



Classes Handbook

Prelude Music and Choristers I & II

2021-2022

Table of Contents

MCCL Program	2
Mission Statement	2
Vision Statement	2
Affiliation	2
Our Programs	2
Prelude Music (kindergarten through grade 1).....	2
Choristers I (grades 2 – 5) and Choristers II (grades 6 – 8).....	2
Carol Choir (grades 2 – 5).....	2
Concert Choir (grades 6 – 8).....	2
Chamber Choir (grades 9 – 12).....	2
Men’s Ensemble (grades 9 - 12).....	2
Staff	3
Advisory Board	3
Class Details and Logistics	4
COVID-19	4
Locations and Times	4
Singer/Family Expectations	4
Illness	4
Class Calendar	5
General Information	7
Dress Code	7
Singer Discipline	7
Student Safety	7
Financial Responsibilities	8
Tuition	8
Tuition Assistance	8
Fundraisers	8
Refer a New Family	8
Business Sponsorship and Tuition Discounts	9
Refund Policy	9
Returned Check Fee	9
Instructions for Registration	10

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 group, engages children with music. Playing, moving, listening, and singing are important components. Greater emphasis is given to experiencing than to performing.

Choristers I (grades 2 - 5) and Choristers II (grades 6 - 8)

Choristers, a non-auditioned group, provides an 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. See the MCCL website for additional information on the auditioned choirs.

Chamber Choir (grades 9 - 12)

Chamber Choir is an auditioned advanced performing choir that builds on fundamentals learned in Carol and Concert Choirs. See the MCCL website for additional information on the auditioned choirs.

Men's Ensemble (grades 9 - 12)

Men's Ensemble is for male singers who are members of the Chamber Choir. See the MCCL website for additional information on the auditioned choirs.

Staff



Monica Hochstedler Carlson

Director, Prelude Music

Monica holds a Master of Music in Piano Pedagogy and Performance from Westminster Choir College and a Bachelor of Arts in Music Education from Goshen College. She has taught general elementary music in public schools as well as at Eastern Mennonite Elementary School in Harrisonburg, VA. In addition, Monica built a thriving private piano studio, served as a private and group piano instructor at Shenandoah Valley Preparatory Music and Woodberry Forest School, and is an instructor at Red Wing Academy.



Elisa Chodan

Director, Choristers I & II and Assistant, Carol and Concert Choirs

Elisa is a full-time music educator, teaching choir and general music at Veritas Academy. She also leads the women's chorus at Lancaster Bible College and has directed children's choir at Lancaster Academy for the Performing Arts. Elisa holds a bachelor's degree in Music Education and a master's degree in Voice Performance from Bob Jones University with additional graduate credits from Westminster Choir College. She was a 2019-20 VOCES8 US Scholar and a two-time summer intern with VOCES8 in Europe.

Artistic Staff for Performing Choirs

Rosemary Blessing

Artistic Director
Director, Chamber Choir
chamberchoir@lancastermennonite.org

Sarah Wingard

Director, Carol and Concert Choirs
carolandconcertchoir@lancastermennonite.org

Monica Hochstedler Carlson

Director, Prelude Music
preludemusic@lancastermennonite.org

Elisa Chodan

Director, Choristers I & II
Assistant, Carol and Concert Choirs
choristers@lancastermennonite.org

Sharon Curran

Accompanist, Carol and Concert Choirs

Mark Williams

Interim Director, Men's Ensemble

Administrative Staff

Maria Bowman

Managing Director
Choir Manager
mcclchoirmanager@lancastermennonite.org

Nancy Stauffer

Volunteer Bookkeeper

Chris Freeman

Volunteer Music Librarian

Meredith Fisher

Volunteer Editor

Advisory Board

Jewel Sensenig, Board Chair

Diana Locke, Secretary

Lamar Myers, Treasurer

Jeremy Brubaker

Lyn Carlson

Dr. Jeffrey Gemmel

Larry Guengerich

Lauren Pierce

Carissa Sherer

Jannat Veras

Dr. Randy Westgate

Class Details and Logistics

COVID-19

MCCL will continue to monitor health recommendations of the national children's choral community, local schools (primarily Lancaster Mennonite School), and CDC. There are still unknowns related to which Covid mitigation practices will need to be in place.

We plan to hold rehearsals and classes inside. It is possible that masks and distancing of three feet may be needed at different points in the semester based on recommendations/guidelines.

Locations and Times

Blossom Hill Mennonite Church graciously allows MCCL to rent 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.

Classes are held on Tuesdays at the following locations and times:

Prelude Music class	Blossom Hill Mennonite Church	4:45 – 5:30 p.m. class #1 6:00 – 6:45 p.m. class #2
Choristers I class	Blossom Hill Mennonite Church	6:00 – 6:45 p.m.
Choristers II class	Blossom Hill Mennonite Church	6:55 – 7:40 p.m.

Singer/Family Expectations

- Arrive 5-10 minutes before rehearsal begins.
 - This is time to use the restroom.
 - Parents/guardians will sign in their singer(s).
- Parents are invited to wait in lobby or hallway during class.
 - There is access to nursery for younger siblings. Please clean up following use.
 - Siblings must be under the supervision of parent/guardian at all times.
- Parents/guardians must sign their children out.

Illness

- Please do not come to MCCL event if you have any of the following symptoms:
 - Fever over 100.4 in previous 24 hours
 - Stomach illness in previous 24 hours
 - Cold symptoms: cough, runny nose, or sore throat (new, constant, not allergies)
- If you need to miss an MCCL event due to illness, please email director immediately.

Class Calendar

2021 Fall Semester

Dates of classes and details for specific dates are listed below.

Day	Date	Time	Details
Tues.	Oct. 5	4:45 – 5:30 p.m.	Prelude Music Class #1 begins (Parent meeting in sanctuary at 4:45 p.m.)
		6:00 – 6:45 p.m.	Prelude Music Class #2 begins (Parent meeting in sanctuary at 6:00 p.m.)
		6:00 – 6:45 p.m.	Choristers I Class begins (Parent meeting in sanctuary at 6:00 p.m.)
		6:55 – 7:40 p.m.	Choristers II Class begins (Parent meeting in classroom #34 at 7:15 p.m.)
Tues.	Oct. 12		
Tues.	Oct. 19		
Tues.	Oct. 26		
Tues.	Nov. 2		
Tues.	Nov. 9		Receive Jars for Fall Fundraiser at class More details will be shared at the parent meeting.
Tues.	Nov. 16		
Tues.	Nov. 23	6:00 – 6:45 p.m. Class	Prelude Music both classes meet at same time (Class #1: note time change to prepare for presentation) Fall Jar Fundraiser money due.
		6:00 – 6:45 p.m. Class	Choristers I Fall Jar Fundraiser money due.
		6:00 – 6:45 p.m. Class	Choristers II (Note time change prepare for presentation) Fall Jar Fundraiser money due.
		6:45 – 7:15 p.m. Presentation	Prelude Music, Choristers I & II Family members are encouraged to attend!

2022 Spring Semester

Dates of classes and details for specific dates are listed below.

Day	Date	Time	Details
Tues.	Mar. 1	4:45 – 5:30 p.m.	Prelude Music Class #1 begins (Parent meeting in sanctuary at 4:45 p.m.)
		6:00 – 6:45 p.m.	Prelude Music Class #2 begins (Parent meeting in sanctuary at 6:00 p.m.)
		6:00 – 6:45 p.m.	Choristers I Class begins (Parent meeting in sanctuary at 6:00 p.m.)
		6:55 – 7:40 p.m.	Choristers II Class begins (Parent meeting in classroom # 34 at 7:15 p.m.)
Tues.	Mar. 8		
Tues.	Mar. 15		

2022 Spring Semeseter (cont.)

Day	Date	Time	Details
Tues.	Mar. 22		
Tues.	Mar. 29		
Tues.	April 5		
Tues.	April 12		
Tues.	April 19	6:00 – 6:45 p.m. Class	Prelude Music both classes (Class #1 note time change to prepare for presentation)
		6:00 – 6:45 p.m. Class	Choristers I
		6:00 – 6:45 p.m. Class	Choristers II (Note time change prepare for presentation)
		6:45 - 7:15 p.m. Presentation	Prelude Music, Choristers I & II Family members are encouraged to attend!
Tues.	April 26	TBD	Join the Song – Open Rehearsal Singers in rising grades 2 through 8 are invited to participate in a performing choir rehearsal (optional)
Sat.	May 7	2 p.m. report time 3 p.m. concert	Neffsville Mennonite Church, Lancaster Prelude Music and Choristers I & II will join auditioned choirs. More details will be shared at parent meeting and throughout semester.

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.

If a singer is going to be absent, please email the director ahead of time.

Dress Code

MCCL's goal is maintain a professional appearance at each class and concert.

- Shorts must extend below fingertip length when arms are at the side.
- Dresses or skirts must be no more than two inches above the top of the knee.
- Pictures, messages, and symbols on clothing and jewelry must be in line 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 behavior, 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 participate in this process.

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 ensure 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 is unwanted, aggressive behavior 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 cancellations will be announced by email.
- Cancellations of concerts will be announced on WDAC and WJTL and posted on the MCCL Facebook page and website.

Financial Responsibilities

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 sheet music, uniforms, concerts, salaries, facility rental, insurance, and publicity.

Tuition for the Prelude Music, Choristers I, and Choristers II program is:

\$180 full year
\$90 per semester *

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

Tuition Assistance

MCCL invites singers to participate in choir regardless of financial status and will work with each family to ensure the financial obligations to MCCL are met. Tuition assistance is available to those who sing the entire year. It is also available to families new to the MCCL program in January. The tuition assistance application, along with non-refundable deposit, is due with choir registration. Applications received by the early deadline will be given priority.

Fundraisers

Fundraisers help offset the difference between tuition and the actual cost of the MCCL program. Singers and families of Prelude Music and Choristers I & II 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.

Each family will receive 6 food mixes to sell. Mixes are \$8.50 each.
Opt-out fee is \$51.

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

Refer a New Family

For the 2021-2022 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 their personal invitation. The newly invited family will also receive a discount.

	New MCCL family with singer in Prelude Music or Choristers I or II	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 invited the same new family, 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.

Business Sponsorship and Tuition Discounts

Each year, business sponsors are invited to partner with MCCL. Partnering with local business owners strengthens the MCCL program and provides a portion of the MCCL budget. There are five 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 by the start of the fall semester. 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 Allegretto business partner
\$100 per family for an Allegro business partner
\$ 50 per family for an Andante business partner

Refund Policy

Tuition paid, less a \$30 administrative fee, may be refunded through the second class of the semester. Tuition will not be refunded after the second class of the semester.

Returned Check Fee

A \$45 fee will be charged for returned checks.

Instructions for Registration

1. Print this page.
2. Go to <http://www.mennonitechildrenschoir.org>
3. Click green **Member Portal** button at the bottom of any page
4. Enter Username and Password.
Username: mcclmember
Password: MCCL-21-22-Sing!
5. Click **Singer Registration**.
6. When logged in, complete **Steps 1, 2, 3, and 4**. (Prelude and Choristers singers skip Step 2)

Email mcclchoirmanager@lancastermennonite.org if you experience any difficulties or have questions during the registration process.