



# MCCL Handbook

Carol, Concert, Chamber Choirs

2022-2023

[www.mennonitechildrenschoir.org](http://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 church and 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.

## Programs

### Prelude Music (kindergarten through grade 1)

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

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

A non-auditioned group, Choristers 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. Singers:

- sing in unison and in 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 around the world and across time
- 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. Singers:

- strengthen skills learned in Carol Choir
- 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. Singers:

- build on fundamentals learned in Carol and Concert Choirs
- sing SATB as well as three- and four-part men's and women's ensemble pieces
- continue to develop musicianship and music literacy: vocal independence, score analysis, dissonant intervals, and masterclass opportunities
- participate in a multi-day national or international tour

## Men's Ensemble (grades 9 - 12)

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

## Staff and Advisory Board Contacts

### Artistic

#### **Rosemary Blessing**

Artistic Director  
Director, Chamber Choir  
[chamberchoir@lancastermennonite.org](mailto:chamberchoir@lancastermennonite.org)

#### **Sarah Wingard**

Director, Carol and Concert Choirs  
[carolandconcertchoir@lancastermennonite.org](mailto:carolandconcertchoir@lancastermennonite.org)

### Administrative

#### **Maria Bowman**

Managing Director  
Choir Manager  
[mcclchoirmanager@lancastermennonite.org](mailto:mcclchoirmanager@lancastermennonite.org)

### Advisory Board

Lyn Carlson, Board Chair

[mcclboard@lancastermennonite.org](mailto:mcclboard@lancastermennonite.org)

Larry Guengerich, Vice Chair

[mcclboardVC@lancastermennonite.org](mailto:mcclboardVC@lancastermennonite.org)

Diana Locke, Secretary

Douglas Garrett, Treasurer

Dr. Jeffrey Gemmell

Seth Hake

Lamar Myers

Carissa Sherer

## Artistic Staff Bios



**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 who currently plays with the Allegro Orchestra. Rosemary and her husband, Josh, attend Landis Valley Christian Fellowship with their two young children.



**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 Lancaster Mennonite School. In addition to helping with local music camps and events, Sarah teaches private voice lessons. Sarah has sung and regularly soloed for nine years with the Susquehanna Chorale.

## Administrative Staff Bios



**Maria Bowman**  
**Managing Director and Choir Manager**

Maria holds a B.A. with concentrations in psychology, education, and English from Eastern Mennonite University. She is pursuing graduate work in non-profit management and leadership through Eastern Mennonite University. Previously she worked in Human Resources at Eastern Mennonite Missions, served as a Family Life Educator at COBYS Family Services, and taught Special Education in middle school. She and her family attend Rossmere Mennonite Church where she serves on the Worship Committee.



**Chris Freeman**  
**Volunteer Music Librarian**

Chris is a parent of four, three of whom are MCCL alumni singers. She is a tax accountant and an accountant for Cavod and Brethren Village. She attends Manheim Brethren in Christ.



**Nancy Stauffer**  
**Volunteer Bookkeeper**

Nancy is a grandparent of two MCCL alumni singers. She and her husband, Leon, founded Mennonite Your Way, an organization focused on hospitality and community. Through Mennonite Your Way, they also led tours around the United States and the world. Following her retirement, Nancy continues to serve the church and the community in various volunteer roles. She attends Landisville Mennonite Church.



**Audrey Livengood**  
**Volunteer Editor**

Audrey is a parent of four children, three of whom are current MCCL singers. She and her husband own and operate Livengood Family Farm, a small regenerative farm in Lancaster, PA.

## 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.

### **Prelude Music**

Auditions are not required for the Prelude Music program. See the MCCL Classes Handbook for registration information.

### **Choristers I and II**

Auditions are not required for the Choristers I and II programs. See the MCCL Classes Handbook for registration information.

### **Carol and Concert Choirs**

Auditions are typically 20 minutes and 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 cappella*)

### **Chamber Choir**

Auditions are typically 20 minutes and include:

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

### **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.
- Arrive on time to all MCCL events.
- Mark all MCCL events from the Choir Calendar (pages 17-22) in this handbook on your family calendar and commit to attending all events. (See attendance policy about excused absences.)

