

MCCL Handbook Carol, Concert, Chamber Choirs 2024-2025

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

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.

Affiliation

The Mennonite Children's Choir of Lancaster is a program of Lancaster Mennonite School. This affiliation began in October 2001.

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 more than 150 children and youth in kindergarten through grade 12. The singers represent a variety of churches, schools, and communities across Lancaster, Lebanon, Berks, and Chester counties. They 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, perform in concert series, and share music with schools and other community organizations. Annual summer tours have provided opportunities for national (over 15 states) and international (Canada, Germany, Albania, Bulgaria, Indonesia, Czech Republic) service and learning. 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's events, Mennonite Disaster Service 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.

MCCL Singer Profile

The MCCL community welcomes members who are committed to and desire to grow in the skills and values listed below. In addition, MCCL commits to providing opportunities for singers to cultivate and deepen these skills and values.

- **Motivation and self-reliance:** Singers who are keen to participate fully and build their singing skills, both in rehearsal and at home, will thrive.
- **Tuneful and artful:** Singers who desire to grow in producing a healthy sound with resonance and breath support and to develop choral artfulness, will flourish.
- **Curiosity for reading and languages:** Singers who are curious about learning will blossom. Music is a language that singers learn to read and interpret through consistent practice. In addition, singing music from around the world in many languages builds cultural understanding and stokes curiosity.
- **Teamwork:** Singers who are willing to build relational skills by working and engaging with other singers and following the direction of instructors, will shine.
- **Long-term commitment:** Singers who stay involved multiple consecutive years will experience maximum growth and fulfillment. Social, emotional, and musical benefits of participating in choir grow exponentially through multiple years of involvement.

MCCL Classes

Prelude Music (kindergarten through grade 1)

A non-auditioned class, 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 class, 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.

MCCL Choirs

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
- develop choral disciplines such as following instructions, watching the director, and choir etiquette
- participate in small group musicianship classes (during rehearsal) to develop music reading skills
- develop the skill of guided at-home practice to build vocal strength and health
- 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 small group musicianship classes, at-home practice, 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 and deepen music literacy in small group musicianship classes, through at-home practice, and during rehearsals: vocal independence, score analysis, dissonant intervals, and masterclass opportunities
- participate in a multi-day national or international tour
- Post high singers who are committed to intentional continued vocal growth may be invited to continue to sing with Chamber Choir for two years post high school.

Men's Ensemble (grades 9 - 12)

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

Women's Ensemble (grades 9 - 12) (potential)

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

Select 8 – 16 Voice Ensemble (grades 8 – 12) (potential, dependent upon interest and skill) Select Ensemble is for singers who are members of an MCCL choir with strong independent musical learning skills who are motivated by the challenge of singing a small ensemble repertoire at a high-performance level. Auditions are required to be a part of this select ensemble.

Vocal Coaching & Voice Lessons

Individual lessons are an incredible tool that develops individual vocal technique, expands vocal range, refines tone, and grows confidence and skills. Voice lessons and vocal coaching help singers achieve vocal goals and grow personally.

MCCL private lesson rates:

- 60 minute= \$54
- 45 minute= \$41
- 30 minute= \$27

During the school year, lessons are a combination of virtual (approximately three times a month) and in-person at Blossom Hill Mennonite Church (approximately one-time a month). Summer lessons are primarily in person. Singers who commit to voice lessons should practice four to six days a week for 20 to 30 minutes.

Voice lessons with an MCCL voice instructor are a special opportunity for members of the MCCL choral community. If a singer is no longer a member of an MCCL choir or class, they may not continue private lessons with an MCCL voice instructor for a year following participation in the MCCL program. Exceptions may be considered for graduating seniors.

Musicianship Classes

Musicianship classes provide music reading and theory instruction to members of MCCL choirs. These classes are built into weekly choir rehearsals and are organized in small groups based on previous music experience.

Leadership Staff and Advisory Board Contact Information

Artistic Staff Contact

Rosemary Blessing

Artistic Director Director, Chamber Choir

chamberchoir@lancastermennonite.org

Sarah Wingard Director, Carol and Concert Choirs <u>carolandconcertchoir@lancastermennonite.org</u>

Administrative Staff Contact

Maria Bowman

Managing Director Choir Manager mcclchoirmanager@lancastermennonite.org

Advisory Board Contact

Lyn Carlson Advisory Board Chair mcclboard@lancastermennonite.org

Larry Guengerich

Advisory Board Vice Chair mcclboardvc@lancastermennonite.org Lorri Bentch Doug Garrett (treasurer) Dr. Jeffrey Gemmell (emeritus) Kate Greiser Seth Hake Durelle Leaman Lamar Myers Kathy Keener Shantz

Artistic Staff Bios



Rosemary Siegrist 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 is an adjunct instructor of piano at Franklin and Marshall College, maintains a thriving private piano studio, taught piano through Eastern Mennonite University's Preparatory Program, and was on music staff at the former Pennsylvania Academy of Music. Rosemary is an active pianist in the Lancaster area, having accompanied choral groups, musical theater groups, and currently plays with the Allegro Orchestra Lancaster.



