



Notable News

July 2026
Issue No. 9

SINGING ACROSS GENERATIONS

In addition to our regular rehearsals and concert series, this past year MCCL choir singers participated in workshops to learn how singing with others positively impacts mental health and brain development for all ages. They joined Landis Homes residents for events such as caroling, hymn singing, conversations, and small performances. Also, several high school singers participated with the "Sing for the Moment" choir, a choral group hosted by Lumina by Landis for people experiencing dementia and their care partners.

The partnership "Building Connection Through Music" is made possible through a grant from the Lancaster Legacy Foundation and is designed to strengthen connection across generations while helping children and youth develop skills in communication, empathy, and well-being all through the gift of singing together.

*There's something
sacred that
happens when
generations
sing together!*

-Teffie Landmann,
Landis Homes Staff



To read more MCCL stories, visit:
<https://mennonitechilrenschor.org/mccl-news-blog/>

WHERE DO WE SING?

LOCAL TOUR DAYS

Spring local tour days include serving by sharing music at retirement homes, schools and others spaces. A special opportunity this year included singing at the PA Mennonite Central Committee Relief Sale in Harrisburg!

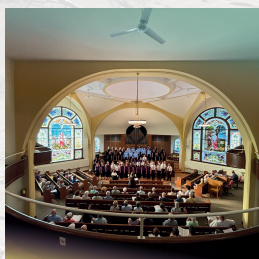


CONCERT COLLABORATION



On March 7, an extraordinary moment unfolded at Neffsville Mennonite Church when MCCL middle and high school singers and the Wheatland Chorale joined together for the first time in an intergenerational concert titled "United in Song." *"I found it very enriching to work with experienced older singers who have more mature voices than us. I hope we get to do it again."* (MCCL singer) While the performance itself was beautiful, a deeper significance lay in the experiences leading up to it: shared rehearsals, conversations over lunch, and meaningful interactions between younger singers and seasoned adult vocalists. These moments of connection shaped a collaboration that resonated far beyond the music.

SUMMER TOUR 2026 – INDIANA, MICHIGAN, OHIO



At the heart of MCCL tour is serving by singing and learning through meaningful interactions with others. Ninety-five singers, chaperones, and staff traveled together and shared music with communities in Elkhart, IN, Bluffton, OH, and Kidron, OH. Singers also experienced a joint choral collaboration with the Notre Dame Children's Choir, learned about and served at an MCC thrift store, visited the Center for Healing and Hope, participated in a masterclass with Bluffton choral conductor, Jonathan Blake Turner, and enjoyed the beauty of Warren Dunes. *"MCCL tour is a melting pot of sorts for meeting new people and making connections, which I absolutely love. Not only that, but being able to do those things with a group of wonderful singers is a special experience."* (MCCL singer) Tour has a profound impact on singers, chaperones, staff, and those who graciously host us. What a gift it is to sing as our mission and to learn from one another!

WHY DO WE SING?

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.



Ryan

Choir has helped me to build friendships both through local tour day and singing together in the concerts, and I have been improving in my sight reading skills.



Delaney

Some ways I've grown by singing in MCCL is by thinking really deeply about the songs and what each one means to me and how it affects me and my connection to God.



Elyce

I learned to blend my voice more and be confident in my voice. It is meaningful to see the reactions of the audience.



Isaiah

I have built friendships through singing and I am a better sight reader using solfège. And, it's special that we brought joy to the people listening to the concerts.



Tristan

Learning new songs has helped me grow more confident in my singing. Choir has helped me stay more focused when I sing.



Lia

MCCL creates this cool world where we can all sing together despite our differences. Outside MCCL, I might have never gotten to connect with or create memories with the people I have this year.

CELEBRATING SINGING SENIORS



Ava Bird 11.5 YEARS IN MCCL

Personal Growth: MCCL has allowed me to grow in my own voice! Through MCCL I was given the opportunity to take voice lessons, sing in small groups, and participate in honor choirs. Through special experiences like these, I was able to grow as an individual musician while also learning how to sing in a choir!

Meaningful Song: An MCCL song that became special to me was a song we performed at the Rosedale Bible College festival when I was a freshman. It was an arrangement of "Be Thou my Vision"; the soprano melody is so beautiful, and the text is so meaningful to me.

Future Plans: Next year I will be attending Millersville University to study Special Education and I will be auditioning for their choirs.



Abigail Weaver 4 YEARS IN MCCL

Favorite Memory: Really meaningful memories for me are the times we were able to stay in host homes over tour. That has always been a highlight for me from MCCL. I'll always remember how kind those families were to us and how willingly they opened their homes to us.

Meaningful Song: A song that has been special to me is "Cry No More" by Dan Forrest. It has been very comforting to me while going through the loss of my grandmother last fall.

Future Plans: I plan to take a gap year while continuing to work. Then I plan to start working towards a degree in Early Childhood Education.



2025-2026 YEAR AT A GLANCE

More than 150 singers in kindergarten through grade 12 participated in MCCL auditioned choirs and non-auditioned classes.



