



**Milwaukee**  
**Children's Choir**  
*Building Noteworthy Character*

# 2011-2012 CHOIR HANDBOOK

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*The Milwaukee Children's Choir is a private, non-profit community organization serving Greater Milwaukee since 1994. This handbook's entire contents are for MCC use only.*

*Acknowledgment: MCC thanks its friends to the south, the Anima Singers, the Indianapolis Children's Choir, the Chattanooga Children's Choir, ACDA, and OAKE for some of the text and concepts used in this Handbook.*

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## 2011-2012 Weekly Rehearsal Schedule

### For All Choirs

As of 8-19-11

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
<b>Dover &amp; Tippecanoe</b> 12:30-2:30 pm (Storck)	<b>Cantabile Central</b> in Hansberry Hall at MYAC 2:45-4:15 pm (Fazio)	<b>Dover &amp; Tippecanoe</b> 12:30-2:30 pm (Fazio)	
	<b>Songbirds East</b> in Hansberry Hall at MYAC 5:15-5:45 pm (Travia)		
	<b>Prelude East</b> in Debut Hall at MYAC 6:00-7:00 pm (Travia)	<b>Prelude West</b> at Mt. Carmel 4:45-5:45 pm (Fazio)	<b>Songbirds North</b> in Fellowship Hall at MUMC 4:30-5:00 pm (Dillahunt)
	<b>Cantabile East</b> in Discovery Hall at MYAC 5:30-7:00 pm (Fazio)	<b>Cantabile West</b> Mt. Carmel 6:00-7:30 pm (Fazio)	<b>Prelude North</b> in Fellowship Hall at MUMC 5:15-6:15 pm (Dillahunt)
	<b>Jubilate</b> in Debut Hall at MYAC 7:00-9:00 pm (Storck & Egger)		<b>Cantabile North</b> in Music Room at MUMC 5:30-7:00 pm (Witt)
	<b>Milwaukee Youth Chorale</b> in Sondheim Hall at MYAC 7:00-9:00 pm (Clark)		
	Senior Choir Sectionals and Vocal Coaching 6:30-8:30 pm in Hansberry Hall at MYAC (Egger)		

Rehearsal Site Addresses:

MYAC – Milwaukee Youth Arts Center, 325 W. Walnut St., Milwaukee

MUMC – Mequon United Methodist Church, 11011 N. Oriole Ln., Mequon

Mt. Carmel – Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church, 8424 W. Center St., Milwaukee



**WE ARE MCC!**

**Harmony**

**Songbirds**

**Prelude**

**Cantabile**

**Jubilate**

**Milw. Youth Chorale**

Carol Storck  
*Artistic Director*

Emily Holt Crocker  
*Founder*

Paula Bell  
*Executive Director*

**Board of Directors**

David Dorgan  
*President*

Patrick Murphy  
*Vice President*

Jayne Tschanz  
*Treasurer*

Heidi Boyd  
*Secretary*

Christine Burgener  
*Past President*

Priya Barnes

Beth Berger

Robert Fichtner

Kathryn Kaminsky

Kelley Karakis

Paul Lucey

Katie O'Neill

Deborah Patel

Robert Sholl

**MCC PRODUCED SHOWS:**

***A Stroll Through the Countryside***

All Choirs

1 p.m. Saturday November 19, 2011

Hales Corners Lutheran Church

12300 West Janesville Road, Hales Corners

MCC creates an idyllic landscape of voices in this autumn performance. Listen as we tell stories of nature's beautiful sights and sounds.

***SING-A-THON!***

All Choirs

10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday February 11, 2012

Bayshore Town Center

5800 N. Bayshore Drive, Milwaukee

We head out of the hall and into the mall for a day of nonstop valentine spirit and song.

***Milwaukee Youth Music Celebration***

Milwaukee Youth Chorale

3 p.m. Sunday March 11, 2012

Elmbrook Church auditorium

777 South Barker Road, Brookfield

Milwaukee Children's Choir and the Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra join forces to perform some of the world's greatest music.

***Community Concert at the Children's Museum***

Prelude

2 p.m. and 2:30 p.m., Sunday March 18, 2012

Betty Brinn Children's Museum

929 East Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee, WI

***And all that Jazz***

All Choirs

3 p.m. Sunday May 20, 2012

Helen Bader Concert Hall at the UWM Zelazo Hall

2419 East Kenwood Blvd, Milwaukee

This show is guaranteed to get your toes tapping and your fingers snapping. Join us as we trace the roots of jazz from Africa, to Europe, to America with a final stop in the birthplace of jazz—good ol' New Orleans.

**TOUR:**

*Crescent City Choral Festival* with the New Orleans Children's Chorus and other youth choirs

New Orleans, LA, June 21-26, 2012

**GUEST ARTIST APPEARANCES:**

Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra *Holiday Pops* (December 2-4, 2011) - Jubilate

Milwaukee Ballet *The Nutcracker* (December 10-26, 2011) – Experienced trebles

Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra *Carmina Burana* (January 20-22, 2012) - Jubilate

Silver Lake College 2011-12 Guest Artist Music Series, Manitowoc, WI (February 19, 2012) –

Jubilate and Milwaukee Youth Chorale

Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra *2nd grade ACE concert* (April 18, 2012) - Cantabile

Milwaukee Ballet *Peter Pan* (May 10-13, 2012) – Experienced trebles

**MCC Songbirds East Calendar**  
**2011-2012 Season (as of 8-19-11)**  
**Milwaukee Youth Arts Center, Tuesdays, 5:15-5:45 pm**  
**Instructor: Annemarie Travia**  
Calendar subject to change (please read weekly newsletters for up-to-date info)

**Semester 1**

**September**

13	Class 1
20	Class 2
27	Class 3

**October**

4	Class 4
11	Class 5
18	Class 6
25	Class 7

**November**

1	Class 8
8	Class 9
16 & 23	NO CLASSES
29	Class 10

**December**

6	Class 11 / Bring a Friend Day
13	Class 12 / Bring a Friend Day

**Semester 2**

**January**

NO CLASSES IN JANUARY

**February**

7	Class 1
14	Class 2
21	Class 3
28	Class 4

**March**

6	Class 5
13	Class 6
20	Class 7
27	Class 8

**April**

17	Class 9
24	Class 10

**May**

1	Class 11
8	Class 12

**MCC Songbirds North Calendar  
2011-2012 Season (as of 8-19-11)  
Mequon United Methodist Church, Thursdays, 4:30-5:00 pm  
Instructor: Kristin Dillahunt  
Calendar subject to change (please read weekly newsletters for up-to-date info)**

**Semester 1**

**September**

15	Class 1
22	Class 2
29	Class 3

**October**

6	Class 4
13	Class 5
20	Class 6
27	NO CLASS

**November**

3	Class 7
10	Class 8
17	Class 9
24	NO CLASS

**December**

1	Class 10
8	Class 11 / Bring a Friend Day
15	Class 12 / Bring a Friend Day

**Semester 2**

**January**

5	Class 1
12	Class 2
19	NO CLASS
26	Class 3

**February**

2	Class 4
9	Class 5
16	Class 6
23	Class 7

**March**

1	Class 8
8	Class 9
15	Class 10
22	Class 11
29	Class 12

# Prelude Choir Calendar

## 2011-2012 Season (as of 8-19-11)

Calendar subject to change (please read weekly newsletters for up-to-date info)

### Prelude Rehearsal Sites

Prelude East - Tuesdays	6:00-7:00 PM	MYAC
Prelude West - Wednesdays	4:45-5:45 PM	Mt. Carmel Lutheran (Tosa)
Prelude North -Thursdays	5:15-6:15 PM	Mequon United Methodist

### September

Week of 5 <sup>th</sup> -	Regular Rehearsals / Bring a Friend / Open Rehearsal (Prelude East on Tuesdays, Prelude West on Wednesdays, Prelude North on Thursdays)
Week of 12 <sup>th</sup> - Sept. 17 <sup>th</sup> -	Regular Rehearsals / Bring a Friend / Open Rehearsal (Saturday) Prelude Preview for New Families - 9:30-10:00 Parent Meeting for All Prelude Families, 11:00-12:00, MYAC Prelude Mini Retreat from 10:30-12:00, MYAC
Week of 19 <sup>th</sup> -	Regular Rehearsals
Week of 26 <sup>th</sup> -	Regular Rehearsals

### October

Week of 3 <sup>rd</sup> -	Regular Rehearsals / Open Rehearsal
Week of 10 <sup>th</sup> -	Regular Rehearsals
Week of 17 <sup>th</sup> -	Regular Rehearsals
Week of 24 <sup>th</sup> -	Regular Rehearsals

### November

1 <sup>st</sup> -	(Tuesday) COMBINED Prelude Rehearsal, 6:00-7:00 p.m., MYAC
5 <sup>th</sup> -	(Saturday) Dress Rehearsal at Hales Corners Lutheran, 9a-1p. <i>Exact Prelude time TBD.</i> <i>Prelude singers will participate for 60-90 minutes of the rehearsal.</i>
Week of 7 <sup>th</sup> -	Regular Rehearsals
Week of 14 <sup>th</sup> - 19 <sup>th</sup> -	Regular Rehearsals PLUS Concert (Saturday) MCC Autumn Concert "A Stroll Through the Countryside" 1:00 pm concert, 12:00 singer call time, Hales Corners Lutheran Church.
Week of 21 <sup>st</sup> -	NO Regular Rehearsals this week - Happy Thanksgiving!
Week of 28- Dec. 2	Regular Rehearsals

### December

Week of 5 <sup>th</sup> -	Regular Rehearsals
Week of 12 <sup>th</sup> -	Regular Rehearsals
Week of 19 <sup>th</sup> -	Winter Break - No rehearsals
Week of 26 <sup>th</sup> -	Winter Break - No rehearsals

## January

Week of 2 <sup>nd</sup> -	Regular Rehearsals / Bring a Friend / Open Rehearsal
Week of 9 <sup>th</sup> -	Regular Rehearsals / Bring a Friend / Open Rehearsal
14 <sup>th</sup> -	(Saturday) Prelude Preview, 9:30-10:30 am, MYAC (Includes Parent Meeting for anyone who missed the September meeting)
Week of 16 <sup>th</sup> -	Regular Rehearsals
Week of 23 <sup>rd</sup> -	Regular Rehearsals
Week of 30 -Feb. 3	Regular Rehearsals

## February

7 <sup>th</sup> -	(Tuesday) COMBINED Prelude Rehearsal, 6:00-7:00 pm, MYAC.
11 <sup>th</sup> -	(Saturday) MCC Sing-a-Thon, Bayshore Towne Center, 10:30-4:30. <i>Specific call time TBD.</i>
Week of 13 <sup>th</sup> -	Regular Rehearsals
Week of 27-Mar. 2	Regular Rehearsals

## March

Week of 5 <sup>th</sup> -	Regular Rehearsals / Open Rehearsal
Week of 12 <sup>th</sup> -	Regular Rehearsals
18 <sup>th</sup> -	Betty Brinn performances, 2:00 pm and 2:30 pm. <i>Specific call time TBD.</i>
Week of 19 <sup>th</sup> -	Regular Rehearsals
Week of 26 <sup>th</sup> -	Regular Rehearsals

## April

Week of 2 <sup>nd</sup> -	No Rehearsals - MCC Spring Break
Week of 9 <sup>th</sup> -	No Rehearsals - MCC Spring Break
Week of 16 <sup>th</sup> -	Regular Rehearsals
Week of 23 <sup>rd</sup> -	Regular Rehearsals
Week of 30-May 4	NO Regular Rehearsals this week. Instead, we will have a COMBINED rehearsal on Tuesday, May 1 (see below)

## May

1 <sup>st</sup> -	(Tuesday) COMBINED Prelude Rehearsal, 6:00-7:00 pm, MYAC.
5 <sup>th</sup> -	(Saturday) Audition Day for Prelude members entering 4 <sup>th</sup> grade and Auditions for New Students entering grades 4 and up. The audition will determine if 4 <sup>th</sup> graders will move up to Cantabile or sing in Prelude Choir for one more year.
Week of 7 <sup>th</sup> -	Regular Rehearsals
12 <sup>th</sup>	(Saturday) Audition Day for Prelude members entering 4 <sup>th</sup> grade and Auditions for New Students entering grades 4 and up. The audition will determine if 4 <sup>th</sup> graders will move up to Cantabile or sing in Prelude Choir for one more year.
Week of 14 <sup>th</sup> -	Regular Rehearsals
18 <sup>th</sup> -	(Friday) Dress Rehearsal at UWM Zelazo Hall, 5:00-9:00 p.m. <i>Exact Prelude time TBD. Prelude will attend 60-90 minutes of this rehearsal.</i>
20 <sup>th</sup> -	(Sunday) MCC Spring Concert "And All That Jazz" 3:00 p.m. UWM Zelazo Hall. Singer Call Time 2:00 p.m.
Week of 21 <sup>st</sup> -	Regular Rehearsals - includes Year-End Parties. Parents welcome.

## June

12 <sup>th</sup> -	Re-auditions and New Auditions, 4:00-6:00, Prelude Preview 6:30-7:15 pm
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One additional community performance may be added to this schedule.

# Cantabile Choir Calendar

## 2011-2012 Season (as of 8-19-11)

Calendar subject to change (please read weekly newsletters for up-to-date info)

### Cantabile Rehearsal Sites

Cantabile Central	Tuesdays	2:45-4:15 PM	Milwaukee Youth Arts Center (MYAC)
Cantabile East	Tuesdays	5:30-7:00 PM	Milwaukee Youth Arts Center (MYAC)
Cantabile West	Wednesdays	6:00-7:30 PM	Mt Carmel Lutheran (Tosa)
Cantabile North	Thursdays	5:30-7:00 PM	Mequon United Methodist

### September

Week of 5 <sup>th</sup> -	Regular Rehearsals / Bring a Friend / Open Rehearsal (Cantabile Central and East on Tuesdays, Cantabile West on Wednesdays, Cantabile North on Thursdays)
Week of 12 <sup>th</sup> - 17 <sup>th</sup> -	Regular Rehearsals / Bring a Friend / Open Rehearsal (Saturday) Cantabile Retreat at MYAC, 9 am – 12 pm Parent Meeting for all Cantabile Families 11:00 am - 12:00 pm New Auditions at MYAC, 12:00p-1:00p. This is the final call for new singers to join MCC for the 1 <sup>st</sup> semester.
Week of 19 <sup>th</sup> -	Regular Rehearsals
Week of 26 <sup>th</sup> -	Regular Rehearsals

### October

Week of 3 <sup>rd</sup> -	Regular Rehearsals / Open Rehearsal
Week of 10 <sup>th</sup> -	Regular Rehearsals ( <i>Nutcracker</i> auditions after each rehearsal)
Week of 17 <sup>th</sup> -	Regular Rehearsals ( <i>Nutcracker</i> auditions after each rehearsal)
Week of 24 <sup>th</sup> -	NO Regular Rehearsals this week. Instead we will have a COMBINED rehearsal on Tuesday, October 25 <sup>th</sup> (see below)
25 <sup>th</sup>	(Tuesday) COMBINED Cantabile Rehearsal, 5:30-7:00 p.m., MYAC
Week of 31 <sup>st</sup> -	Regular Rehearsals

### November

5 <sup>th</sup> -	(Saturday) Dress Rehearsal at Hales Corners Lutheran, 9 am – 1 pm. <i>Exact call time for Cantabile TBD. Cantabile will attend 90 minutes of this rehearsal.</i>
Week of 7 <sup>th</sup> -	Regular Rehearsals
Week of 14 <sup>th</sup> - 19 <sup>th</sup> -	Regular Rehearsals (Saturday) MCC Autumn Concert "A Stroll Through the Countryside." 1:00 Concert, 12:00 p.m. singer call time, Hales Corners Lutheran Church.
Week of 21 <sup>st</sup> -	NO Regular Rehearsals this week - Happy Thanksgiving!
Week of 28- Dec. 2	Regular Rehearsals