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, she 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 sang and regularly soloed for nine years with the Susquehanna Chorale and also sang with the Wheatland Chorale.

Galen Kauffman, Director, Men's Ensemble and Instructor, Concert Choir

Galen holds a bachelor's degree in music (vocal concentration) from Malone University. Most recently, he directed the middle and high school choirs at Grace International School in Thailand. Before that, he served as a school principal at a private school in Ohio, where he also directed musical performances. He sings locally with the Wheatland Chorale.

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 teaches third through sixth grade general elementary music at Lancaster Mennonite School. In addition, Monica taught general music in public and private schools in VA, built a thriving private piano studio in VA and served as a private and group piano instructor at Goshen College (IN), Southern Methodist University (TX), Shenandoah Valley Preparatory Music (VA), and Woodberry Forest School (VA).

Sarah Smith, Director, Choristers

Sarah holds a bachelor's degree in music education (voice concentration) from Grove City College. During college, she was a member of the Grove City College Touring Choir for all four years and served as the student conductor for the group as well as received the Music Education award her senior year. Sarah teaches lower elementary music and is the sixth-grade classroom assistant at Veritas Academy.

Carrie Warner, Accompanist, Carol and Concert Choirs

Carrie holds a bachelor's degree in music education (piano concentration) from West Chester University. She has taught general music and directed middle school and high school choirs at West-Mont Christian Academy, Berks Christian School, and Conestoga Christian School. For the past several years, she served as accompanist for school musicals at Berks Christian School and has accompanied productions for other organizations throughout her music career.



Elisa Chodan, Voice Lesson Instructor

Elisa is a full-time graduate student at Drexel University studying Music Therapy and 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 teaches private voice lessons at the Philadelphia Piano Institute. Previously she served as music educator, teaching choir and general music at Veritas Academy and as the Choristers director for MCCL. She led the women's chorus at Lancaster Bible College. She was a 2019-20 VOCES8 US Scholar and two-time summer intern with VOCES8.

Laura Metzler, Assistant, Choristers

Laura holds a degree in Elementary Education (Spanish concentration) from Houghton College and a master's in education (ESL track) from Eastern Mennonite University. She taught fourth grade at Lititz Area Mennonite for five years followed by one year of teaching ESL with Youth With a Mission in St. Marc, Haiti. She taught private piano, guitar, and violin lessons over the last 20 years and leads worship in her home congregation. Laura works part-time as a manager at the Mennonite Life Visitors Center (and Biblical Tabernacle Experience).







Administrative Staff Bios



Maria Bowman, Managing Director and Choir Manager

Maria holds a bachelor's degree with concentrations in psychology, education, and English from Eastern Mennonite University. She is currently pursuing a graduate certificate 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 in a middle school Special Education classroom.

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Kendra Guengerich, Bookkeeper

Kendra serves at the Office Administrator at Blossom Hill Mennonite Church in addition to her role with MCCL. She previously worked for the Hempfield School District and for Williams Apothecary and served at the treasurer for a school PTO. She is actively engaged with the parent leadership team of Hempfield High School's indoor percussion program.



Audrey Livengood, Volunteer Editor

Audrey holds a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Millersville University and a master's degree in education from Eastern Mennonite University. She taught at Lititz Area Mennonite School, served on the MCCL Advisory board, served on MCCL staff, and now homeschools her four children who are current MCCL singers. She has a small piano studio. In addition, she and her husband, along with their children, own and operate Livengood Family Farm, a regenerative farm in Lancaster, PA.



Lu Dee, Volunteer Assistant Music Librarian

LuDee taught basic English and geography in a refugee camp in Thailand. She currently attends and is actively involved at Habecker Mennonite Church. She and her husband have four children, three of whom are MCCL alumni and one is a current singer.



Dori Preheim, Volunteer Music Librarian

Dori holds a bachelor's degree in special education from Millersville University. She recently retired after working many years for the Lancaster Lebanon IU13. As a teacher and PCA, music was a part of her classroom. Her daughter is an MCCL alum.