### 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 on time (typically by Monday evening at 9 p.m.).
- Accept responsibility for and take care of your choir folder.
  - Bring your music binder 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 music binder.
  - Keep your music binder in a safe place and do not stand on or drop it.

### Parent

- Volunteer at least one time each semester in areas that suit your abilities and interests.
  - The Choir Manager will create a parent volunteer schedule each semester.
  - Certain volunteer roles require background checks. Instructions for background checks can be found in the MCCL Student Safety Policy on MCCL website.
  - Some parent volunteer roles require additional time (weekly rehearsal chaperones, uniform coordinator, jar fundraiser team, music librarian, etc). These volunteer positions require training and come with a small tuition discount based on time.
- Provide rehearsal or concert snack once each semester.
- Provide finger food item for one concert reception each semester, if requested.

## Attendance Policy

Prompt, consistent attendance demonstrates commitment, develops unity in choral sound, and respects time of all singers and staff. When a singer misses rehearsals, retreats, or performances, their absence has a noticeable impact on the advancement and the professionalism of the choir. For this reason, all singers and families are expected to understand, embrace, and uphold MCCL's attendance policy.

- Singers are expected to attend and be on time for all MCCL events.
- Communication is key to successful attendance. MCCL values the holistic growth that happens when singers are involved in other activities. Our aim is to be reasonable and realistic for the singer and MCCL.
  - Singers must communicate and seek approval for all known or potential conflicts with any required MCCL event (rehearsals, retreats, concerts).
  - An "Excused Absence & Late Arrival Request Form" is a part of registration and a part of the start of the spring semester. (Note: The "Excused Absence & Late Arrival" form has a space for potential conflicts where specific dates are not known.)
  - Singers are granted one excused absence per semester.
    - Directors are willing to work with a singer regarding the possibility of alternative plans if more than one absence is needed *if* communicated through the excused absence form at the beginning of the semester or as soon the conflict is known.



- Examples of excused absences are: school concerts, performances, competitions, community and school sport events, funerals, and family trips.
  - Singers are expected to complete weekly practice assignments even when they miss a rehearsal or retreat.
- In the case of illness, please notify the director by email as soon as possible.
  - Singers are expected to complete the weekly practice assignment.
  - For minor illnesses like a cold or sore throat that do not prevent a singer from attending school, MCCL asks that singers attend rehearsal but sit in the back of the room as an observer.
- If a singer is absent or tardy (even if excused), extra make-up work may be assigned by the director depending on what was covered during the rehearsal or retreat.
  - This ensures the singer's progress matches the rest of the choir.
  - The plan will consider the singer's history of rehearsal preparation and musical experience and may include rehearsing privately with a director for a fee of \$30/half hour. Extenuating circumstances will be considered.
- Singers with unexcused absences or late arrivals may be placed on probationary status.

### **Weekly Practice Assignments**

Weekly practice assignments build upon choral skills learned in rehearsals, prepare singers for the following week's rehearsal, and deepen holistic musical growth. Revisiting music throughout the week creates deeper roots for singers at every experience level. Some organizations achieve this through multiple weekly practices or required private instruction. MCCL utilizes consistent weekly at home practice to strengthen individual singer musicianship, to teach self evaluation, and to develop responsibility. Weekly assignments involve a variety of strategies to help singers with different learning styles engage with the music learning and generally average:

- About 20 to 30 minutes weekly for Carol Choir
- About 45 minutes weekly for Concert Choir
- About 60 minutes weekly for Chamber Choir

### **Communication**

- Please read your email carefully.
- Directors will email weekly updates regarding practice assignments, schedule, fundraisers, concert details, and more.
- Please email directors rather than contacting them at rehearsals or concerts.

### **Dress Guidelines**

MCCL's goal is to maintain a professional appearance at each rehearsal, retreat, and event.

- 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.

### **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 lack of compliance is related to weekly practice assignment or attendance, the singer will be required to rehearse privately with a director for a fee of \$30 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 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.

### **COVID**

MCCL will continue to monitor health recommendations of the national children's choral community, local schools (primarily Lancaster Mennonite School), and CDC.

#### **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.

# Rehearsal Guidelines

## Locations and Times

Blossom Hill Mennonite Church and Neffsville Mennonite Church graciously allow 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 churches that are not in use by MCCL.

