

Parent Student Manual

September 2011



Mailing Address

P.O. Box 2518
Walnut Creek, CA 94595-0518

Main Rehearsal Site

1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette, CA 94549
Our Savior's Lutheran Church

San Ramon Chorus

Dougherty Station Community Center
17011 Bollinger Canyon Rd
San Ramon, CA 94582

E-mail: frontdesk@childrencorus.org

Website: www.childrencorus.org

EIN: 68-0065565

Staff Available During Rehearsal Times Only:

Tuesday (4-7pm) • Wednesday (4-6pm)

HOTLINE: (925)322-3316 During Rehearsal Hours Only

Contact Information for CCCC Staff:

Chorus Voice Mail: (925) 945-7101

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

General Information	Mission Statement & Chorus History	3
Our Music Program	California Academic Content Standards	3
	Music Program	4
	Theory Curriculum & Sight-singing	4
	About Our Music Directors	5
For Our Choristers	Attendance / Scheduled Conflicts	7
	Evaluations	7
	Basic Rules of Behavior	8
	Nutrition & Health Concerns	9
	Safety First	9
	Uniforms / Satin Pants Care	10
	Performance Appearance	11
	Concerts & Performances	12
	Touring	12
	Summer Music Institute (SMI)	13
	Theatre Arts For Kids™	13
	Workshops	13
Financials & Policies	Parent Student Contract	14
	Financial Obligation – Lafayette	14
	Financial Obligation – San Ramon	14
	Refund Policy & Drop/Resignation	15
	Recruitment Incentive	15
	Scholarships	15
	Concert Tickets	15
	Advertising in Concert Programs	16
	Chorus Development / Donations	16
Additional Support	Parent Orientation Meetings	17
	Volunteers / Liaisons	17
	Communications	17
Miscellaneous	Waiver of Liability	18
	FAQ	19
	Why We Teach Music	20
	Seven Important Skills	21
	Awards & Accomplishments	22
	Rules of Audience Etiquette	23
	Quotes	24

♪ MISSION STATEMENT

Contra Costa Children's Chorus is devoted to developing choral excellence through education, instilling values of self-discipline and commitment, while inspiring the artist within each child through the power of music.

♪ CHORUS HISTORY

Since 1984, **Contra Costa Children's Chorus (CCCC)** has been providing choral music education to children in Contra Costa County. CCCC is a non-profit 501(c)(3) community-based arts organization and educational program for children, seeking to develop musical competence through the teaching of music history and theory in addition to singing by sight and ear. Performance skills for each musician are honed through concerts, tours and other activities such as workshops and guest clinicians. Care is taken to maintain the health of the young voice as students attend weekly rehearsals to practice and perform masterpieces from a wide variety of choral repertoire. The Chorus' excellence in choral music training has earned it numerous awards and guest performance invitations. The chorus as a musical resource enriches the cultural life of its members, their families, and the community. CCCC is recognized as a model organization and resource to other choirs and arts organizations.

The chorus was co-founded by Iris Lamanna and Sandy Warner in 1984 in response to the demise of choral music in the local schools, and to fill the need for a classically based music education and performance program, with a disciplined but joyful environment and high artistic standards. The chorus began with 15 students and has grown to include: four levels of mixed choruses, an Honors Ensemble, a Summer Music Institute, summer musical theatre program, and participates in national and international touring. In January 2007, in collaboration with the San Ramon Parks & Recreation Department, CCCC expanded to include a chorus located in the Dougherty Valley area of San Ramon.

Our touring students have performed in some of the most prestigious venues around the world, including Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, Canterbury Cathedral, La Madeleine in Paris, St. Vitus Cathedral and the Smetana Concert Hall in Prague, and the Vatican. They have sung live over the Hungarian National Radio, which was broadcast throughout Eastern Europe. They were selected to sing at the opening ceremonies for the one-year countdown to the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing, China. Numerous tours and festivals have taken the Advanced Performing Chorus to Denmark, Italy, Hungary, Czech Republic, Austria, England, France, Australia, China and Greece.

♪ CALIFORNIA ACADEMIC CONTENT STANDARDS

Contra Costa Children's Chorus provides an excellent music education. The benefit you receive meets or exceeds The California Academic Content Standards. You may review these Standards on the web at: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/be/st/ss/mumain.asp> These Standards & Frameworks were designed to encourage the highest achievement of every student in California, by defining the knowledge, concepts, and skills that students should acquire at each grade level. There are academic content standards for the Visual & Performing Arts for kindergarten through grade twelve, as adopted by the California State Board of Education. The Frameworks are blueprints for implementing the content standards and were developed by the Curriculum Development and Supplemental Materials Commission

🎵 MUSIC PROGRAM

- ✓ **Repertoire:** A wide variety of high caliber choral repertoire from all musical periods and styles.
- ✓ **Musicianship:** Written and aural theory skills, Solfege method, sight-singing.
- ✓ **Vocal technique:** Development of healthy vocal habits, including good posture, breathing, and freedom of resonance. Foreign language skills at all levels.
- ✓ **Instruments:** The program includes the use of Orff rhythm instruments, drums and other percussion instruments, which enhance the music and improve rhythmic abilities.
- ✓ **Choreography:** Development of body movement, flexibility and rhythm for overall expressiveness.
- ✓ **Performance Skills:** Stage presence, discipline, self-confidence, and theatre etiquette.

🎵 CCCC THEORY CURRICULUM & SIGHTSINGING

LEVEL 1

- Learn all solfege hand signs
- Learn to sing major scales with solfege hand signs in keys C, F & G major
- Learn to hear, sing intervals using solfege intervals
- Learn all Solfege Rhythm and Melody cards, singing on solfege, names of notes, counting as they sing
- Learn interval ear training and rhythms

LEVEL 2

To be considered for promotion to Level 3, a Level 2 student should possess these skills:

- Master more difficult Rhythm and Melody cards – singing names of notes, counting and singing, with solfege hand signs
- Sing all Major scales on solfege syllables, and note names
- Know all Major Key Signatures
- Kodály Method Exercises 1 – 100, counting, solfege, and note names at an allegro speed by the end of the year.

LEVEL 3

To be considered for promotion to Level 4, a Level 3 student should possess these skills:

- Master all major and (harmonic) minor scales, singing names of notes, solfege hand signs
- Know all Major and Minor key signatures
- Kodály Method Exercises 100-200
- Sight reading of 3-part scores
- Distinguish between major and minor triads

LEVEL 4

Level 4 students are working on mastering the following skills:

- Kodály Method – Advanced Skills
- The ability to sing chromatic scales
- Recognize dissonant intervals & harmonies
- Advanced sight-reading
- Understand all musical symbols
- Count simple and compound rhythms
- Sing in various languages

HONORS ENSEMBLE

For Level 4 students to be considered for the Honors Ensemble, they must possess the skills listed below, which they are prepared for in Level 4/Advanced Performing Chorus:

- Advanced musicianship skills
- Advanced vocal skills
- Exemplary Attendance
- Commitment to singing difficult repertoire in multiple parts.
- Ability to sing against other parts and with excellent intonation.
- Practice 30 minutes daily and be prepared to take a singing test on repertoire.

