



# Notable News

July 2023  
Issue No. 7

## Creating Excellent Choral Music for 25 Years

Founded in 1998, MCCL began as a choir of 31 singers under the direction of artistic director Patricia Strong Myers. She desired to create a space for children to experience excellent choral music education within the church.



Since then, MCCL has grown to include auditioned and non-auditioned choral opportunities for over 150 children and youth in kindergarten through grade 12. Singers represent more than 40 churches, 45 schools, and 12 denominations. Singers come from communities

across Lancaster, Lebanon, York, Berks, and Chester counties.

**Our mission of training children and youth to glorify Jesus Christ through excellent choral singing continues.** We honor music as a gift from God by creating exceptional choral music, fostering community, and nurturing character. We equip children and youth for a lifetime of worship and service to the church and community through Christ-centered repertoire that both affirms



Anabaptist beliefs and reflects the musical diversity of the church around the world and through time.

Throughout the 2023–2024 choir year, MCCL will host alumni and community singing events to honor our years of singing together. **The year will culminate with a concert and anniversary celebration on Sunday, June 9.** We invite you to join with us as we give thanks to God for the gift of singing through MCCL.

### Calling All MCCL Alumni

If you have sung in any MCCL choir or class join us at alumni events this year. Details coming soon.

Please send your updated contact information by August 15. [mccl@lancastermennonite.org](mailto:mccl@lancastermennonite.org)

## And the Glory

In December 2022, we sang in awe-inspiring spaces for our Christmas concerts at St. Mary's Catholic Church,



Neffsville Mennonite Church, and Highland Presbyterian Church with the theme of "And the Glory." Singers retold the story of the glorious birth of Christ through song and scripture.

## The Joy of Serving

On February 10, 2023, we were honored to help lead and share worship at the Mennonite Disaster Service Annual Celebration, "The Joy of Serving." It was a gift to be a part of celebrating the work of the broader church through singing together.



## Making All Things New

During our spring 2023 concert series, attendees shared in a musical journey around the world and across time, hearing and at times singing along with music from the global church. The program included selections from Handel's Messiah, contemporary Gospel music, multiple languages, and more, tied together by Elaine Hagenberg's moving piece, "All Things New."



## Summer Tour to Canada and New York

MCCL singers in grades 6 to 12 traveled for five days through upstate New York and Ontario, Canada sharing music with and learning from each community they visited. During tour, they performed concerts at four churches and one retirement community, experienced the gracious hospitality of host homes, participated in choral and Indonesian



Gamelon workshops at Conrad Grebel University, enjoyed authentic Jamaican cuisine, visited Niagara Falls, and more.



After a meaningful concert, high school singer, Ava Bird, reflected, **“These experiences make me grateful to be in this amazing community. I am happy God gave me this gift and opportunity to have a space where I can feel and express emotions through music.”**

Following the choirs’ time at Niagara Falls, middle school singer, Eliita Kndshih, wrote, **“The Niagara Falls tour was amazing. As Mr Blessing would later say, we are created in the image of the God who made the falls! I was just so amazed and awestruck.”**



## Music & More Summer Camp

On June 22, 2023, we hosted our second annual “Music and More” summer day camp for over 40 children in kindergarten through grade 5. Campers made new friends and engaged with woodworking, art, singing, cooking, hiking, and messy games. Current MCCL high school Chamber Choir singers served as counselors. MCCL staff and current/former parents planned and led the classes. Stay tuned for 2024 camp dates.



## 2023-2024 Performance Schedule

### Christmas 2023

- Thursday, November 28 7 p.m. at Neffsville Mennonite Church, Lancaster
- Saturday, December 2 3 p.m. at First United Methodist, Lancaster
- Sunday, December 3 4 p.m. at TBD

### Spring 2024

- Thursday, April 4 12 noon at TBD in Lancaster City (*Concert & Chamber choirs*)
- Friday, April 5 12 noon at TBD in Lancaster City (*Carol Choir*)
- Saturday, April 13 7 p.m. at Lancaster Church of the Brethren, Lancaster (*Starlight Tea Concert Series, Concert & Chamber choirs*)
- Sunday, April 21 4 p.m. at TBD
- Sunday, April 28 4 p.m. at Neffsville Mennonite Church, Lancaster

