



MCCL Handbook

Carol, Concert, Chamber Choirs
2025-2026

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. MCCL has an independent Advisory Board. In addition, program structure and decisions, staff benefits, choir fundraisers, and development work are separate.

History

Founded in 1998, the Mennonite Children's Choir of Lancaster began as a choir of 31 singers under artistic director Patricia Strong Myers. Since then, the program has grown to include auditioned and non-auditioned choral opportunities for more than 160 children and youth in kindergarten through grade 12. The singers represent a variety of churches, schools, and communities in Lancaster and surrounding 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 Mennonite World Conference and in areas associated with Eastern Mennonite Missions, Mennonite Disaster Service, and Mennonite Central Committee in addition to events held by local church conferences. 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.
- **Tunefulness and artfulness:** Singers who desire to grow in producing a healthy sound with resonance and breath support and 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 techniques, 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 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 with joyful, expressive, and worshipful excellence
- develop understanding of singing as worship to God and as service to the church and community

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. Typically in the spring semesters, eighth grade male singers are invited to participate in one or two songs with Men's Ensemble.

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 female voice and performs a diverse repertoire ranging from unison to four-part harmony.

Select 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.

Musicianship Classes

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

Vocal Coaching & Voice Lessons

Individual voice lessons develop individual vocal technique, expand vocal range, refine tone, and grow confidence and skills. Vocal coaching and voice lessons help singers achieve vocal goals and grow personally.

MCCL private lesson rates:

- 60 minute= \$56
- 45 minute= \$42
- 30 minute= \$28

During the school year, lessons are a combination of virtual (approximately three times per month) and in-person at Blossom Hill Mennonite Church (approximately one-time per 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.

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
carolandconcertchoirs@lancastermennonite.org

Administrative Staff Contact

Maria Bowman

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Lorri Bentch (secretary)

Doug Garrett (treasurer)

Dr. Jeffrey Gemmell (emeritus)

Ron Guenther

Kate Grieser

Seth Hake

Durelle Leaman

Lamar Myers (emeritus)

Kathy Keener Shantz

Artistic Staff - Choir Directors



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 piano instructor 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. She and her husband are Ministers of Worship at Landis Valley Christian Fellowship.



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.

TBD, Director, Men's Ensemble

Artistic Staff - Class Directors



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 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).



Jonathan Shoff, Director, Choristers

Jonathan holds a Master of Music from West Chester University and earned his bachelor's degree in music education from Millersville University with a concentration in piano and a minor in voice. Jonathan has 20 years of experience teaching vocal, instrumental, and general music with all age levels ranging from Pre-K through adult. He has worked with many local music programs including Music for Everyone, S.W.A.N., and numerous community theaters. Previously he served as the MCCL Men's Ensemble Director, Chamber Choir accompanist, and Choristers Director. Currently, he is the Choral Director at Warwick High School.

Artistic Staff - Accompanists, Assistants, and Instructors



Roxanne Dixon, Assistant Director, Carol & Concert Choirs/Musicianship Instructor

Roxanne holds a Masters in Music Education from University of St. Thomas and a bachelor's in Music Performance from Miami University. She has more than 20 years experience teaching public school K-8 general and vocal music, in addition to teaching Music Education and Interdisciplinary courses at Messiah University. Her professional education includes training in Orff Schulwerk Approach, the Kodaly Concept, Dalcroze Education, and teaching children's choirs. Roxanne is a writer and editor, currently serving on the editorial board of *The Orff Echo*.



Elisa Chodan, Voice Lesson Instructor and Program Assistant

Elisa holds an M.A. in music therapy from Drexel University, an M.A. in Voice Performance from Bob Jones University, with additional graduate credits from Westminster Choir College. She also holds a bachelor's degree in music education. Previously, she served as a music educator in various settings –teaching choir and general music at Veritas Academy, serving as Choristers director for MCCL, and leading the women's chorus at Lancaster Bible College. She was a 2019-20 VOCES8 US Scholar and two-time summer intern with VOCES8.

Artistic Staff - Accompanists, Assistants, and Instructors (cont.)