🎵 ABOUT THE DIRECTORS

MARTÍN BENVENUTO, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

LEVEL 3, LEVEL 4 (ADVANCED PERFORMING CHORUS), & LEVEL 5 (HONORS ENSEMBLE)

Martín Benvenuto has established himself as one of the leading choir conductors in the San Francisco Bay Area. A native of Buenos Aires, Argentina, he has been active as a clinician, panelist, and guest conductor, and currently serves as Artistic Director for WomenSing (WS) and Peninsula Women's Chorus (PWC). His work with children's choruses include choirs in Argentina, Piedmont East Bay Children's Choir for eight years, and before that he conducted CCCC's Honors, Boys and Level 2 Choruses.

Recognized for his exacting technique, compelling presence, and a passion for drawing the finest choral tone, Benvenuto's repertoire is extensive, including great landmarks of the treble repertoire as well as works by living composers.

His choirs are dedicated to commissioning new works from leading composers such as Libby Larsen, Chen Yi, Stacy Garrop, Charles Griffin, Cristián Grases, Brian Holmes, and David Conte.

His choirs have earned high marks in international competitions in Argentina, South Africa, Canada, Hungary, and Spain. Of particular note are the Third Prize awarded to the PWC at the 2006 Béla Bartók International Choir Competition, one of the most competitive and prestigious in the European circuit, and the 2010 Chorus America/ASCAP Alice Parker award, which recognized WS for programming recently-composed music that expanded the mission of the chorus and challenged the chorus's audience in new ways. Benvenuto highly values artistic collaborations: his choirs have collaborated with Veljo Tormis, Joseph Jennings, Karmina Silec, Charles Bruffy, California Shakespeare Theater, the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus, and the Golden Gate Men's Chorus.

Benvenuto has prepared choirs for organizations such as the San Francisco Opera, the Oakland East Bay Symphony, the Redwood Symphony, and the Kronos Quartet, and for works such as Bach's *St Matthew Passion*, Monteverdi's *Vespers*, Britten's *St. Nicholas*, Mahler's *Third Symphony*, Holst's *The Planets*, Stravinsky's *Mass*, and Orff's *Carmina Burana*.

An accomplished singer as well, Benvenuto has appeared as a tenor soloist in Haydn's *Lord Nelson Mass*, Vivaldi's *Magnificat*, Mozart's *Requiem*, Bach's *Cantata BWV 61*, Beethoven's *Mass in C*, Ramirez's *Misa Criolla*, and others. As a member of the Westminster Symphonic Choir, he sang with the New York Philharmonic, Philadelphia Orchestra and Los Angeles Philharmonic under the batons of Kurt Masur, Wolfgang Sawallisch, Helmuth Rilling, Esa-Pekka Salonen and Joseph Flummerfelt.

Benvenuto holds a D.M.A. in choral conducting from Boston University, where he studied with Ann Howard Jones and the late Robert Shaw. He earned his master's degree from Westminster Choir College, majoring both in Choral Conducting and Voice Performance and Pedagogy, studying under Joseph Flummerfelt, Elem Eley and Julia Kemp. His undergraduate degrees in choral conducting and composition are from the Universidad Católica Argentina.

LARYSSA SADOWAY, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

LEVELS 1, 2 AND SAN RAMON

Laryssa Sadoway's passion for music began at a young age growing up in Massachusetts. She began her training at the University of Massachusetts, and received her Bachelor of Arts in Voice at North Park University in Chicago. In 2008 she received a Master of Music in Vocal Performance at San Francisco Conservatory of Music, where she studied with Catherine Cook. In 2011 Ms. Sadoway became a California credentialed teacher of Music K-12.

Ms. Sadoway has assisted with the distinguished choral music programs at Mount Eden High School in Hayward and Canyon Middle School in Castro Valley. In 2010, she worked as after-school music coach at Horace Mann Middle School in San Francisco. Ms. Sadoway assisted with the *Allegro* and *Vivace* children's choirs at the Community Music School in Springfield, Massachusetts. For several years she led the Ukrainian Orthodox League's National Youth Choir.

An active performer, Ms. Sadoway has sung roles and concerts with a number of Bay Area organizations – Berkeley Opera, Concerts at the Presidio, San Francisco Cabaret Opera, and Bay Area Summer Opera Theatre. She also works as featured soloist and assistant director with Saint Mary Magdalene Church in Berkeley.

Ms. Sadoway maintains an active voice studio, working with students of all ages and abilities to help them realize the joy and power of music and singing in their lives, whether in the style of *bel canto*, musical theatre, jazz, or pop. Ms. Sadoway resides in Berkeley with her husband, Chris, and dog, Suzy.

JULIE FISCHER, APPRENTICE DIRECTOR

LEVELS 1, 2 AND SAN RAMON

Julia Fischer is the apprentice director for Levels 1 and 2 and for the San Ramon Chorus. Julie has more than 16 years of choral experience. Her talented musicianship has resulted in recognition with choral student awards for exemplary leadership and performance. She sang with the Contra Costa Children's Chorus for 11 years, including four years with honors ensemble. She has served as the soprano section leader for both the University and Chamber Choirs at the Bob Cole Conservatory of Music at California State University, Long Beach. Over the course of her college career she had the honor of conducting CSULB choirs for selected pieces at performances in the United States and in Germany.

Julie has frequently been a featured Soprano soloist in choral settings. Most notable featured performances include Mozart's Coronation Mass (2009) and onstage ensemble member (Lucia) in Eric Whitacre's *Paradise Lost* in Los Angeles' Disney Hall (2011). Julie has been active in musical theater, beginning with East Bay youth programs. Recent shows include: *Into the Woods* (Rapunzel), *Assassins* (Ensemble), and *Nine* (Featured Ensemble). She has also sung with The Music Companie, a professional caroling company based out of Los Angeles.

Julie holds a BM in Choral/Vocal Music Education and a BM in Vocal Performance 2011 from the Bob Cole Conservatory of Music at California State University, Long Beach. She has studied choral conducting under Dr. Jonathan Talberg and voice under Tim MacDougall, Elisabeth Pelhivianian and Michael Sokol.

♪ CHORUS ATTENDANCE

The chorus year begins in September and ends in May/June. Being a member of Contra Costa Children's Chorus shows your commitment to faithful, consistent, and punctual attendance. It is expected that rehearsals take a very high priority in each chorister's life, as each member is holding a valuable place in his/her chorus level.

For that reason, all rehearsals, scheduled performances, tech rehearsals and concerts are mandatory unless otherwise indicated on the chorus calendar. An absence from Tech rehearsals, for any reason, may result in a chorister not singing at the corresponding concert. For choristers signed up for tours, all tour rehearsals are mandatory.

Occasionally, we schedule performances with very little advance notice. It is understood that some choristers may not be able to attend due to prior scheduling conflicts, but they should contact CCCC as soon as possible to discuss the matter. Each conflict is handled individually.

Attendance is recorded at each rehearsal and performance to help monitor student's progress. Attendance and commitment are taken into consideration when choristers are evaluated in May (Lafayette Choruses only).

For Regular Absences: email frontdesk@childrenschorus.org.