Auditions

Auditions are generally conducted between May and July for the upcoming choir season that begins each August. If choirs are not at capacity, auditions may be held in December for the spring semester.

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)

Middle school singers who audition with little or no previous choral experience may be accepted with the understanding that they participate in MCCL voice lessons for the preceding summer and a half or full year.

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)

Singers who audition with little or no previous choral experience may be accepted with the understanding that they participate in MCCL voice lessons for the preceding summer and a half or full year.

Re-Auditions

Singers who have successfully auditioned for MCCL do not need to audition again, even when moving from one choir to the next.

A vocal check-in typically happens when singers move between auditioned choirs such as Carol Choir to Concert Choir and Concert Choir to Chamber Choir.

Singers who do not sing for two semesters in a row will need to re-audition.

General Information

Family Commitments

- Pray for the choir, directors, performances, and audiences.
- Arrive on time to all MCCL events.
- Review this Choir Handbook as a family.
- Mark all MCCL events from the Choir Calendar (pages 19 22) on your family calendar, and commit yourself to attending all events. (See attendance policy about excused absences.)

Singer Commitments

- Attend rehearsals with an attitude of engagement, curiosity, and positivity.
- Be willing to follow a director, try new choral techniques, and interact with others who you do not yet know.
- Demonstrate Christ-like behavior and language of kindness and humility to create an atmosphere of community and respect for peers, staff, parent volunteers, and hosts at all MCCL events.
- Invest consistent time and care into your instrument (your voice) during rehearsal and through weekly practice and assignment submissions.
- Accept responsibility and be prepared for weekly rehearsal:
 - Use a small tote bag to hold your music binder, water bottle, and MCCL lanyard.
 - Bring your music binder to each rehearsal and retreat and take it home for practice.
 - Mark your music lightly with *only* a pencil.
 - Keep your music binder in a safe place and treat it with care.

Parent / Guardian Volunteering

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

Attendance Guidelines

Communication is key to successful attendance. Our aim is to be reasonable and realistic for singers' personal growth and to maintain the high caliber nature of the MCCL program. Prompt, consistent attendance at rehearsals, retreats, and concerts:

- deepens personal vocal growth (warmups occur within first ten minutes)
- develops unity in choral sound
- demonstrates commitment to and respects the time of all singers and staff

The MCCL Policy is as follows with notes of explanation below.

- Singers are granted one excused absence per semester. (Note: if more than one needed, see Excused Absence section on page 12)
- Singers are expected to attend and be on time for MCCL events.
- Singers must communicate and seek approval for all known or potential conflicts with any required MCCL events (rehearsals, retreats, concerts) at the start of each semester OR as

soon as they are known. This is done by completing an "Excused Absence & Late Arrival Request Form" (found on member portal).

- Singers are expected to complete weekly practice assignments when they are excused from or are sick for a rehearsal or retreat.
- In the case of illness, please notify the director by email as soon as possible.

Excused Absences

Examples of excused absence include school concerts, performances, competitions, community and school sport events, funerals, and family trips.

Because MCCL values the holistic growth that occurs when singers are involved in other activities, directors will work with a singer regarding the possibility of alternative plans to miss additional rehearsals if more than one excused absence is needed to participate in another activity.

- When a singer is absent or tardy for more than one rehearsal a semester, directors will work with each singer and family to create a plan to learn what was covered during the rehearsal (or retreat) and to ensure preparation matches the whole choir.
 - The plan will consider the amount of rehearsal/retreat missed, the singer's history of rehearsal preparation and musical experience, and the challenge level of music missed.
 - The plan may include extra assignments and/or rehearsing privately with MCCL's voice coach (\$27/half hour).
 - Extenuating circumstances will be considered.
- Singers with multiple last-minute requests for absence, unexcused absences or late arrivals may be asked to recommit to choir expectations.

Weekly Practice Assignments

Voices are instruments. The vocal folds are muscles needing care and consistent practice to stay healthy and grow. Weekly practice assignments provide opportunity for singer to exercise their vocal muscles, build upon choral skills learned in rehearsals, and prepare for the following week's rehearsal. Revisiting music throughout the week creates deeper roots for singers at every level. MCCL utilizes consistent weekly at-home practice to strengthen individual singer musicianship, teach self-evaluation, and develop responsibility. Weekly practice assignments involve a variety of strategies to help singers with different learning styles and to engage with holistic music learning. They generally average:

- About 20 to 30 minutes weekly for Carol Choir
- About 45 to 60 minutes weekly for Concert Choir
- About 60 to 90 minutes weekly for Chamber Choir

If a singer is struggling to complete practice assignments on time or if singer responses reveal lack of understanding or concert preparation, directors will work with the singer and family to create a collaborative plan to help the singer meet expectations and learn the material.

