



Classes Handbook

Prelude Music, Choristers I & II

2019-2020

www.mennonitechildrenschoir.org

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MCCL Program

Mission

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

Vision

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. See the MCCL website for additional information on the auditioned choirs.

Concert Choir (grades 6 – 8)

Concert Choir is an auditioned performing choir that strengthens skills learned in the Carol Choir.

Chamber Choir (grades 9 – 12)

Chamber Choir is an auditioned advanced performing choir that builds on fundamentals learned in Carol and Concert Choirs.

Men's Ensemble (Chamber Choir men)

Men's Ensemble is for male singers who are members of the Chamber Choir

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

Staff

Artistic

Rosemary Blessing

Artistic Director
Director, Chamber Choir

Jonathan Shoff

Director, Men's Ensemble
Accompanist, Chamber Choir

Sarah Wingard

Director, Carol and Concert Choirs

Sharon Ho

Accompanist, Carol and Concert Choirs

Administrative

Maria Bowman

Managing Director, interim
Choir Manager

TBD

Choir Manager Assistant

Donna Hershey

Bookkeeper

Audrey Livengood

Communications and Marketing Director

Class Schedule and Calendar

All classes meet Tuesday evenings at Blossom Hill Mennonite Church (BHMC), Lancaster.

6:00 – 6:45 p.m. Prelude Music

6:00 – 6:45 p.m. Choristers I

6:50 – 7:35 p.m. Choristers II

2019 Fall Semester

Dates of classes are listed below, with details given to specific dates.

Day	Date	Time	Details
Tues.	Sept. 17	6:00 – 6:45 p.m.	First Prelude Music class at BHMC
		6:00 – 6:45 p.m.	First Choristers I class at BHMC
		6:50 – 7:35 p.m.	First Choristers II class at BHMC
		6:00 – 6:15 p.m.	Prelude Music and Choristers I parent meeting at BHMC
		7:20 – 7:35 p.m.	Choristers II parent meeting at BHMC
Tues.	Sept. 24		
Tues.	Oct. 1		
Tues.	Oct. 8		
Tues.	Oct. 15		
Tues.	Oct. 22		
Tues.	Oct. 29		
Tues.	Nov. 5		
Tues.	Nov. 12		
Tues.	Nov. 19	6:00 – 6:45 p.m. <small>class</small>	Prelude Music
		6:00 – 6:45 p.m. <small>class</small>	Choristers I
		6:00 – 6:45 p.m. <small>class</small>	Choristers II
		6:45 – 7:15 p.m. <small>presentation</small>	Prelude Music, Choristers I & II

2020 Spring Semester

Dates of classes are listed below, with details given to specific dates.

Day	Date	Time	Details
Tues.	Feb. 4	6:00 – 6:45 p.m.	First Prelude Music class at BHMC
		6:00 – 6:45 p.m.	First Choristers I class at BHMC
		6:50 – 7:35 p.m.	First Choristers II class at BHMC
		6:00 – 6:15 p.m.	Prelude Music and Choristers I parent meeting at BHMC
		7:20 – 7:35 p.m.	Choristers II parent meeting at BHMC
Tues.	Feb. 11		
Tues.	Feb. 18		
Tues.	Feb. 25		
Tues.	March 3		
Tues.	March 10		
Tues.	March 17		
Tues.	March 24		
Tues.	March 31		
Sun.	April 5	3 p.m. report time 4 p.m. concert	First Presbyterian Church, Lancaster Prelude Music and Choristers I & II will join auditioned choirs.
Tues.	April 7	6:00 – 6:45 p.m. <small>class</small>	Prelude Music
		6:00 – 6:45 p.m. <small>class</small>	Choristers I
		6:00 – 6:45 p.m. <small>class</small>	Choristers II
		6:45 - 7:15 p.m. <small>presentation</small>	Prelude Music, Choristers I & II

General Information

Communication

- The MCCL directors and staff communicate by email. Parents and singers are encouraged to email their directors rather than contacting them at classes or concerts.

Incident Weather Policy

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

Parent Responsibilities

- Bring singers to class on time and pick them up on time after class.
- Please arrive in time to use the rest room prior to your class.

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 no more than two inches above the top of the knee.

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.

Student Safety

Student Safety Guidelines

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 all students participating in the MCCL program. To see a copy of the policy, please ask MCCL staff.

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.

Concerts

Concert Schedule You are welcome to attend any MCCL concert. Carol, Concert, and Chamber choirs present several concerts each semester. Prelude Music and Choristers I & II will sing at the concert listed in bold print.			
Thurs.	Dec. 5	7 p.m.	St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Lancaster
Sat.	Dec. 7	4 p.m.	Forest Hills Mennonite Church, Leola
Sun.	Dec. 8	4 p.m.	Highland Presbyterian Church, Lancaster
Sun.	April 5	4 p.m.	First Presbyterian Church, Lancaster Prelude Music and Choristers I and II will sing with performing choirs.
Sat.	April 18	7 p.m.	Lancaster Church of the Brethren, Lancaster
Sun.	April 19	4 p.m.	Derry Presbyterian Church, Hershey
Sun.	May 3	4 p.m.	Neffsville Mennonite Church, Lancaster
Sun.	June 7	7 p.m.	Mt. Gretna Tabernacle, Mt. Gretna
Sat.	July 11	TBD	Singing at Eastern Mennonite Missions Global Fair Hans Herr House, Willow Street

Concert Attire

There is no concert uniform, but singers should dress nicely for concerts and times of sharing.

Girls – dresses or skirts

Boys – pants and shirt

Financial Responsibilities

Tuition (Prelude Music and Choristers)

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.

\$180 full year/\$90 per semester *

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

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

Tuition for Transfer from a Class to a 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 help offset the difference between tuition and the actual cost of the MCCL program. Singers and families of Prelude Music and Choristers are expected to participate in the Fall Jar Fundraiser or pay an opt-out fee, if preferred. Details about the fundraiser will be shared at the fall parent meeting.

Fall Jar Fundraiser: Participation Expectation or Opt Out Fee

Each family receives 7 jars to sell. Jars are \$8 each.

Opt-out fee is \$56 per family.

If a family bypasses fundraiser participation through a required opt-out fee, the payment is not a tax-deductible donation.

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 the Managing Director. If a business you recommend has not already been contacted, we will prepare a sponsorship packet for you to share with them.

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.

Refund Policy

Tuition paid, less a \$25 processing fee, may be refunded through the second class of the semester. Tuition will not be refunded after the third class of the semester.

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 and 4** (choose payment form for classes).