For Long-range conflicts: email frontdesk@childrenschorus.org or complete a **Leave of Absence Form** and turn in to office staff. These will be forwarded to your director. The director may contact you if there is a problem.

♪ SCHEDULED CONFLICTS

Every effort is made to accommodate unavoidable conflicts. A **written** schedule of any such conflicts (i.e. sports, drama, school, church, etc) must be submitted as far in advance as possible to the office and to your Music Director. Often a solution can be worked out if given enough advance notice.

♪ EVALUATIONS (LAFAYETTE CHORUSES ONLY)

In May of every year, each chorister in all levels is evaluated. For Levels 1, 2 and 3 the evaluation is for advancement to the next level. For Level 4 the evaluation is to be able to remain in Level 4. Advancement is based on theory and musical skills accomplishments. Commitment to attendance at rehearsals and performances is of great importance. Students progress at their own rate. Students are not promoted until vocal techniques and music reading skills meet the criteria standard for their present level. No student is evaluated if music is missing.

🎵 BASIC RULES OF BEHAVIOR

Proper behavior is imperative for all students to benefit from the program. This policy applies to rehearsals and before, during and after performances, Summer Music Institute and all tours. Parents will be notified of inappropriate behavior with a phone call or may be asked to have a conference with the director. If behavior problem persists, the student will be dismissed.

This policy is designed to create a productive atmosphere at rehearsals and performances and to allow the students who enjoy singing and learning to have the director's full attention, in a safe environment.

At Rehearsals:

All weekly rehearsals are held at their regular rehearsal site unless otherwise noted. Mass rehearsals are held twice a semester for the Lafayette campus only. Dates TBA. Tech rehearsals for winter and spring concerts are usually held at the venue where the performance takes place. Read calendar updates on Website.

Requirements for Rehearsal:

- Bring Music Folder with Music, Water bottle, Pencil.
- Be on time, if not a few minutes early. Rehearsals start on time! It is not okay to be late to rehearsal!
- Use restroom prior to beginning of rehearsal.
- Dress Code – All choristers wear their Red Chorus T-shirt to all rehearsals. (L4 wears Red CCCC Polo).
- Appropriate clothing is required.
- At all times, show respect for each other, parent volunteers, directors and staff.
- Show respect for the facility and equipment.
- Do not touch anything that does not belong to you.
- Any singer caught with alcohol, drugs, drug paraphernalia, or any type of weapon (including pocket knives) will be dismissed from the program.
- All electronic devices such as cell phones, iPods, or any other electronic devices are to be turned off and put in backpacks when at the rehearsal site. There are no exceptions! Use of any of these devices, including for text messaging, is strictly forbidden, and the devices will be confiscated!
- In the event that a parent needs to reach their child during rehearsals, they should call the CCCC hotline.

At Performances:

- All of the above apply.

At Tours and Summer Music Institute (SMI):

- All of the above apply.
- A list of rules pertinent to tour or SMI will be included in their respective informational packets.

♪ NUTRITION/HEALTH CONCERNS

Hours are spent preparing choristers to sing. Be sure to give your child's body the proper fuel it needs to meet these demands. If you desire to excel in performing, it takes more than just putting in your rehearsal time. In the car on the way to rehearsal and/or performances, have water, juice, raisins, granola bars, carrot sticks, fruit rollups, dried fruit etc. as a quick snack. Choristers output 100% of their energy while singing.

It can be just as taxing as participating in physical sports.

Everyone can perform well at home and at school with proper rest and diet. If you follow the guidelines listed below you will have taken the first step toward being an *elite performer!*

1. Start your day off right with a nutritional breakfast.
2. Keep in mind that germs can be spread on surfaces in your home and car. Keep your hands clean and away from your face. Choristers stand very close to one another on the risers. It is important that each child has: brushed teeth, washed hair, showered and used deodorant. Please do not use perfumes, as many people in the chorus and the audience are allergic to them.
4. Due to the number of choristers with **peanut and tree nut allergies, some life-threatening**, we ask that **no one bring to chorus any food item containing any nuts.** Check package contents if you are unsure.
5. If your child is running a fever, or is contagious, please allow them to stay home. We need to protect all other choristers as much as possible. However, if your chorister is not contagious, please have them come – they can sit on a chair to the side, if need be. Learning can take place even if they are not able to sing or stand on the risers.

♪ SAFETY FIRST

Arrivals and departures: Make arrangements to drop off and pick up your children promptly from rehearsals and performances. Please contact us immediately if a situation arises which causes you to be late. CCCC is not responsible for childcare; however no child will ever be left alone at a rehearsal or performance.

A fee will be charged if tardiness in picking-up becomes a problem.

DROP OFF & PICK UP OF CHORISTERS

Lafayette – Levels 1 and 2: Drop off & pick up from the upper parking lot (1st entrance).

Lafayette – Levels 3: Drop off from upper parking lot (1st entrance). Take walkway to lower level multi-use room. You may pick up from lower parking lot (2nd entrance).

Lafayette – Level 4 & Honors: If you arrive after 4pm, you may use the lower parking lot (2nd entrance) to drop off and pick up.

San Ramon: We encourage parents to drop off and pick up at the scheduled times. Only leave your child if your music director, office staff or the liaison is present.

🎵 UNIFORMS

We take pride in our professional appearance! All choristers wear uniforms for performances. All Levels are required to have all the components of their Formal Uniform and the Red T-Shirt (L4 - Red CCCC Polo). Singers who do not wear their complete uniform to a performance, or whose appearance is not in compliance with the rules, may not be allowed to participate in that performance. **Please make sure that your chorister is wearing his/her complete uniform before arriving at all performances.**

<u>REQUIRED</u>	UNIFORMS FOR ALL LEVELS () <i>See notations below</i>	APPROX. COSTS
<i>Formal Uniform: Boys & Girls in San Ramon Chorus & L1,L2,L3</i>		
	Black Satin Pants (1)	\$22-\$24
	Red Sequin Cumberbund (1)	\$5
	White Wing-tip Tuxedo Shirt, white buttons only (2)	\$18
	Black Bowtie (Boy's-sized) (2)	\$5
	Black socks, Knee-highs, Nylons (3)	~\$3
	Black Dress Shoes (Closed-toed, No Sandals) (3)	~\$20
<i>Formal Uniform: Level 4</i>		
	(Girls) Long Red Gown, hemmed, w/silver pin (1)	\$60
	(Girls) Black Character Shoes (3)	\$40
	(Girls) Beige/nude Nylons or Knee-highs (3)	\$3
	(Boys) Black Tuxedo Pants, Red Vest (1)	\$30
	(Boys) White Wing-tip Tuxedo Shirt, white buttons only	\$20
	(Boys) Black Bowtie (Boy's-sized) (2)	\$5
	(Boys) Black Dress Shoes & Black Socks (3)	~\$25
<i>Informal Uniform: ALL Choristers:</i>		
	Red chorus T-shirt (1)	\$12
	Red Polo Shirt – Level 4 only (1)	\$30
	Blue jeans (3)	~\$20
	Blue jean shorts (3)	~\$20
	White Tennis-type shoes (3)	~\$20
	White socks (3)	~\$5

(1) Buy from CCCC

(2) Buy from Selix Formal Wear

(3) You buy for yourself.