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

Prelude Music classes	Blossom Hill Mennonite Church	5:00 – 5:45 p.m. 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	6:55 – 7:40 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.

## Rehearsal Supplies for Singers

- A tote bag to carry pencil, water bottle, and music binder
  - MCCL provides pencil and music binder
- A full water bottle labeled with singer’s name

## Singer Expectations

- Arrive 5-10 minutes before rehearsal begins.
  - This is time to use the restroom and fill water bottles.
  - Each singer will sign in.
- MCCL is a mostly technology-free space. We place great emphasis on cultivating teamwork and building relationships.
  - To this end, cell phones and other electronic devices may not be used during rehearsal.
  - Electronic devices used during rehearsal will be held by a staff member or parent volunteer until the end of rehearsal.
  - Cell phones may be used *individually* before and after rehearsal for choir or school homework, calling a parent, etc. If a group of singers is gathered around a phone, a staff member or parent volunteer will hold the device for the remainder of the rehearsal.
  - Please keep cell phones away during snack.
- Stay in areas of churches that are used by MCCL.

## Parent / Guardian Expectations

- Parents are welcome to attend rehearsals and are asked not to talk in the rehearsal space.
- Arrive promptly for pick up.
  - Parents/guardians of Carol and Concert Choir singers must sign their children out at Neffsville Mennonite Church.
  - Singers will sit on their own in the fellowship hall or back of sanctuary until parent/guardian arrives to pick them up.
  - The registration form will give opportunity for parents to indicate other adults who are permitted to pick up and sign out their children.
- Younger siblings must be always under the direct supervision of an adult.

**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
  - Positive Covid case (following CDC guidelines)
  - Significant cold symptoms: cough, runny nose, or sore throat (not allergies)
  - For minor illnesses like a cold or sore throat that do not prevent a singer from attending school, MCCL asks that singers attend rehearsal but sit in the back of the room as an observer.
- If you need to miss an MCCL event due to illness, please email director immediately.

**Snack**

- Parents provide, serve, and clean up snack each week following rehearsal.
- Sign-up for snack is available during registration.
- Simple and healthy snacks are encouraged.
- Please do not serve snacks that create many crumbs, such as chips or popcorn.
- Singers will have water bottles, so no drink is needed.
- Wipe all tables that were used, clean up trash, and vacuum/sweep crumbs on floor.

# Concerts

## Concert Details

- Singers are expected to arrive in uniform and be ready to sing at communicated report time, generally 1½ hours before concert time.
- Singers should not bring cell phones and electronic devices into the concert venue. Use of technology during pre-concert warm-ups and/or during the concert will result in devices being given to staff member/volunteer, kept in a safe location, 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 (both choirs) and rosette (Carol only).
- 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 eyes so singers can see director.
- Any hair accessories should be small and simple.

### 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 eyes so singers 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 Chamber Choir.
- 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 eyes so singers can see director.
- Any hair accessories should be small and simple.

### **Chamber Choir Men**

- Hair should be away from eyes so singers 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
  - New singers will receive MCCL t-shirt in September (cost included in registration fee).
  - Additional or replacement t-shirt cost is \$12/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 tickets 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 LM/MCCL. Please write MCCL on the memo line.

## Tours and Festivals

### Local Tour Day

Local tour day is an annual spring one-day tour for Carol, Concert, and Chamber choirs and 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

Summer tour is a multi-day tour in mid-June for Concert and Chamber choirs. It promotes a sense of community within the performing choirs as well as the broader church. Summer tour includes educational components, such as a choral masterclass and local attractions, and serves as a culmination of the choir year. 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. Summer tour commitment forms will be distributed during the fall or early in the spring semester.

### Proposed Summer Tour Schedule

- June 2023
  - Chamber Choir to Rosedale Bible College Choral Festival (Ohio) in April
  - Concert and Chamber choirs to Canada (5 -7 days)
- June 2024
  - Concert Choir to Virginia and Maryland (4-5 days)
  - Chamber Choir to New York City, Baltimore, or Philadelphia or potential international tour with Eastern Mennonite Missions.