- The plan will consider the singer's history of communication, rehearsal preparation, and musical experience.
- The plan may include extra assignments and/or rehearsing privately with MCCL's voice coach (\$27/half hour).
- Extenuating circumstances will be considered.

Restorative Practices

MCCL is committed to restorative practices. Restorative practice includes creating a caring environment, talking openly about positive and negative experiences, creating a plan to name and change behaviors that negatively impact a singer, director, and/or the whole choir and making things right with all involved. Making things right may include apologies, mediation, and actions. Parents may be asked to participate in this process.

Recommitment Process

If a singer does not meet MCCL expectations (communication, behavior, attendance, practice assignments, concert preparation) and does not follow through with a collaborative plan to remedy the situation, a singer will be asked to go through a recommitment process including a timeline. During the recommitment process, a singer may sit out at concerts or other MCCL events. A recommitment process has the potential to lead to dismissal from the choir without a refund.

Communication

- Please read your email carefully.
- Directors will email weekly updates regarding practice assignments, schedule, fundraisers, concert details, and more.
- If you talk with a staff member in person with questions or ideas that need a response, please also email them so that information does not get lost.

Rehearsal Attire Guidelines

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

- Pictures, messages, and symbols on clothing and jewelry must be in line with the mission and values of the choir.
- Shorts must extend below fingertip length when arms are at the side.
- Shirts must have sleeves and cover the mid-riff.
- Dresses or skirts must come to at least two inches above the top of the knee.
- Undergarments may not be visible.
- Leggings are permitted with a top that is mid-thigh in length.

Summer tour dress guidelines are more detailed and professional than rehearsal attire.

Student Safety

Student Safety Policy

As a faith-based community choir, we believe that the spiritual, emotional, and physical wellbeing 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.

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 – 7:30 p.m. |
| Concert Choir rehearsal | Neffsville Mennonite Church | 6:45 - 8:30 p.m. |
| Chamber Choir rehearsal Men's Ensemble, Women's Ensemble, and Select Ensemble practice during this time. | Blossom Hill Mennonite Church | 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. |

Rehearsal Supplies for Singers

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

Singer Expectations

- Arrive 5-10 minutes before rehearsal begins.
 - \circ $\;$ This is time to use the restroom and fill water bottles.
 - Each singer will sign in with arrival time.
 - Carol and Concert Choir singers who arrive more than 15 minutes early and are without a parent or guardian will sit quietly and individually in the back of the sanctuary until five minutes before rehearsal begins.
- MCCL is a mostly technology-free space. We place great emphasis on cultivating teamwork and building relationships. We also value time away from the inevitable distraction of a tiny computer in your pocket
 - To this end, cell phones and other electronic devices may not be used during rehearsals, retreats, concerts, or during snacks.
 - Electronic devices used during rehearsal, retreats, concerts, or snacks will be held by a staff member or parent volunteer and returned at the end of MCCL event.
 - Carol and Concert choirs: Electronic devices may be used *individually* in a designated area before and after rehearsal for choir or school homework if a parent/guardian is present or if the director/choir manager has been notified. However, 10 minutes before the start of rehearsal, all technology must be put away in technology bin or with a parent.
 - Chamber Choir: Upon arrival phones are to be put in the technology bin. If singers arrive more than 10 minutes early and need to do schoolwork, please communicate ahead of time with the director.
 - Please keep cell phones away during snack.
 - If a group of singers is gathered around a phone, a staff member or parent volunteer may hold the device for the remainder of the rehearsal or event.
- Stay in areas of churches that are used by MCCL.

Parent / Guardian Expectations

- Parents and family members are welcome to attend rehearsals and quietly observe. Parents who stay in the church buildings need to sign in.
- All singers must be directly supervised by an adult when not in rehearsal.
 - Arrive promptly for pick up.
 - Parents/guardians of Carol and Concert Choir singers must sign their children out at Neffsville Mennonite Church.
 - If a parent is late for pick up, singers will sit 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 always be under the direct supervision of an adult.
- For child safety, bathrooms at Neffsville Mennonite Church are designated for singers or for family members.
 - The MCCL singer bathroom, front lobby, is monitored by an MCCL parent volunteer.
 - The family member bathrooms, back hallway, are not monitored. Children, under the age of 13, using the family member bathroom, must be accompanied by an adult.