### December

Week of 5 <sup>th</sup> - 10 <sup>th</sup> -	Regular Rehearsals (Saturday) Solo Auditions at MYAC, 9am-12pm, 3pm-6pm
Week of 12 <sup>th</sup> -	Regular Rehearsals
Week of 19 <sup>th</sup> -	Winter Break - No rehearsals
Week of 26 <sup>th</sup> -	Winter Break - No rehearsals

## January

Week of 2 <sup>nd</sup> -	Regular Rehearsals / Bring a Friend / Open Rehearsal
Week of 9 <sup>th</sup> -	Regular Rehearsals / Bring a Friend / Open Rehearsal
14 <sup>th</sup> -	(Saturday) New Auditions at MYAC, 9:30a - 11:00a. This is the final call for new singers to join MCC for the 2 <sup>nd</sup> semester. New Parent Meeting 9:45a-10:45a. Vocal Coaching and Soloists work with accompanist at MYAC, 12p-3p
Week of 16 <sup>th</sup> -	Regular Rehearsals
Week of 23 <sup>rd</sup> -	Regular Rehearsals
Week of 23 <sup>rd</sup> -	Regular Rehearsals
Week of 30 -Feb. 3	Regular Rehearsals

## February

Week of 6 <sup>th</sup> -	No Regular Rehearsals this week. Instead, we will have a COMBINED rehearsal on Tuesday, Feb. 7 in preparation for the Sing-a-Thon (see below)
7 <sup>th</sup>	(Tuesday) COMBINED Cantabile Rehearsal, 5:30-7:00 pm, MYAC.
11 <sup>th</sup> -	(Saturday) MCC Sing-a-Thon, Bayshore Towne Center, 10:30-4:30. <i>Specific call time TBD.</i>
Week of 13 <sup>th</sup> -	Regular Rehearsals
Week of 20 <sup>th</sup> -	Regular Rehearsals
Week of 27-Mar. 2	Regular Rehearsals

## March

Week of 5 <sup>th</sup> -	Regular Rehearsals / Open Rehearsal
Week of 12 <sup>th</sup> -	Regular Rehearsals
Week of 19 <sup>th</sup> -	Regular Rehearsals
Week of 26 <sup>th</sup> -	Regular Rehearsals

## April

Week of 2 <sup>nd</sup> -	No Regular Rehearsals - MCC Spring Break (see ACE dress rehearsal below)
3 <sup>rd</sup> -	(Tuesday) Dress Rehearsal for Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra ACE Concert, 2p-4p
Week of 9 <sup>th</sup> -	No Rehearsals - MCC Spring Break
Week of 16 <sup>th</sup> -	Regular Rehearsals
18 <sup>th</sup> -	Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra ACE Concert, noon, Uihlein Hall, Marcus Center for the Performing Arts
Week of 23 <sup>rd</sup> -	Regular Rehearsals
Week of 30-May 4	NO Regular Rehearsals this week. Instead, we will have a COMBINED rehearsal on Tuesday, May 1 (see below) PLUS Audition Day (see below).

## May

1 <sup>st</sup> -	(Tuesday) COMBINED Cantabile Rehearsal, 5:30-7:00 p.m., MYAC.
5 <sup>th</sup> -	(Saturday) Re-Audition Day and Auditions for New Students
Week of 7 <sup>th</sup> -	Regular Rehearsals
12 <sup>th</sup>	(Saturday) Re-Audition Day and Auditions for New Students
Week of 14 <sup>th</sup> -	Regular Rehearsals PLUS Dress Rehearsal PLUS Concert (see below)
18 <sup>th</sup> -	(Friday) Dress Rehearsal at UWM Zelazo Hall, 5:00-9:00 pm. <i>Exact time for Cantabile TBD. Cantabile will attend 90 minutes of this rehearsal.</i>
20 <sup>th</sup> -	(Sunday) MCC Spring Concert "And All That Jazz" 3:00 p.m. UWM Zelazo Hall. Singer Call Time 2:00 p.m.
Week of 21 <sup>st</sup> -	Regular Rehearsals - includes Year-End Parties. Parents welcome.

## June

12 <sup>th</sup> -	(Tuesday) Re-auditions and New Auditions, 4:00-6:00
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One additional community performance may be added to this schedule.

**Jubilate Choir Calendar**  
**2011-2012 Season (as of 9-9-11)**  
**MYAC, Tuesdays, 7:00-9:00 pm**  
**Instructor: Carol Storck**

Calendar subject to change (please read weekly newsletters for up-to-date info)

## September

- 6 - First Rehearsal and Uniform measuring / Bring a Friend / Open Rehearsal
- 10 - (Saturday) All Day Retreat and Uniform measuring (9a-4p) at MYAC, Parent Meeting (9:15a-10:15a) - Includes info regarding choir tours
- 13 - Regular Rehearsal and Uniform measuring / Bring a Friend / Open Rehearsal
- 17 - (Saturday) New Auditions at MYAC, 12:00p- 1:00p. This is the final call for new singers to join MCC for the 1<sup>st</sup> semester.
- 20 - Regular Rehearsal
- 27 - Regular Rehearsal / Florentine Studio Artist Presentation, 7:15-7:45—parents welcome. Rehearsal will end at usual time of 9:00 pm

## October

- 4 - Regular Rehearsal, Vocal Coaching by appt with Mrs. Egger 6:30-7:00 / Open Rehearsal
- 11 - Regular Rehearsal, Vocal Coaching by appt with Mrs. Egger 6:30-7:00 / Tour Payment(s) Due
- 18 - Regular Rehearsal, Vocal Coaching by appt with Mrs. Egger 6:30-7:00
- 25 - Regular Rehearsal, Vocal Coaching by appt with Mrs. Egger 6:30-7:00

## November

- 1 - Regular Rehearsal, Vocal Coaching by appt with Mrs. Egger 6:30-7:00
- 5 - (Saturday) Dress Rehearsal, Hales Corners Lutheran, 9a-1p. *Singer call time TBD*
- 8 - Regular Rehearsal, Vocal Coaching by appt with Mrs. Egger 6:30-7:00
- 15 - Regular Rehearsal, Vocal Coaching by appt with Mrs. Egger 6:30-7:00
- 19 - (Saturday) MCC Autumn Concert "A Stroll Through the Countryside." 1:00 Concert, Singer call time 12 p.m., Hales Corners Lutheran
- 20 - Tour Payment(s) Due
- 22 - Regular Rehearsal, Vocal Coaching by appt with Mrs. Egger 6:30-7:00
- 29 - Regular Rehearsal (*Possible MSO Rehearsal would cause us to cancel regular rehearsal*)
- 30 - (Wednesday) Possible MSO Rehearsal for *Holiday Pops*

## December

- 1 - (Thursday) Rehearsal with MSO, singer call time TBD, Uihlein Hall, Marcus Center
- 2 - (Friday) *Holiday Pops* Concert with MSO, 8:00 pm concert, singer call time TBD, Uihlein Hall, Marcus Center
- 3 - (Saturday) *Holiday Pops* Concert with MSO, 8:00 pm concert, singer call time TBD, Uihlein Hall, Marcus Center
- 4 - (Sunday) *Holiday Pops* Concert with MSO, 2:30 pm concert, singer call time TBD, Uihlein Hall, Marcus Center
- 6 - Regular Rehearsal, Vocal Coaching by appt with Mrs. Egger 6:30-7, Choir party last 30 min.
- 9 - (Friday) Possible *Nutcracker* Dress Rehearsal, time TBD
- 10 - (Saturday) Solo Auditions by appointment for Florentine Master Class and Sing-A-Thon, at MYAC, 9a-12p, 3p-6p
- 10-26 *Nutcracker* Performances (see flyer for more details and to sign up)
- 13 - Regular Rehearsal, Vocal Coaching by appt with Mrs. Egger 6:30-7:00
- 20 - Winter Break (except *Nutcracker* performances)
- 27 - Winter Break (except *Nutcracker* performances)

## January

- 3 - Regular Rehearsal / Bring a Friend / Vocal Coaching by appt with Mrs. Egger 6:30-7:00 / Open Rehearsal
- 10 - Regular Rehearsal / Bring a Friend / Vocal Coaching by appt with Mrs. Egger 6:30-7:00 / Open Rehearsal
- 14 - (Saturday) New Auditions at MYAC, 9:30a - 11:00a. This is the final call for new singers to join MCC for the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester.  
New Parent Meeting 9:45a-10:45a  
Vocal Coaching and Soloists work with accompanist at MYAC, 12p-3p
- 17 - Regular Rehearsal, Vocal Coaching by appt with Mrs. Egger 6:30-7:00 (*Possible MSO Rehearsal would cause us to cancel regular rehearsal*)
- 18 - (Wednesday) Rehearsal with MSO, *singer call time TBD*, Uihlein Hall, Marcus Center
- 19 - (Thursday) Rehearsal with MSO, *singer call time TBD*, Uihlein Hall, Marcus Center
- 20 - (Friday) *Carmina Burana* Concert with MSO, 8:00 pm concert, call time TBD, Uihlein Hall, Marcus Center /  
Tour Payment(s) Due
- 21 - (Saturday) *Carmina Burana* Concert with MSO, 8:00 pm concert, singer call time TBD,  
Uihlein Hall, Marcus Center
- 22 - (Sunday) *Carmina Burana* Concert with MSO, 2:30 pm concert, singer call time TBD,  
Uihlein Hall, Marcus Center
- 24 - Regular Rehearsal, Vocal Coaching by appt with Mrs. Egger 6:30-7:00
- 28 - (Saturday) Florentine Opera Studio Artists available to coach and have master classes (30 minute sessions) with Jubilate soloists. Singers must audition December 10<sup>th</sup> to participate or have recommendation of Jubilate Director. See flyer and newsletter for details.
- 31 - Regular Rehearsal, Vocal Coaching by appt with Mrs. Egger 6:30-7:00

## February

- 7 - Regular Rehearsal, Vocal Coaching by appt with Mrs. Egger 6:30-7:00
- 11 - (Saturday) MCC Sing-a-Thon, Bayshore Towne Center, 10:30-4:30. *Specific call time TBD.*
- 14 - Regular Rehearsal
- 17-19 MINI TOUR (Friday to Sunday) Milwaukee school tour on Friday, Silver Lake College (SLC), Manitowoc Saturday for workshop, SLC concert Sunday, staying at Blue Harbor in Sheboygan. Bus will pickup at MYAC Friday 8 am and return to MYAC Sunday at 5:30 pm.
- 20 - Tour Payment Due
- 21 - Regular Rehearsal
- 28 - Regular Rehearsal

## March

- 6 - Regular Rehearsal / Open Rehearsal
- 13 - Regular Rehearsal
- 20 - Regular Rehearsal / Final Tour Payment Due
- 27 - Regular Rehearsal

## April

- 3 - Regular Rehearsal
- 10 - No Rehearsal, MCC Spring Break
- 17 - Regular Rehearsal, Vocal Coaching by appt with Mrs. Egger 6:30-7:00
- 24 - Regular Rehearsal, Vocal Coaching by appt with Mrs. Egger 6:30-7:00

## May

- 1 - Regular Rehearsal, Vocal Coaching by appt with Mrs. Egger 6:30-7:00
- 5 - (Saturday) Re-Audition Day and Auditions for New Students
- 6 - (Sunday) Possible *Peter Pan* Orchestra Rehearsal, Milwaukee Ballet Studio, 5<sup>th</sup> and National, *time TBD*
- 8 - Regular Rehearsal, Vocal Coaching by appt with Mrs. Egger 6:30-7:00
- 9 - (Wednesday) *Peter Pan* Orchestra Dress Rehearsal, Uihlein Hall, Marcus Center, *time TBD*
- 10 - (Thursday) *Peter Pan* Performance 7:30 pm Uihlein Hall, Marcus Center, *singer call TBD*
- 11 - (Friday) *Peter Pan* Performance 11 am Uihlein Hall, Marcus Center, *singer call TBD*
- 11 - (Friday) *Peter Pan* Performance 7:30 pm Uihlein Hall, Marcus Center, *singer call TBD*
- 12 - (Saturday) Re-Audition Day and Auditions for New Students  
(Saturday) **possible *Peter Pan* Matinee, 1:30 pm Uihlein Hall, Marcus Center, singer call TBD**  
**PLEASE keep this date open on your calendars**  
(Saturday) *Peter Pan* Performance 7:30 pm Uihlein Hall, Marcus Center, *singer call TBD*
- 13 - (Sunday) *Peter Pan* Performance 1:30 pm Uihlein Hall, Marcus Center, *singer call TBD*
- 15 - Regular Rehearsal, Vocal Coaching by appt with Mrs. Egger 6:30-7:00
- 18 - (Friday) Dress Rehearsal at UWM Zelazo Hall 5p-9p, call time TBD
- 20 - (Sunday) MCC Spring Concert "And All That Jazz" 3:00 Concert, UWM Zelazo Hall, singer call time 2:00 pm
- 22 - Regular Rehearsal, Send-Off / Year end party / Parents welcome
- 29 - Tour Rehearsal 7:00-9:00 p.m.

## June

- 5 - Tour Rehearsal, 7:00-9:00 p.m.
- 12 - Tour Rehearsal, 7:00-9:00 p.m.  
Re-Auditions and Auditions for New Students, 4:00p – 6:00p
- \*21-26 – Crescent City Choral Festival, New Orleans, Louisiana  
\*Please hold June 19-28 open for festival, as well as travel to and from New Orleans

One additional community performance may be added to this schedule.

# Milwaukee Youth Chorale Choir Calendar

2011-2012 Season (as of 9-9-11)

MYAC, Tuesdays, 7:00-9:00 pm

Instructor: Jason Clark

Calendar subject to change (please read weekly newsletters for up-to-date info)

## September

- 6 - First Rehearsal and Uniform measuring / Bring a Friend / Open Rehearsal
- 10 - (Saturday) All Day Retreat and Uniform measuring (9a-4p) at MYAC, Mandatory Parent Meeting (9:15a-10:15a) - Includes info regarding choir tours
- 13 - Regular Rehearsal and Uniform measuring / Bring a Friend / Open Rehearsal
- 17 - (Saturday) New Auditions at MYAC, 12:00p- 1:00p. This is the final call for new singers to join MCC for the 1<sup>st</sup> semester.
- 20 - Regular Rehearsal
- 27 - Regular Rehearsal / Florentine Studio Artist Presentation, 7:15-7:45 (parents welcome). Rehearsal will end at usual time of 9:00 p.m.