### 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.

### Music in the Parks (Hersheypark)

MCCL Concert Choir singers participate in a choral adjudication by a panel of experienced master teachers every three years. Singers enjoy rides at Hersheypark after their performance and end the day at an awards ceremony. Fee for this opportunity is not included in tuition.

### Men's Chorus Festival

MCCL Men's Ensemble singers participate in a community two-day men's choral festival every three years. Fee for this opportunity is not included in tuition.

## **Choir Calendar**

- 1. Transfer all dates and times to your family calendar.**
  - a. Complete an “Excused Absence /Tardy Request Form” at the start of the choir season with any known or potential conflicts for the whole year.
  - b. The form can be found on Member Portal of the website and will be a part of registration.
  - c. The form can be used at any time during the semester when a conflict becomes known.
- 2. Rehearsals are held every Tuesday even if not listed on the calendar.**
3. Fall semester is August 23 through December 6, 2022.
4. Spring semester is January 2 through April 30, 2023 with one additional rehearsal and concert in May/June, as well as summer tour in June for Concert and Chamber choirs.
5. Other dates listed below indicate specific times, locations, or changes for rehearsals, retreats, & concerts.



## Calendar Key

**BHMC** Blossom Hill Mennonite Church  
**NMC** Neffsville Mennonite Church

### Rehearsals Times and Locations

Carol Choir rehearsal	Neffsville Mennonite Church	6:15 – 7:20 p.m.
Concert Choir rehearsal	Neffsville Mennonite Church	7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
Men’s Ensemble rehearsal	Blossom Hill Mennonite Church	6:30 – 7:00 p.m.
Chamber Choir rehearsal	Blossom Hill Mennonite Church	7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

## 2022 Fall Semester

Day	Date	Time	Location	Activity	Carol	Concert	Chamber
Tues	Aug. 23	6:15 – 7:00 p.m.	NMC	Rehearsal for singers new to MCCL. (includes rising 2nd grade MCCL singers from Prelude Music)	X		
		6:30 – 7:30 p.m.	BHMC	Rehearsal for all 9 – 12 <sup>th</sup> grade tenor/bass			X tenor/bass
		7:15 – 8:00 p.m.	NMC	Rehearsal for singers new to Concert Choir (includes rising 6 <sup>th</sup> grade MCCL singers and/or singers from Choristers)		X	
Tues	Aug. 30	First rehearsal for all singers. Regular rehearsal & location times.					
		6:15 – 7:20 p.m.	NMC		X		
		7:00 – 7:20 p.m.	NMC	Parents/Guardians join Carol Choir singers for fall information meeting. Please have one parent/guardian for each household.	X		
		7:00 – 8:30 p.m.	NMC			X	
		7:00 – 8:30 p.m.	BHMC				X
Tues	Sept. 6	Regular rehearsal times & locations for all choirs and singers.					
		7:00 – 7:20 p.m.	NMC	Parents/Guardians join Concert Choir singers for fall information meeting. Please have one parent/guardian for each household.		X	
		8:30 – 8:50 p.m.	BHMC	Parents/Guardians join Chamber Choir singers for fall information meeting. Please have one parent/guardian for each household.			X
Sat	Sept. 24	8:00 – 11:45 a.m.	NMC	Rehearsal retreat with breakfast Parents attend breakfast from 8:00 to 8:45 a.m. Singers wear MCCL t-shirt; formal uniform distribution	X		
		9:00 a.m. – 2:15 p.m.	NMC	Rehearsal retreat with lunch Singers wear MCCL t-shirt; formal uniform distribution			X tenor/bass
		1:00 – 6:15 p.m.	NMC	Rehearsal retreat with supper Singers wear MCCL t-shirt; formal uniform distribution		X	X alto/sop.
Tues	Oct. 18	8:15 – 8:45 p.m.	NMC	Summer Tour Information Meeting Chamber Choir rehearses at NMC. Regular rehearsal time		X	X