Illness

- Please do not come to MCCL event if you have any of the following symptoms:
 - Fever over 100.4 or stomach illness in previous 24 hours
 - Significant cold symptoms that prevented singer from attending school: 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 as an observer.
 - \circ 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 crackers, 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 on stage at communicated report time, generally 1½ hours before concert time.
- Singers should leave cell phones and electronic devices at home, in vehicles, or with parents. 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 light colored undergarments under their blouses.
- Jewelry and watches are limited to stud earrings. Medical bracelets are an exception.
- Hair should be away from eyes so singers can see director.
- 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), black belt, and white undershirt.
- Jewelry and watches are limited to stud earrings. Medical bracelets are an exception.
- Hair should be away from eyes so singers can see director.

Chamber Choir Women

- 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 and watches are limited to stud earrings and pearl necklace. Medical bracelets are an exception.
- Hair should be away from eyes so singers can see director.
- Hair accessories should be small and simple.

Chamber Choir Men

- Hair should be away from eyes so singers can see director.
- Jewelry and watches are limited to stud earrings. 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, black belt, 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, black belt, 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 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.
 - Girls 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. If you post a video clips on line, it needs to be less than a minute to follow copy right laws. Thanks for your cooperation. Any recordings made by the host church are solely for internal use by the directors for evaluation and growth. We may at time shares the live stream links with families, but the link (or any portion of the link) cannot be posted online. Thanks for your cooperation.

Concert Offerings

MCCL receives a free-will offering at concerts instead of requiring concert guests to purchase tickets. Contributions are welcome from everyone who attends a concert. 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 summer tours 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.

Summer Tour Schedule 2025 will be announced in the fall.

Chamber Choir International Tour

MCCL partners with Eastern Mennonite Missions (EMM) for an international choral mission trip every three years. International tours are most valuable to the choral team and individual singers when participants are committed to multiple years in the MCCL program.

- To be eligible to participate in an international tour, singers who sang with MCCL in prior years are expected to have regularly participated in stateside tours and all singers are expected to exemplify commitment to choral development. Extenuating circumstances will be considered.
- 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.

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.

Rosedale Bible College Chorus Festival

MCCL Chamber Choir singers participate in a three-day choral festival with other youth choirs every two or four years. Fees for this opportunity are not included in tuition.

American Choral Director's Association (ACDA) Festivals

ACDA holds annual conferences. Since MCCL directors are members of ACDA, singers may participate in honor choirs by invitation of an MCCL Director. Accepted participants prepare music in advance mostly through self-guided learning with tools provided by ACDA/MCCL. Fees for this opportunity for this opportunity are not included in tuition.

Choir Calendar Fall 2024

1. Tuesday evening rehearsals

- a. August 27 Carol/Concert new singers & Chamber all singers (adjusted times below)
- b. September 3, 10, 17, 24
- c. October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
- d. November 5, 12, 19, 26
- e. December 3

Tuesday Rehearsal Times and Locations

| Carol Choir rehearsal | Neffsville Mennonite Church (NMC) | 6:15 – 7:30 p.m. |
|--|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| Concert Choir rehearsal | Neffsville Mennonite Church (NMC) | 6:45 - 8:30 p.m. |
| Chamber Choir rehearsal | Blossom Hill Mennonite Church (BHMC) | 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. |
| Includes Men's Ensemble, Women's Ensemble, and potential Select Ensemble | | |

2. Retreats, concerts, and other rehearsal date details listed in chart below. Google Calendar can be found at https://mennonitechildrenschoir.org/mccl-calendar/. Transfer all rehearsals, retreats, concerts, and other dates with times to your family calendar. (Reminder: Use <a href="https://www.executedates.executes.executedates.execute