## October

- 4 - Regular Rehearsal, Vocal Coaching by appt with Mrs. Egger 6:30-7:00 / Open Rehearsal
- 11 - Regular Rehearsal, Vocal Coaching by appt with Mrs. Egger 6:30-7:00 / Tour Payment(s) Due
- 18 - Regular Rehearsal, Vocal Coaching by appt with Mrs. Egger 6:30-7:00
- 25 - Regular Rehearsal, Vocal Coaching by appt with Mrs. Egger 6:30-7:00

## November

- 1 - Regular Rehearsal, Vocal Coaching by appt with Mrs. Egger 6:30-7:00
- 5 - (Saturday) Dress Rehearsal, Hales Corners Lutheran, 9a-1p, *call time TBD*
- 8 - Regular Rehearsal, Vocal Coaching by appt with Mrs. Egger 6:30-7:00
- 15 - Regular Rehearsal, Vocal Coaching by appt with Mrs. Egger 6:30-7:00
- 19 - (Saturday) MCC Autumn Concert "A Stroll Through the Countryside." 1:00 pm concert, Singer call time 12:00 p.m., Hales Corners Lutheran Church
- 20 - Tour Payment(s) Due
- 22 - Regular Rehearsal, Vocal Coaching by appt with Mrs. Egger 6:30-7:00
- 29 - Regular Rehearsal (*Possible MSO Rehearsal would cause us to cancel regular rehearsal*)
- 30 - (Wednesday) Possible MSO Rehearsal for *Holiday Pops*

## December

- 1 - (Thursday) Rehearsal with MSO, singer call time TBD, Uihlein Hall, Marcus Center
- 2 - (Friday) *Holiday Pops* Concert with MSO, 8:00 pm concert, singer call time TBD, Uihlein Hall, Marcus Center
- 3 - (Saturday) *Holiday Pops* Concert with MSO, 8:00 pm concert, singer call time TBD, Uihlein Hall, Marcus Center
- 4 - (Sunday) *Holiday Pops* Concert with MSO, 2:30 pm concert, singer call time TBD, Uihlein Hall, Marcus Center
- 6 - Regular Rehearsal, Vocal Coaching by appt with Mrs. Egger 6:30-7:00, Choir party tentatively scheduled last 30 minutes, watch for details from Mr. Clark. Parents welcome.
- 9 - (Friday) Possible *Nutcracker*<sup>r</sup> (TREBLE SINGERS ONLY) Dress Rehearsal, *time TBD*
- 10 - (Saturday) Solo Auditions by appointment for Florentine Master Class and Sing-A-Thon, at MYAC, 9a-12p, 3p-6p
- 10-26 - *Nutcracker*<sup>r</sup> Performances (see flyer for more details) (TREBLE SINGERS ONLY)
- 13 - Regular Rehearsal, Vocal Coaching by appt with Mrs. Egger 6:30-7:00
- 20 - Winter Break (except *Nutcracker* performances)
- 27 - Winter Break (except *Nutcracker* performances)

## January

- 3 - Regular Rehearsal / Bring a Friend / Vocal Coaching by appt with Mrs. Egger 6:30-7:00 / Open Rehearsal
- 10 - Regular Rehearsal / Bring a Friend / Vocal Coaching by appt with Mrs. Egger 6:30-7:00 / Open Rehearsal
- 14 - (Saturday) New Auditions at MYAC, 9:30a - 11:00a. This is the final call for new singers to join MCC for the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester.  
New Parent Meeting 9:45a-10:45a  
Vocal Coaching and Soloists work with accompanist at MYAC, 12p-3p
- 17 - Regular Rehearsal, Vocal Coaching by appt with Mrs. Egger 6:30-7:00
- 20 - Tour Payment(s) Due
- 24 - Regular Rehearsal, Vocal Coaching by appt with Mrs. Egger 6:30-7:00
- 28 - (Saturday) Florentine Opera Studio Artists available to coach and have master classes (30 minute sessions) with MYC soloists. Singers must audition December 10<sup>th</sup> to participate or have recommendation of MYC Director. See flyer and newsletter for details.
- 31 - Regular Rehearsal, Vocal Coaching by appt with Mrs. Egger 6:30-7:00

## February

- 7 - Regular Rehearsal, Vocal Coaching by appt with Mrs. Egger 6:30-7:00
- 11 - MCC Sing-a-Thon, Bayshore Towne Center, 10:30-4:30. *Specific call time TBD.*
- 14 - Regular Rehearsal
- 17-19 MINI TOUR (Friday to Sunday) Milwaukee school tour on Friday, Silver Lake College (SLC), Manitowoc Saturday for workshop, SLC concert Sunday, staying at Blue Harbor in Sheboygan. Bus will pickup at MYAC at 8 am Friday and return to MYAC at 5:30 pm Sunday.
- 20 - Tour Payment Due
- 21 - Regular Rehearsal
- 27 - (Monday) *Milwaukee Youth Music Celebration* Rehearsal, MYAC, 5-9 p.m. *Call time TBD.*
- 28 - Regular Rehearsal

## March

- 5 - (Monday) *Milwaukee Youth Music Celebration* Rehearsal, Elmbrook, (singer call time TBD)
- 6 - Regular Rehearsal
- 9 - (Friday) *Milwaukee Youth Music Celebration* Rehearsal, Elmbrook, time TBD
- 10 - (Saturday) Tentative *MYMC* Rehearsal, MYAC
- 11 - (Sunday) *Milwaukee Youth Music Celebration* Concert, 3:00 p.m., Elmbrook (call time TBD)
- 13 - Regular Rehearsal
- 20 - Regular Rehearsal / Final Tour Payment Due
- 27 - Regular Rehearsal

## April

- 3 - Regular Rehearsal
- 10 - No Rehearsal, MCC Spring Break
- 17 - Regular Rehearsal, Vocal Coaching by appt with Mrs. Egger 6:30-7:00
- 24 - Regular Rehearsal, Vocal Coaching by appt with Mrs. Egger 6:30-7:00

## May

- 1 - Regular Rehearsal, Vocal Coaching by appt with Mrs. Egger 6:30-7:00
- 5 - (Saturday) Re-Audition Day and Auditions for New Students
- 6 - (Sunday) Possible Peter Pan<sup>♯</sup> (TREBLE SINGERS ONLY) Orchestra Rehearsal, Milwaukee Ballet Studios, 5<sup>th</sup> and National, *time TBD*
- 8 - Regular Rehearsal, Vocal Coaching by appt with Mrs. Egger 6:30-7:00
- 9 - (Wednesday) *Peter Pan*<sup>♯</sup> Orchestra Dress Rehearsal, Uihlein Hall, Marcus Center, *time TBD*
- 10 - (Thursday) *Peter Pan*<sup>♯</sup> Performance 7:30 pm Uihlein Hall, Marcus Center, *singer call TBD*
- 11 - (Friday) *Peter Pan*<sup>♯</sup> Performance 11 am Uihlein Hall, Marcus Center, *singer call TBD*
- 11 - (Friday) *Peter Pan*<sup>♯</sup> Performance 7:30 pm Uihlein Hall, Marcus Center, *singer call TBD*
- 12 - (Saturday) Re-Audition Day and Auditions for New Students
- (Saturday) **possible** *Peter Pan*<sup>♯</sup> Matinee, 1:30 pm Uihlein Hall, Marcus Center, *singer call TBD*  
**PLEASE keep this date open on your calendars**
- (Saturday) *Peter Pan*<sup>♯</sup> Performance 7:30 pm Uihlein Hall, Marcus Center, *singer call TBD*
- 13 - (Sunday) *Peter Pan*<sup>♯</sup> Performance 1:30 pm Uihlein Hall, Marcus Center, *singer call TBD*
- 15 - Regular Rehearsal, Vocal Coaching by appt with Mrs. Egger 6:30-7:00
- 18 - (Friday) Dress Rehearsal at UWM Zelazo Hall 5p-9p, *call time TBD*
- 20 - (Sunday) MCC Spring Concert "And All That Jazz" 3:00, UWM Zelazo Hall, *singer call 2pm*
- 22 - Regular Rehearsal, Send Off / Year end party
- 29 - Tour Rehearsal 7:00-9:00 p.m.

## June

- 5 - Tour Rehearsal 7:00-9:00 pm
- 12 - Tour Rehearsal 7:00-9:00 pm
- 12 - (Tuesday) Re-Auditions and Auditions for New Students, 4:00p – 6:00p

\*21-26 – Crescent City Choral Festival, New Orleans, Louisiana

\*Please hold June 19-28 open for festival, as well as travel to and from New Orleans

<sup>♯</sup>Only treble singers are eligible to participate in *Nutcracker* and *Peter Pan*.

One additional community performance may be added to this schedule.

## **Welcome to the Milwaukee Children’s Choir!**

The Milwaukee Children’s Choir is a community program that offers children the opportunity to participate in extraordinary world-class experiences. The Choir works to bring out the best in the young people served by our programs. Choir members learn about great music and the transforming power of musical expression by singing well. Through fine repertoire, vocal and musical skills, excellent performances, outstanding opportunities, and a positive learning environment, choir members develop life-long values which enhance their entire lives.

This handbook contains the information you should know as you enroll your child in the MCC program.

### **Mission and Vision**

Milwaukee Children's Choir is driven by its Mission: "To give children exceptional choral music instruction and performance experiences that foster creativity, personal expression and social growth."

MCC's Vision: Working with the first instrument, the Milwaukee Children’s Choir will realize its vision when...every Milwaukee family knows our name; we have created generations of families who are music makers; we are known as a beacon of artistic excellence; we have a home of our own for rehearsal, performance, and administrative offices; the word Milwaukee makes you think of the city and its great children’s choir; MCC membership represents all of greater Milwaukee’s diverse cultures; we have created generations of “complete human beings capable of living successful and productive lives in a free society” (former Chairman of the National Endowment of the Arts Dana Gioia, on the real purpose of arts education); we have developed human beings who sing, play, improvise, compose, move, read, write, and think musically; and Milwaukee is made much richer by our presence.

### **Guiding Principles**

Milwaukee Children’s Choir is a performing arts organization that prides itself on artistic excellence and audience-pleasing performances. But as a children’s choir MCC is about much more. It fosters life-long values including the love of music; the pursuit of excellence; self-discipline and teamwork; self-expression and self-confidence; and a greater understanding of oneself, the world and its people.

Concert seasons and the rehearsals and performances that become part of those seasons are structured to address the following elements:

<u>Overarching concepts:</u>	<u>Leads to:</u>
Provide quality music education	Excellent music teachers using recognized/ proven methods
Teach through performance	All work leads to age-appropriate and enriching performance experiences
Learn through experience	Provide a variety of enriching opportunities and experiences
Build Noteworthy Character	MCC teaches more than songs and focuses on the whole child

## **Program Overview**

Milwaukee Children's Choir is Southeastern Wisconsin's premiere professional children's choir. It has programs for children ages 4 through 18. Rehearsals are educational, child centered, age appropriate, and fun, and teach not only music but also important life skills such as poise, self-confidence, self-discipline, focus, memory, problem solving, and teamwork.

## **Membership**

Milwaukee Children's Choir is a special learning environment designed to provide a rich and rewarding experience for each child. Membership is an honor. Repertoire is varied and drawn from the masters and from all cultures, including popular, folk and patriotic music. Words used by MCC families to describe the impact MCC has on its members include "discipline, creativity, teamwork, friendship." What word is used most by MCC members when they describe MCC's program? "FUN!"

The Milwaukee Children's Choir consists of five choir levels. The levels are: Songbirds, Prelude, Cantabile, Jubilate, and the Milwaukee Youth Chorale (MYC).

## **Auditions**

Grades K4-K5: Children enrolling in Songbirds need not audition or attend a preview.

Grades 1-3: Interested children entering grades 1-3 are many times seeking their first choral experience. If they love to sing and are socially ready, MCC's Prelude Choir is the right place for them! A one-on-one audition is not required for entry at the Prelude level, however we ask children to attend a Prelude Preview to see how they like it. In a Prelude Preview, choir directors lead a group of children in fun singing games, as well as other age-appropriate, educational activities. These activities, which lay the foundation for music literacy and performance, are presented in a non-threatening, fun environment. If children enjoy the Prelude Preview, we invite them to join MCC's Prelude Choir.

To find out when our next Prelude Preview is scheduled, please call 414-221-7040 or send an email to the MCC office.

Grades 4-12: Interested children entering grades 4-12 need to audition. The purpose of the audition is to place singers in the appropriate choir. If it is your first audition with Milwaukee Children's Choir, we ask you a bit about yourself. We have you sing ascending and descending scales with the piano to check your singing range—this means how high and low you can sing. You'll sing the first stanza of a familiar song. You'll read a poem or paragraph we give you so we can hear your speaking voice. You'll echo sing melodic and rhythmic patterns, answer some music theory questions, and sight-read melodic and rhythmic patterns--don't worry if you don't know how to read music. We will teach you this in choir! You do NOT need to bring a prepared song or an accompanist. If you have a song that you would like to sing for us, we will be glad to hear it, but this is strictly optional. Our goal is to make you feel at ease in your audition, and determine which choir would benefit you most as a singer.

A student entering grades 4-12 may be placed in MCC's Prelude, Cantabile, Jubilate, or Youth Chorale. The purpose of the audition is to place each singer in the choir level they will be most comfortable in. To arrange for an audition, please call 414-221-7040 or send an email to the MCC office ([membership@milwaukeechildrenschoir.org](mailto:membership@milwaukeechildrenschoir.org)).

## **Choir Descriptions**

### **Songbirds (Grades K4 and K5):**

Songbirds is MCC's early childhood music program. Music instruction at this level is non-performance based. Children participate in 30-minute weekly classes for twelve weeks per semester, where they are exposed to the fundamentals of music, which prepare them for music literacy. Emphasis is placed on singing, but children do not yet sing in choral formation. Children sit in a circle with the teacher, while parents observe from the back of the class, so they may reinforce the learning at home. Music and neurological researchers agree that singing to a child during early childhood is not only an excellent means to bond with the child; it is also a necessary method to stimulate the child's brain development. MCC's early childhood music curriculum is based on the Kodaly-inspired lesson plan format and First Steps in Music Curriculum of Dr. John M. Feierabend, an internationally recognized leader in the field of early childhood education. Several MCC artistic staff members have had the privilege to study with him. With this program, children sing authentic folk songs and enjoy participating in singing and reciting finger plays, action songs, pitch exploration activities, movement exploration activities, circle games, and steady beat activities. Teaching aides such as puppets, scarves, parachutes, and rhythm instruments add to the fun of learning music, which is taught in a child-appropriate, playful manner. These fun, educational activities help children with language development, small and large motor skills, and social skills. They also pave the way for the literacy-based music instruction, vocal development, and performance experiences, which will be introduced at MCC's Prelude Choir level. Tuition: only \$160 per semester, payment plan available.

### **Prelude Choir (Grades 1-4):**

The word "prelude" means an introductory composition that prepares one for the succeeding musical piece. It seems to perfectly reflect this choir level, which is a beginning choral experience where creative, child-centered, and age appropriate activities introduce young singers to vocal development and music reading. Repertoire for the Prelude Choir is based on the use of folksongs with emphasis on Kodály Methodology. Appropriate choral octavos are also used in preparation for performances. Unison singing is emphasized, but choir members also sing canons and partner songs. One hour classes are scheduled at three rehearsal sites around the city: Prelude North (Mequon United Methodist Church), Prelude East (Milwaukee Youth Arts Center), and Prelude West (Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church). Children attend the rehearsal site closest to them from September until the end of May. They also attend occasional combined rehearsals where singers from each of the individual Prelude rehearsal sites come together to sing as one larger choir. The Prelude Choir has 3-4 concerts per year; and Prelude singers are offered additional performance opportunities, which are optional. Tuition: only \$420 a year, payment plan available.

### **Cantabile Choir (Grades 4-8):**

The word "cantabile" (pronounced "can-tah-bee-lay") refers to singing in a melodious and graceful style, full of expression. At this level choir activities focus on singers' vocal range, tone quality, music literacy skills, and performance skills. Repertoire consists of folk songs, art songs, multicultural music, songs in foreign languages, as well as works by major composers. Unison and two-part singing are emphasized throughout the year, and 3-part treble harmony is introduced. Ninety-minute weekly rehearsals are offered at 4 rehearsal sites around the city: Cantabile North (Mequon United Methodist Church), Cantabile West (Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church), Cantabile East (Milwaukee Youth Arts Center), and Cantabile Central (Milwaukee Youth Arts Center). In addition, students attend combined rehearsals when the entire Cantabile Choir meets. The Cantabile Choir performs in three-four concerts per year, plus Cantabile singers are given additional performance experiences, which are optional. The choir season runs from September until May. Tuition: only \$525 a year, payment plan available.

