



# Mennonite Children's Choir OF LANCASTER

## Mission, Vision, History

### Mission

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

### Vision

We honor and celebrate 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.

### Who We Are

The Mennonite Children's Choir of Lancaster is a program of Lancaster Mennonite School. MCCL is composed of three auditioned choirs and two programs:

Carol Choir	grades 2-5
Concert Choir	grades 6-8
Chamber Choir	grades 9-12
Prelude Music	kindergarten - grade 1
Choristers I & II	grades 2-8

We invite singers and families whose personal mission and vision align with ours to join the MCCL community. Information can be found at <https://mennonitechilrenschoir.org/join/register/>.

### History

Founded in 1998, the Mennonite Children's Choir of Lancaster began as a choir of 31 singers under the direction of artistic director Patricia Strong Myers. Since then, the program has grown to include auditioned and non-auditioned choral opportunities for over 150 children and youth in kindergarten through grade 12. The singers represent a variety of churches, schools, and communities across Lancaster, Lebanon, and Chester counties. MCCL singers represent nearly 53 congregations, 45 schools, and 12 denominations. Singers gather on Tuesday evenings from August through May to participate in rigorous classes and rehearsals to prepare for sharing times and a Christmas and spring concert series.

In addition to the bi-annual concert series, the choirs collaborate with other arts organizations, participate in benefit concerts, and share music with schools and other community organizations. Annual summer tours have provided opportunities for national (Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Michigan, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Virginia, Washington DC) and international (Canada, Germany, Albania, Bulgaria, Indonesia, Czech Republic) travel and ministry. The choir has also had the privilege of singing at events such as Mennonite World Conference in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, local church conference events, Eastern Mennonite Mission events, Mennonite Central Committee benefit concerts and local school chapel services. In addition, the choir has enjoyed connecting with the local community by singing at locations such as retirement communities, Lancaster Central Market, Park City Center, Lancaster Barnstormers and Music for Everyone in Lancaster City. Only a portion of the annual operating cost is covered by tuition. Donations, offerings, and fundraisers provide additional funding.