| | 2024 Fall Semester | | | | | | | |
|------|--|--|---|--|-------|---------|-----------------------|--|
| Day | Date | Time | Location | Activity | Carol | Concert | Chamber | |
| | | 6:15 – 7:15 p.m. | NMC | Rehearsal for singers <i>new</i> to Carol Choir. NEW parents/guardians - Carol Choir meeting. One parent/guardian of each household should attend. | x | | | |
| | | 6:30 – 8:15 p.m. | внмс | Rehearsal for all Chamber Choir singers | | | Х | |
| Tues | Aug. 27 | 7:15 - 8:15 p.m. | NMC | Rehearsal for singers new to Concert Choir (includes rising 6 th grade MCCL singers and/or singers from Choristers) NEW parents/guardians - Concert & Chamber choirs meeting. One parent/guardian of each household should attend | | x | X (new parents) | |
| | | First rehearsal for all singers. Regular rehearsal & location times. | | | | | | |
| Tues | Sept. 3 | 6:45 – 7:30 p.m. | NMC | All Parents/Guardians of Carol and Concert Choir attend fall information meeting. Singers will join meeting from 7:15 – 7:30 p.m. One parent/guardian of each household should attend | x | x | | |
| | | 8:30 - 9:00 p.m. | внмс | All Parents/Guardians Chamber Choir and Chamber Choir at fall information meeting. One parent/guardian of each household should attend | | | x | |
| | Sept. 21 10:30 a.m 5:30 p.m. Pick up Edge N 11:00 a.m 6:00p.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 | | | |
| Sat | | Dropoff: NMC Pick up: Water's Edge Mini Golf | Rehearsal retreat Singers wear MCCL t-shirt; formal uniform distribution Singers bring a packed lunch | | | x | | |
| | | | Dropoff: NMC Pick up: Water's Edge Mini Golf | Rehearsal retreat Singers wear MCCL t-shirt; formal uniform distribution Singers bring a packed lunch | | x | | |

| Day | Date | Time | Location | Activity | Carol | Concert | Chamber |
|-------|---------|---|-----------------------------------|---|-------|---------|---------|
| TBD | TBD | TBD | TBD | Concert Choir and Chamber Choir Fall Party Singer attendance is encouraged & optional. | | Х | х |
| Tues | Nov. 5 | 8:15 - 8:45 p.m. | NMC | Summer Tour Information Meeting Chamber Choir rehearses at NMC. One parent/guardian of each household should attend. | | x | x |
| | | 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. | NMC | Presentation by & rehearsal with guest artist Singers wear MCCL t-shirt. | х | Х | Х |
| Fri | Oct. 25 | 9:00 a.m.–9:00 p.m. (SignUp Genius coming later to sign up for slots) | внмс | Jar Fundraiser Preparation Parent & singer participation strongly encouraged. Please sign up for a two or three-hour shift. Siblings age 10+ may help. Supper provided. All singers pick up jars at BHMC before 9:00 p.m. | х | х | х |
| | | 8:45 a.m. – 2:15 p.m. | NMC | Rehearsal with guest artist for concerts. | | Х | Х |
| Sat | Oct. 26 | 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. | NMC | Singers wear MCCL t-shirt & bring packed lunch | х | | |
| Fri | Nov. 15 | 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. | ИМС | MCCL Soups, Songs, & Sweets (optional) Alumni, current families, and community members will enjoy good food and singing together. Attendance for current singers and families is optional. | x | x | x |
| Tues | Nov. 26 | Carol Choir extended to 7:45 p.m. Concert and Chamber Choirs extended to 8:45 p.m. | NMC | Dress rehearsal All singers wear MCCL formal concert attire. Chamber Choir rehearses at NMC | x | x | x |
| Tues | Dec. 3 | Carol Choir extended to 7:45 p.m. Concert and Chamber Choirs extended to 8:45 p.m. | ммс | Guest Artists join all choirs Chamber Choir rehearses at NMC Jar Fundraiser payment due Music folder collection Concert & Chamber tour deposit & covenant due | x | x | x |
| Thur. | Dec. 5 | 5:30 p.m. Report: Cham/Con 5:45 p.m. Report: Carol 7:00 p.m. Performance | Neffsville Mennonite Church | CONCERT | x | x | x |
| Sat | Dec. 7 | 1:30 p.m. Report: Cham/Con 1:45 p.m. Report: Carol 3:00 p.m. Performance | TBD | CONCERT | x | x | x |
| Sun | Dec. 8 | 2:30 p.m. Report: Cham/Con 2:45 p.m. Report: Carol 4:00 p.m. Performance | Neffsville Mennonite Church | CONCERT (Parents view from fellowship hall livestream unless this is the only concert you can attend.) | x | x | x |
| Sun | Dec 15 | 8:30 a.m. Report: Con 10:00 a.m. Worship Service | Landis Homes | Morning Worship service in West Bethany Chapel | | x | |

Choir Calendar Spring 2025

1. Tuesday Evening Rehearsals

- a. January 7, 14, 21, 28
- b. February 4, 11, 18, 25
- c. March 4, 11, 18, 25 (note 25th is a retirement home concert)
- d. April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
- e. June 3

Tuesday Rehearsal Times and Locations

| Carol Choir rehearsal | Neffsville Mennonite Church (NMC) | 6:15 - 7:30 p.m. |
|---|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| Concert Choir rehearsal | Neffsville Mennonite Church (NMC) | 6:45 - 8:30 p.m. |
| Chamber Choir rehearsal | Blossom Hill Mennonite Church (BHMC) | 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. |
| Includes Men's Ensemble, Women's Ensemble, and potential Select Ensemble | | |