Pat Gruber, Musicianship Instructor

Pat earned a bachelor's degree in music education from Millersville University. Her experience as a music educator includes roles as the music teacher at Diamond Street Early Learning Center and Kraybill Mennonite School. In her capacity as a church music leader, she has acted as the Minister of Worship and Music at Akron Mennonite Church and served as the Director of Church Music at St. Paul Evangelical Church. Currently, she is the choir director at Florin Church of the Brethren in Mount Joy. Alongside her musical endeavors, Pat has also pursued studies in sign language and pastoral studies.



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).



Maira Myers, Program Assistant

Maira holds a degree in music education with a vocal performance concentration from Messiah University. In 2023 she was awarded the top award for music composition from the PA American Choral Directors Association. She taught middle and high school choir and served as a director at Highland Retreat Camp.



Tania Rush, Assistant, Carol and Concert Choirs

Tania has studied piano performance, music education, and health information technology. Previously, she taught music and served as an accompanist in a local homeschool co-op. Currently, she teaches private piano and flute lessons.



Carrie Warner, Accompanist, Carol and Concert Choirs/ Tour Planner

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.



Phil Warner, Musicianship Instructor

Phil holds a Master's in Education from Liberty University, a bachelor's degree in Music Education from West Chester University, and Principal Certification. He has spent the past 20 years in education and educational leadership. He served as co-superintendent of the Alliance Christian School District, taught K – 12 general music, choir, band, and ensembles at Berks Christian School, and served as the director of Fine Arts in the Alliance Christian School District. Currently, he is the Assistant Superintendent for Lancaster Mennonite School.



Janelle Cunalata Zook, Assistant, Prelude Music

Janelle received her Masters of Music from Sam Houston State and a bachelor's in Music Education with an Oboe Performance Certification from Penn State University. Janelle led orchestra and band in public schools several years before moving to Ecuador in 2010 where she taught group music, gave composition lessons, and played first oboe with the Ecuador National Symphony. Since returning stateside in 2016, Janelle is music director at Hinkletown Mennonite School, has studied with composition teachers, and is a published composer of string orchestra music.

Administrative Staff



Maria Bowman, Managing Director

Maria holds a bachelor's degree with concentrations in psychology, education, and English from Eastern Mennonite University. She is currently pursuing an M.B.A with a concentration in Strategic Leadership at Messiah University. Previously she worked in Human Resources, served as a Family Life Educator at COBYS Family Services, and taught in a middle school Special Education classroom.



Jeremiah Denlinger, Volunteer Coordinator

Jeremiah holds a M.A. in History and a B.A in History Education with a minor in Spanish. In addition to his role with MCCL, he is a part-time educator with Compass Mark. He has served in various educational settings as a History and Spanish teacher, and most recently worked for Lancaster Mennonite School as a Guidance Counselor, Spanish teacher, and Chapel Coordinator.

Administrative Staff (cont.)



Audrey Livengood, Volunteer Editor and Archivist

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, worked as MCCL staff, and currently serves on the board for The Edible Classroom. She homeschools her four children who are current MCCL singers. She maintains 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.



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.

Donna Reinford, Volunteer Office Assistant

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 and 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*)
- assessing music reading experience

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)
- assessing music reading experience

Singers who audition with little or no previous choral experience may be accepted with the understanding that they will 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 need to re-audition.

General Information

Family Commitments

- Pray for the choir, directors, performances, and audiences.
- Review this Choir Handbook as a family.
- Mark all MCCL events from the Choir Calendar (pgs. 22-25) on your family calendar and commit to attending all events. (See the attendance policy on page 13.)
- Arrive on time at all MCCL events.

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.
- 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 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 and fundraisers.
 - 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 the MCCL website.

Communication

- Please read emails from MCCL 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.

Attendance Guidelines

Clear and open communication is the key to a healthy attendance policy. Our goal is to strike a balance of supporting each singer's growth both within MCCL and in outside activities and commitments while upholding the excellence of the MCCL program. To achieve this, we emphasize the importance of punctuality and consistency in attending rehearsals, retreats, and concerts, while also exercising flexibility when schedule conflicts occur and are communicated promptly and clearly.