### **Jubilate Choir (Grades 6-9):**

The word "jubilate" (pronounced "you-bee-lah-tay") means celebration and great joy. MCC's Jubilate, directed by MCC Artistic Director Carol Storck, showcases some of our most talented treble singers. Members of this choir level sing the most demanding MCC repertoire in 3- and 4-part treble harmony. All styles and genres are performed, as are master works with orchestra. Jubilate performs often, and sings at a professional level with organizations such as the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra and Milwaukee Ballet. Members continue to develop music reading, vocal technique, and theory skills. They rehearse once per week for two hours. Members of the Jubilate Choir will also have an opportunity to work with MCC Vocal Coach Elizabeth Egger, as well as Studio Artists from the Florentine Opera. They are given solo and chamber choir performance opportunities throughout the year. Jubilate tours every three to five years. Tours are optional, and are not included in the tuition price. MCC has toured regionally, nationally, and internationally. Tuition: only \$525 a year, payment plan available.

### **Milwaukee Youth Chorale (Grades 10-12):**

The MYC, directed by Jason Clark, is an experienced SATB choir. Members learn and perform outstanding advanced high school and college-level repertoire of all styles and genres, including works by master composers, multicultural music, gospel, vocal jazz, etc. Singers at this level work to develop a wider vocal range and a more mature tone. Younger males whose voices have developed in a lower range will be admitted into MYC early. MYC rehearses once per week for two hours, and performs often. Members of MYC will also have an opportunity to work with MCC Vocal Coach Elizabeth Egger, as well as Studio Artists from the Florentine Opera. They are given solo and chamber choir performance opportunities throughout the year. MYC tours every three to five years. Tours are optional, and are not included in the tuition price. MCC has toured regionally, nationally, and internationally. Tuition: only \$525 a year, payment plan available.

## **Curriculum**

The MCC curriculum is based on the choral standards of the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA), the Kodaly Concept, as outlined by the Organization of American Kodaly Educators (OAKE), the Wisconsin State Music Standards, and MCC's Vision and Mission Statement.

## **“Exceptional Choral Music Instruction”**

### **Repertoire Selection**

MCC Directors:

1. choose a variety of repertoire representing historically significant and new compositions - repertoire that has stood the test of time as well as those that are new, interesting, and representative of world cultures.
2. choose repertoire with well written, age appropriate lyrics that will challenge the singers to interpret, relate to, and portray the poetry to an audience. Lyrics that children can connect with and spur thoughts and conversations of the world and how it affects them.
3. know the vocal range of the ensemble. They choose repertoire that sits in that range comfortably but also will occasionally challenge the choir to strengthen the high and low vocal registers as well.
4. make sure the accompaniment adds artistic merit to the work.
5. choose repertoire with educational value that strengthens musicianship skills, vocabulary, historical exposure.
6. when possible, commission new works and allow singers the opportunity to meet and work with composers.

### **Presentation**

MCC Choirs:

1. demonstrate balance between historical value (unless genre specific as indicated in the mission of the program), tempo, mood, text, color.
2. allow repertoire to dictate performance practice. The conductors study the score, research background of the piece, and present the music in a way that respects the historical and cultural significance.
3. use movement in a way that is respectful of the culture and art of the music.
4. seek musicians within the community, school and choir who would offer the ensemble exposure to different accompanying instruments.
5. utilize the highest caliber of musician possible to enhance the product and overall artistry of performance.

## **“Exceptional Performance Opportunities”**

MCC’s commitment to excellence and the Milwaukee community leads to strong performance demand. It performs regularly throughout the year at its own concerts and as guest artist. MCC is a member of the United Performing Arts Fund (UPAF), and its relationships with the area’s finest performing arts organizations lead to once-in-a-lifetime performance opportunities for its singers. Recent examples include choir members providing the “lovely chorus of young voices” in Milwaukee Ballet’s *The Nutcracker* (Elaine Schmidt Journal review December 2009), and the opportunity to sing side by side with the Milwaukee Symphony Chorus in Stravinsky’s *Symphony of Psalms*, where the singers produced musical chords that “drifted through Uihlein Hall like glowing angels” (*Third Coast Digest* critic Tom Strini MSO review April 2010).

Many factors are used to determine whether to put special performance opportunities on MCC’s calendar:

- Does the performance further MCC’s Mission or Vision?
- Will our singers have a fun and educational performance experience?
- Do we have artistic and administrative staff available to facilitate the performance?
- Do we have sufficient singers available to provide a quality performance?
- Will we provide the audience with an artistically excellent performance?

If we believe the answer to all questions will be “yes”, we accept the performance and do our best to insure that the performance meets expectations. But, there are times when the resulting performance experience is not as expected. This provides all involved the opportunity to learn adaptability, flexibility, and calm under pressure. We typically send surveys to MCC families following each performance, and family feedback is used to determine future performances.

We have also found that no performance pleases everyone. The same performance may be the “best” for one choir member and his/ her family while being the “worst” for another. By providing a variety of performance experiences all choir members learn and grow.

## **“Creativity, Personal Expression and Social Growth”**

Learning to perform music with skill and understanding builds self-esteem. Informed performances can transform young singers as they take pride in what they know and in their ability to demonstrate their knowledge-in-action. In addition, music making is done in relationship with others, within a community of shared learning and common goals. Community is established within the rehearsal, among collaborating organizations, and out to the audience, embracing the listeners in the power of music expression. At its best, choral singing is a decidedly human endeavor, bringing out the best in its participant.

Through singing, children experience the “inner life” of the music in a way that transcends the surface of notation and words. Singing is a way of “touching” the music and a way of being “touched” by the music. Furthermore, artistic expression demands that we use our senses (hearing, seeing, etc.) in extraordinary ways, for the pure pleasure of doing so. Through this kind of expression, we live life more keenly, more vividly; we feel more alive.

## **Choral Vocal Production**

### **Vocal Health**

MCC Directors:

- are aware of individual vocal health and developments in the group.
- are knowledgeable and have skills to assist with changing voices, both boys and girls.
- teach basic healthy vocal habits -- breath support and control, vowel formation, tongue placement, and tone quality.

### **Intonation**

MCC Directors:

- educate students about vowel formation, placement of the voice in the resonating chambers, and breath support -- all of which are important to vocal health and intonation.
- teach the ensemble to listen to one another, other parts, and analyze the ensemble's tone.
- are conscientious regarding seating placement within the ensemble, with singers next to like voices so tension does not develop due to contrasting vocal quality surrounding the singer.

### **Style**

MCC Directors:

- modify tone color to fit style. When healthy vocal habits are established, singers can modify the tone in a healthy manner to imitate the timbres found in world music.

## **Rehearsal Techniques and Instruction**

### **Literacy**

MCC Directors:

- are Kodály trained, and several key Kodály concepts are integrated into MCC's literacy curriculum.

## **Who was Zoltan Kodály and Why Do MCC Directors Have “Kodály” Training?**

### Kodály, the Educator and Humanist

Zoltán Kodály (1882-1967), prominent Hungarian composer and musician, directed a significant portion of his creative endeavors to the musical education of the Hungarian nation – an interest which developed over many years. Such efforts were initiated with the folk song collection beginning in 1905. As he became aware of the great need to improve the quality of singing and music training of teachers and children alike, he began composing for children's choruses in the 1920's and required his composition students to do the same. Folk music provided inspiration, as well as the musical basis, for many of the compositions. By 1929 he was determined to reform the teaching of music and to make it an integral part of the education of every child.

In a lecture on children's choirs in 1929, he said, "Teach music and singing at school in such a way that it is not a torture, but a joy for the pupil; instill a thirst for finer music in him, a thirst which will last for a lifetime. If the child is not filled at least once by the life-giving stream of music during the most susceptible period -- between his sixth and sixteenth years -- it will hardly be of any use to him later on. Often a single experience will open the young soul to music for a whole lifetime. This experience cannot be left to chance, it is the duty of the school to provide it." (Selected Writings, p. 120)

Kodály believed that music is meant to develop one's entire being-personality, intellect and emotions. He said, "music is a spiritual food for everybody. So I studied how to make more people accessible to good music." (Kodály, 1966) Kodály realized this was part of everyone's basic heritage and was necessary for human development and should be started at as early an age as possible. Jenő Ádám, an early and prominent colleague of Kodály, stated, "The most important thing is to actualize the instinctive love of the child for singing and playing, to realize the changing of his moods through the songs, his feelings, his experiences -- in other words, to bring about the miracle of music."

## **The Kodály Concept** (from the Organization of American Kodaly Educators, OAKE)

- Is a philosophy of education and a concept of teaching.
- Is a comprehensive program to train basic musical skills and teach the reading and writing of music.
- Is an integration of many of the best ideas, techniques, and approaches to music education.
- Is an experience-based approach to teaching.

### Essential and Key Elements of the Concept:

#### **Singing**

- We should first learn to love music as human sound and as an experience that enriches life.
- The voice is the most natural instrument and one which every person possesses.
- Kodály called singing "the essence" of this concept.
- Singing is a powerful means of musical expression.
- What we produce by ourselves is better learned; and there is a stronger feeling of success and accomplishment.
- Learning through singing should precede instrumental training.
- It is in the child's best interest to understand the basics of reading music before beginning the difficult task of learning the technique of an instrument.

#### **What do we sing?**

- Folk songs and games of the American Culture
- Traditional children's songs and games
- Folk songs of other cultures
- Music of the masters from all ages
- Pedagogical exercises written by master composers

#### **Singing best develops the inner, musical ear.**

"If we ourselves sing often, this provides a deep experience of happiness in music. Through our own musical activities, we learn to know the pulsation, rhythm, and shape of melody. The enjoyment given encourages the study of instruments and the listening to other pieces of music as well." (Kodály, 1964)

#### **Folk Music**

- Folk music is the music of the people. There can be no better material for singing than the songs and games used by children for centuries.
- Folk Music has all the basic characteristics needed to teach the foundations of music and to develop a love of music -- a love that will last a life time.
- Folk music is the classical music of the people, and, as such, is a perfect bridge leading to and working hand-in-hand with-art music.

"The compositions of every country, if original, are based on the songs of its own people. That is why their folk songs must be constantly sung, observed, and studied." (Kodály, 1964)

#### **Solfège**

- Solfège is the best tool for developing the inner ear.
- It is an invaluable aid in building all musical skills:
  - Sight singing
  - Dictation
  - Ear training
  - Part hearing
  - Hearing and singing harmony
  - Perceiving form
  - Developing memory
- The moveable do system, highly developed in English choral training, was advocated by Kodály as a tool for teaching musical literacy.
- Use of the pentatone (do, re, me, sol, la) was recommended by Kodály for early training of children because of its predominance in their folk music.

### **Music and Quality**

We believe that music enhances the quality of life. So that it may have the impact it deserves, only the best music should be used for teaching:

- Folk music, which is the most representative of the culture
- The best music composed by the masters

Quality music demands quality teaching:

- Teachers need to be as well-trained as possible
- Teachers' training must be well-rounded
- Teachers need to develop their musical and vocal skills to the highest degree possible

"The pure soul of the child must be considered sacred; what we implant there must stand every test, and if we plant anything bad, we poison his soul for life." (Selected Writings, p. 141)

### **Development of the Complete Musician**

- Kodály training is a complete and comprehensive approach to music education which meets the National Standards for Arts Education as published by MENC, © 1994.
- The development of all skill areas begins very early with simple tasks required of all the students. As knowledge grows, skills are developed further in a sequential manner.
- In addition to music reading and writing which are begun at an early stage, the following skill areas are also developed: part-singing, part-hearing, improvisation, intonation, listening, memory, phrasing and understanding of form.
- An awareness and knowledge of musical styles develops as skills become more proficient.

"The good musician understands the music without a score as well and understands the score without the music. The ear should not need the eye nor the eye the (outer) ear." (Kodály quoting Schumann: Selected Writings, p. 192)

### **Sequencing**

- Presentation of materials, concepts, and development of skills can be done in a meaningful way only if the curriculum is well sequenced.
- A carefully planned sequence, well taught, will result in successful experiences for children and teacher. Success breeds success and fosters a love of music.
- A Kodály sequenced curriculum is an experience-based approach to learning rather than a cognitive developmental approach.

"Music must not be approached from its intellectual, rational side, nor should it be conveyed to the child as a system of algebraic symbols, or as a secret writing of a language with which he has no connection. The way should be paved for direct intuition." (Selected Writings, p. 120)

### **The Methods of Teaching**

- Any methodology is derived from a thorough understanding of the concept.
- The use of musical tools and activities strengthens and enhances the learner's ability to grasp the concept.
- Many of these tools have become well-known and, in some cases, have become synonymous with the Kodály Concept. However, they are only aids for teaching. They should enhance, not detract from our main goals:
  - To instill the love of music in every student
  - To enable every learner to become musically literate
- Methodology must be developed to suit the age of the child:
  - Flexibility at all times in the teaching process
  - Flexibility in the teaching/learning process and creative use of musical materials and activities are vital for success.

## **Common Tools and Aids in Teaching**

- Hand signs
- Rhythm solmization
- Flash cards
- Echos
- Body signs
- Picture symbols
- Musical ladders
- Musical shorthand or stick notation

## **Child-Centered, Age Appropriate Teaching Instruction**

MCC Directors teach in a child-centered, age-appropriate manner, which is both educational and fun for each singer. Age appropriate music activities for rehearsal may include:

- Songbirds: fingerplays, action songs singing games, movement to music, use of toys and puppets, rhythmic activities, steady beat activities, etc.
- Prelude: singing games, movement to music, folk dancing, literacy games, rhythm instruments, toys
- Cantabile: singing games, folk dancing, literacy games, eurhythmics
- Jubilate: eurhythmics, rehearsal ice breakers, getting to know you activities, community building activities, performance demonstrations, student lead warm-ups
- MYC: eurhythmics, rehearsal ice breakers, getting to know you activities, community building activities, performance demonstrations, student-lead warm-ups

## **Impact of Children's Choirs**

On November 15, 2007 the Reuters news service ran this headline: "Music lessons pay off in higher earnings."<sup>i</sup> Reuters was reporting the results of a Harris poll measuring the relationship between music education and higher education, income and personal fulfillment. Harris' conclusion from polling data read: "While singing in a choir or playing an instrument is fun, it can also provide important skills like creative problem solving that can help lead to higher education and incomes as well as personal fulfillment," adding that "seven in ten U.S. adults say that music education had at least some influence on their current level of personal fulfillment."<sup>ii</sup>

This comes as no surprise to Milwaukee Children's Choir. We teach music; more importantly, we teach life skills.

Individuals polled by Harris stated these benefits from musical training:

- the ability to strive for individual excellence in a group setting
- teaching how to work toward common goals
- providing a disciplined approach to solving problems
- the skill of creative problem solving
- how to be flexible in work situations
- equips people to be better team players in their career
- provides a sense of organization
- prepares someone to manage the tasks of their job more successfully

MCC's own survey results are similar. Choir families list these qualities when they describe what MCC teaches: discipline, confidence, fun, teamwork, friendship, time management, humility, commitment, organization, responsibility, pride in doing your best, different perspectives, spirit, working toward a goal. Typical parent statements describing the effect MCC programming has on their children include: "He loves music and this has helped in all his studies;" "It has built confidence

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<sup>i</sup> Reuters Life Nov. 14, 2007, located at <http://www.reuters.com/article/lifestyleMolt/idUSN1360608420071114>.

<sup>ii</sup> Harris Poll #112, 11/12/07, "Those with More Education and Higher Household Incomes are More Likely to Have Had Music Education", located at [http://www.harrisinteractive.com/harris\\_poll/index.asp?PID=831](http://www.harrisinteractive.com/harris_poll/index.asp?PID=831).

in my daughter;" "She is more respectful, disciplined and gets to do what she loves—sing!" Finally, choir members describing what they learned at MCC use these phrases: how to work with people, listening, openness, friendship, focus, discipline, how to make friends, how to challenge oneself. The following statements are from MENC: The National Association for Music Education provides a brief rationale for music education<sup>iii</sup>.