Day	Date	Time	Location	Activity	Carol	Concert	Chamber
TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	<b>Concert Choir and Chamber Choir Fall Party</b> Attendance for singers is encouraged & optional.		X	X
Fri	Nov. 4	4:15 – 6:30 p.m.	NMC	<b>Presentation by and rehearsal with guest artists for Christmas concerts</b> Singers wear MCCL t-shirt.	X	X	X
		1:00 – 4:00 p.m. 5:30 – 9:30 p.m.	BHMC	<b>Jar Fundraiser Preparation</b> Parent & singer participation strongly encouraged. Please sign up for a two- to three-hour shift. Siblings age 10+ may help. Supper provided. All singers pick up jars at BHMC before 9:30 p.m.	X	X	X
Sat	Nov. 5	8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.	NMC	<b>Rehearsal with guest artists for Christmas concerts</b> Singers wear MCCL t-shirt.			X
		8:45 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.	NMC			X	
		10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	NMC		X		
Fri	Nov. 11	6:00 – 9:00 p.m.	BHMC	<b>MCCL Soups, Songs, &amp; Sweets</b> Alumni and current families will enjoy good food and singing together. Attendance for families is optional.	X	X	X
Tues	Nov. 22	Regular rehearsal time for Carol Choir. Concert and Chamber Choirs extended rehearsal until 8:45 p.m.	NMC	<b>Dress rehearsal</b> <i>All singers wear MCCL formal concert attire.</i> Chamber Choir rehearses at NMC.	X	X	X
Tues	Nov. 29	Regular rehearsal time for Carol Choir. Concert and Chamber Choirs extended rehearsal until 8:45 p.m.	NMC	Chamber Choir rehearses at NMC.  Jar Fundraiser payment due Music folder collection Concert & Chamber tour deposit & covenant due	X	X	X
Sat	Dec. 3	<b>2:30 p.m.</b> Report: Cham/Con <b>2:45 p.m.</b> Report: Carol <b>4:00 p.m.</b> Performance	TBD	<b>Concert</b>	X	X	X
Sun	Dec. 4	<b>2:30 p.m.</b> Report: Cham/Con <b>2:45 p.m.</b> Report: Carol <b>4:00 p.m.</b> Performance	<b>Neffsville Mennonite Church, Lancaster</b>	<b>Concert</b>	X	X	X
Tues	Dec. 6	Regular rehearsal times	NMC	<b>Last fall rehearsal &amp; preparation for Hallelujah Chorus Spontaneous Singing</b> Chamber Choir rehearses at NMC.	X	X	X
Wed	Dec. 7	<b>5:30 p.m.</b> Report: Cham/Con <b>5:45 p.m.</b> Report: Carol <b>7:00 p.m.</b> Performance	<b>Highland Presbyterian Church, Lancaster</b>	<b>Concert</b> Dorothy Rose Smith Concert Series	X	X	X
Sat	Dec. 10	TBD	<b>Park City</b>	<b>Hallelujah Chorus Spontaneous Singing</b> Attendance for singers & families is encouraged & optional.	X	X	X