Prompt and consistent attendance at rehearsals, retreats, and concerts:

- deepens personal vocal growth (warmups occur within the first ten minutes)

- develops unity in choral sound
- demonstrates a commitment to and respects the time of all singers and staff

The MCCL Policy is as follows:

- Singers are granted one excused absence per semester without a make-up plan. (Note: if more than one is requested, MCCL directors will gladly work with each singer.)
- Singers are expected to attend and be on time for all 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 Request Form](#)."
- Singers are expected to complete weekly practice assignments when they are excused from or are sick for a rehearsal or retreat.
- In case of illness, please notify the director by email as soon as possible.

Excused Absences

Examples of excused absences 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 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 (\$28/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 singers 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*
 - *for singers new to choir and/or music reading, the weekly practice assignments may take longer during the first year of choir participation

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 (\$28/half hour).
- Extenuating circumstances will be considered.

Restorative Practices

MCCL is committed to restorative practices. Restorative practice includes creating a caring and secure environment at all choir events, talking openly about positive and negative experiences, and encouraging singers to reflect on positive and negative behaviors in choir. If behaviors or attitudes are negatively impacting a singer or the whole choir, directors will work with the singer to reflect on behavior, create a plan to change behavior, and as needed, make 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—such as communication, behavior, attendance, practice assignments, and concert preparation—and fails to follow through with a collaborative plan to address the concerns, they will be asked to work through a recommitment process, which includes a structured timeline of making things right. During this process, the singer may be asked to sit out of concerts or other MCCL events. Ultimately, the recommitment process may lead to dismissal from the choir without a refund.

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.
- Shirts must have sleeves and cover the mid-riff.
- Shorts must extend to mid-thigh.
- Dresses or skirts must extend below finger-tip length.
- Leggings are permitted with a top that is mid-thigh in length.
- Undergarments may not be visible.

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 well-being of choir members is vital. MCCL has a policy in place to ensure the safety of students participating in MCCL. It can be viewed on the Member Portal section of the MCCL website.

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 to families.
- Cancellations of concerts will be posted on WDAC, WJTL, MCCL social media pages, and the MCCL website for the public.

Rehearsals

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.

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.
 - This is the 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 in-person 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 put in a tech basket by a staff member or parent volunteer and returned at the end of the 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 the 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 or other device, 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, there are designated bathrooms at Neffsville Mennonite Church for singers and 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 who are not singers and use the family member bathroom, are encouraged to be accompanied by an adult.

Illness

- Please do not come to an MCCL event if you have any of the following symptoms:
 - Fever over 100.4°F 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.
- 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. The presence and/or 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 the tech bin, 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 and clean up trash and crumbs on the floor before the start of concerts.

Formal Concert Attire

Carol and Concert Choir Girls

- MCCL provides blouses and black skirts (both choirs) and rosettes (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.
- Carol Choir 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

- Singers purchase gray shirts (fall), blue shirts (spring), and a bow tie (spring) (approximately \$80).
- Singers provide white undershirts, black dress pants, black socks, black belt, and black dress shoes.
- MCCL provides a tie (fall) that is returned to MCCL at the end of the concert season.
- Hair should be away from eyes so singers can see director.
- Jewelry and watches are limited to stud earrings. Medical bracelets are an exception.

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, copyright laws prohibit making copies of your recordings. If you post a video clip on line, it needs to be less than a minute to follow copyright laws. Thanks for your cooperation. We may at times share 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 \$50 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

Attendance is expected for all singers. MCCL will provide a letter requesting permission for singers to be excused from school that 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.