- ✓ Music has always played a major role in society. It exalts the human spirit and enhances the quality of life.
- ✓ One fundamental purpose of education is to transmit our cultural heritage, and music is a powerful means for communicating that message.
- ✓ Music helps students to develop and mature. Musical potential is one of the basic abilities that exist in every human being.
- ✓ Music in education provides both motivation and an opportunity for success for at-risk students. Because it is essential that every student succeed in school, music should be used as a means for enhancing self-esteem, respect for others, and good citizenship.
- ✓ Music study can help students understand the nature of mankind. It provides a readily accessible avenue to the study of other cultures.
- ✓ Music uses one of the most powerful and complex symbol systems in existence, which can be used for the development of critical thinking skills in all students.

Music helps students with the aspects of life that cannot be quantified. Since much in education emphasizes true/false tests and other "objective" measures, students need experiences in which there are opportunities for several acceptable interpretations to any given problem. By providing exercises in creative problem solving through composition, performance, and listening, music brings a proper balance to the curriculum.

## Assessment

MCC directors evaluate the quality of their choir's singing in both rehearsals and performance. Through consistent evaluation and critique, both directors and singers discuss the quality of their performance by analyzing their tone, intonation, balance, technique, interpretation, musical effect, diction, and general stage presence. They also analyze whether the performance demonstrates the historical context and style of the piece.

Singers in grades K4-3 are assessed on their musical skills during rehearsals, performances, and Prelude Previews, when applicable. Upon completion of grade 3, children audition individually prior to the beginning of each choral season to demonstrate their knowledge of performance skills, music literacy skills, vocal production, vocal health, analysis, evaluation and choral discipline. All children in grades 1-12 are also given written tests to assess their understanding of music literacy and theory.

- ♪ A singer who has participated in MCC's Songbirds program for two years, will be capable of using their singing voice, be able to move to music appropriately (steady beat, free movement, circle game movement), and will have a love of music. They will be able to sing approximately 30-40 folk songs and rhymes from memory. The fun, educational activities taught at this level will help them with language development, small and large motor skills, and social skills. Teachers assess these skills through teacher observation during each class.
- ♪ A singer who has participated in MCC's Prelude program for three years will demonstrate in-tune singing with proper choral tone, understand how to read, write, and perform the first three scale degrees, D R M, and read quarter, eighth, half, and whole notes and rests. They will also be able to track their part in an octavo score and sing with expression. Unison singing is emphasized, but children are also introduced to part singing through ostinati, canons and partner songs. Folk music is the primary source material for this level, but children are also introduced to art music. They will sing in small and large groups, blending vocal timbres,

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<sup>iii</sup> [www.menc.org/resources/view/building-support-for-school-music-appendix-a-and-2](http://www.menc.org/resources/view/building-support-for-school-music-appendix-a-and-2)

matching dynamic levels, and responding to the cues of the conductor. Finally, children will be able to identify symbols and traditional terms found in the music.

- ♪ A singer who has participated in MCC's Cantabile program for two-three years will demonstrate in-tune singing with proper choral tone, understand how to read, write, and perform the scale degrees of the pentatonic scale, D R M S L, and read quarter, dotted quarter, eighth, half, dotted half, whole, and sixteenth notes and rests in 2/4, 3/4, 4/4, and 6/8 time signatures. They will be able to track their part in an octavo score in unison, two, and three part harmony. They will sing accurately and with good breath control throughout their singing ranges, alone and in small and large ensembles. They will sing expressively and with technical accuracy a varied repertoire of vocal literature, with a level of difficulty of three on a scale of one to six, including some songs performed from memory. They will sing music representing diverse genres and cultures, with expression appropriate for the music. They will focus on blending vocal timbres, matching dynamic levels, and responding to the cues of the conductor. Finally, children will be able to identify symbols and traditional terms found in the music.
- ♪ A singer who has participated in MCC's Jubilate program for two-three years will demonstrate in tune singing with proper choral tone, understand how to read, write, and perform the scale degrees of the major and minor scales, and read rhythms in simple and compound time signatures. They will be able to track their part in an octavo score in three and four part harmony. They will sing accurately and with good breath control throughout their singing ranges, alone and in small and large ensembles. They will sing expressively and with technical accuracy a varied repertoire of vocal literature, with a level of difficulty of four on a scale of one to six, including some songs performed from memory. They will sing music representing diverse genres and cultures, including master works with orchestra, with expression appropriate for the music. They will focus on blending vocal timbres, matching dynamic levels, and responding to the cues of the conductor. Children will be able to identify symbols and traditional terms found in the music, and will be able to demonstrate well-developed ensemble skills to be able to perform with professional organizations such as the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra and Milwaukee Ballet.
- ♪ A singer who has participated in MCC's Milwaukee Youth Chorale program for three years will demonstrate in-tune singing with proper choral tone, understand how to read, write, and perform the scale degrees of the major and minor scales, and read rhythms in simple and compound time signatures. They will be able to track their part in an octavo score four, five, six, seven, and eight part harmony. They will sing accurately and with good breath control throughout their singing ranges, alone and in small and large ensembles. They will sing expressively, in a mature tone, with technical accuracy a varied repertoire of vocal literature, with a level of difficulty of five on a scale of one to six, including some songs performed from memory. They will sing music representing diverse genres and cultures, including master works with orchestra, with expression appropriate for the music. They will focus on blending vocal timbres, matching dynamic levels, and responding to the cues of the conductor. They will be able to identify symbols and traditional terms found in the music, and will be able to demonstrate professional-level ensemble skills.

In addition to the music curriculum, all MCC singers are assessed on their confidence, social skills and ability to work as a team during rehearsals, performances, and social activities. Signs that children and youth are fully engaged include good posture while singing, confident singing, watching the conductor, class participation, stage presence, energy, body language, and facial expressions. Professional, age-appropriate behavior is expected of our singers at all times to uphold our outstanding reputation in the community. Milwaukee Children's Choir prides itself on artistic excellence and audience-pleasing performances. We foster life-long values including the pursuit of excellence; self discipline and teamwork, self expression and self-confidence; and a greater understanding of oneself, the world and its people.

## Membership Expectations

### Rehearsal Expectations

MCC singers will:

- ♪ eat a nutritious snack before coming to rehearsal, and get a good night's sleep
- ♪ always bring their music, a pencil, and a water bottle to every rehearsal and performance
- ♪ be in their seat 5 minutes before rehearsal starts
- ♪ check in with the rehearsal assistant prior to being seated
- ♪ give attendance notes, payments, permission slips, etc. to the Rehearsal Assistant at the attendance table during check in. Because Rehearsal Assistants must put together a rehearsal site report for the office while singers are rehearsing, handing paperwork to them at the end of rehearsal poses a problem.
- ♪ take all notices home and give them to their parents
- ♪ be responsible for all information and music placed in their folders
- ♪ report for performances one hour before the performance starts
- ♪ understand that if they miss more rehearsals than what is acceptable to their choir director during a concert cycle, they may not be allowed to perform in that concert
- ♪ understand that if they miss one of the last two dress rehearsals just before a concert, they may not be able to perform in that concert
- ♪ attendance scheduled combined rehearsals
- ♪ be present for the entire rehearsal; if they have to leave early, they will talk to the director and rehearsal assistant before rehearsal
- ♪ refrain from texting and using their cell phones during rehearsal
- ♪ put away books or homework during the rehearsal
- ♪ be absolutely silent and attentive while their directors are talking and rehearsing
- ♪ write their conductor's markings and suggestions into their music in pencil
- ♪ sit and stand with good posture during rehearsals
- ♪ work on their parts outside of rehearsal and listen to the practice CD
- ♪ will put their chair away at the end of every rehearsal as assigned
- ♪ will wait until after rehearsal to ask any questions regarding the seating chart or voice assignment
- ♪ not bring candy, snacks, gum or beverages (except for water bottles) to rehearsal
- ♪ tell the conductor before rehearsal begins, if he/she cannot sing in that rehearsal. This singer will then observe the rehearsal quietly and attentively, and make markings in the musical score (pencil only) so as not to miss the conductor's instructions.
- ♪ show respect for each other, parent volunteers, staff and the facilities at all times.
- ♪ pay attention to the conductor at all times and do not talk or in any way distract other choristers.

- ♪ Will respect and follow directions given by MCC directors, MCC staff, or by another adult placed in an MCC leadership role

### Care of Music

- ♪ All folders and all music must be returned at the end of each semester! If music or folders are lost, irreparably damaged or not returned, an additional fee will be charged to cover replacement costs. Printed music is a major MCC expense. Please help keep it in fine condition for generations of MCC members!
- ♪ Choir members are to treat their music and music folder with care and respect. Treat your music as you would treat a friend! Never fold, roll, or punch holes in music; do not attach stickers or other decorations.
- ♪ All assigned music is the responsibility of the choir member.
- ♪ Bring your music to all rehearsals unless you are notified otherwise.
- ♪ Music is always to be kept and carried in folders. Single copies of music are NOT to be brought separately to rehearsal; bring the entire folder.
- ♪ The ONLY markings on your music should be musical indications given by the conductor. **Use ONLY a sharpened #2 pencil.** (Do NOT use pen, highlighters or colored pencils. Please do not make other marks or drawings in your music.)
- ♪ If for any reason a piece of music is in **need of repair, please talk to the rehearsal assistant.**
- ♪ **Report lost music** to the rehearsal assistant immediately.

### Registration paperwork and the importance of medical forms:

Your child's registration paperwork includes a member information sheet which acts as your child's "emergency card." It is critical for the safety of our singers that all paperwork is complete prior to a child being left at rehearsal without parent supervision. If a singer has a medical emergency during rehearsal, MCC staff want to be able to care for your child according to your wishes and make the proper emergency contacts immediately.



**Medical Release**

(3/15/11)

Includes Acknowledgment, Release of Liability,  
 and Consent for Medical Treatment

158 N. Broadway, Milwaukee WI 53202  
 Ph: 414.221.7040 Fax: 414.221.7041  
 Email: [membership@milwaukeechildrenschoir.org](mailto:membership@milwaukeechildrenschoir.org)  
 Website: [www.milwaukeechildrenschoir.org](http://www.milwaukeechildrenschoir.org)

**This document affects your and your child's legal rights. Please read it carefully.**

**Acknowledgment:**

I, the parent/guardian of the minor named in these Registration Materials ("my child"), voluntarily agree to permit my child to participate in rehearsals, performances, auditions, tours, recording sessions, social or recreational activities, and other programs and activities of the Milwaukee Children's Choir, Inc. ("MCC Activities") effective the date the registration agreement is signed and continuing for as long as my child is an MCC member. I understand that my child's participation in MCC Activities may involve risks of physical injury, death, or property loss or damage which cannot be completely or precisely predicted. Such risks may include, among other things, risks arising from potential physical hazards at facilities used for MCC Activities (including without limitation risers, stairs, stage edges, tripping hazards, and backstage fixtures and equipment); risks resulting from conditions found on stages (such as bright lights and warm temperatures); risks arising from the acts and omissions of the Releases, owners and operators of facilities used for MCC Activities, and participants in MCC Activities, including the negligent or intentional acts of other children; and risks arising from transportation, including risks arising from the acts and omissions of vehicle drivers and owners, and common carriers and their servants. The enumeration of risks in this paragraph does not limit the scope of the release of liability contained in this Acknowledgement, Release of Liability, and Consent for Medical Treatment (this "Release").

I acknowledge that no promise or inducement has been offered to me to procure my execution of this Release, that I execute this Release without reliance on any statement or representation by any of the Releases concerning the potential injuries or damages which may arise from my child's participation in MCC Activities, and that I have carefully read this Release, understand its contents, and agree to this Release as my own free act.

**Release of Liability:**

As used in this Release, "Releasees" means Milwaukee Children's Choir, Inc. ("MCC") and its successors, assigns, volunteers, insurers, officers, directors, and employees.

In consideration for the MCC accepting my child's participation in MCC Activities and on behalf of myself and my child, I hereby release, forever discharge, and/or otherwise indemnify the Releasees from all claims and liabilities for expenses, damages, or injury to person or property that I or my child may have, now or in the future, for any injury or loss that I or my child sustains, foreseen or unforeseen, arising from or related to my child's participation in MCC Activities. This Release includes, without limitation, any claim based on the negligence of any of the Releasees, but does not include claims based on reckless or intentional conduct of the Releasees.

Without limiting the foregoing, I specifically release the Releasees from any and all claims arising on account of (1) first aid treatment or other similar service rendered to my child; and (2) the negligent selection or supervision by any of the Releasees of any employee, contractor, agent, common carrier, or other provider of products or services to MCC or its participants.

**Consent for Medical Treatment (Minor):**

As the parent or legal guardian of my child, I hereby give consent for first aid treatment to be given to my child by MCC employees, and I further give consent for medical care to be given to my child by a duly licensed health care provider. This care may be given under whatever conditions are necessary to preserve the life, limb or well-being of my child. I understand and agree that I will be liable for any expenses incurred in obtaining medical care or treatment for my child.

## Influenza Policy

As we begin a new school and choir year, we are mindful of the new influenza season, and we expect Wisconsin will continue seeing new cases of the flu.

We know you will keep up to date with information from your schools and public health officials. Here are a few guidelines we ask you to follow:

- ✓ Please do NOT bring your child to rehearsal if he/she has flu symptoms. Those include fever or chills and cough or sore throat, and can include runny nose, body aches, headaches, tiredness, diarrhea or vomiting. Note: some people with the flu may not have a fever so lack of fever does not mean absence of infection.
- ✓ If your child has flu symptoms or a temperature, please do not bring him/her to rehearsal for at least 24 hours after you know the fever and symptoms are gone, without the use of fever-reducing medicines.
- ✓ If your child feels unwell, check his/her temperature. If he/she has a temperature, do not come to rehearsal.
- ✓ Encourage your child to wash his/her hands often with soap and water, especially after coughing or sneezing. We will make an effort to have hand sanitizer on hand at all rehearsals.
- ✓ Remind your child to cover his/her mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing. If no tissues are available, the child should cough or sneeze into his/her elbow or shoulder. Children should throw away their own used tissues.

You may also find these links useful:

<http://pandemic.wi.gov/>

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/>



**Milwaukee**  
Children's Choir  
*Building Noteworthy Character*

# Code of Conduct

(3/15/11)

## CODE OF CONDUCT

### Background and Purpose

This Code of Conduct is meant to guide our young singers and their families as they matriculate through choir membership.

### Basis

The basis for the Code of Conduct is MCC's mission: "to provide exceptional choral music instruction and performance experiences that foster creativity, personal expression and social growth."

Adult life begins in a child's imagination and with social lessons learned as a child. Perhaps NEA Chairman Gioia said it best when he stated: "The purpose of arts education is not to produce more artists, though that is a byproduct. The real purpose of arts education is to create complete human beings capable of leading successful and productive lives in a free society."

Milwaukee Children's Choir works with the first instrument – the human voice – and through child-centered and age-appropriate instruction we help children see what they can achieve with discipline, dedication and teamwork; we introduce them to great music; we use performance to teach them responsibility and grace under pressure; and we expand their horizons by exposing them to youth unlike themselves. Each year we help hundreds of youth build, within themselves, noteworthy character. And while we do this, we please tens of thousands of audience members.

Today's MCC is roughly 350 singers, grades K4-12, singing in five distinct choir levels. Members come from the seven-county area. We have rehearsal sites in suburban and urban settings, and our choir members represent more than 150 schools. We are a diverse population.

**Nevertheless, each and every MCC member has a common bond: a love of song and singing. This binds us together and transcends all of our differences. We are a community of singers. We rely on one another. This code of conduct guides our community.**

### Code of Conduct – General

We treat others with respect, trust, honesty, fairness and kindness. We follow the golden rule, and do unto others as we would have them do unto us. We act in a sensitive and considerate manner and respect the rights of others.