## 2023 Spring Semester

Day	Date	Time	Location	Activity	Carol	Concert	Chamber
First spring semester rehearsal. Regular rehearsal times & locations for all singers.							
Tues	Jan. 3	6:15 – 6:35 p.m.	NMC	Parents join Carol Choir singers for Do-Re-Mi \$ Fundraiser Information Session. Please have one parent/guardian for each household.	X		
		7:00 – 7:20 p.m.	NMC	Parents join Concert Choir singers for Do-Re-Mi \$ Fundraiser Information Session. Please have one parent/guardian for each household.		X	
		8:30 – 8:50 p.m.	BHMC	Parents join Chamber Choir singers for Do-Re-Mi \$ Fundraiser Information Session. Please have one parent/guardian for each household.			X
Tues	Jan 10	7:00 – 7:20 p.m.	NMC	<b>New Parent Meeting</b> for parents of singers new to MCCL	X	X	X
Tues	Jan. 17	Regular rehearsal times Arrive 15 min early to turn in letters.	NMC	<b>Do-Re-Mi \$ fundraiser envelopes due.</b> Chamber Choir rehearses at NMC.	X	X	X
Sun	Jan. 22	1:00 – 6:00 p.m.	NMC	<b>Do-Re-Mi \$ Rehearsal Marathon</b> Wear MCCL t-shirt; formal uniform distribution		X	X alto/sop
Sun	Jan. 29	1:00 – 4:30 p.m.	NMC	<b>Do-Re-Mi \$ Rehearsal Marathon</b> Wear MCCL t-shirt; formal uniform distribution	X		
		1:00 – 6:00 p.m.	NMC				X tenor/bass
Sun	Feb. 5	TBD	TBD	<b>Do-Re-Mi \$ Rehearsal Marathon</b> Snow make-up	X	X	X
Fri	Feb. 10	<b>5:15 p.m.</b> Report: Carol/Cham/Conc <b>6:00 p.m.</b> Supper provided* <b>7:00 p.m.</b> Performance	Worship Center, Lancaster, PA	<b>Concert</b> Mennonite Disaster Service's Annual Celebration  *Parents are invited to attend free supper, but MCCL will need to RSVP. More details coming.	X	X	X
Tues	Mar. 7	Regular rehearsal time for Carol Choir.  Concert and Chamber Choirs extended rehearsal until 8:45 p.m.	NMC/ BHMC	<b>Photo Night</b> All singers wear formal concert attire.	X	X	X
Sun	Mar. 12	1:00 – 6:00 p.m.	BHMC	<b>Rehearsal Retreat</b>			X
Tues	Mar. 21	Regular rehearsal times	NMC	<b>Dress rehearsal</b> <i>All singers wear MCCL formal concert attire.</i> Chamber Choir rehearses at NMC.	X	X	X
Wed	Mar. 22	<b>5:30 p.m.</b> Report: Cham/Conc <b>5:45 p.m.</b> Report: Carol <b>7:00 p.m.</b> Performance	TBD	<b>Concert at local retirement home</b>	X	X	X

Day	Date	Time	Location	Activity	Carol	Concert	Chamber
Thur	Mar. 30	8 a.m. – 2:45 p.m.	Lancaster County	Local Tour Day (Carol Choir)	X		
Fri	Mar. 31	7:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.	Lancaster County	Local Tour Day (Concert Choir and Chamber Choir)		X	X
Sun	April 2	2:30 p.m. Report: Cham/Con 2:45 p.m. Report: Carol 4:00 p.m. Performance	Salem United Methodist Church, Manheim	Concert	X	X	X
Sun	April 16	2:30 p.m. Report: Carol/Concert 4:00 p.m. Performance	Donegal Presbyterian Church, Mount Joy	Concert (Carol and Concert choirs only) Concert Series	X	X	
Fri - Sun	April 21 - 23	TBD	Rosedale Bible College	Choral Festival			X
Tues	April 25	During regular rehearsal times	NMC	Join the Song Open rehearsal for potential singers. Current singers are encouraged to bring friends.  Last spring rehearsal Music binder collection for Carol Choir and Concert Choir singers not participating in summer tour.	X	X	
Sat	April 29	5:00 p.m. Report: Cham/Con 5:15 p.m. Report: Carol 6:30 p.m. Performance	Neffsville Mennonite Church, Lancaster	Concert Prelude Music and Choristers I and II will participate.	X	X	X
Sun	April 30	2:30 p.m. Report: Cham/Con 2:45 p.m. Report: Carol 4:00 p.m. Performance	Neffsville Mennonite Church, Lancaster	Concert Uniform collection for Carol Choir and Concert/Chamber choir singers not participating in summer tour.	X	X	X
Tues	May 30	6:15 – 7:20 p.m. Carol Choir	NMC	Rehearsal To prepare for Mt. Gretna Concert	X		
		7:00 – 8:30 p.m. Concert Choir				X	
		6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Chamber Choir					X
		8:30 – 9:15 p.m.	NMC	Concert Choir and Chamber Choir Summer Tour meeting for parents and singers		X	X
Sun	June 4	5:15 p.m. Report: Cham/Con 5:30 p.m. Report: Carol 7:00 p.m. Performance	Mt. Gretna Tabernacle	Concert	X	X	X
Tues	June 6	5:30 p.m. Report: Cham/Con 7:00 p.m. Performance	Landis Homes Retirement Community	Pre-tour Concert Wear informal concert attire.		X	X
	June 9 – 13			Concert Choir and Chamber Choir Summer Tour to Canada		X	X
Tues	June 13	6:30 p.m.	TBD	Concert Choir and Chamber Choir Post-Tour Concert		X	X

## Financial Responsibilities

### Registration Fee (non-refundable fee per singer)

*Carol, Concert, Chamber auditioned choirs*

\$75 on or before August 1, 2022

\$125 after August 1, 2022\*

\*New families who register within a week of auditioning and receiving acceptance letter are eligible for the \$75 registration fee, even if after August 1 deadline.