Summer Tour

Attendance is expected for all singers in grades 6 - 12. 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. Tentative tour plan:

- June 2026: Chamber and Concert choirs to Ohio, Indiana, and Michigan (4 - 5 days)
- June 2027:
 - Chamber Choir – Thailand with Eastern Mennonite Missions (2 – 3 weeks)
 - Concert Choir – Pennsylvania or Maryland (2 -3 days)

Summer tour is a multi-day experience in mid-June for Concert and Chamber choirs focused on serving through singing and learning about the people and places we visit. It promotes a sense of community within the performing choirs, as well as the broader church. Summer tour serves as the culmination of the choir year and includes musical, educational, and social components. The fee for summer tours is not included in tuition. Tour-specific fundraisers may be offered.

Chamber Choir International Tour

MCCL partners with Eastern Mennonite Missions (EMM) for an international choral mission trip every three years. International tours are valuable to the choral team and are intended for singers who 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 are not included in tuition.

Choir Calendar Fall 2025

1. Tuesday evening rehearsals

- August 26 – Carol/Concert *newsingers* & Chamber *all*singers (adjusted times below)
- September 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
- October 7, 14, 21, 28
- November 4, 11, 18, 25
- December 2

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 and Women's Ensemble, and potential select ensemble		

- Retreats, concerts, and other rehearsal date details listed in chart below. Google Calendar can be found at <https://mennonitechilddrenschor.org/mccl-calendar/>.
- Transfer all rehearsals, retreats, concerts, and other dates with times to your family calendar. (Reminder: Use [Excused Absence Request Form](#) to communicate any known or potential conflicts at the beginning of the semester).

2025 Fall Semester							
Day	Date	Time	Location	Activity	Carol	Concert	Chamber
Tues	Aug. 26	First Rehearsal for NEW elementary and middle school singers & ALL high school singers NOTE: Rehearsal times on August 26 are NOT regular rehearsal times.					
		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 attend.	X		
		6:30 – 8:15 p.m.	BHMC	Rehearsal for <i>all</i> Chamber Choir singers			X
		7:15 – 8:15 p.m.	NMC	Rehearsal for singers <i>new</i> 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 attend		X	X
Tues	Sept 2	First rehearsal for ALL singers. Regular rehearsal & location times (see top of page).			X	X	X
		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 attend	X	X	
		8:30 – 9:00 p.m.	BHMC	ALL Parents/Guardians of Chamber Choir attend fall information meeting with Chamber singers. One parent/guardian of each household attend			X
Sat	Sept. 13	8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	NMC	Rehearsal retreat with breakfast One (or more) parent/guardian from each household attend breakfast with singers from 8:00 to 8:45 a.m. Singers wear MCCL t-shirt; formal uniform distribution	X		