We take MCC membership seriously, are committed to MCC, and do our best to participate fully in rehearsals and performances.

We are and act as a team. When we are in rehearsals, performances, and together in public, we represent MCC and all that it is and aspires to be. We follow established rehearsal and performance practice and always try to be the best that we can be.

# CODE OF CONDUCT Continued

## Code of Conduct – Specifics:

While every subtlety of proper behavior cannot be detailed, the following rules must be adhered to strictly:

1. MCC members and their families respect others. We do not exhibit verbal or physical conduct that demeans others because of age, race, gender, ethnic background, religion, or sexual orientation.
2. MCC members and their families make a one year commitment to membership.
3. MCC members and their families respect the property of others. This includes MCC property (music, music folders, instruments, etc.), rehearsal and performance sites and any property of others at those sites, and the property of other singers, MCC staff, and their families.
4. MCC members regularly attend rehearsals and MCC performances, are committed to being ready at the rehearsal call time, and inform MCC in the event of needed absences.
5. MCC members bring to their rehearsal seats only what they need for rehearsal. Homework, electronic devices, and other items not related to MCC remain in backpacks, bags or other places out of sight – and use – during rehearsal.
6. MCC members participate fully in rehearsals and performances. We respect rehearsal time, are not disruptive, work as a team, display our best musicianship, and respect our peers and MCC staff. We try to do our best and demonstrate pride in ourselves and MCC.
7. MCC members keep their uniforms clean and in good repair, and remember to wear them on concert days.

MCC members and their families follow this Code of Conduct and are responsible for their own actions. Failure to abide by this Code will be dealt with immediately and may lead to reprimand, suspension or expulsion, based on the gravity of the inappropriate conduct. If a member drops membership during the year for any reason, including disciplinary action, no portion of fees or tuition will be refunded.



**This document affects your and your child's legal rights. Please read it carefully.**

Before we or others audio record, video record, film and/or photograph the Milwaukee Children's Choir, Inc. and its members, we would like to first obtain permission from each participating child's parent or legal guardian. When your child joins MCC you acknowledge that you understand and agree to each of the following:

- You are the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of the participating child.
- You are granting permission to MCC and MCC authorized Third-Parties to audio record, video record, film and/or photograph MCC events and performances.
- You are granting permission to MCC and MCC authorized Third-Parties to publish and distribute any current or future audio recordings, television/video recordings, film and/or photographs in any format (collectively referred to as "Recordings"), including those involving your child.

**CLAUSE I: MCC Recordings**

Neither you nor your child will receive any payment or other form of compensation in connection with any current or future MCC Recordings. In exchange for your child's opportunity to be included in MCC events and Recordings, you authorize MCC to: (i) audio record, film, video record and/or photograph your child on CD, cassette, film, video, digital media, internet media or otherwise (the "Media"); (ii) edit the Media at the discretion of MCC; and (iii) distribute MCC Recordings publicly for purposes of musical entertainment, education, publicity, fund raising, and otherwise as MCC in its sole discretion deems appropriate.

You further acknowledge that MCC shall own all rights to MCC Recordings and Media and all proceeds therefrom. Due to the nature of the MCC Recordings and Media, there is no guarantee your child will be recognizable on the Recordings, audibly or visually. MCC reserves all rights to make final decisions concerning the use of and the content of MCC Recordings and Media.

**CLAUSE II: Third-Party Recordings**

You understand that neither you nor your child is entitled to any payment or other form of compensation in connection with any future or current third party Recordings (i.e. a Recording authorized by MCC but made by a person or entity other than MCC). You also authorize MCC to allow third parties, their licensees, assignees, and other successors-in-interest (collectively referred to as "Producers") the right to: (i) audio record, film, video record and/or photograph your child's performance with MCC on the Media; (ii) edit the Media at such third party's discretion and to include with it other content including but not limited to performances of others, sound effects, special effects and music; (iii) broadcast the contents of the Media on network television, cable television, video recorded programs, or the internet ("Programs"); (iv) use the Media or Programs in any manner whatsoever; and (v) use your child's likeness and voice in such Programs. If from time to time you or your child do receive payment for such services, it shall not detract from the enforceability of this clause in all other cases.

Due to the nature of the Programs, there is no guarantee that your child will appear in the final edited Programs, audibly or visually, and the Producers of such Programs shall have the right to make all decisions as to the broadcasted content of the Programs. You further acknowledge that the Producers shall own all rights of every kind and character whatsoever in perpetuity in and to the Programs including your child's appearance and/or voice and the results and proceeds thereof in connection with the Programs, subject to the above use restrictions.

**CLAUSE III: Restrictions on Third-Party Use**

MCC shall approve of and/or reject any use of the Media in Programs or other third-party Recordings in its sole discretion. MCC reserves the right to restrict use of the Media for any Programs that are unrelated to the purpose and objectives of MCC.

As used herein, "MCC" includes Milwaukee Children's Choir Inc., its board of directors, staff, volunteers, licensees, assignees, and any third parties authorized by any of the foregoing. This Release applies to all MCC and Third-Party Recordings, existing and/or created in the future. This Release shall last in perpetuity, and can be terminated only after 60 days' written notice to MCC at the address listed above, in which case the Release shall continue to cover all MCC and Third-Party Recordings made until the date of termination.

This Media Release Form is effective from this day forward unless and until this Release is terminated as set forth above.

### **Pick-up and Drop-off Policies**

Please be on time when bringing your singer to and picking your singer up from rehearsals. Plan to arrive at rehearsal about 10 minutes early so there is time to check in and be ready to sing PRIOR to the rehearsal start time. Prelude and Cantabile children should be walked to and from rehearsal halls and warm-up rooms at concert venues. Occasionally, we change this plan at different venues, but any changes will be communicated.

Transportation to and from rehearsals is the individual responsibility of the parents, as are car pools, etc. MCC does publish a choir roster to assist families in setting up carpools. This roster is to be used for MCC purposes only.

Choir members are not supervised outside of rehearsal times. Members should not arrive more than 15 minutes prior to a call time and should be picked up promptly at the stated pick up time. Parents are expected to drop off singers 10 minutes prior to the start of rehearsal to allow time to check in.

Singers in all choirs except MYC are not permitted to wait outside or in parking lots for their ride.

### **Security Measures at the Milwaukee Youth Arts Center (MYAC), 325 W. Walnut, Milwaukee**

The Youth Arts Center Board of Directors is proactive on security in the facility. The Board strives to make the Youth Arts Center the warmest and safest place possible, so we can meet and study our art. The MYAC security initiative includes a system that allows all individuals entering the facility to be clearly recognized.

All **participants** and **parents** must wear a program badge that should be clearly visible when entering the facility. Parent and staff badges need to be worn at all times when in the facility, so facility and program staff can assess whether there are any individuals who should not be in the building. Everyone entering the facility will be asked to show badges. If you do not have a badge, you will need to identify yourself to the front desk staff who will confirm your reason for being in the facility and then give you a temporary visitor badge or MCC logo sticker. If given a visitor badge please return it to the front desk at the end of your rehearsal.

MCC and all other groups using the Youth Arts Center take attendance at the front of the building. Singers should check in with their Rehearsal Assistant, who will take choir attendance near the MYAC reception desk. Because our rehearsal assistants need to get back to the rehearsal hall prior to the beginning of rehearsals, we ask that all singers arrive for their MYAC rehearsals between 10 and 15 minutes prior to the beginning of rehearsal. At 15 minutes to rehearsal time, rehearsal assistants will return to the programming space to assist choir directors.

Parents and other adult guests, along with children under their supervision, are always welcome to observe MCC's rehearsals when they are open and/or wait in the commons area during MCC activities, but they are required to wear or obtain a visitor badge at the Milwaukee Youth Arts Center front desk. Singers' siblings, relatives and friends under the age of 18 who are not registered as program participants at the Center are not permitted in the building without a parent or guardian with them AT ALL TIMES. Please communicate this important information to any adult relatives or friends that may drop off or pick up your MCC member on any given evening.

When MCC singers from non-MYAC rehearsal sites gather at the Center for combined rehearsals and special events, MCC staff will provide MCC logo stickers for them to wear while on site.

We are committed to maintaining a fun and secure environment for our children when they visit the Milwaukee Youth Arts Center for MCC activities. Thank you for your cooperation as we proactively follow security policies to ensure that the safe and positive atmosphere at the Center remains that way!

## Facility Use Guidelines for Milwaukee Youth Arts Center

As we start another busy season here at the Milwaukee Youth Arts Center (MYAC), please be reminded of the following items:

Allow extra time for travel and parking. Please give yourself plenty of time for travel and parking before choir rehearsals. Make good use of the alternative parking available on the city streets around the building (watch for school zones, most of which expire at 4 pm). After school hours, we have access to the Milwaukee Public School parking lot at the southwest corner of Galena and 4<sup>th</sup> Street. Enter the parking lot off of Galena. Please **DO NOT PARK** in the angled parking between MYAC and Golda School. Cars parked there will be towed.

Drop-off and pick-up should take place on Walnut Street only. **Parents, do NOT drive into the parking lot to drop off or pick up your children.** This causes an unsafe back-up of traffic. Waiting cars can line up SAFELY along the east side of 4<sup>th</sup> Street and around the corner on Walnut Street, as well as on the West side of King Drive. Making meeting arrangements with your child in advance will speed up and simplify the process. There is a spacious windowed area at the front of MYAC where students can wait inside for parents to pull up in front of the building. Children are not allowed to wait outside for pick-up.

Obey all parking regulations in the MYAC parking lot and on the street. There is no parking in the reserved spots clearly marked in the parking lot. Failure to follow the signage will result in a ticket or your car being towed. There are 6 spots on the west side of the lot that are reserved 24-7. All others are reserved only Monday-Friday and are marked with the reserved times. All unmarked spots may be used anytime. Do not park in the no parking zone, even if you are just running in for a moment. This causes some traffic flow issues.

Traffic in the parking lot should flow in a counter-clockwise direction for safety. When entering the lot, turn right only.

Between 3 pm and 10 pm, there is NO LEFT TURN out of the parking lot. Left turns are dangerous and cause backed up traffic in the lot. We ask that as you leave our parking lot that you make a right turn and go around the block before heading north. Both MLK Drive and Walnut Streets are very busy. Turning right helps in two ways: First, it keeps the flow of traffic leaving the parking lot moving, and second, it makes exiting much safer.

Be respectful of other people's rehearsals. The Milwaukee Youth Arts Center is a community facility, which is shared with many other groups and people. It's critically important that we respect everyone's needs for a quiet setting. When you are on break in the Commons, the hard surfaces and the openness of the space can make it extremely loud, unless you make a special effort to keep your voices down. We need to be very careful not to interrupt other people's work.

Do not use the Upper Commons area. The use of the Upper Commons is for Center Staff and FSCT Actors in rehearsal only; please respect their space. On certain occasions the Upper Commons may be opened for general use, but unless this is announced by an announcement over the PA system and with signs, you should assume it is closed to the general public.

Check in at the reception desk during the day. Between the hours of 8 am and 3:30 pm, all guests and staff (except those of First Stage and MYSO administration) must check in at the front desk before going into the building. This is for security reasons.

Do not move furniture. MYAC has electrical outlets in the floor of the Commons for use by parents, staff and students in plugging in laptops, DVDs, etc. Please do not move furniture around in the Commons or hallways. This includes the benches, large chairs, tables, etc.

Food and Drink. In order to protect the wood floors, please do not bring food or drink into MYAC rehearsal halls. Covered water bottles are allowed and encouraged in order for singers to keep hydrated during rehearsals.

Wi-Fi. MYAC's Commons area is set up for Wi-Fi use. While relaxing and surfing the internet, don't forget that MCC has a fabulous website: [www.milwaukeechildrenschoir.org](http://www.milwaukeechildrenschoir.org) where you can read the weekly newsletter, check rehearsal dates, and even verify proper uniform and call time for concerts and special events, etc.

## **Open Rehearsals**

We are proud of the education we are providing your singer, and invite you to observe our teaching and rehearsal methods during any advertised open rehearsal (approximately one per month). We ask parents to please be respectful by observing open rehearsals quietly and not bringing very young siblings with them. If parents must bring siblings with them, it is their responsibility to leave the room when/if the sibling becomes at all disruptive.

## **Closed Rehearsals**

Combined rehearsals at the Milwaukee Youth Arts Center and Dress Rehearsals at concert venues are always closed to the audience, including families, as are many weekly rehearsals. Only designated chaperones will be allowed in the rehearsal area prior to a performance. This allows the singers to concentrate on the music, the director, and any necessary final instructions.

## **Attendance Policy**

Membership in the Milwaukee Children's Choir (MCC) is a commitment to faithful, consistent and punctual attendance. It is expected that rehearsals take a very high priority in each child's life. Each child holds a valuable place in his/her choir. All rehearsals and performances are mandatory unless otherwise indicated.

### How to Report an Absence:

We encourage each singer to maintain a perfect attendance record. In order to be excused, your MCC Rehearsal Assistant must be notified via the absence button on the Members Only page of the MCC website ([www.milwaukeechildrenschoir.org](http://www.milwaukeechildrenschoir.org)). Families without internet access may phone the MCC office at 414-221-7040 to report their child's absence. Failure to notify the Rehearsal Assistant of an absence will cause the absence to be unexcused. Poor attendance could result in dismissal from MCC.

### Excused/Planned Absences:

Illness, death in the family, family emergency, school concert or planned absence.

### Pre-Arranged Absence:

In case of a planned absence, notice as far in advance as possible is appreciated. Singers in Prelude and Cantabile choirs are welcome and encouraged to attend other rehearsal sites to make up a missed rehearsal. Just be sure to let the director and rehearsal assistant of the alternate site know ahead of time.

MCC families should report a singer absence using the "Report Singer Absence" button on the Members Only page of the MCC website ([www.milwaukeechildrenschoir.org](http://www.milwaukeechildrenschoir.org)). Families without internet access may phone the MCC office at 414-221-7040 to report their child's absence. The rehearsal assistant will then notify the director. Absence reports on the website or emails sent one hour before rehearsal or less may not be received before rehearsal, but should be sent anyway.

### Leave of Absence:

If a singer will miss more than two consecutive rehearsals, please request a leave of absence through your rehearsal assistant or "Report Singer Absence" button on the Members Only page of the MCC website ([www.milwaukeechildrenschoir.org](http://www.milwaukeechildrenschoir.org)). Families without internet access may phone the MCC office at 414-221-7040 to report their child's absence. Your choir director will then contact you with any questions or concerns they may have regarding your leave.

***Children who belong to MCC have a right to sing, to learn, and to have fun in rehearsal. However, children do not have a right to perform unless they have excellent attendance and learn their music.*** An absence, for any reason, from a final rehearsal (dress rehearsal) before a performance on the choir calendar may result in the singer being excluded from the corresponding concert. (If a final rehearsal has been missed, singers should not arrive at the concert expecting to perform unless prior arrangements with the director have been made.) If singers miss more

rehearsals than what is acceptable to their choir director during a concert cycle, they may not be allowed to perform in that concert.

### **The MCC Religious Holiday Policy**

Any singer needing to be absent because of a major religious holiday shall not have the absence counted against them.

### **Tardiness or Early Dismissal**

All singers are expected to arrive 10 minutes prior to the beginning of rehearsal to allow time to check in, say “hello” to friends, and be in their seat and ready to sing 5 minutes before rehearsal begins. All singers are expected to stay for the full rehearsal.

### **Rehearsal Cancellation Policy**

It is very unusual for Milwaukee Children’s Choir to cancel rehearsals due to inclement weather. That said, let’s review MCC’s closing procedures.

