click **Student Registration**.
4. When logged in, complete **Steps 1, 2, 3, 4**.