Selix Formal Wear

951 Contra Costa Blvd, Pleasant Hill, 798-2214

(Ask for Stephanie, mgr)

Mention "CCCC" for a sizeable discount on Shirt & BowTie

OPTIONAL

	MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS FOR PURCHASE	APPROX. COSTS
	Red Canvas CCCC Bag	\$10.00
	Grey Sweatshirt	\$30.00
REPLACEMENT ITEMS		
	Level 4 /Honors – Sequined Pin for Dresses	\$10.00
	Red Music Folder	\$2.00

♪ UNIFORM SIZING / UNIFORM CHECKS

At the beginning of every semester choristers have the opportunity to try on sample satin uniform pants so that the correct size can be ordered for them. These days are called “uniform sizing” days. Once everyone should have their full uniform we have a “uniform check” day. This is when choristers come to rehearsal in full uniform and are checked to make sure they have all the pieces to the uniform, and that the pieces fit well.

Once you have all the uniform pieces, we suggest you keep them together in an inexpensive garment bag ready to be used when performances begin. Include hair products, etc.

♪ SATIN UNIFORM PANTS CARE INSTRUCTIONS

Hemming:

You will need to hem your new uniform pants, as you are the best judge of your growing chorister’s size. Please have your child wear their dress shoes when determining the appropriate length. All pants include a generous amount of fabric to turn under for gains in height. Please hem the pants by tacking with black thread only. Tacking (by sewing in the shape of a tiny X) in four places on each pant leg is the best (and easiest) way to hem these pants. **Please do not hem all of the way around the leg as it leaves a very visible hem line.**



Laundering:

DO NOT WASH these pants. They are made of black bridal satin and will turn purple if they come into contact with water or steam. Dry cleaning is strongly recommended.

To press the pants, please use a pressing cloth. For small spot cleaning, please use a SLIGHTLY damp cloth. You should be able to make it through a performing season without dry cleaning if the pants are treated well.

CUMMERBUNDS:

Please attach your cummerbund to the waistband of your pants. Again, tack (sew an X) in at least 4 places on the waist. This ensures that the cummerbund will not slip up during the performance, or disappear between performances!

♪ PERFORMANCE APPEARANCE

Singers wear uniforms to all performances, as specified by the director. Your appearance should not be distracting in any way from the professional look of the entire chorus. Please contribute to the overall appearance of the group by following these guidelines:

- Uniform should be clean and pressed, and be in good repair.
- Hair should be clean, off your face and off the back of your neck! French braids are encouraged. Any headbands or barrettes must be black and barely noticeable.
- Yes – on deodorant; no – on perfume (the scent can become overwhelming when standing close together in a group, and many choristers are allergic to them.)
- Rings, watches, and stud earrings are the only jewelry permitted, and should be kept to a minimum. No dangles or large earrings.
- Makeup – lipstick and blush – only.

♪ CCCC CHORAL CONCERTS & PERFORMANCES

Performing is the “end product” achieved by the chorister. During the fall semester, the students learn quickly. After only three short months of rehearsal, they are ready for their reward of performing. It is important that each chorister completes his/her series of rehearsals each semester and experiences the joy and rewards of performing.

In December, we produce our Winter Concert and in May our Spring Concert, both of which are open to the public and are our major performances of the year, as well as a major source of income. Parents are expected and encouraged to attend both the Winter and Spring Concerts, and bring along family and friends.

Other performances scheduled locally can be any day of the week. We aim to keep performances during the school day at a minimum of no more than 1-2 per semester. We perform for corporations, other non-profit organizations, schools, retirement centers, churches, and special community events. It is a good idea to purchase a map of the county or use the Internet for maps and directions. **The calendar on the website has the address and map of the venue and the time for drop-off and pick-up.**

For public performances, like tree lightings, parades, etc, parents are encouraged to attend. For private functions, only the choristers and their liaisons attend. Parents are asked to drop off and pick up at the posted times. If parents are allowed to attend these private functions, we will let you know. As always, the paying audience gets seated first, and CCCC parents remain in the background. Any refreshments are usually for the paying audience, and may be for the choristers, not for the parents. Please be respectful. *(Please refer to “Rules of Audience Etiquette” for additional information.)*

We make every effort to get information about performances to you as soon as we are contracted. They may be added at any time. We ask that you be flexible during the performance seasons, as many times there are changes that are beyond our control.

♪ SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES (MINI-TOURS)

Since we are trying to outreach to other children through music and music education, we may perform at some school assemblies during the year. Every effort is made to schedule these performances so the chorister loses a minimum of school time. Many schools recognize this as independent study. There is a permission slip and a cover letter explaining our organization available online. Give these to your school when applicable.

♪ TOURING

Touring is a natural extension of our program, and offers great musical, cultural and social opportunities to our choristers.

Level 4 usually takes a domestic or international tour of 7-10 days. We are often invited to participate under the direction of well-known clinicians at organized festivals. Tours create unity within the chorus, allow the choristers to work with world-renowned conductors of children’s choruses, perform in prestigious venues, and master challenging repertoire. These tours are also a great learning tool. Choristers will see sights and places they have studied about and experience different cultures first hand. **These tours always involve extra mandatory rehearsals.**

Level 3 may take a domestic tour, generally to a festival with a well-known clinician. **These tours always involve extra mandatory rehearsals.**

♪ SUMMER MUSIC INSTITUTE (SMI)

(If you are in Level 3, please read this section! Note the approximate dates of SMI before planning your next summer's vacation in the event your child may be promoted to Level 4.)

Summer Music Institute is usually held for 4-9 days at the end of July/first week of August of every year. It is a mandatory activity for all Level 4 choristers. SMI is an essential part of the Level 4 season.

We focus on learning the repertoire for the upcoming choral year. The hours spent at SMI learning a major part of this music comprises as many or more hours than that of the chorus year. Choristers learn the expression, dynamics and nuances of each song that the director imparts.

The curriculum includes: music theory, vocal technique instruction, rhythm training through choreography, movement classes, African Drumming and Steel Pan Drumming workshops. Depending on the year, choristers may work with well-renowned guest clinicians and composers. SMI is an intense community-building experience, as well. SMI is a social bonding time, creating a "musical team" which is as important as learning the music. Members look forward to evening camp fires, movie night, talent shows, and drumming concerts.

All current and incoming Level 4 choristers must have their SMI Fee paid in full by July 15 of each year. There will be no exceptions to this policy. There are no refunds as each chorister is responsible for his/her equal share of SMI costs.

A more detailed description of SMI will be available to all Level 3 and Level 4 choristers in May. Level 3 choristers should seriously evaluate the added requirements of Level 4 membership before they agree to join.

♪ THEATRE ARTS FOR KIDS™

A musical theatre program for ages 7-14, held each summer. Sessions are generally three weeks long, and include staging techniques, acting, stage combat, vocal technique, musicianship, and technical theatre. Each session culminates with a final production in a local theatre. While the final production is amazing, considering the brief length of each session, the real value of the program is not the final production, but the process that it takes to get there. The program allows the children to be themselves and feel good about what they do, while learning to work with others. They develop friendships of diverse ages, have fun, work hard, and overcome obstacles in a supportive setting. Staff and students work together in a professional environment to bring out the best in each other, and in themselves!