If you feel the roads are unsafe for travel, please know that your opinion is the one that counts. MCC staff members don’t want anyone getting hurt on the way to a rehearsal. An absence due to slippery or unsafe road conditions will never be counted against your singer. ***Please follow standard absence procedures, however, and notify your rehearsal assistant that you will not be bringing your child to rehearsal.***

If MCC staff members feel that a rehearsal should be cancelled, we will do the following to get the word out:

- Post a notice of cancellation on the MCC website Members Only page at [www.milwaukeechildrenschoir.org](http://www.milwaukeechildrenschoir.org).
- Send out an email cancellation notice to all current families with email addresses registered in our system.
- Run public service announcements on Milwaukee’s main TV channels – 4, 6, 12 and 58 under “Milwaukee County.”

### **Performance Procedures**

Performances require the very best in conduct, appearance and musicianship.

- ✓ Always eat a nutritious meal and get plenty of rest before a concert. (Avoid sugary foods and soda pop. Avoid drinking large quantities of milk right before you sing, as it can cause excess phlegm.)
- ✓ Arrive at the appropriate call time and immediately check in with your rehearsal assistant. **Parents**, please accompany your Prelude or Cantabile child at check-in; make sure they're in the right place at the right time.
- ✓ All performers must arrive wearing proper concert dress. Failure to wear specified concert dress may prevent a chorister from participating in the concert. Singers should remain in their complete uniform until they have left the performance site.
- ✓ Conduct yourself at all times in a calm, polite, professional manner. Give your undivided attention to the conductor(s), administrative staff, and chaperones at all times. Respect for adults and each other is always expected.
- ✓ Know the music. Each chorister must have a confident command of the concert repertoire. Failure to demonstrate this at the final rehearsal may result in release from the corresponding concert commitment and probationary status.
- ✓ Always let a chaperone know if you are feeling ill. If you feel ill during a performance, quietly sit down and rest. Do not leave the stage unless there is no other option. Chaperones are always watching and will help when needed.
- ✓ Remember that you represent the Milwaukee Children’s Choir. Professional behavior and attitude are expected at all times.

## Permission Slips and Performance Contracts

*PLEASE reply by email to all permission slips, ON TIME, even when you cannot participate!* In order for the Choir to provide for your child's logistical safety and needs, we MUST hear from you. Your promptness makes an enormous difference to those planning the event!

Permission slips and performance contracts are to be:

- Carefully read
- Printed for your use at home
- Replied to by email or returned to the rehearsal assistant
  - No later than the date specified (the earlier the better)
  - Even if the chorister is unable to participate in the event. (We need a response from you!)

Please take responsibility for information contained on permission slips. All permission slips can be found on our website, [www.milwaukeechildrenschoir.org](http://www.milwaukeechildrenschoir.org), on our Members Only page. If you have questions, please check the slip first (before calling the Office).

## Concert Dress

Just as the ensemble sound is important, so is the ensemble appearance. A well-groomed, neatly uniformed ensemble is essential for a truly professional and artistic experience. Our concert dress wardrobe allows for versatility and practicality, and is visually pleasing but not distracting.

Good personal hygiene is a must for all choristers. Clothing should be neat, wrinkle-free and fit properly. Pants and dresses should be properly hemmed to within 1 inch of the floor. They should neither drag on the floor nor be too short. Clean teeth and clean, combed hair are always expected of each chorister whenever a specific concert dress is required. No perfume is to be used. Please use deodorant. Female singers are allowed to wear small earrings but should avoid wearing necklaces or other large jewelry items.

A choir member who fails to dress or groom properly for an event (i.e., performances, special rehearsals, and trips) may not be allowed to participate in that event.

- ALL applicable concert dress must be purchased well in advance of any performance date! Please see that you have all items your child will need by either October 1<sup>st</sup> or the first scheduled performance whichever comes first
- Choir members and their families are responsible for the care of concert dress.
- When not in use, all concert dress should be covered and hung. It is recommended that all concert dress be stored in a garment bag so that it will be easily located when needed for concerts.
- Regarding hair, jewelry, make-up:
  - Hair should be worn simply and off the face. Unobtrusive hair bands or barrettes that match your hair color may be worn. (No colors please.)
  - No unusual colored hair dye.
  - No jewelry except small earrings, please.
  - No make-up or light make-up (using muted colors) is preferred. Please remember we are supposed to look like young people.
- The MCC office coordinates the opportunity to buy pre-worn concert dress on orientation night.
- MCC also greatly appreciates donations of any gently used concert dress pieces.
- **Labeling: Please clearly write your child's name on ALL clothing. Mark all other items that he/she will be bringing to Choir events.**

Please see below for descriptions of specific concert dress for each choir level:

## Prelude and Cantabile Uniform Information



Purchase these items immediately as they will be needed shortly after the start of the choral season!



A limited number of used uniform pieces are available at the MCC office while supplies last.

Both Prelude and Cantabile uniforms consist of:

**Boys and Girls:** Land's End red short-sleeved interlock polo with MCC logo in black

**Boys:** Black chino pants

**Girls:** Black knee-length pleated skirt—girls may wear black bike shorts under their skirts.

\* **Black** dress shoes

\* **Black** low- or no-heel dress shoes

**Black** socks

Flesh tone nylons for older girls

**Black** belt

**White** anklet socks for younger girls

\* When purchasing dress shoes, please bear in mind that the children will be walking up and down risers and stairs, walking across slippery floors and standing for long periods of time. We recommend comfortable, soft-soled black dress shoes. **No sneakers, please.**

Red Interlock Polo Shirts with the Milwaukee Children's Choir logo are **only** available through Land's End School Uniform catalog.

TO ORDER the uniform from \*\*Land's End School Catalog:

1. Measure your child's height, chest, waist, and hip. Have these measurements available when you call.
2. Call Land's End at **1-800-469-2222** or go to the web site at **www.landsend.com/school**
3. Use Milwaukee Children's Choir's preferred school number which is **9000-4307-6**.
4. Order short-sleeved Interlock Polo shirt, color **RED**

**BOYS and GIRLS:** Little Kid & Big Kid sizes

5. Order Milwaukee Children's Choir logo, in **BLACK**, to be placed on the polo shirt.  
**The logo # is 0548789K, and a logo fee will be added to the price of the polo for embroidering.**
6. Order chino pants or pleated skirt, color **BLACK**

BOYS Pants: Little Boy & Boy sizes

GIRLS Knee-length Pleated Skirt: Little Girl and Girl sizes

Interested in a less expensive alternative to buying Land's End pants or skirts?

Feel free to purchase **French Toast™** brand Black Double Knee or Adjustable Waist uniform pants for boys or a Black Pleated uniform skirt for girls. French Toast is available at the Jack L. Marcus store located at 5302 W. Fond du Lac Ave., Milwaukee, 53216. The Marcus catalog phone number is 1-800-453-3944. French Toast brand is also available on line at [www.frenchtoast.com](http://www.frenchtoast.com) or [www.marcusuniforms.com](http://www.marcusuniforms.com).

\*\*Land's End representatives are trained to help you determine the proper size for your child. Returns and exchanges can be done at the local Land's End Inlet Stores (they can also help you place your order). If, at any time, you have questions or concerns about ordering your uniform, please contact the MCC office at 414-221-7040.

## Jubilate Formal Uniform Information



New Jubilate Singers: Your measurements will be taken during the first few rehearsals in September.

Returning Jubilate Singers: Your measurements will be taken *upon request* during the first few rehearsals in September.

Milwaukee Children's Choir will then order your uniform. Because delivery can take many weeks, it is imperative that you attend the first few rehearsals to be measured. If you miss these rehearsals, you must contact the MCC office with your measurements no later than September 15<sup>th</sup>.

A limited number of used uniform pieces are available at the MCC office while supplies last. When you are measured, you will be asked if you would like to purchase used pieces if the item(s) are available.

### GIRLS:

Ordered through MCC office—\$82.00 Total

White Empire Blouse, \$42.00

Black Palazzo Pant (youth/ladies sizes), \$40.00

### BOYS:

Ordered through MCC office—\$66.00 Total

Wing Collar Tuxedo Shirt (youth/men's sizes), \$16.00

Black Tux Pants (youth or men's sizes), \$35.00

Black Bow Tie, \$6.00

Black Cumberbund \$9.00



### Each Member supplies:

**Girls:** Black dress flats or low heel shoes and **black socks** or **black nylons**

**Boys:** Black dress shoes (loafer type preferred - no laces to come untied!) and **black dress socks**

Please help your singer with his/her uniform:

- We are trying to achieve a consistent look - the uniform will have a "uniform" fit, not a "fashion" fit.
- We attempt to provide a generous fit so uniforms may be used for more than one year. Use safety pins on waistbands if necessary; there will be a cummerbund or blouse over the waist to cover any fit issues.
- Don't forget to **hem your tuxedo pants or palazzos!** The hem should come to the **top of the toe** on your **black dress shoes**. They should not drag on the floor. Leave the excess fabric in the hem for growth.

**Uniform fees** for new Jubilate members are added into the fees on the Tuition Agreement and are payable according to your chosen tuition payment plan.

**Uniform fees** for returning Jubilate members are payable when singer is measured.

# Milwaukee Youth Chorale Formal Uniform Information



New MYC Singers: Your measurements will be taken during the first few rehearsals in September.

Returning MYC Singers: Your measurements will be taken *upon request* during the first few rehearsals in September.

Milwaukee Children’s Choir will then order your uniform. Because delivery can take up to six weeks, it is imperative that you attend the first few rehearsals to be measured. If you miss these rehearsals, you must contact the MCC office with your measurements no later than September 15<sup>th</sup>.

## Women:

Dress \$70.00

## Men:

Tux Coat	\$70.00
*Tux Pants	\$35.00
*Dress Shirt	\$16.00
*Cummerbund/Tie	\$15.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$136.00</b>



## **Each Member supplies:**

**Women: Black** low- or no-heel dress shoes and **black nylons**

**Men: Black** dress shoes and **black dress socks**

\*Jubilate graduates: The MYC men’s tux pants, tux shirts, cummerbund and bow tie are the SAME piece.

A limited number of used uniform pieces are available at the MCC office while supplies last. When you are measured, you will be asked if you would like to purchase used pieces if the item(s) are available.

Please help your singer with his/her uniform:

- We are trying to achieve a consistent look - the uniform will have a “uniform” fit, not a “fashion” fit.
- We attempt to provide a generous fit so uniforms may be used for more than one year. Use safety pins on waistbands if necessary; there will be a cummerbund over the waist to cover any fit issues.
- Don’t forget to **hem** your **tuxedo pants** or **dress!** The hem should come to the **top of the toe** on your **black dress shoes**. They should not drag on the floor. Leave the excess fabric in the hem for growth.

**Uniforms fees** for new Youth Chorale members are added into the fees on the Tuition Agreement and are payable according to your chosen tuition payment plan.

**Uniform fees** for returning Youth Chorale members are payable when singer is measured.

## **Tuition**

Tuition covers approximately 40% of a chorister's expense in the Milwaukee Children's Choir and is necessary to ensure the quality of the program. Fees pay for 32-35 weeks of high caliber musical instruction and vocal training per season, choir activities and materials including music and folder, supplies, mailings, notices, rehearsal space, rehearsal assistants, conductor, accompanist and office staff.

Tuition rates are approved by the Board of Directors annually. Parents are asked to follow one of the suggested tuition plans or call the MCC office to make special arrangements. Payment may be made with cash, check, Visa, Master Card, or Discover charge cards.

Tuition becomes 100% non-refundable as of June 1 of the choir season. A \$50 non-refundable deposit will be retained for refunds required before that date.

### Penalty charges

- There will be a \$30 fee charged for each check that is returned by the bank for insufficient funds. All future payments must be paid by money order, certified check or cash.
- There will be a \$25 late fee charged for payments which are received more than 30 days after the due date, unless other arrangements have been made with the MCC office in advance.

## **Financial Aid**

MCC is committed to making our programs available to any interested child, and to not let personal finances prevent a child from participating. Financial aid (for tuition) is made available to choristers in need at the beginning of each season. Parents are asked to obtain a financial aid application form from the MCC office and submit it to the office along with a non-refundable \$30 application fee **no later than June 1**, to be considered for a scholarship for that season. Chorister begins attending rehearsals right away. By signing the financial aid application, parents/guardians confirm that the information, to the best of their knowledge, is accurate and complete. MCC may verify this information as it sees fit.

Financial aid decisions are made as applications are received, so we advise families to file EARLY! MCC receives many requests for financial aid, and requesting financial aid does not automatically guarantee that aid will be given.

Financial aid is granted on the basis of financial need. Factors such as a chorister's commitment, attitude and attendance are also considered. A Board committee meets to evaluate all applications and determine scholarship allocations. Families will be notified by mail. In accepting financial assistance from MCC, parents/guardians agree to consistently and fully participate in MCC during the entire choral season, as well as fulfill all volunteer obligations. They also understand that, if they do not fulfill this obligation, that they may be asked to repay scholarship funds which have been awarded.

To keep money from becoming a barrier to participation, MCC sets its tuition rates much lower than the actual cost per singer. Even then, some families need financial aid.

### We have two basic beliefs about financial aid

1. We believe MCC's programming should be available to all children dedicated to our program, regardless of a family's financial position; and
2. We believe that people generally value what they pay for, and that all MCC families should show commitment by making some form of payment for MCC's programming.

In keeping with these beliefs, each year we put aside funds to distribute as financial aid. We also urge all families to pay a portion of their music education costs. The actual amount should be in keeping with the family's ability to pay.

## Resignation

Families not intending to COMPLETE a season for any reason are expected to talk personally with the choir director as well as give notice in writing to the MCC office. Music and folder must be returned to the rehearsal assistant or MCC office immediately.

## Parent Participation

Full development of each child's potential is possible only through the regular and active involvement of the family. **Parental participation and cooperation is essential to the quality of the learning experience for the child.** Each choir family is responsible for contributing approximately 10 hours of volunteer help over the course of the year. If a family wishes to waive this requirement, a volunteer waiver fee in the amount of \$75 is payable with tuition. If a family does not pay the waiver fee and also does not volunteer, on April 30 an \$85 fee shall be imposed and charged to the family.

**As with any not-for-profit organization, financial and volunteer contributions are also essential.**

## Parent Expectations

Parents are asked and expected to:

- Attend an orientation in September.
- Read weekly newsletters which are sent via email. If you don't have access to email, it is the parent's responsibility to request a hard copy from the rehearsal assistant.
- Attend an occasional open rehearsal each season to better understand the process of music learning in a choral context, and to observe your own child's experience.
- Honor the closed rehearsal policy which states that all combined and dress rehearsals, and many weekly rehearsals, are closed to audience.
- Encourage and monitor home practice and assist when necessary.
- Check email frequently AND check your choir member's folder! Both choir members and parents are responsible for communications. Staying on top of this information is critical to the well being of choir members and MCC itself as well as its administrative staff!
- Reply to all requested forms and permission slips ON TIME.
- REPLY via email by the due date or return a printed copy to the rehearsal assistant at the attendance table before rehearsal begins. Please do not give paperwork to the conductor. Generally, copies may be printed from the website, [www.milwaukeechildrenschoir.org](http://www.milwaukeechildrenschoir.org) on the Members Only page under your choir-level's section.
- **Volunteer your time** and expertise to assist in one or more of the committees described in the Parent Volunteer Sheets and/or chaperone.
- Support the Choir's critical fundraising efforts. Tuition only covers approximately 40% of total Choir expenses. Please participate in our auctions, plant sales, and other fundraising activities. Please contribute to MCC's annual giving campaign—our goal is 100% participation!

## Parent Volunteer Activities

The Milwaukee Children's Choir depends on the dedication and energy of volunteers, and opportunities for involvement exist in a variety of areas. All volunteer activities are coordinated by the MCC office. We enthusiastically welcome all interested parents, alumni, and members of the community to share in the choristers' experience, to make friends and to help keep MCC growing. All parents are encouraged to become involved.