**Save The Date**  
**MCCL’s 25th Anniversary**  
**Concert & Celebration**

Sunday, June 9th  
 6:30 p.m.  
 Lancaster Mennonite School  
 Fine Arts Center

## Celebrating Singing Seniors



**Kirsten Kauffman**

**Years in MCCL:** three

**Favorite song:** A song that has been meaningful to me is, "Show Us How to Love" because of its call to justice.

**Future plans:** I will attend art school and study pottery.



**Abrianna Nissley**

**Years in MCCL:** five

**Favorite song:** One song that has been meaningful to me is, "All Things New" by Elaine Hagenberg, as this song depicts the hope that I have in Jesus and the light that is coming, no matter how dark my life might feel in the present.

**Future plans:** I plan to major in music education at St. Olaf College in Minnesota.



**Maddalena Masciale-Walmer**

**Years in MCCL:** six

**Favorite memory:** I loved going to Mackinac Island on summer tour during middle school, and I loved seeing all our hard work during rehearsals come together in concerts at the end of each semester.

**Future plans:** I will attend St. Bonaventure University where I will study early childhood and childhood education, as well as special education.



**Pree Pree Paw**

**Years in MCCL:** seven and a half

**Favorite memory:** Summer tours are significant for me because of the way connections and relationships grow during that time. I also enjoyed local tour day because we got to serve our community by blessing others with music.

**Future plans:** I plan to attend Juniata College.



**Juliana Umble**

**Years in MCCL:** three and a half

**Favorite memory:** During tour last summer in the Czech Republic, we sang in a prison, an incredibly moving experience. Everyone was nervous in the beginning, but as we sang God's light filled the room in a tangible way. Witnessing the atmosphere shift so drastically as we shared God's hope and joy through singing was one of the most powerful things I've ever experienced.

**Future plans:** I will continue my work at Premier Custom Cabinetry.



**Elsa Weaver**

**Years in MCCL:** three and a half

**Favorite song:** One of my favorite songs has been, "You Do Not Walk Alone" because the words are a great reminder about how God is always with us even when we feel alone, which is something I definitely experienced especially throughout Covid-19.

**Future plans:** I am planning to attend Albright College and will study English education.

## Advisory Board Transitions



**Dr. Jeffrey Gemmell** completed nine years of service on the board. As a choral and music education professor at Millersville University, his expertise in and passion for excellent choral music will be greatly missed. He will continue to serve MCCL through leading choral workshops and masterclasses for au-

ditioned choirs, as well as providing feedback and consultation to MCCL music staff.

Three new members, **Kate Greiser**, **Nelson Kling**, and **Durrelle Leaman**, recently joined the board. Together they bring experience in organizational leadership, development, and music education. We look forward to the skills and ideas they will offer to strengthen

the overall MCCL program. To read their full bios, visit our news blog at [www.mennonitechildrenschoir/mccl-news-blog](http://www.mennonitechildrenschoir/mccl-news-blog)





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exceptional choral Music  
centered in Christ  
creating Community  
growing compassionate Leaders

Program of  LANCASTER  
MENNONITE  
FAITH • EDUCATION • COMMUNITY



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 supporting the mission of MCCL!



## JOIN THE MCCL SONG

### Register for classes

Prelude Music: K & 1st grade  
Choristers I: 2nd - 5th grade  
Choristers II: 6th - 8th grade

### Audition for choirs

Carol Choir: 2nd - 5th grade - **FULL**  
Concert Choir: 6th - 8th grade - **FULL**  
Chamber Choir: 9th - 12th grade

Classes meet on Tuesday evenings  
for 8 weeks in fall and spring.

Choirs rehearse on Tuesday evenings from  
late August through April with a break in December  
They perform concerts in December, April, and June.

For more information  
or to schedule an audition visit:  
[www.mennonitechilrenschoir.org/join/register](http://www.mennonitechilrenschoir.org/join/register)