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

Annual tuition includes over 90 hours of in-person choral instruction through rehearsals, concerts, retreats, and local tour day. There are also opportunities for extracurricular events, such as choral festivals, collaborative choral events, and social events. Additionally, singers receive at-home practice assignments and instruction on a weekly basis.

Tuition averages \$32/month for singers in grades 2 – 5 and \$40/month for singers in grades 6 – 12. While there is not a monthly payment plan, MCCL offers various payments schedules as a part of registration and tuition assistance.

#### First Child Tuition

Carol Choir*	\$285 per year
Concert Choir*	\$360 per year
Chamber Choir*	\$360 per year
Men's Ensemble (all tenors/basses in 9-12 grade)	\$ 30 per year

#### Additional Child Tuition

\$285 per year for each additional child in Carol, Concert, and/or Chamber Choir

\*In addition, families participate in one fall and one spring semester fundraiser. Tuition is not prorated for singers who participate for one semester only.

### Tuition Transfer for Choristers

If a singer who has paid for the full year transfers from Choristers to Carol or Concert Choir for second semester, 50% of the Choristers tuition will be credited toward one semester of Carol or Concert Choir tuition.

### 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 and is also available to families new to the MCCL program in January. The tuition assistance application and non-refundable deposit is due with choir registration. Applications received by the early deadline will be given priority.

## 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 the required opt-out fee, the payment is not tax deductible.

- Fall Jar Fundraiser (Carol/Concert/Chamber)  
Each family will receive 15 food mixes to sell. Mixes are \$9.50 each.  
Opt-out fee is \$142.50 per family.
- Spring Do-Re-Mi-Dollars Fundraiser (Carol/Concert/Chamber)

1 singer per family	10 names or opt-out fee of \$150
2 singers per family	20 names or opt-out fee of \$300
3+ singers per family	25 names or opt-out fee of \$375
- Chamber or Concert Choir might participate in an optional car wash.
- Specific optional 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. These partnerships with local business owners strengthen the MCCL program and provide a portion of the MCCL budget. There are five levels of sponsorship:

Concert Series Underwriter	\$5,000 per concert season
Presto	\$3,000
Allegro	\$1,500
Allegretto	\$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 at [mccl@lancastermennonite.org](mailto:mccl@lancastermennonite.org). 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 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 2022-2023 choir season, current MCCL families will receive a tuition discount for each new choir family who joins a choir or class because 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 or Chamber Choir
Discount for each current and new family	\$10/semester \$25/full year	\$50/full year	\$60/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.

### Formal and Informal 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 shirts and spring season 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. There is a \$60 lost/late fee if uniform is not returned by the due date. Chamber Choir men’s fall season ties will be collected at the end of the fall season. MCCL will charge \$30 if the fall season tie is not returned by due date.

There is a \$12 fee for a replacement t-shirt (lost or needing a new size).

### Music Fee

Music folders will be collected at the end of each season. There will be a \$60 charge for any music folder not returned by the due date. There will be a \$10 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:

MCCL  
PO Box 5146  
Lancaster PA 17606

Please make check payable to MCCL/LMS 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.

There is also an option for online giving at [www.mennonitechilrenschoir.org/donate](http://www.mennonitechilrenschoir.org/donate)

**Payment Policy**

Payments include fees for tuition, uniforms, lost uniforms, lost music, fundraisers, tour, and other expenses. 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 alternative 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 a \$75 administrative fee, may be refunded through the fourth rehearsal of the semester. Tuition will not be refunded after the fourth rehearsal.

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 \$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:** MCCLSING!22-23
5. Click **Singer Registration**.
6. When logged in, complete **Steps 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5**.

Email [mcclchoirmanager@lancastermennonite.org](mailto:mcclchoirmanager@lancastermennonite.org) if you experience any difficulties or have questions during the registration process.