Below are some parent volunteer opportunities:

- **Riser Hauler** – Do you have a large truck or enclosed trailer that could be used to haul choral risers to and from performance venues? If so, we need you for the Sing-a-Thon on Saturday, February 11, 2012!
- **Office Helper** – Assist with office work on a fairly consistent basis or be on call for special projects throughout the year; perhaps 2-4 hours per week or bi-weekly. Parents will work with bulk mailings, copying, collating, answering phones, making calls, etc. Timing is very flexible.
- **Rehearsal Assistant** – Help at weekly rehearsals taking attendance, supervising singers, dismissing singers to parents, distributing and collecting music, collect forms for the office, etc. Please make a commitment for the entire choral season. (This volunteer position fulfills ALL of a family's volunteer hours for the entire year.)
- **Music Folders and Music Library Helper** - Help distribute, fill and collect music folders. Need help several times a year: late August/early September, mid-December, early January, and late May/June. This volunteer position is best filled by parents who regularly spend time at the Milwaukee Youth Arts Center (where our libraries are located). Mark and shelve choral music on some Tuesday evenings during your child's rehearsal or on special library days.
- **Marketing Table Helper** – Market MCC at various events throughout the season. Offer brochures; talk with families that are interested in MCC. Set-up, man work stations, clean up.
- **Concert Posters** - Spread the word in your community about MCC concerts and events. Help is needed to hang posters/flyers, covering different suburbs in a 5 county area..
- **Concert Assistance** - Help greet and seat audience, staff the box office and clean-up at our self-produced concerts in November, February, March, and May.
- **Recording Sales** - Help sell Chorus recordings at some contracted performances and concerts. Help needed throughout the season,.
- **Chorister Fundraiser Committee Member** - Help plan/coordinate fundraising events including Spiritwear Sales: All Year Long; Holiday Tree and Wreath Auction: November; Spring Plant Sale: April/May and other fundraisers as scheduled.
- **Food** - Provide for refreshments, setup and cleanup at visiting choir dinners and other events.
- **Chaperones** - Volunteers are requested on each event's permission slip.

**Pick 'n Save We Care Program**

The We Care Program is a donation program which allows non-profit organizations the opportunity to raise funds through the purchasing power of their members. If you grocery shop at Pick'n Save, please list MCC as your non-profit of choice. (See Pick 'n Save We Care Program flyer at the end of this book.)

**Singer Service Hours**

Jubilate or Youth Chorale singers, do you need to gather service hours or National Honor Society volunteer hours for church or school? Contact the MCC office to be put on a list for the many opportunities that arise at MCC during the choral season or the summer!

**Ticket Sales**

Milwaukee Children's Choir is a performance-based music education program. Our self-produced concerts are an integral part of our curriculum, giving choristers the opportunity to present the culmination of their work to an appreciative audience of family, friends and community members. Because these concerts are an important part of what we do, we encourage you to purchase tickets to all concerts and support MCC by selling tickets to your family and friends. Doing so (1) shows the community "what we do", (2) directly benefits the children by providing an enthusiastic, large audience, and (3) provides a revenue source which helps to keep tuition rates lower.

Near the beginning of the choral season, each family will receive a season ticket brochure. Tickets for MCC-produced concerts will be available through this brochure at a reduced price. Season ticket holders have preferred seating at season concerts. Approximately six weeks prior to the MCC concerts, choir members and families will be given an opportunity to purchase individual concert tickets. These tickets can be purchased through rehearsal assistants at your child's rehearsal site.

# The MCC Tour Experience

This document is a culmination of research done on other children's choirs' tour practices, MCC's own history and data gathered from our staff and parents. While it is important to have tour documentation for singers, parents, board and staff to use as a guideline, MCC's tour policy must remain flexible enough to allow members to take advantage of available opportunities. The trip to Japan in 1999, for example, surfaced suddenly; and MCC staff and families needed to be able to react quickly in order to participate in this remarkable experience. In general, the MCC staff will do its best to follow the information below.

## MCC's Tour History

MCC tours locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally. From 1999-2007, MCC toured often (see past tours listed below), but with approximately only 20 singers on each tour. Our goal now is to tour less often, but to include more singers on each tour. We plan to give MCC families 2-3 years to plan, so more singers will be able to participate. Students can save money in their MCC tour accounts, to assist with financial preparation. Our goal is for all choristers to have an opportunity to participate in an "out of town tour" at least 3 times as they progress through our choral program from Prelude to Cantabile to Jubilate to MYC. All singers will also have multiple opportunities to participate in local tour experiences OR to host choirs for choir exchanges.

### Past regional, national, and international tours include:

- ♪ **2007 Rhapsody International Children' Music Festival** — Cantorei and Chamber Cantorei members traveled to Prague, Vienna and Salzburg. July 26 - August 6, 2007.
- ♪ **2007 Toronto International Choral Festival** — Milwaukee Youth Chorale traveled to Canada during spring break.
- ♪ **2005 New York City** — Carnegie Hall. Members of Cantorei, Milwaukee Youth Chorale and Concert Choir traveled to New York in November to be part of a choir festival at Carnegie Hall.
- ♪ **2005 Ames, Iowa** — Midwest Children's Choir Festival. MCC's Cantorei was the featured Guest Choir at this bi-annual choir festival involving hundreds of Iowa's children.
- ♪ **2004 Italy** — Mass at St. Peter's Basilica, Rome. Following a request by St. Peter's Basilica for MCC to perform at Mass, Cantorei and Milwaukee Youth Chorale traveled to Italy and spent time in both Rome and Sorrento.
- ♪ **2001 England** — Fifth Annual International Children's Choir Festival, Canterbury and London.
- ♪ **1999 Japan** — Wisconsin Cultural Delegation Trip to Chiba to participate in the Chiba People's Day Festival: A cultural delegation of almost 40 Wisconsinites visited Wisconsin's sister state Chiba, Japan.

## **Why We Tour**

The heart and soul of the MCC program lies in the weekly rehearsal and performance process of growing together as musically expressive human beings. Touring is an *extension* of the MCC program which offers choristers a special opportunity to grow together as a community of young artists.

Touring is an important auxiliary to MCC's basic music education program, both financially and logistically. It is included as an outstanding way to provide choristers with powerful and memorable musical, cultural and interpersonal experiences. It is an opportunity which heightens each musician's understanding of himself/herself, of music and of one's relationship to others. It allows singers a chance to perform for a wide variety of audiences in a wide variety of venues. It provides cultural experiences and growth opportunities which cannot be achieved at home. It should not, however, be the main reason for belonging to MCC.

MCC touring experiences include a balance of activities which focus on concerts, demonstrations, workshops, and musical exchanges with other youth choruses as well as sight-seeing activities and relaxation time. The musical literature used on a tour is selected from the season's repertoire with the addition of special selections appropriate for each specific travel experience.

Travel and performance venues identified as rewarding touring opportunities will lead to travel plans organized by the Artistic Director and Executive Director with the approval of the Board of Directors. Input from parents and choristers is also considered before plans are finalized. Over the course of membership with MCC, singers will be offered a diverse program of local, regional (1-3 days), national (in the continental USA; approximately 3-8 days), and international tours (approximately 7-12 days). International tours will be well-spaced in order to allow for advance financial planning by families.

Periods of time without touring allow for other opportunities, such as musical exchanges and festivals with area groups, summer music camp or retreat possibilities for incoming and returning choristers, and an opportunity for families to feel less financial strain. MCC is committed to a healthy balance between touring and ongoing MCC goals, as well as to the resources of our families.

## **How We Gather Feedback from Parents & Choristers**

Periodically, tour listening sessions are conducted by MCC staff in order to gather input from choristers and their parents regarding choir tours. (Most recent listening sessions held spring 2008). Travelers are also surveyed by MCC's administrative staff upon returning home from choir tours in order to gather information that will be used to better the next tour.

## Proposed Tour Plans By Choir Level

***Although we may not be able to accomplish all of these goals all of the time, these are MCC's tour goals:***

### Prelude Tour Goals:

Prelude Choir members do not go on official tours, but they do have mini “tour-like” experiences offered to them as part of the Prelude program. Transportation for these mini-tours is provided by the choristers’ parents, and parents or chaperones supervise the children for each event. For example, the Prelude Choir members may be given an opportunity to participate in a community service to the Milwaukee area by singing festive Christmas carols or our season repertoire at various locations throughout the city. Many Prelude singers opt to participate in this fun and social experience, which often includes sight-seeing or social opportunities, in the Milwaukee area, in addition to the performance opportunity. These experiences are a wonderful way for Prelude singers to get to know each other better, meet singers from other MCC choirs, and enjoy the rewards of community service.

<b>Prelude Events</b>	<b>Transportation</b>	<b>Meal</b>	<b>Approx. Cost</b>	<b>Chaperones</b>
Mini tour-like experiences	Parents/ Guardians or Car Pools	N/A	no cost	Parents typically stay for the events, and are sometimes asked to chaperone or participate.

### Cantabile Tour Goals:

Cantabile members will generally:

1. Continue to participate in mini “tour-like” experiences such as community service projects. They will also collaborate with professional organizations such as the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra for ACE and/or Kinderkonzerts.
2. Enjoy a day trip to another close city. An example of a Cantabile tour might be to travel by school bus to Appleton for the day. Generally, the tour will include at least one meal away from home. It may be a choir exchange.
3. Host a choir in town for a day. An example of a choir hosting might be having the Appleton Boy Choir to MYAC to share songs and lunch (spring 2008).

<b>Cantabile Events</b>	<b>Transportation</b>	<b>Meal</b>	<b>Approx. Cost</b>	<b>Chaperones</b>
Mini tour-like experiences	Parents/ Guardians or Car Pools	N/A	none	Parents typically stay for the events, and are sometimes asked to chaperone or participate.
Local Singing Tour Day Trip	School bus	One meal away from home	\$20-50	one adult to approximately every 5 singers

Jubilate Tour Goals:

Jubilate members will generally:

1. Participate in choir exchanges both locally and regionally
2. Have an opportunity to tour locally, regionally, nationally, internationally.

Jubilate Tour Destinations	# of days	Transportation	Approx. Cost	Chaperones
Local	1	Parents/ Guardians or Carpool	none	one adult to approx. every 10-15 singers (includes community service events, collaborations with MSO, Present Music, or Milwaukee Ballet, and choir exchanges)
Regional	1-3	Motor coach	\$100-300	one adult to approx. every 6 singers
National	4-8	Air or motor coach	\$1000-3000	one adult to approx. every 5 singers
International	7-12	Air and motor coach	\$3000-4500	one adult to approx. every 4 singers

Milwaukee Youth Chorale (MYC) Tour Goals:

The Milwaukee Youth Chorale will generally:

1. Participate in choir exchanges both locally and regionally
2. Have an opportunity to tour locally, regionally, nationally, internationally.

MYC Tour Destinations	# of days	Transportation	Approx. Cost	Chaperones
Local	1	Parents/ Guardians or Carpool	None	one adult to approx. every 10-15 singers (includes community service events, collaborations with MSO, Present Music, or Milwaukee Ballet, and choir exchanges)
Regional	1-3	Motor coach	\$100-300	one adult to approx. every 6 singers
National	4-8	Air or motor coach	\$1000-3000	one adult to approx. every 5 singers
International	7-12	Air and motor coach	\$3000-4500	one adult to approx. every 4 singers

**Possible overall tour experience for a singer joining MCC in Prelude and continuing with membership through Youth Chorale:**

Choir Level	Tour Experience
Prelude	Pre-touring experiences such as community service events
Cantabile	Local tour which would be a 1 day trip by bus, as well as “tour-like” experiences such as community service events, and/or collaborations with professional organizations such as the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra for ACE and/or Kinderkonzerts.
Jubilate	Participate in local and regional tours often (sometimes annually), and have an opportunity to tour nationally or internationally at least every three years
Youth Chorale	Participate in local and regional tours often (sometimes annually), and have an opportunity to tour nationally or internationally at least every three years

## **Financial Information**

Milwaukee Children's Choir requires that all travelers be up-to-date on all fees including tuition, uniform, music, and any other miscellaneous fees prior to applying for a tour.

Tours are self-funded. We envision a day when all tours will be accessible to all MCC members. But today, for financial reasons, we can extend tour opportunities only to those who can fund their own participation. MCC tours support MCC's mission, but because they do not serve all choir members, they are optional activities, and are priced to cover all of MCC's out of pocket expenses plus compensation for services rendered by MCC.

MCC does provide a mechanism to help choir members save funds for tours. Our annual Sing-a-Thon is a critical fundraiser that supports MCC's general operations. It also provides a mechanism for choir members to create tour accounts. We encourage families interested in touring to learn how to use the Sing-a-Thon to defray touring costs.

## **Questions**

The MCC office staff maintains regular office hours and is happy to assist parents and choristers, answer questions, and serve as the focal point for all MCC activities. You may also arrange to talk to the directors or members of the board. Experienced parent volunteers are also available and glad to talk to you.

### **Questions related to rehearsals or the music program**

Individual questions and concerns of parents and choristers with regard to rehearsals, concerts, evaluations, Choir assignment, etc., should be directed to the director of your child's ensemble. Questions, concerns, suggestions about the music program in general may also be discussed with the Artistic Director. Appointments with the Artistic Director are made by calling the MCC office, 414.221.7040.

### **Questions related to logistics or organizational aspects of the program, or questions related to parent volunteer activities**

Concerns and questions related to notices, permission slips, concert dress, performance logistics, bus and travel arrangements, etc. should be directed to the administrative staff at the MCC office. Located at 158 N. Broadway, Milwaukee, WI, the office is the "home base" for business, information and all activities. (Please review printed notices or check the MCC website, [www.milwaukeechildrenschoir.org](http://www.milwaukeechildrenschoir.org), before you call.)

### **Questions related to legal, financial and policy issues**

The Board of Directors is made up of business people, members of the community and parents who meet regularly to deal with the legal governance, fiscal management, fundraising strategies, long-range planning, personnel and business underpinnings of the Choir. Board members are happy to discuss questions with parents. Please call the MCC office for contact information.

## **Staff**

The artistic staff manages all music related activities, including choosing the repertoire, teaching and/or accompanying, choosing performances, conducting at performances, etc.

The administrative staff manages the logistics of rehearsals and performances, markets the Choir, works with parent volunteers, manages finances, etc.

The staff is always available to answer questions and to assist parents and choristers. MCC's primary staff are listed below. Contact information is given to individual choir members at the beginning of each season, and is also available online at [www.milwaukeechildrenschoir.org](http://www.milwaukeechildrenschoir.org).

### **MCC Administrative Staff**

Paula Bell, Executive Director  
Lorinda Liongson, Office and Volunteer Manager  
Mary Murphy, Development and Finance Manager

### **MCC Artistic Staff**

Carol Storck: Artistic Director, Jubilate Director, Director of Harmony Program  
Jason Clark: Milwaukee Youth Chorale Director  
Kristin Dillahunt: Songbirds North and Prelude North Director  
Elizabeth Egger: Senior Choir Assistant and Vocal Coach  
Emily Fazio: Prelude West; Cantabile East, West and Central; Cantabile Coordinator,  
Director of Dover and Tippicanoe  
Penny Fichtner: Artistic Administrator  
Maria Koester: Accompanist  
Amanda McFall, Accompanist  
Annemarie Travia: Prelude & Songbirds East Director and Prelude Coordinator  
Theresa Witt: Cantabile North Director

## **Board of Directors**

### **Officers:**

David Dorgan, President  
Patrick Murphy, Vice President  
Jayme Tschanz, Treasurer  
Heidi Boyd, Secretary  
Christine Burgener, Past President

### **Directors:**

Priya Barnes  
Beth Berger  
Bob Fichtner  
Katie Kaminsky  
Kelley Karakis  
Paul Lucey  
Katie O'Neill  
Deborah Patel  
Robert Sholl