♪ WORKSHOPS

Our reputation attracts talented clinicians & composers to CCCC. Periodically these renowned musicians are available to teach workshops that supplement our chorister's music education. These high quality workshops are always a rewarding and interesting experience for those who participate. Your chorister will not want to miss any of them. There may be a nominal charge to cover the costs of the clinician, etc.

🎵 CCCC PARENT STUDENT CONTRACT

To participate in Contra Costa Children's Chorus, each chorister and parent/guardian must initial and sign the Parent Student Contract. This ensures that all parties understand and accept the participation, behavioral, financial, and legal policies and guidelines set forth.

🎵 FINANCIAL OBLIGATION (*LAFAYETTE CAMPUS ONLY*)

Enrollment in CCCC is for the entire season, which begins in September and concludes with the final concerts in May/June. Each chorister is expected to remain active and committed to the program **for the entire season**.

Financial obligations include the Registration Fee/Intent to Return Fee, tuition and uniforms.

Registration & Intent to Return Fees. Fee is charged "per family" (L1, L2, L3 chorus levels). If more than one chorister is in your family, there is still only one fee. Both fees are non-refundable and do not apply toward tuition. New choristers pay the registration fee to enroll in CCCC. (includes a red Chorus T-Shirt). Each Spring, returning choristers turn in their Intent to Return Form along with the annual Registration Fee. All L4 choristers: Your SMI deposit is confirmation of your Intent to Return. (A **Late Fee** is charged if the Intent to Return Fee is received after the due date, usually June 15th.)

Payment by cash, check, money order. Make your check payable to "CCCC." You may pay in person on your weekly rehearsal day, or mail in your payment to CCCC, PO Box 2518, Walnut Creek, CA 94595-0518. All payments should include chorister's name, chorus level, and reason for payment (tuition, tour, uniform, etc). Any checks returned by our bank will be subject to a **Returned Check Charge, per check**, billable to your account.

Payment by VISA or MasterCard. *We are no longer using "automated payments." Your card number will no longer be kept on file with CCCC. We will swipe your card and the transaction will be immediately recorded. This means you must bring in your card every time you need to make a payment. For monthly tuition payments, on or before the 15th of each month you will bring in your card to make your payment. Please note: A 3% processing fee is added to all credit card transactions.*

Account Status – Your chorus account must be current before enrolling in optional programs, i.e. tours, Theatre Arts, etc. Whenever there is a balance due for tuition, any payment made will be applied first to tuition, then to any optional program. *It is your responsibility to be sure all payments are received on or before their due dates. Please contact the Finance Manager if you need to make alternative payment arrangements. If your account is in arrears you may be informed by the Finance Manager that your chorister(s) may not attend rehearsals or any scheduled chorus events. If your account continues with non-payment your chorister(s) will be dismissed from chorus.*

• **Music Loss/Damage Charge.** Music is issued to each chorister on a "loan basis" and remains the property of CCCC. Folder and music are returned to CCCC in December, and the folder will be reissued in January with the next semester's music. The folder and music must be returned in May, at the end of the chorus year. We keep all the music we purchase in our library. Each copy must be in good repair to be reused. If it is tattered, or otherwise destroyed, it must be replaced. **If music is damaged, lost or stolen a fee will be charged to the chorister responsible.** The fee is different for each level as the cost of each piece of music varies. Remember, music is to be used, not abused!

🎵 FINANCIAL OBLIGATION (*SAN RAMON CAMPUS ONLY*)

The San Ramon Chorus currently meets at the Dougherty Station Community Center, in the Front Row Theatre. To attend this chorus you must sign up with the Parks and Recreation Department in person or online at: sanramon.ca.gov, recreation guide. They handle all financial transactions (registration fees, tuition).

* A Lab Fee is charged all new students. This fee covers the formal uniform and red chorus T-shirt.

♪ REFUND POLICY & DROP/RESIGNATION

Because every chorister is expected to live up to his or her commitment for the entire season, CCCC has a very limited Refund Policy.

A **\$100 non-refundable Administrative Fee** will be deducted from your tuition, and cannot be included in any refund. After that, the Refund Policy is:

- **50% Refund** – if CCCC is notified within 6 weeks of chorister's 1st rehearsal day (per semester)
- **0% Refund** – if CCCC is notified after 6 weeks of chorister's 1st rehearsal day (per semester)

If a chorister must drop out of chorus anytime during the performance year, they, and their parents, must **fill out and submit a Drop Form to the office**. The chorister's family should confirm that the drop has been recorded in the CCCC records. A simple email message to the Finance Manager is sufficient. Any Refund amounts are based on the date that the drop form has been received by CCCC.

Even if a chorister drops out of chorus, all tuition and fees incurred to date remain immediately due and payable. Also, music must be returned or an additional fee will be assessed. Chorister should also remember that when they leave chorus they forfeit all membership time accrued as it relates to Attendance Awards.

We do make exceptions to our drop/refund policy for extreme circumstances, if, for example, your child leaves due to serious illness or injury, or the family moves outside the CCCC attendance area. These exceptions will be left to the discretion of the Finance Mgr.

Drops from Tours are of special concern. The initial non-refundable deposits are just that – **non-refundable**. Additional payments made for these events should also be considered non-refundable, unless CCCC is able to recover the charges paid out on your behalf. From the moment a tour is arranged, CCCC is required to make timely advance payments to the tour companies, festivals, etc. These tour companies have their own refund policies, and our payments to them are typically non-refundable. Thus, CCCC is usually unable to offer the chorus family a refund on those amounts.

♪ RECRUITMENT INCENTIVE (NEW!)

As part of our ongoing recruitment efforts, any current chorister who brings in a new chorus member will receive a \$50 credit on their chorus account, in December for Fall Semester, or in May for Spring Semester, providing the new member remains in chorus for the entire semester, and their account balance is paid in full. Good for entry into Levels 1, 2, 3 and San Ramon.

♪ SCHOLARSHIPS

A limited number of scholarships are available to those singers needing financial assistance (Lafayette choruses only). Application Forms are available from the Finance Manager. Applications are reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors, and you will be notified if your scholarship has been awarded. Scholarships are only available for chorus tuition. You are still responsible for registration fee, the value of concert tickets, uniforms, and all other regular chorus activities. * A two-month probationary period is required before new members can be awarded any scholarship money. Their monthly tuition must be paid, and their participation in chorus is required during this time period. It is expected that every chorister who receives any scholarship amount attend all rehearsals and performances, and otherwise participate in all-chorus activities.

♪ CONCERT TICKETS (LAFAYETTE CHORUSES ONLY)

Tickets are included in your tuition fee. Only one set per family. You will receive 5 tickets to the Winter Concert and 5 tickets to the Spring Concert. **Tuition must be paid up-to-date before you may receive your tickets.**

♪ ADVERTISING IN CONCERT PROGRAMS

Advertising in our concert programs is a great fundraiser for CCCC. AND, it benefits our chorus family and friends as well. Ads featured include business ads and personal messages to choristers, alumnae and friends. Costs vary depending on the size of the ad.