2. Retreats, concerts, and other rehearsal date details listed in chart below. Google Calendar can be found at https://mennonitechildrenschoir.org/mccl-calendar/. Transfer all rehearsals, retreats, concerts, and other dates with times to your family calendar. (Reminder: Use <a href="https://www.executedates.executes.executedates.executes.e

| 2025 Spring Semester | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------|---|--|--------------|--|-------|---------|---------------------|--|
| Day | Date | Time | Location | Activity | Carol | Concert | Chamber | |
| | First spring semester rehearsal. Regular rehearsal start times. All choirs at NMC. | | | | | | | |
| Tues | Jan. 7 | 6:45 – 7:30 p.m. Concert and Chamber Choirs extended to 8:45 p.m. | NMC | Parents join singers for spring semester information meeting. One parent/guardian of each household should attend. | x | x | x | |
| Tues | Jan 14 | 7:00 – 7:30 p.m. | NMC | New Parent/Guardian Meeting | х | Х | Х | |
| Tues | Jan. 28 | Arrive 15 min early to turn in letters. | NMC | Do-Re-Mi \$ fundraiser envelopes due. Chamber Choir rehearses at NMC. | Х | X | Х | |
| Sun | Feb 2 | 1:30 - 6:30 p.m. | NMC | Do-Re-Mi \$ Singing Marathon Wear MCCL t-shirt; formal uniform distribution | | х | X alto/sop | |
| | 1:30 – 5:00 p.m. NMC | NMC | | х | | | | |
| Sun | Feb. 9 | 1:30 – 6:30 p.m. | NMC | — Do-Re-Mi \$ Singing Marathon Wear MCCL t-shirt; formal uniform distribution | | | X tenor/ba ss | |
| Sun | Feb. 16 | TBD | TBD | Do-Re-Mi \$ Singing Marathon Snow make-up | Х | Х | X | |
| Fri | Feb. 21 | 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. | TBD | MCCL Family Fun Night – Square Dance & Ice Cream Social Attendance for singers & families is encouraged & optional. | x | x | x | |
| Tues | Feb. 25 | Concert and Chamber choirs extended until 8:45 p.m. | NMC/ BHMC | Photo Night during rehearsal All singers wear formal concert attire | x | x | х | |
| Sun | Mar. 9 | 1:30 - 6:00 p.m. | BHMC | Chamber Choir Rehearsal Retreat | | | Х | |
| Tues | Mar. 18 | | | Chamber Choir rehearsal at NMC | | | Х | |

| Day | Date | Time | Location | Activity | Carol | Concert | Chamber |
|--------------|-------------------|---|-----------------------------------|--|-------|---------|---------|
| Tues | Mar. 25 | 5:00 p.m. Report: Cham/Con 5:30 p.m. Report: Carol 7:00 p.m. Performance | Garden Spot Village | CONCERT | x | x | x |
| Fri | Mar 28 | 8:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. | | Local Tour Day (Concert & Chamber Choir) | | х | х |
| Thurs | April 3 | 8:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. | | Local Tour Day (Carol Choir) | x | | |
| Sun | April 13 | 9:00 a.m. Report: Chamber 10:30 a.m. Worship Service | Laurel Street Mennonite | Worship Service at Laurel Street Mennonite Singers will eat lunch together and travel together to Derry Presbyterian. Due to limited space family members are asked to not attend. | | | x |
| Sun | April 15 | 2:30 p.m. Report: Cham/Con 4:00 p.m. Performance | Derry Presbyterian Church | CONCERT SERIES Derry Presbyterian Church, Hershey PA | | x | x |
| Tues | April 22 | During regular rehearsal times | NMC/BHMC | Join the Song Open rehearsal for potential singers. Current singers are encouraged to bring friends. | x | x | x |
| Fri - Sun | April 25 to 27 | Friday morning (early) through Sunday evening (late) | Rosedale Bible College | Rosedale Choral Festival in Rosedale, Ohio | | | х |
| Sat | May 3 | 2:30 p.m. Report: Cham/Con 2:45 p.m. Report: Carol 4:00 p.m. Performance | Neffsville Mennonite Church | CONCERT Choristers and Prelude Music will participate. | x | x | x |
| Sun | May 4 | 2:30 p.m. Report: Cham/Con 2:45 p.m. Report: Carol 4:00 p.m. Performance | Neffsville Mennonite Church | CONCERT Likely a family picnic following the concert. Details TBD. | x | x | x |
| | | Regular Rehearsal Times | NMC | Rehearsal for all singers All singers' attendance is required. Preparation for June 8 concert | X | X | |
| Tues | June 3 | | | Current 5 th grade singers will participate with Concert Choir and current 8 th grade singers will participate with Chamber Choir. | | | X |
| | | 8:30 – 9:15 p.m. | NMC | Concert Choir and Chamber Choir summer tour meeting for parents and singers | | Х | Х |
| Sun | June 8 | 5:00 p.m. Report: all choirs 7:00 p.m. Performance | Mt. Gretna Tabernacle | CONCERT | x | x | х |
| Tues | June 10 | 5:15 p.m. Report: Cham/Con 7:00 p.m. Performance | Landis Homes | PRE-TOUR CONCERT | | x | x |
| TBD | TBD | TBD | TBD | Chamber Choir & Concert Choir Summer Tour (likely June 11 to June 18) Possible: Music & More camp (K - grade 5) (likely three days in late June or early July) Community Hymn Sing hosted by MCCL (likely a Sunday evening in July) | | | |