Day	Date	Time	Location	Activity	Carol	Concert	Chamber
Sat	Sept. 13	10:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.	Drop off: NMC Pick up: Water's Edge	Fall Rehearsal Retreats All singers wear MCCL t-shirt & bring packed lunch. Formal uniform distribution.			X
		11:00 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.	Drop off: NMC Pick up: Water's Edge	Parents are invited to arrive between 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. to connect with other parents. Food & ice cream are available for purchase at Water's Edge.		X	
Tues.	Sept 23	5 – 6 p.m.	NMC	Pizza Supper with Director (optional) Carol Choir singers in grades 2 and 3 are invited to join Ms. Wingard for a pizza supper before rehearsal.	X (grades 2 & 3)		
Tues.	Sept 30	5 – 6 p.m.	NMC	Pizza Supper with Director (optional) Carol Choir singers in grades 4 and 5 are invited to join Ms. Wingard for a pizza supper before rehearsal.	X (grades 4 & 5)		
Tues.	Oct 14	5:15 – 6:15 p.m.	NMC	Pizza Supper with Director (optional) Concert Choir singers in grades 6 and 7 are invited to join Ms. Wingard for a pizza supper before rehearsal.		X (grades 6 & 7)	
Tues.	Oct 21	5:15 – 6:15 p.m.	NMC	Pizza Supper with Director (optional) Concert Choir singers in grade 8 are invited to join Ms. Wingard for a pizza supper before rehearsal.		X (grade 8)	
			BHMC	Pizza Supper with Director (optional) Chamber Choir singers are invited to join Mrs. Blessing for a pizza supper before rehearsal.			X
Sat	Oct. 25	Evening (TBD)	Nissley Farm	Concert Choir and Chamber Choir Fall Parties (hosted by Nissley and Bly families) Singer attendance is encouraged & optional.		X	X
Sat	Nov. 1 or Nov. 8	9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	NMC	Rehearsal with guest artists for concerts. All singers wear MCCL t-shirt & bring packed lunch		X	X
		10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	NMC	Rehearsal with guest artists for concerts. All singers wear MCCL t-shirt & bring packed lunch	X		
		9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.	NMC	Jar Fundraiser Preparation Day (during rehearsal) Parent and family member participation is strongly encouraged. Please sign up for one or two shifts. Siblings age 10+ may help. All families pick up jars at BHMC before 4:00 p.m.	X	X	X
Fri	Nov. 7	6:00 – 8:30 p.m.	NMC	MCCL Soups, Songs, & Sweets (optional) Alumni, current families, and community members enjoy food and singing together. Attendance for current singers and families is optional.	X	X	X
Tues	Nov. 11	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
Tues	Nov. 25	Carol extend to 7:45 p.m. Concert / Chamber extend to 8:45 p.m.	NMC	Dress rehearsal All singers wear MCCL formal concert attire for dress rehearsal and photos. Chamber Choir rehearses at NMC Concert & Chamber tour deposit & covenant due	X	X	X
Tues	Dec. 2	Carol extend to 7:45 p.m. Concert /Chamber extend to 8:45 p.m.	NMC	Guest Artists join all choirs Chamber Choir rehearses at NMC Jar Fundraiser payment due Music folder collection	X	X	X
Thur.	Dec. 4	5:30 p.m. Report: Cham/Con 5:45 p.m. Report: Carol 7:00 p.m. Performance	NMC	CONCERT Neffsville Mennonite Church Lancaster, PA	X	X	X
Sat	Dec. 6	1:30 p.m. Report: Cham/Con 1:45 p.m. Report: Carol 3:00 p.m. Performance	First United Methodist Church	CONCERT First United Methodist Church Lancaster City, PA	X	X	X

Day	Date	Time	Location	Activity	Carol	Concert	Chamber
Sun	Dec. 7	2:30 p.m. Report: Cham/Con 2:45 p.m. Report: Carol 4:00 p.m. Performance	NMC	CONCERT Neffsville Mennonite Church Lancaster, PA	X	X	X
Sat	Dec 13	TBD (most likely morning or late afternoon)	TBD	Caroling at local retirement community (optional and encouraged) Carol Choir singers and their families are invited to serve together through singing. Cookies and hot chocolate will be available after caroling.	X		

Calendar Spring 2026

1. Tuesday Evening Rehearsals

- January 6, 13, 20, 27
- February 3, 10, 17, 24
- March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
- April 7, 14, 21, 28
- June 2

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		

- Retreats, concerts, and other rehearsal date details listed in chart below. Google Calendar can be found at <https://mennonitechilddrenschoir.org/mccl-calendar/>.
- Transfer all rehearsals, retreats, concerts, and other dates with times to your family calendar.
(Reminder: Use [Excused Absence Request Form](#) to communicate any known or potential conflicts at the beginning of the semester).