♪ CHORUS DEVELOPMENT / DONATIONS

Contra Costa Children's Chorus is a tuition-based **non-profit, 501 (c) 3 organization**. Because tuition does not cover all of our costs, we seek additional support through ticket sales, honoraria, contributions, and fundraisers.

- **Escrip:** Escript is a painless way for you to help support the programs of the Contra Costa Children's Chorus. All proceeds go to CCCC. To sign up, contact www.escrip.com (our #137317439). You must remember to renew your Escript membership every year.
- **Grants/Donors/Patrons:** We research grants and solicit corporations and individuals for donations. In the past we have received grants enabling us to sustain our choral education program and to help underwrite scholarships and projects and meet some of our organizational needs. We have received many individual donations for the purchase of equipment or special interests such as African drums, Orff instruments and our baby grand piano.
- **United Way:** If you are looking for a "painless" way to contribute to CCCC, United Way payroll deduction is really the best way to go. For working people who make weekly or bi-weekly United Way contributions by this method, simply identify CCCC (Fed Tax ID#: 68-0065565) as direct/sole recipient of that contribution. The monies collected go directly to CCCC instead of United Way's general fund.
- **Corporate Matching Gifts Program:** Companies and corporations with matching gift programs allow each family to double their contribution to CCCC at no extra cost to their pocketbooks! Parents need to check their Employee Handbooks or contact their company's matching gift/grants managers. Many large corporations make this program easily accessible to employees via the Internet.
- **Gifts In Kind Donations:** Your business can donate services or materials to CCCC, or offer a discount for items CCCC purchases. Your contributions will be acknowledged on the donor page in our concert programs under "Gifts In Kind." Please check out our WISH LIST for current needs of the chorus!

♪ ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF DONOR CONTRIBUTIONS

All donations over \$25 are recognized in two of our subsequent concert programs. Deadlines are November 15th for the Winter Concert and April 15th for the Spring Concert. The Patron Categories are:

- **Opus (\$10,000 and above)**
- **Full Measure (\$1,000-\$9,999)**
- **Whole Note (\$500-\$999)**
- **Half Note (\$100-\$499)**
- **Quarter Note (\$50-\$99)**
- **Eighth Note (\$25-\$49).**

You may designate your acknowledgement "in memory of" or "in honor of" someone special in your life.

♪ PARENT ORIENTATION MEETINGS

At the beginning of Fall Semester, and usually at the beginning of Spring Semester, we hold a Parent Orientation Meeting. It is important that all new parents attend, and those returning parents who want to keep up on all the new information. Especially important this year, 2011, because of all the new items we have to present. New main rehearsal site, new directors, new policies...

♪ VOLUNTEERS / LIAISONS

As a non-profit organization, volunteers are an integral part of CCCC. Volunteer opportunities are numerous and diverse, from areas of transporting risers, chorus liaisons, performance assistants, office assistance, fundraising, development, marketing, chaperoning and other projects. Some jobs are extensive. Some are very short term and can be done at home. All parents of CCCC are encouraged to volunteer some of their time during the chorus year. Please let the CCCC staff know if you are interested in helping out. A limited number of work/trade positions are available. Please see the Chorus Manager for details.

♪ COMMUNICATIONS

CCCC makes every effort to keep you informed about chorus activities throughout the year. Our main sources of news are through our website and by sending emails. Please keep CCCC informed of any changes in your contact information. This includes mailing address, phone numbers and email accounts.

Website www.childrenschorus.org A wealth of information! Click the “For Members” button. Contains information on up-coming events; sign up forms for optional and mandatory events, due dates for forms and payments, and your chorus level’s calendar. The website is continually updated but may be a day behind email messages. (*See Website Navigation Guide*)

Times listed on Website calendars are when choristers are scheduled to arrive for warm-ups (CALL TIME) and when they should be picked up.

Email To reach anyone on the Artistic or Administrative Staffs, use the email addresses listed on the front of this manual. There are also links in Chorus Line. Email is the most direct type of communication.

Voice Mail (925-945-7101)

Our new phone system is voice mail only. Please leave a detailed message and someone will get back to you in a timely manner. Refer to the phone extensions on the front of this manual.

HOTLINE (925- 322-3316). There will be a cell phone stored at the Lafayette rehearsal site to be used for emergency phone calls only, and only during rehearsal hours. If you need to reach your child, you may use this number.

Snail Mail

Our address is: **CCCC, P.O. Box 2518, Walnut Creek, CA 94595.**

Please do not use the rehearsal site address, 1035 Carole Lane, Lafayette, when mailing to CCCC.

CHORUS LINE is our monthly email newsletter. It will bring you all the latest general news and information concerning CCCC. If you are not receiving this communication on the first of every month, contact the office. It could be that your web browser is blocking our emails, your mailbox is full, or your address needs updated in our files.

♪ LIABILITY WAIVERS

WAIVER OF LIABILITY

In consideration for being allowed to participate in Contra Costa Children's Chorus activities, including but not limited to auditions, rehearsals, vocal coaching, workshops, performances, tours, and camps, and transportation to and from all such activities, we acknowledge and agree to the following:

We, the parent/guardian and chorister, on behalf of ourselves and each of our heirs, executors and administrators, agree to release and hold harmless Contra Costa Children's Chorus ("CCCC") and each of its officers, directors, agents, employees, administrators, volunteers, representatives and assigns from any and all right, claim or liability for any and all damages, injuries, costs or expenses incurred by the undersigned chorister or his/her parent/guardian during the course of, as a result of, or in any way connected with the undersigned chorister's or parent/guardian's participation in CCCC activities, whether such damages, injuries, costs or expenses may arise from circumstances outside the control of CCCC, from the acts of any other participants in CCCC, or from the acts of CCCC or any of its officers, directors, agents, employees, volunteers, representatives and assigns, including negligence or carelessness of same. This agreement extends to all claims of every kind and nature whatsoever, whether known or unknown, including an express waiver of any rights or benefits either of us may have under section 1542 of the California Civil Code relating to the release of unknown claims. By signing the Parent Student Contracts, you acknowledge that you each have read and understand the provisions of this waiver of liability.

PHOTO, VIDEO, AND AUDIO RELEASE

I understand and agree that during any Contra Costa Children's Chorus (CCCC) activities, my chorister may be photographed, video recorded, or audio recorded. I understand and agree that CCCC shall hold the sole copyright to any images or recordings of the undersigned chorister, and I hereby waive any and all claims to such images or recordings, including but not limited to ownership or copyright claims.

I further agree that my chorister's image and voice, including photos, videos, audio recordings, and any other reproduction of the undersigned chorister's likeness may be used by CCCC for any purpose, including but not limited to marketing, fundraising, external news or entertainment media, publicity, archiving, or any other purpose, without payment or any other compensation, now or in the future. I understand that CCCC will not use the chorister's name without my express approval. I hereby release CCCC and its officers, directors, agents, employees, volunteers, representatives and assigns from any expectation of confidentiality for the undersigned chorister.

SEVERABILITY

In the event that any provision of this contract is held unenforceable, all remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

CHOICE OF LAW

This agreement shall be governed by and construed and interpreted in accordance with the laws of the State of California. Any action arising out of or in relation to this agreement shall be resolved in the courts of Contra Costa County.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How often do we rehearse?