Financial Responsibilities

Registration Fee (non-refundable fee per singer)

Carol, Concert, Chamber auditioned choirs \$100 for new^{*} singers before July 19, 2024 \$125 for new^{*} or returning singers after July 19, 2024

*New families who register within a week of auditioning and receiving acceptance letters are eligible for the \$100 registration fee, even if after July 19.

Annual Tuition

Tuition funds almost one-third of the MCCL annual budget. Fundraisers, donations, business sponsorships, and offerings make up the balance. Operating expenses include rehearsal and concert venue rental, insurance, publicity, sheet music, guest clinicians and musicians, uniforms, and administrative costs.

Annual tuition includes over 80 hours (Carol Choir), 90 hours (Concert Choir) and 100 hours (Chamber Choir) of in-person choral instruction through rehearsals, musicianship classes, concerts, retreats, and local tour day. Additionally, singers receive at-home instruction through practice assignments on a weekly basis. There are also opportunities for extracurricular events, such as collaborative choral events, social events, and eligibility choral festivals.

MCCL offers various payments schedules (two or six payments), as well as tuition assistance.

First Child Tuition

Carol Choir*Six payments of \$56Concert Choir*Six payments of \$70Chamber Choir *Six payments of \$79(Includes Men's and Women's Ensembles and potential Select Ensemble)

Additional Child Tuition

Each additional child in Carol, Concert, and/or Chamber Choir is six payments of \$56.

*In addition, families participate in one fall and one spring semester fundraiser.

*Since MCCL program is intended as a full year program to best meet a singer's musical journey, tuition is not prorated for singers who participate for one semester only.

Tuition Transfer for Choristers

If a singer who 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 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. MCCL does not want tuition to hinder any singer from participation. 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 16 jar mixes to sell. Mixes are \$10 each. Opt-out fee is \$160.
- 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 \$400
- Specific optional fundraisers for Concert and Chamber choirs' 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 and sustain the MCCL program and provide a portion of the MCCL budget. Benefits for businesses vary depending on the level of sponsorship and include options for advertising in the concert program, on concert posters, and at concerts.

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 |

Family and friends of singers often are significant supporters of MCCL. We encourage new and current families to invite local businesses to join MCCL as sponsors. If you plan to invite a business, please send names of potential business sponsors to the Managing Director at 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 (20% of sponsorship) 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. If a Business Sponsorship is received before September 30, the tuition discount will be applied to the current choir year. If a Business Sponsorship is received after September 30 or in the spring as a part of Do-Re-Mi-Dollars, the tuition discount will be applied to the following choir year.

\$1,000 per family for a Concert Series Underwriter
\$600 per family for a Presto business partner
\$300 per family for an Allegro business partner
\$200 per family for an Allegretto business partner
\$100 per family for an Andante business partner

Refer a New MCCL Family and Tuition Discounts

For the 2024-2025 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 \$30 yearly fee to rent MCCL concert attire. Each Chamber Choir lady is responsible for purchasing a black dress (approximately \$80) from MCCL, which will be hers to keep. Each Chamber Choir gentleman is responsible for purchasing two colored dress shirts and a 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).

Lost 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.mennonitechildrenschoir.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 \$100 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 \$50 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 **top** of any page (on desktop) or in dropdown menu (on mobile device)
- 4. Enter Username and Password.

Username: mcclmember Password: MCCL!singing2425!

- 5. Click **Singer Registration**.
- 6. When logged in, complete **Steps 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5.**

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