52

congregations



40

schools



15

denominations



11k+

hours of classes, rehearsals, retreats, and at home practice



14+

concerts shared with the community



8

languages sung in our concert series (English, isiZulu, Latin, Spanish, French, German, Shona, Indonesian)

700+



hours volunteered by parents, board, and community members in areas such as:

- music library
- mailings
- chaperones for concerts, local and summer tour
- fundraisers
- snacks
- and SO much more!

Thank you!

13

guest musicians and clinicians who shared musical expertise in concerts and rehearsals



THE MCCL TEAM - BOARD & STAFF

Eleven volunteers serve on the MCCL Advisory Board. Seventeen staff work a total of 4.7 FTE.



Lorri Bentsch



Lyn Carlson



Larry Guengerich



Doug Garrett



Kate Grieser



Ron Guenther



Seth Hake



Olivia Imchen



Kathy Keener-Shantz



Lamar Myers
(emeritus)



Jeff Gemmell
(emeritus)



Back row: Phil Warner, Carrie Warner, Katrina King, Laura Metzler, Tania Rush, Jonathan Shoff. **Middle back row:** Pat Gruber, Kendra Guengerich, Monica Carlson. **Middle front row:** Jeremiah Denlinger, Sarah Wingard, Maria Bowman, Elisa Chodan. **Front row:** Rosemary Blessing, Roxanne Dixon, Janelle Cunalata Zook. **Box:** Maira Myers.

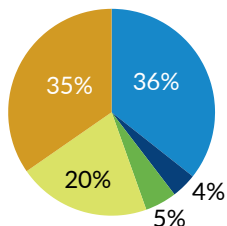
GENEROSITY DEEPENS MISSION

Financials July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026

Budget Plan Income

Donations	\$126,000
Grants	\$15,000
Offerings	\$17,500
Fundraisers	\$75,000
Tuition & Activity Fees	\$130,532

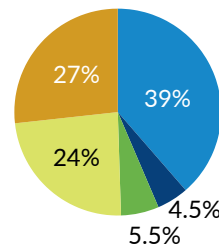
Total: \$364,032



Actual Income

Donations	\$96,190
Grants	\$17,350
Offerings	\$20,002
Fundraisers	\$87,249
Tuition & Activity Fees	\$140,249

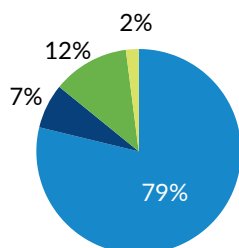
Total: \$361,790



Budget Plan Expense

Music Program	\$305,088
Development/Fundraising	\$28,658
Administrative	\$46,358
Publicity	\$9,144

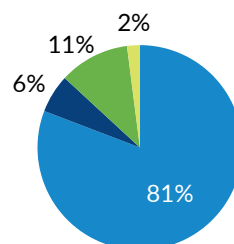
Total: \$389,248



Actual Expense

Music Program	\$305,306
Development/Fundraising	\$24,549
Administrative	\$42,659
Publicity	\$6,808

Total: \$379,321



A humbling surprise: although we planned a budget deficit due to necessary staff growth to meet the needs of our singers, the incredible generosity of our community this June reduced that gap more than we imagined. **Thank you!**

The kindness of the MCCL community is opening doors for young singers to experience music education, faith formation, and personal skill development. Gifts of time, prayer, and financial support don't just sustain these opportunities, they help each singer grow in confidence, character, and musical excellence. Together, this shared generosity creates a vibrant environment where MCCL's mission continues to thrive.

As we look toward the future, **we invite you to consider deepening your partnership with and connection to MCCL through joining *Sustained Notes***, a giving initiative that strengthens today's choral education, performance, and service programs while securing MCCL's long-term stability. Each annual commitment directly supports singers, empowers staff, and builds a foundation that allows MCCL to flourish for generations.

Would you join us in this next "musical measure" of MCCL? Your participation will bless each young singer today and transform lives for years to come.



Maria Bowman

Maria Bowman
Managing Director



Douglas Garrett

Douglas Garrett
Advisory Board Treasurer



Scan this QR code
to learn more
about *Sustained Notes*.

PARTNERSHIPS TRANSFORM LIVES

Each year, generous partnerships from local businesses help MCCL nurture young voices and foster the impact of community choral music. **These partnerships are more than contributions.** They're investments in the growth, creativity, and faith formation of every singer.



Sobota Leasing, LLC



To become an annual business partner, visit: <https://mennonitechilrenschoir.org/about/sponsors/>



PO Box 5146
Lancaster, PA 17606

mccl@lancastermennonite.org

717-455-7025

www.mennonitechildrenschoir.org

... training children and youth to glorify Jesus Christ through excellent choral singing. We honor and celebrate music as a gift from God by creating exceptional choral music, fostering community, and nurturing character.



Parents: if this is addressed to your child who has established a new address, please send updated address to mccl@lancastermennonite.org. Thank you!

Ready to try something new?

Learn music skills!

Sing with peers!

Deepen faith!

Inspire and serve others through singing!



Join MCCL!

Registration for 2026-2027 choirs & classes is open.
Choirs begin August 25. Classes begin October 6.

Learn more:

