

A Concert of Good Cheer!



ABOVE: Professional Kazzoo-ing is now available at CCM!

BE OF GOOD CHEER! 34TH ANNUAL HOLIDAY CONCERT

Children's Chorus of Maryland presented the 34th Annual Holiday Concert, entitled *Be of Good Cheer!*, to a sold-out audience on Sunday, December 6, 2009. Delighted by the excellent acoustics and beautiful facilities, CCM performed under the direction of Mairee Pantzer with accompanist Patricia Amato at the Gordon Center for the Performing Arts in Owings Mills, Maryland. Over 400 audience members opened their hearts as the delightful voices of children presented works by composers such as Antonio Vivaldi, Zoltán Kodály, Benjamin Britten, and the infamous P.D.Q. Bach!

Through rollicking wassail songs, exquisite poetry, celebratory pieces, and colorful instrumentation, listeners were cheered to the soul! Concert Choristers began the concert at the foot of the stage with one of several arrangements of *Here We-Come A-Wassailing*, followed by Vivaldi's *Laudamus Te* and Kodaly's *Evening Song*. Concluding the set, they performed an arrangement of George Cooper's poem *October's Party* by Baltimore-native Elam Ray Sprenkle. Katie Cole, Tasha Magloci, and Reuben Johnson's (Lyric Choir, age 10) arrangement of *Here We-Come A-Wassailing* featured two flutes and piano, serving as an interlude.

The Lyric Choir graced the audience with an arrangement of Robert Frost's *Stopping By Woods on a Snowy Evening* and a celebratory song of Hanukah. With sombreros and hearty yells, they completed the set with a rousing performance of Betty Bertaux's piece, *Esa Noche Yo Baila* for guitar (Jeff Auen),

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ccm looks ahead...

MONDAY, MARCH 1

Early Bird Registration for 2010-2011

WHO All CCMers!

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17 –

SATURDAY, MARCH 20

CCM Spring Break – No CCM

SUNDAY, MARCH 28

Sundays At Central

Concert Series Performance

WHO Lyric & Concert Choristers

TIME Concert: 3:00pm

Call Time: TBA

WHERE Central Presbyterian Church

7308 York Road

Baltimore, MD 21204

APRIL 3

NO CCM

SUNDAY, APRIL 25

34th Annual Spring Concert:

Simply Delicious!

WHO Treble, Lyric & Concert Choristers

TIME Concert: 3:00pm

Call Times: TBA

WHERE Gordon Center

3506 Gwynnbrook Avenue

Owings Mills, MD 21117

SUNDAY, MAY 3

Charlestown Chapel Concert Series

WHO Lyric & Concert Choristers

TIME Concert: 3:00pm

Call Time: TBA

WHERE Charlestown Retirement

Community

Chapel of the Angels

711 Maiden Choice Lane

Catonsville, MD 21228





the director's note

“This piece might be quite challenging for you.” Suddenly, eyes widen, backs get straighter, and students lean forward. “Keep in mind that the accompaniment is in triple, while you are in duple. Anyone want to give it a try by themselves?” Immediately, hands shoot into the air and eyes exclaim, “Pick me, please! I’m up for it! Please, let me try!”

What is it about a challenge that awakens something deep inside us? What causes us to push ourselves to the limit, and then push beyond? Why do we continue to drive through, refusing to give up? (Why does Frodo accept the challenge to take the Ring to Mordor? 😊)

The willingness to face a challenge head-on distinguishes CCM students. Every year, during CCM’s recruitment season, I can pick out students who will be great candidates for the program. During the audition, I not only assess the child’s musical aptitude, but also his or her willingness to learn and grow. Does he give up easily? Is she willing to stretch herself?

In the midst of regular rigorous musicianship classes, this season, CCM has a number of students participating in exciting and challenging events. Seventeen students are involved in operas in the Baltimore area with Opera Vivente and the Annapolis Opera Company. Several other students are involved in complex musical composition and arranging projects. Additionally, other students are preparing to participate in national and regional choirs through the Organization of American Kodály Educators and the Eastern Division of the American Choral Directors Association. Still others are challenging themselves at every lesson musicianship class as they seek to improve their abilities with solfa, understand 1st species counterpoint, complete complex analyses, and take dictation more quickly.

The students are not the only ones who face challenges. As with many non-profit arts organizations at this time, CCM is facing challenges organizationally. While we always have the option to choose the easier path and settle for second best, CCM’s Founder, Betty Bertaux, and other leaders of the organization have repeatedly chosen to push through—to face the challenge and not give up. For that reason, over 1300 children have benefited from the music education they have received at CCM for the past 34 years.

What a gift it is to have great role models, both mentors and students, who have faced overwhelming circumstances, embraced creative thinking, grabbed their bootstraps, and boldly moved forward. Inspired by them, I ask you, “Are we ready? Let’s go! CHARGE ON!”

Mairée Pantzer





Be of Good Cheer!

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two trumpets (Ginger Turner and Steven Bailey) and percussion instruments performed by Intermediate III students. Yet another lively arrangement of *Here We Come A-Wassailing* by Ramona Galey served as an Interlude. Treble Choristers completed the first half of the concert with a lovely arrangement of the Italian carol, *Dormi, Dormi* followed by *I Heard a Bird Sing* with Katie Cole on the flute and a rousing rendition of *Hi Ho! for Hanukah*.

Concert Choristers demonstrated their flexibility to perform a variety of styles in the second half of the concert: from

Benjamin Britten to P.D.Q. Bach in 20 minutes! Opening with Britten's *Wolcum Yole* from *Ceremony of Carols*, singers led the audience through a reflective Hebrew song (*Mi Ze Hidlik*) accompanied by Tasha Maglocchi on the flute, a rowdy wassail song by Stephen Hatfield (*Old Fox Wassail*), and a Caribbean-style song (*Mary's Little Boy Child*) with trumpets and conga drums! Finally, with great flair, singers ended the set with P.D.Q. Bach's setting of *Good King Kong*, using the most authentic period kazoos possible.

Congratulations to choristers, guest musicians, staff, audience members, and volunteers for another excellent performance!



For the Music in Your Child

About Our Program

- Eleven individualized levels of education focusing on music literacy
- Highly trained teachers with small classes
- Play-based learning
- Transcripts provided for college applications

How to Join Us

You can receive application information by:

- Calling 410-494-1480
- Emailing ccm@ccmsings.org
- Going online at www.ccmsings.org

What Parents Say

"Children's Chorus of Maryland is an outstanding combination of fine music making, genuine scholarship, ear training, theory, sight singing, and just plain fun."

Where We Sing

On television, with celebrities, at the White House, in Europe, at Carnegie Hall, in Hawaii, in Disney World, at the Meyerhoff.



CCM extends a special thank you to Meryem Ahmadian for her numerous volunteer hours in the CCM office last summer and over Winter Break. Thank you Meryem for giving back to CCM!



ccm alumni corner

meryem ahmadian

Years in CCM 8 years

CCM graduation 2005

College Westminster Choir College

Year of graduation May 2010

Major Bachelor of Arts in Music and a minor in American Studies

Choral groups while in college

Westminster Chapel Choir, Westminster Schola Cantorum, Westminster Symphonic Choir

Highlight of college choral

experience There are 2 highlights. Being chosen for a small ensemble in 2008 to perform Handel's Messiah under the direction of Ton Koopman at Lincoln Center. And, being selected to perform John Adam's El Nino under the direction of John Adams at Carnegie Hall this past December, 2009.

How did CCM prepare you for your college experience?

From an early age, I learned the discipline and respect you need to be in a choir. I also learned the importance of working together to achieve a common goal. The musicianship classes at CCM are also very important. They provided me with a foundation in theory that was helpful when starting beginning musicianship classes at college.

What are your future ambitions?

After college, I would like to pursue a career in both performing and teaching. I would also like to join a choir, since it has always been a major part in my life. I would like to travel. Mainly I would like to make a difference with whatever career I choose or comes along. I would like to help people, and if I can do so through music, that would be wonderful. I am also currently taking a course which will certify me to be a wedding planner. ☺



Music, Merriment, and Mocha!

On Sunday, December 13th, over twenty Touring Choir students participated in a fundraiser at Barnes & Noble in Pikesville to spread Holiday cheer through songs, stories, and smiles. CCM teachers, Lauren McDougale and Emily Hines, shared two books interspersed with Katie Cole and Mairee Pantzer's flute duets of familiar carols. In between the two 30-minute concerts, students and parents wrapped gifts and filled up their bellies with mochas! Thanks to everyone who helped make this fundraiser a great success!



congratulations

CCMers!

Feel the Magic: Beidleman, Bell, and Page to be Three Spirits in Mozart's Magic Flute!

Moran, Elana and Veronica have been selected to join Opera Vivente in their production of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's *The Magic Flute*. Performing the parts of the three spirits, the three will join professional singers from across the country and local instrumentalists. Performed in mid-May, the opera will be held at Emmanuel Episcopal Church (811 Cathedral Street in Baltimore). Congratulations, Moran, Elana and Veronica! We know you will represent CCM well!



Julia Scheinberg – Great Day at ACDA!

Having auditioned last spring, Julia was accepted to perform in the children's choir at the American Choral Director's Association (ACDA) – Eastern Division conference. Hosted in Philadelphia, PA, the conference will be held February 10-13. Julia will have the opportunity to perform under the baton of Elaine Quilichini of the Calgary Girls Choir. Congratulations, Julia on this prestigious opportunity! We are so proud of you!

OAKE-dokie! Congratulations to Kristina Anastasiades!

Kristina has been selected to perform in children's choir for the Organization of American Kodaly Educators' Conference. Under the tutelage of Michael Allman, Riderwood's extraordinary music teacher, Kristina will travel to Dallas, Texas to rehearse with over 100 other singers at the conference's closing ceremonies. Congratulations, Kristina on this exciting opportunity! Good luck and have fun! ☺



A CCMer Speaks Out A Testimonial

I remember my first orientation day in 2007. I met Miss Mairee and my teacher, Miss Jordan. Every Wednesday and Saturday I returned, learning new skills and playing games. The next year I returned, and the next. Some of my favorite things in CCM are receiving new music for the next concert and making new friends. Whether the songs are bouncy ones or calm lullabies, I look forward to each concert. Also, making new friends and meeting new kids is really fun. It gives me a chance to enjoy music with some of my best friends!

Another thing I like about CCM is the classes where I learn to read and write music. I play the piano and the clarinet, and knowing so much from CCM helps me read the music. I have learned sight reading, rhythms, and notes I never thought I could learn. I also enjoy meeting my new teachers each year. Mrs. Miller, Miss Suzannah, and Miss Lyndsay have all been great. At first I wasn't sure I wanted to join CCM. But now I am sure. CCM is a great part of my life.

— *Abby Pepin, Intermediate I*

Lights, Camera, Action: My TV Experience

When Miss Mairee announced that the Concert Choir had an opportunity to sing on the television program "Good Morning Maryland," I was excited.

As the date approached, I grew nervous. What if I sneezed? What if I sang the wrong note? What if...what if...

Tuesday, December 1st dawned bright and clear. We arrived at the WMAR studios at 7:45 am. After we signed in, one of the show's hosts led us to a room where we could warm up. We learned that the Solfa IVs, CCM's seniors, would sing "Old Fox Wassail," a traditional English carol arranged by Stephen Hatfield. The host would interview Miss Mairee. Then, the camera would move to us again. We'd all sing "Wassail Song," another traditional English carol, arranged by Tom Johnston. The whole thing would have to last four minutes. I wondered how on earth we were going to fit it all in.

Finally, it was time. Butterflies flew back to life in my stomach as we walked to the studio. I wasn't worried about the songs, though. They were both songs that we had practiced, learned, and knew by heart.

We squeezed in front of the cameras. The Solfa IVs started singing "Old Fox Wassail." The cameras moved like robots around them as they sang three of the five verses—they cut it short to make it fit in. Then then the host of the show interviewed Miss Mairee. People watching it on the TV might not have realized this, but all this was in the same room: the interview was about five feet away. Then, we began "Wassail Song." It was so weird to see myself sing on the television in front of us!

It all added up to an experience I would remember forever.

— *Liana Garrett, Solfa II*



miss suzannah's wedding

On January 16th, 2:00 p.m. Miss Suzannah came down a spiral staircase, wearing a gossamer veil and a white gown with a long train. She was going to marry Mr. Bradley Norris. "Miss Suzannah, you look like a princess!" everyone exclaimed.

The Concert choir and the upper-level Lyric choir sang in the wedding. We entered the church singing "Allunde Alluia," swaying down both aisles. When we got to the front we sang "For the Beauty of the Earth" by John Rutter.

As the wedding party came down the aisle, a soloist sang "Dream" by Pricilla Ahn. We joined in on the chorus in three-part harmony. A flower girl with a wreath of flowers on her head scattered

rose petals. I felt like we were providing the soundtrack to a movie.

When the song ended, the minister prayed with the bride and groom. The Concert choir sang "Evening Song" by Zoltán Kodály, bringing tears to everyone's eyes.



After the bride and groom slipped rings on each other's fingers and kissed, we broke out into "Come Go With Me" a fun song by the Beach Boys. Suddenly, a saxophone player burst out of a door and played an amazing solo. I think Miss Suzannah really enjoyed it. I had a blast.

— *Frances Garrett, Intermediate III*

Come Join the Fun!

Do you know a child who loves to sing? Send them our way! Interviews for the 2010-2011 Season are being scheduled NOW.

Encourage young musicians to sign up for an interview. Call the CCM office at (410) 494-1480 or visit the website: www.ccmsings.org.

Thanks for helping spread the word about CCM!



Niagara Falls: A Rush of Excitement!

On Tuesday, July 6th, thirty-four CCM students will embark on a 5 day trip to Niagara Falls, Canada. Students will join 5 other choirs to participate in the 16th Annual Niagara Falls International Music Festival under the directorship of Francisco Nuñez of the Young People's Chorus of New York City. In between rehearsals, singers will have the opportunity to visit the falls and Port Dalhousie, do some swimming (not in the falls!), and hear other choirs perform. With only 5 months left before our departure, excitement for the trip is already building! Wish us luck as we enjoy a 10+ hour bus ride each way!



Children's Chorus of Maryland is funded by an operating grant from the Maryland State Arts Council, an agency dedicated to cultivating a vibrant cultural community where the arts thrive. Funding for the Maryland State Arts Council is also provided by the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.



Wanna be our friend? Check us out on Facebook and get all the latest!

Newsletter design by Kathrine Forster Kuo | To find out what Kat can do for your business: katkuo.design@gmail.com



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