2025 Spring Semester							
Day	Date	Time	Location	Activity	Carol	Concert	Chamber
Tues.	Jan 6	First spring rehearsal for ALL singers – regular times & locations (see top of page)			X	X	X
		7:00 – 7:30 p.m.	NMC	New Parent/Guardian Meeting	X	X	X
Tues	Jan 13	Concert & Chamber extended to 8:45 p.m. 6:45 – 7:30 p.m.	NMC	Regular Rehearsal Start Times for all Choirs All singers come in spring formal attire We will take group photos of each choir. Chamber Choir rehearses at NMC. ALL Parents join singers for spring semester info meeting including Concert/Chamber Tour. One parent/guardian of each household should attend.	X	X	X
Sun	Feb 1	1:30 – 6:30 p.m.	NMC	Do-Re-Mi \$ Singing Marathon All singers wear MCCL t-shirt		X	X alto/sop
Tues	Feb. 3	Arrive 15 min early to turn in letters.	NMC	Do-Re-Mi \$ fundraiser envelopes due. Chamber Choir rehearses at NMC.	X	X	X
Sun	Feb. 8	1:30 – 5:00 p.m.	NMC	Do-Re-Mi \$ Singing Marathon	X		
		12:45 – 5:45 p.m.	NMC	All singers wear MCCL t-shirt			X ten/bass
Sun	Feb. 15	TBD	TBD	Do-Re-Mi \$ Singing Marathon Snow make-up	X	X	X
Fri	Feb. 20	6:30 – 8:30 p.m.	NMC	MCCL Family Fun Night Attendance for singers & families is encouraged & optional.	X	X	X
Sun	Feb. 22	1:30 – 6:00 p.m.	BHMC	Chamber Choir Rehearsal Retreat			X
Mon	Mar. 2	7 – 8 p.m.	Lanc COB	Rehearsal with Wheatland Choral		X	X
Sat	Mar. 7	9:45 a.m. – 2:45 p.m. rehearsal 3 p.m. concert	NMC	CONCERT COLLABORATION with Wheatland Chorale Benefit concert to support Scholarship Fund. Lunch provided for singers.		X	X

Day	Date	Time	Location	Activity	Carol	Concert	Chamber
Sun	April 12	9:00 a.m. Report: Chamber 10:30 a.m. Worship Service	Forest Hills Mennonite Church	Worship Service at Forest Hills Mennonite Church Singers will eat lunch together and travel together to Church of the Good Shepherd.			X
		2:30 p.m. Report: Cham/Con 4:00 p.m. Performance	Church of the Good Shepherd	Concert Series – Fine Arts on Greenfield Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Lancaster, PA		X	X
Thurs	April 9	8:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Lancaster	Local Tour Day (Carol Choir)	X		
Fri	April 17	Report time 8:00 a.m.	Lancaster & Harrisburg	Local Tour Day (Concert & Chamber Choir) Singers will travel by bus to MCC Relief Sale & eat supper together.		X	X
		5:30 p.m. Report: Carol 6:30 p.m. Performance	Farm Show Complex	CONCERT w/Weaverland Mennonite Conference Youth Choir at MCC Relief Sale in Harrisburg, PA. Families can purchase food and items to support MCC before 5:30 p.m. and after the performance.	X (optional)	X	X
Sun	April 19	2:30 p.m. Report: Cham/Con 2:45 p.m. Report: Carol 4:00 p.m. Performance	St. Peter's Lutheran Church	CONCERT St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Lancaster Choristers and Prelude Music will participate	X	X	X
Tues	April 21	During regular rehearsal times	NMC/BHMC	Join the Song – Open Rehearsal Open rehearsal for potential singers. Current singers are encouraged to bring friends.	X	X	X
Tues	April 28	5 – 6:30 p.m. Carol rehearses 6:30 – 7:30. Concert/Chamber regular rehearsal times.	NMC	Family Potluck Each family is invited to bring a hot or cold dish to share. 5 – 6:30 p.m. Encouraged and optional. Regular Rehearsals following the potluck. Chamber rehearsal at NMC	X	X	X
Sun	May 3	2:30 p.m. Report: Cham/Con 2:45 p.m. Report: Carol 4:00 p.m. Performance	Neffsville Mennonite Church	CONCERT Neffsville Mennonite Church, Lancaster,	X	X	X
Tues	May 5,12,19,26			No rehearsals in May. Auditions for new singers			
Tues	June 2	Regular Rehearsal Times	NMC	Rehearsal for ALL singers is required. Preparation for June 7 concert Current 5th-grade singers will join Concert and current 8th-grade singers will join Chamber for part of this rehearsal.	X	X	X
		8:30 – 9:15 p.m.	NMC	Concert Choir and Chamber Choir summer tour meeting for parents and singers		X	X
Sun	June 7	5:00 p.m. Report: all choirs 7:00 p.m. Performance	Mt. Gretna	CONCERT at Mt. Gretna Tabernacle ALL singers participate. This is the final concert of the spring concert series.	X	X	X
Tues	June 9	5:15 p.m. Report: Cham/Con 6:030 p.m. Performance	Landis Homes	PRE-TOUR CONCERT for all singers participating in tour.		X	X
Wed – Sun	June 10 - 14	Details in tour handbook		Concert and Chamber Choir Summer Tour		X	X
Tues - Thurs	June 23,24,25	8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.	NMC	Music & More camp (current K – grade 5)	X		
Sun	July 12	6:30 p.m.	Woodcrest Villa	CONCERT (optional, strongly encouraged) Woodcrest Villa, Lancaster, PA Ice cream social following concert	X	X	X

Financial Responsibilities

Registration Fee (non-refundable *per singer*)

Carol, Concert, Chamber auditioned choirs

\$100 for new* or returning singers before July 18, 2025

\$125 for new* or returning singers after July 18, 2025

*New families who audition and receive acceptance letters after July 11 are eligible for the \$100 registration fee if they register within a week of receiving their acceptance letter.

Annual Tuition

Tuition fees provide about a quarter of the MCCL annual budget. Two annual choir fundraisers, donations, business sponsorships, grants, and concert offerings make up the balance.

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 \$60

Concert Choir* Six payments of \$74

Chamber Choir * Six payments of \$83

(Includes Men's and Women's Ensembles and a potential select ensemble)

Additional Child Tuition

Each additional child in Carol, Concert, and/or Chamber Choir pays six payments of \$60.

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

Full Year Tuition (Half Year of Singing)

Tuition is not prorated for a single semester. MCCL's auditioned choirs are designed for full-year participation, as each semester builds upon the last, allowing singers to strengthen their singing and musical skills, as well as form meaningful connections with their peers throughout the whole year. However, MCCL understands that schedules and commitments can sometimes make a full-year commitment difficult. Whether for one semester or the entire year, MCCL values each singer's participation.

Families may wonder why MCCL charges full-year tuition instead of a half-year option. Tuition fees and participation in two annual fundraisers cover about 50% of the actual cost of a singer's participation for the full year. The remaining costs are covered through sponsorships, donations, offerings, and grants. Because tuition is already set at half of what it truly costs to run the program, full-year tuition is due no matter when a singer joins. This ensures MCCL can continue providing high-quality music experiences while keeping the program accessible to as many singers as possible.

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 is committed to providing every young singer the opportunity to participate in MCCL choirs and classes. MCCL works creatively and collaboratively with each family to ensure tuition and fees are met and that no singer is prevented from participating due to finances.

Tuition assistance is available for singers participating for the full year, as well as for families who are new to the MCCL program in January. To apply, families must submit the tuition assistance application and a non-refundable deposit along with choir registration. Priority consideration is given to applications received by the early deadline.

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 15 names or opt-out fee of \$150
 - 2 singers per family 25 names or opt-out fee of \$300
 - 3+ singers per family 30 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, 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 2025-2026 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) and a \$5 fee for lost lanyard.

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 or given online at www.mennonitechildrenschoir.org/donate

Please make checks payable to MCCL/LMS and write MCCL on the memo line. A tax-deductible receipt will be sent for donations of \$50 or more.

Payment Options and Details

Payments include fees for tuition, uniforms, lost uniforms, lost music, fundraisers, tour, and other expenses. Payments may be submitted via check, ACH (electronic bank withdrawal), debit card (with a 3% added fee), or credit card (with a 3% added fee). Cash will not be accepted. For check payments, a paper form is completed and mailed or brought to rehearsal. For ACH, debit card, or credit card payments, an invoice will be emailed with a link to pay. Payment is due within 15 days of invoice date.

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 Managing Director. 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. Go to <https://mennonitechildrenschoir.org/member-portal/registration>
2. You will be required to login. Use the following:
Username: mcclmember
Password: MCCLSING!!2526!!
3. Click on **Singer Registration**.
4. When logged in, complete **Steps 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5**.

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