Once a week for approximately 1-2 hours depending on level.

Do we always rehearse at our weekly rehearsal site?

- * 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette, (Main Campus) or
- * Dougherty Station Community Center, Front Row Theatre (San Ramon).

Yes, except for technical rehearsals for our concert at the venue (usually local) or if we are performing with another group and need to rehearse at their venue.

What is the commitment?

Weekly Rehearsals

Two or more extra rehearsals may be scheduled each semester – to be determined by the director.

Winter and Spring Concerts for the parents & public, location TBA

Possibly 3 or more performances each semester at various venues

Lower levels possibly miss one day of school for Mini-Tour to perform at school assemblies or a student Matinee performance for school field trips. Chorus provides educational benchmarks for your child's teacher/school administrator, as stated in the permission slips and letters to your schools.

What is the cost?

Varies by Chorus Level. Please see Tuition Fee Schedule for details.

Are there any fundraisers for which we are responsible?

There may be optional fundraisers.

What is the uniform? Cost is around \$60.00.

Levels L1, L2, L3, SR Formal Uniform

White wing-tip tuxedo shirt, black bowtie (boy's-size), Red sequined cummerbund and black satin pants, black shoes & socks

Level L4 Formal Uniform

Girls - Long Red Formal dress, black character shoes
Boys - Black Tuxedo pants, white wing-tip tuxedo shirt, black bowtie (boy's-size), red vest, black shoes & socks

Honors Formal Uniform

Girls – Long Black Gown with Silver Pin, Black

Character Shoes, Beige/nude Nylons, knee-highs

Boys – Black Tuxedo Pants & Jacket, White Wing-tip

Tuxedo Shirt, Black Bowtie (boy's-size), Black Dress Shoes & Black Socks

Informal Uniform – all levels - Red chorus T-shirt

(L4-red polo), blue jeans, white socks, all white tennis-type shoes

Are scholarships available?

Some partial scholarships are available which are Based on need. An application must be submitted to CCCC Board of Directors.

What will my child learn?

Written and aural theory skills, as well as sight-singing

The foundations of good vocal technique

A wide variety of choral repertoire from all musical periods and styles

Your child will sing in foreign languages even in the beginning level. Many pieces are choreographed.

Please check our Academic Standards for further information.

How are levels determined?

By age, ability and placement by director.

How do I get updates from the chorus?

By mass emails we send to each level and by regularly checking the website www.childrenchorus.org, and reading *Chorus Line* on the first of every month.

This sounds very structured. Is it also fun?

YES! Our choristers love and thoroughly enjoy the learning experience

How do I join?

Fill out the registration form and pay the non-refundable Registration fee.

Can we pay by credit card?

Yes. We accept Visa and MasterCard. There is a 3% processing fee added to each credit card payment.



WHY WE TEACH MUSIC . . .

Music is a **science**: it is definite, specific, and it demands exact acoustics. A conductor's full score is a chart; a graph, which indicates frequencies, intensities, volume changes, melody, and harmony all at once with the most precise control of time.

Music is a **foreign language**: most of the terms are in Italian, German or French; and the notation is certainly not English, but a highly developed kind of shorthand that uses symbols to represent ideas. The most complete and universal language is semantics of music.

Music is **mathematical**: it is rhythmically based on the subdivisions of time into fractions, which must be calculated instantaneously, not worked out on paper.

Music is **history**: it usually reflects the environment and times of its creation often even the country and/or cultural ambiance.

Music is **physical education**: it requires fantastic coordination of fingers, hands, arms, lips, cheeks, facial muscles, in addition to extraordinary control of the diaphragm, back, stomach, and chest muscles, which respond instantly to the sound the ear hears, and the mind interprets.

Music is all of these things, but most of all, it is **art**: it allows a human being to incorporate dry, technically boring, difficult techniques and use them to create emotion. This is one thing science cannot duplicate: humanism, feeling, and emotion.

We teach music:

Not because we expect you to major in music
Not because we expect you to play or sing all your life
Not so you can relax
Not so you can have fun

But so you will be . . .

Human
Recognize beauty
Sensitive
Closer to an infinite beyond this world
Have something to cling to
Have more love, compassion, gentleness, goodness – in short, more life!

Of what value will it be to make a prosperous living unless you know how to live?

This is why we teach music!

Author unknown
University of Delaware



SEVEN IMPORTANT SKILLS YOUR CHILD LEARNS BY STUDYING MUSIC

1. **Comprehending** – Learning to perceive and derive meaning from musical sounds – for example, to identify a musical theme – sharpens your child’s ability to comprehend abstractions.
2. **Solving Problems** – The ability to understand a problem and reach an appropriate solution is one of the most important skills your child can learn. Learning the basics of musical language, such as harmony, or interpreting a work through performance teaches that skill.
3. **Reasoning Logically** – Applying particular lessons to other problems and situations requires sound reasoning. When your child learns to analyze a musical work from a cultural, structural, or historical perspective, or to improvise within a certain musical style, both inductive and deductive reasoning grow stronger. They are developing their abstract reasoning skills.
4. **Making Value Judgments** – Learning to comprehend, consider, and evaluate in music can help your child make informed decisions in other aspects of life. Discriminating between great and lesser works or justifying musical choices in compositions can teach your child how to make an uphold value judgments.
5. **Using Symbols** – The ability to use symbols distinguishes the human race among all forms of life. Learning to read, write, and interpret musical notation provides access to a nonverbal world of the thought and strengthens the use of other symbol systems as well, such as mathematics or language.
6. **Conceptualizing** – Your child learns to classify and generalize by learning to identify different types and styles of music, to recognize how different cultures use music for personal expression and to recognize common elements in different works.
7. **Communicating** – Perhaps the greatest gift of music is its ability to cultivate our feeling and thoughts through nonverbal means. Being able to express these feelings and thoughts – and to respond to them in others – is part of every successful program of music study and indispensable in your child’s development.

*Courtesy of the Foundation for the Advancement of Education in Music,
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AWARDS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Awards

First place award winner of the Golden Gate International Competition, San Francisco
First place - Outstanding Choral Group, Heritage Festival, Anaheim, CA 2008
First place - Heritage Festival Adjudicator's Award, Anaheim, CA 2008
First place – Gold Award, Heritage Festival, Anaheim, CA 2008
Distinguished Music Educator's Award, Diablo Symphony Association, Walnut Creek
Contra Costa County Arts Commission 2001 Arts Recognition Award to Iris Lamanna & Sandy Warner
Young Artist in Residence, CME Institute, Dr. Doreen Rao, British Columbia 1999

International Tours

International Festival of the Aegean, Greece
Beijing, Shanghai & Xi'an, China
Tuscany International Children's Festival
St. Peter's Basilica Mass, Vatican City, Rome, Italy
Australia, New Zealand
International Children's Music Festival, England & France
Prague International Choral Festival and Competition, Prague, Czech Republic
Tuscany International Children's Festival, selected participant, Florence, Italy
St. Peter's Basilica Mass, Vatican City, Rome, Italy
Three Spires International Choral Festival, selected participant, Denmark

