



Notable News

July 2022
Issue No. 6

Sharing music in the Czech Republic

MCCL Chamber Choir singers are participating in an international tour in partnership with Eastern Mennonite Missions from June 14 to June 29.

While in the Czech Republic, singers will bless, inspire, and serve people through song as well as learn about the culture and God's work in the places they visit. Music is their mission and singing provides a unique way to build relationships in a new culture. For the past six months, the team has worked together to raise funds to support their

tour and participated in monthly language, culture, and discipleship training led by Czech nationals and EMM and MCCL staff.

GO! Czech 2022 is MCCL and EMM's fourth international tour collaboration.

The heart of this opportunity is for singers to deepen their connection to the global church and to grow in musicianship, faith, and friendships.

We invite you to pray for each singer, chaperone, and the Czech Republic.

Join Chamber Choir for a Post-Tour Concert on July 28, 7 p.m. at Groffdale Mennonite Church. The concert will feature reflections, stories, and videos from tour.



Engaging others through exceptional choral music

Each year MCCL singers serve the community and learn from professional musicians and clinicians.

This year for our local tour service days, Carol Choir (grades 2–5) shared performances at New Danville Mennonite School, Locust Grove Mennonite School, and Kitchen Ket-

tle Village. Concert Choir (grades 6 – 8) and Chamber Choir (grades 9 – 12) sang at Masonic Village and Brethren Village and experienced a choral masterclass at Elizabethtown College.

In addition, all singers participated in a workshop about ethnomusicology, the study of music and culture. The workshop focused on music from southern Africa and was led by Dr. Dwight Thomas in preparation to share "Hakuna Akaita," a traditional South African piece at our spring concerts.

Chamber Choir also received training from Dr. Mark Williams emphasizing choral unity through blended vowels and unified breathing.



"Local tour day was a lot of fun. I enjoyed singing for the individuals in our community who aren't able to go to performances very often. It is wonderful to know we blessed them in such a simple yet powerful way!"

- Tirza, high school singer

Mass of the Children

Singing a major choral work provides an incredible experience of community music-making. In April, Concert Choir (grades 6-8) performed John Rutter’s *Mass of the Children* with the Franconia-Lancaster Choral Singers, string quartet,

organ, and professional soprano and baritone soloists. Singers stretched their musical muscles by practicing intricate melodies and harmonies and embracing the challenge of focus during a nearly 40-minute work.



Audience members shared delight at MCCL singers’ stellar tone, poise on stage, and sparkling facial expressions and body language. Concert Choir singers highly valued the experience, with siblings Ava and Simon Bird sharing,

“We grew as we learned the responsibility of preparing such a large piece.” Rakela Zguri added, “When all our voices joined together, it sounded beautiful.” The intergenerational element to this concert also brought great joy. **“I enjoyed seeing the range of ages in the choir, something like 11-80!”** commented Brennan Kauffman. The beauty of these performances continued to warm hearts as Concert Choir shared excerpts from the piece during their summer tour concerts in Eastern PA.

Advisory Board Transitions

Jewel Sensenig served excellently as Advisory Board Chair for five years in addition to one year as a board member. Her gentle wisdom and organizational skills strengthened the board. She will be deeply missed and we wish her well as she shifts her focus to other significant areas of work and family.



Lyn Carlson and Larry Guengerich will serve as Chair and newly created Vice Chair, respectively. Together they will guide the board as it provides counsel to MCCL staff, engages with MCCL families, and furthers

the mission of MCCL.

Lyn joined the MCCL board in 2019. She is a special education teacher at Lancaster Mennonite School, holds a principal certification, and is a parent to three MCCL singers. She brings expertise in board service, educational leadership, and youth ministry. We are excited for her passion for people, as well as for policy and procedures.



Larry joined the MCCL board in 2020. He works at Landis Communities as the Director of Communications and En-

gagement. He brings extensive work in building community engagement, communications, and board work. We are eager to develop these aspects of MCCL.



Even though I am not a strong singer, I am blessed each time I hear the choirs and am glad to give of my time and energy to keep MCCL strong.

- Larry Guengerich

What’s happening next year?

MCCL honors and celebrates music as a gift from God by creating exceptional choral music, fostering community, and nurturing character. We are eager to welcome new and returning singers to the 2022-2023 choir year. Registration will open in July 2022. **Highlights for next year are:**

- Engaging weekly rehearsals with MCCL staff and guest clinicians focused on excellent choral singing and community!
- Folk music-infused Christmas concerts featuring local guest musicians on fiddle, string bass, guitar, banjo, and more!
- Participating in two local music series: Highland Presbyterian Dorothy Rose Smith concert series at Christmas and Donegal Presbyterian Church concert series in the spring.
- A five-day summer tour for high school and middle school singers to Canada.
- A weekend choral festival at Rosedale Bible College with other youth choirs for high school choirs.
- A fun-filled “Music and More” summer camp for elementary singers!

Celebrating Singing Seniors



Ben Glick

Years in MCCL: one

Favorite song or memory: A song that has been meaningful to me is “You Do Not Walk Alone” because of the powerful text paired masterfully with a beautiful melody and piano accompaniment.

Future plans: I will be working at Breeo in Gap, PA making fire pits.



Faith Sauder

Years in MCCL: three

Favorite song or memory: Most of my sweetest memories from choir come from times spent with friends. I also truly value the musical growth I’ve experienced this year and am profoundly grateful for this opportunity.

Future plans: I will be attending Muhlenberg College for elementary education.



Sarah Nolt

Years in MCCL: seven

Favorite song or memory: My favorite memories are the marathon retreats each semester! After hours of rehearsal together, I felt so accomplished with what we had learned and had a stronger connection to other singers. My other favorite times were rehearsals with Carol Choir and attending their retreat.

Future plans: I am going to University of Delaware in the fall, majoring in Art Conservation. I will participate in a study abroad program in Auckland, NZ my first semester.



Aneka Siegrist

Years in MCCL: one

Favorite song or memory: “True Evangelical Faith” has been particularly meaningful to me as it is based off a quote that has been very present and relevant in my faith journey and understanding of God’s call on my life.

Future plans: I plan to major in history at Millersville University.



Carter Palmer

Years in MCCL: nine

Favorite song or memory: One of the most meaningful songs I sang in MCCL is “Unclouded Day.” The harmonies were stunning and I enjoyed the experience of singing it with a mass choir on tour. Also, the lyrics to “And Can It Be” by Dan Forrest that we sang in Men’s Ensemble are beautiful and powerful and have always stayed with me.

Future plans: I am attending Lebanon Valley College with dual majors in Music Education and Vocal Performance.



Deanna Smoker

Years in MCCL: six

Favorite song or memory: I enjoyed the bus rides and the time I spent with my fellow choir singers while on summer tour to Rosedale Bible College and to Michigan because we grew deeper relationships together.

Future plans: I am taking a gap year after graduation, working full time in the fall of 2022 and entering CWAM (Cowboys With A Mission) spring of 2023, and then beginning college for nursing fall of 2023.



Mi Mi Poe

Years in MCCL: seven

Favorite song or memory: My favorite song is “The Lord is My Shepherd.” The melody is beautiful and the meaning is so comforting to me, especially during hard times.

Future plans: I will be going to Dickinson College and my major is pre-health.



Micaiah Weaver

Years in MCCL: two and a half

Favorite song or memory: “True Evangelical Faith” is important to me since it represents what I as a Christian stand for and it is written by Menno Simons.

Future plans: I will be attending Millersville University (biology) and am happy to say that I will be singing with MCCL again!



PO Box 5146
Lancaster, PA 17606

mccl@lancastermennonite.org

717-455-7025

www.mennonitechildrenschoir.org

exceptional choral Music
centered in Christ
creating Community
growing compassionate Leaders



Parents, if this is addressed to your child who has established a new address, please send updated address to mccl@lancastermennonite.org. Thank you.

Thank you!

Each year, local businesses invest in the lives of MCCL singers through sponsorships. We are grateful for each current business sponsor. Thank you for believing in the mission of MCCL!



LANCASTER
MENNONITE



LANCASTER
SEWING COMPANY



everyone moving in mission



Place Called Home



JOIN THE MCCL SONG

2022 - 2023 Choir Season

Auditioned choirs

- Carol Choir, grades 2 - 5
- Concert Choir, grades 6 - 8
- Chamber Choir, grades 9 - 12

Non-auditioned classes

- Prelude Music, K - grade 1
- Choristers I, grades 2 - 5
- Choristers II, grades 5 - 8



- Make new friends
- Learn choral music skills
- Gain confidence
- Serve others
- Grow in faith
- Have fun with peers

For more information or
to schedule an audition, visit:

www.mennonitechildrenschoir.org/join/register/