



August 2011

Dear Contra Costa Children's Chorus Families and Choristers,

Having just returned from our Summer Music Institute for our advanced choristers, I write this note full of excitement and anticipation for this, my first season with the Contra Costa Children's Chorus as artistic director. As we enter our 28th season, it is indeed exceptional that the CCCC has been able to provide life-changing musical experiences for children for nearly three decades! I feel privileged to have the opportunity to carry the torch of artistic excellence that started with the vision of Iris Lamanna and Sandy Warner.

One of the many joys of leading an organization such as ours is to witness the incredible growth our children experience through the power of music. The testimonials of our alumni and our graduating senior class at this last camp were clear: not only have they experienced the satisfaction of sophisticated music making, but they have learned significant life lessons that have shaped them into the human beings they are today. Why? Choral music is about engagement in something unique that is greater than the sum of its parts. And that requires discipline, creativity, integrity, commitment, and spiritual and physical strength, values that our singers learn at chorus and carry on to their extra-musical lives.

Our mission of "inspiring the artist within each child through the power of music" will be honored, and I will build on the solid foundation of our past in the hopes of reaching new artistic heights. We will uphold our chorus traditions, and at the same time venture out into other unexplored areas.

For our youngest and newest singers, we will provide a solid foundation in the basics of singing and musicianship with a curriculum designed for young voices, conducted in a joyful, vibrant atmosphere. This instructional process culminates in our performances, where our young singers share what they have learned, their joy of singing, and the power of communicating, while developing a growing sense of focus and inner confidence.

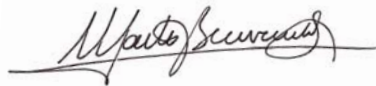
For our returning singers, some of the highlights of the upcoming season will be:

- Our Honors Ensemble (along with Acalanes High School Bella Voce) will join WomenSing in its Youth Inspiring Youth project, in a collaboration that will include a workshop with nationally renowned composer Libby Larsen, and the world premiere of two commissions by young composers in early June.
- A performing tour of New Orleans for our Advanced Performing Chorus (more info to come soon), where our singers will be working with Paul Caldwell and Sean Ivory, two of the most sought-after treble chorus arrangers, and wonderful inspiring clinicians.
- We will explore the creation of a young men's ensemble, to offer our boys the possibility of singing men's chorus literature.

We are so pleased that you have decided to join us in music, and hope this will be one of many rewarding years of singing with the CCCC, and if the last, a specially memorable one. The hard-working, dedicated, and caring staff of Dottie Larsen, Kathy McCann, and Astrid Vuong will be always at your service, providing the help you need and an encouraging smile.

I will bring my passion and energy to the CCCC and strive to make beautiful music with each and every singer. Looking forward to getting to know each chorister and family during this coming season. See you in September!

Sincerely,



Martín Benvenuto, Artistic Director
Contra Costa Children's Chorus
martin@childrenschorus.org

P.S. Please share information about our program with your friends and relatives and encourage your chorister to bring a friend who likes to sing to join us.

🎵 RECRUITMENT INCENTIVE

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.

Parents: Your reading material before chorus begins!

- Parent Student Manual – a must, contains everything you need to know about CCCC.
- Parent Student Contract (L1,L2,L3,SR) – read, initial and sign
- Parent Student Contract (L4) – read, initial and sign
- Emergency /Health Form – fill out and bring in on your first rehearsal day
- Payment Form with Payment(Lafayette only)– fill out, bring on your first rehearsal day
- Tuition Fee Schedule – Lafayette Chorus
- Tuition Fee Schedule – San Ramon Chorus

Optional Forms and Information you can find online:

- Website Navigation Guide
- Map to Lafayette Site
- Drop Form & Refund Policy
- Leave of Absence Form
- Letter to Educators
- School Permission Slip
- Donation Form

Please note the following important information:

New Main Rehearsal Location: 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette
And still in San Ramon at: Front Row Theatre, 17011 Bollinger Canyon Rd.

FIRST DAY OF CHORUS

- Wear your Red chorus T-shirt
- Come a few minutes early to pick up music folder & name tag
- Bring a filled, and labeled, water bottle
- Turn in payments, signed contracts, and signed emergency & health form, if not already turned in.

<u>Level</u>	<u>First Day</u>	<u>Time</u>
SP	Monday, September 12 th	4:00-5:00pm
SE	Monday, September 12 th	4:30-5:45pm
<i>*Levels SP and SE will overlap from 4:30 to 5:00 for their combined pieces.</i>		
L1	Tuesday, September 13 th	4:00-5:00pm
L2	Tuesday, September 13 th	4:00-5:30pm
L3	Tuesday, September 6 th	4:00-6:00pm
L4	Wednesday, September 7 th	4:15-6:15pm
Honors	Tuesday, September 6 th	6:30-8:00pm

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.

IMPORTANT DATES (more to be announced)

September 19, 4pm	Parent Meeting	San Ramon Chorus
September 20, 4pm	All Parent Meeting	Lafayette Campus
September 26	Uniform Sizing Day	San Ramon
September 27	Uniform Sizing Day	L1/2/3
October 9, Times TBA	Mass Rehearsal	All Levels
November 6, Times TBA	Mass Rehearsal / Uniform Check	All Levels
Nov 21-25	No Rehearsal/Thanksgiving	
December 10, 10am	Winter Concert – St. Andrew’s	L1/L2/San Ramon, w/L3/L4/H
December TBA, 4-8pm	Tech Rehearsal, WCPres	L3/L4/Honors
December 16, 7pm	Winter Concert, WCPres	L3/L4/Honors
Dec 19 – Jan 8	No Rehearsal / Winter Break	
Mar TBA	Crab Feed/Silent auction	Annual Fundraiser
March 4, Times TBA	Mass Rehearsal	All Levels
April 1-8	No Rehearsal / Spring Break	
April 15, Times TBA	Mass Rehearsal / Uniform Check	All Levels
May 15, 4-8pm	Tech Rehearsal, LOPC	All Levels
May 18, 7pm	Spring Concert	L3/L4/Honors
May 19, 10am	Spring Concert	L1/L2/SR, w/L3/L4/H
June 20-26	Tour – New Orleans	L4
July 24-Aug 2	SMI (Summer Music Institute)	L4