Professional Performances

Lincoln Center, Avery Fisher Hall, New York, New York
Opening ceremonies, 2008 Summer Olympics Countdown
National Anthem, Oakland A's Game
Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Joseph & The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, Golden Gate Theatre, San Francisco
California Symphony, Guest Performing Chorus, Walnut Creek
California Symphony, Guest Artist, Fourth of July Extravaganza, Concord Pavilion
Carnegie Hall, Debut Performance, New York, New York
Diablo Symphony, Guest Performing Chorus, Walnut Creek
Hungarian National Radio Show Guest Performers, Budapest, Hungary
United Nations 50th Anniversary, Opening Ceremonies Celebration, San Francisco
Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Joseph & The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, Regional Center, Walnut Creek
Carnegie Hall, Solo Performance, New York, New York
Diablo Symphony, Carmina Burana, Regional Center, Walnut Creek
Televised Guest Appearance with Mormon Tabernacle Choir, Salt Lake City, Utah

Festivals

Annual Junior Bach Festival, Berkeley, 2009, 2006
Crossroads Children's Chorus Festival, Nashville, Tennessee, 2008
Heritage Festival, Anaheim, 2008
Heritage Gold Festival, San Francisco, 2007
Pacific Rim Festival, Honolulu, Hawaii, 2006, 2003, 2001
Oregon Bach Festival, Eugene, 2006
Santa Barbara Children's Festival, 2005
10th Annual North American Children's Chorale, Carnegie Hall, New York, 2004
American Choral Director's Association Children's Festival, annual participant
Oregon Music Festival, Guest Honor Choir, Eugene, Holt Hall, 2 years

Conventions

50th Anniversary Convention, Shaklee Corporation, San Francisco, 2006
ACDA Western Division, Children's Honor Choir, 2002



THE RULES OF AUDIENCE ETIQUETTE

- 1. Refrain from talking.**

This is the first and greatest rule. This rule includes whispering to or disciplining your other children. When the overture begins, the show/concert has begun. Please cease all talk at this point. Talking of any kind during the performance is distracting to the performers and other audience members.
- 2. Refrain from unwrapping noisy candy wrappers during the performance.**

If the composer wanted to include crinkle paper noises to the music, he/she would have written it into the parts. Also, do not jangle keys, bangles or coins. If you develop a problem and cannot refrain from coughing or clearing your throat, try to leave during the round of applause and perhaps watch the show from the rear of the theatre.
- 3. Turn off pagers, cell phones, watch alarms, and electronic games.**

While many phones and pagers now have very symphonic-like rings, they don't always fit into the musical score, nor do they provide pleasant sounds for your neighbors.
- 4. Do not wave to or call out to your child as he/she walks onto the stage or at any time during the performance.**

They do know who you are already and they know you are there; you most likely brought them to the concert. The children have been strictly told to focus on the performance at all times, and are not allowed to acknowledge the audience at any time.
- 5. Do not take flash photography.**

You don't want your child to walk off the edge of the stage from flash blindness, do you?
- 6. Please do not leave your seat or walk down the aisles with your video or still camera.**

Video cameras work just as well from the back of the auditorium. If allowed, video cameras are only permitted at the back of the auditorium. (Besides, the light is usually not good enough for video taping anyway.)
- 7. Do not leave as soon as your child's portion of the concert is over.**

All students deserve a full audience for their performances. Remember, the next time your child's song could be last!
- 8. Applaud at appropriate times.**

Some music has several sections. Remember, it's not over until all of the sections have been performed. Performers appreciate a round of applause at the end of a scene or a song. Screaming, whistling, and catcalls are not appropriate. It is better to applaud louder and longer to show your heartfelt appreciation.
- 9. Do not get up and move around or leave the auditorium during the music.**

If several performers or groups are performing, stay for all. It is rude to leave between performers. Wait for a break in the concert, or for applause, to visit the restroom, unless there is an emergency or you are carrying a screaming child, in which case you should leave quietly and quickly. PLEASE!
- 10. If younger children are attending the performance, please keep them with you at all times.**

Children are not allowed to walk around the theatre or talk during the performance.
- 11. Go to the concert expecting the best.**

You just might be surprised how good your student sounds when the other students join in! Arrive on time, before the concert begins. Arriving late is a theatre no-no! Late entry disturbs everyone, including the performers. If you absolutely must arrive late, wait until applause begins to enter the theatre.
- 12. Attend the reception following the performance.**

If there is a reception following the performance, plan to attend and mingle with the performers, audience and guests. Remember, the refreshments are for everyone, but keep your selections to perhaps one drink and one cookie. If you would like seconds, please ask one of the attendants.



"I have the time of my life working with Contra Costa Children's Chorus. Their rigorous training, which enables them to learn at an astonishing speed, is combined with an ability for creative and independent thinking – something that very few choirs ever encourage. There are many highly trained groups whose sound, however polished, puts me to sleep; but whenever Contra Costa sings, something really happens. I say their training and the emotional commitment in performance make them a global role model for choirs of all ages."

Stephen Hatfield, Composer

"Their sound is remarkably professional. These children capture the audience's hearts with their brilliant performance skills."

Barry Jekowsky, Conductor, California Symphony

"My association with Contra Costa Children's Chorus will always be one of my most satisfying musical experiences. One cannot be directly associated with this organization without being caught up in their pride of accomplishment and joy of participation. This community is indeed fortunate to be represented by CCCC and to share in its artistic accomplishments. I will always be grateful and honored to have my name associated with Contra Costa Children's Chorus."

James Mulholland-Composer

"One of the most remarkable performances of any choir of any age I've ever heard."

Dr. Charlene Archibeque, Director of Choral Studies, San Jose State University

From our parents:

"I couldn't believe it when my daughter came to me and said, 'Mom, I will never forget the feeling of excitement and pride I felt when we went on stage at Carnegie Hall! The challenging music and long rehearsals made us better than all the rest!' We want to thank you for making tough choices, your vision, leadership, opportunities, and your unbelievable energy. We firmly embrace the vision you so capably champion. We appreciate what you give every member of CCCC."

"I appreciate your insistence on excellence as does my daughter, who has remarked several times and in different ways, that the hard work and high equality are connected and worth the effort!"

From our choristers:

♪ "CCCC helps me be truly myself. Learning to be self-disciplined has helped me with school and athletics. I swim, play baseball, volleyball, basketball and best of all...I sing!"

♪ "Chorus is like a second home to me. Whatever my problem was I could always come to rehearsal and let out that other person. The real me. Oh, how I love music and singing."

♪ "When I was nine I couldn't even sing Twinkle Twinkle Little Star. Now I have performed all over Europe and even at Carnegie Hall. Singing opened up a whole other side of my life that wouldn't have been there if I hadn't joined CCCC."

♪ "CCCC taught me more than musical skill (though it definitely taught me that). It taught me things that were much more wide-reaching: diligence, dedication, time management, organization, leadership, cooperation, friendship, and the value of hard work. And I must admit that when I sat down to write my personal statement for my graduate school applications, I found myself reflecting on my time in CCCC, even though I graduated from it 5 years ago. I also found myself writing about my exposure to various cultures and the amount of time and effort it took to master a musical piece for international tours. And while none of this directly relates to my field of study, the lessons I learned as a chorister absolutely translate into my success now."