



The Children's Chorus of Greater Dallas

400 North Saint Paul St.
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Dallas, TX 75201
214.965.0491



Newsletter

October 2008



From the Artistic Director

Dear Parents and Singers,

Welcome to CCGD's first newsletter of the 08-09 season. If you are new to CCGD, let me encourage you to read it! If you are a returning member you already know how helpful it is to staying "in the know" with CCGD.

Each year I look forward to the first sound that the Prelude Chorus makes. That sound is the beginning of a year long journey of learning how to make beautiful music together. For many of our singers, CCGD will be the beginning of a lifetime of singing in a choir.

Singing brings joy from the depths of our beings to the ears, hearts and minds of our audience. Sometimes our audience is the parents in the back of the room; sometimes we have an audience of one - ourselves! And sometimes our audience is 1800 people at the Meyerson Symphony Center. No matter the audience, the experience of learning to express ourselves in song is life changing.

The first part of CCGD's mission is to give our children the experience of choral artistry. I invite you to observe a rehearsal or two before the November Meyerson concert so you can see, first hand, the process of hard work, discipline, skill and love that creates moments of real beauty.

I know I speak for all of the artistic staff when I say that we are privileged to guide the singers in this journey.

Ms. Nott

Parents' Association Board Members

President Youth Chorus
Kathleen Whiteaker
972.291.8751

From the Associate Conductor



Dear Concert II Singers and Parents,

Congratulations on being invited to sing with Concert II this year. We have a wonderful group of singers, excellent literature to learn and lovely venues for our performances. Parent volunteers, I appreciate all you do to help make rehearsals run

President Children's Chorus
Diane Roberts
972.690.9339

Administration
Sabrina Hancock 214.690.9339

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Susan Amason
214.941.0946

Merchandise Manager
Suzy Cox

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Denise Pauletti
972.686.9129

Newsletter
Kim Grogan
817.688.7766

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Coming Event Clarification:

Saturday, October 11,
*Concert II Rehearsal
at FUMC, 9 - 12.
(Hot Sheet coming soon)*

Saturday, October 11,
*Select Small Group Rehearsal
at FUMC, 12 - 2,
(if you don't know what this
is then you probably didn't
sign up for it!)*

Saturday, October 11,
*Concert I Rehearsal and
Concert with the Dallas Asian
American Youth Orchestra at
St. Andrews UMC in Plano,
Call 4: 45,
Concert 7:00 PM.
Mr. Harley will be selling
tickets at FUMC this Monday
night, October 6.*

smoothly. And parents, attendance has been excellent this year. Thanks for making sure your child is in rehearsal and on time! Please mark your calendar for these important dates.

Saturday Rehearsal - October 11th FUMC
9:00 to noon

Saturday Concert - October 18th Mesquite Arts Center
Call 1:30 PM, Concert 4:00 PM

Winter Concert - Sunday, November 30th, Meyerson
Call 5:00 PM, Concert 7:30 PM

See you Monday.
Mrs. Harley

From the Youth Chorus Conductor



Dear YCGD Singers and Parents,

I am looking forward to our concert in Mesquite on Saturday, October 18! I realize there are a few conflicts with other activities. We were trying to avoid conflicts with Homecoming dances by scheduling our concert in the afternoon, but it resulted in conflicts with Marching Band Contest and All-Region Choir Auditions.

If you will be participating in Marching Band Contest on that day, please notify me by email if you have not already done so. I know you do not know what time your band will play yet, but email me again as soon as you find out. If it is possible for you to miss our rehearsal but perform in our concert, that will be fine under the circumstances. The concert will begin at 4:00 pm.

If you will be auditioning for All-Region Choir on that day, you should tell your school choral director immediately that you will need a morning audition time. Do this ASAP to allow ample time for your region chairperson to schedule it correctly.

We have had a great start to our season - see you next Monday night!

Nora Henson

From the Executive Director



FUNDRAISING NEWS

Our fundraising goal this season is \$172,000, a significant increase from last season's goal. We are off to a good start, with large donations received from:

(Hot Sheet coming soon)

Saturday, October 18,
Concert I Rehearsal
at FUMC, 9 - 12,
(Hot Sheet coming soon)

Saturday, October 18,
Youth Chorus, Concert II and
Select Small Group Rehearsal
and Concert at the Mesquite
Arts Center. Concert begins
at 4 PM. Admission is free,
but a ticket is required.
Performers will be given 2
tickets with their Hot Sheet.
(Hot Sheet coming soon)

Online and Interactive!

Be on the look out for new features coming to the CCGD website. In the next couple of months we anticipate adding an online merchandise store and concert ticket purchase option. Plans for more online options are on the horizon as well. We are excited about the opportunity to offer a more interactive online experience to choristers and their families in the near future.

NEIGHBORHOOD CHOIR PROGRAM NOMINATED

CCGD's Neighborhood Choir Program has been selected by the Center for Nonprofit Management (CNM) as one of three finalists for their "Innovation in Action" award. The winner will be announced at CNM's "Night of Light" Gala on Nov 14, and will receive a \$5,000 grant from CNM.

- o The Dallas Office of Cultural Affairs (\$16,014) for operational support
- o The Hawn Foundation (\$10,000) for the Neighborhood Choirs and tuition assistance
- o The Dede Duson trust as created by Jean Rogers Winchell (\$2500) and the Mesquite Arts Council (\$2500) for our Oct 18 concert at the Mesquite Arts Center
- o The Texas Commission on the Arts (\$4418) for our Neighborhood Choirs
- o The Dallas Arts District Foundation, through the Communities Foundation of Texas (\$2000) for our Nov 30 Meyerson Concert
- o Ann Kathryn's Fund (\$950) for one Concert I and One Concert II scholarship
- o Several individual donations (totaling \$4,605)

These donations to date put us at 25% of our annual goal.

We have recently submitted proposals to the Rees-Jones Foundation, the George and Fay Young Foundation and TACA (our largest donor last season). We expect to submit 25 more proposals over the next several months.

SAVE THE WEEKEND!!!!

The March 6-8 2009 weekend is probably the most eventful and exciting one in CCGD's history. Mark your calendars now so you don't miss the festivities!

On Friday March 6 we will be leaving at the crack of dawn to take Concert I to Oklahoma City, where they will rehearse at 10:30 a.m. in preparation for their appearance at the national convention of the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA). On March 7 they will sing there twice - at 8:00 a.m. (another early morning) and at 3:30 p.m.

The two audiences will include about 4,000 choral directors from across the United States. As you may know, being selected to sing at the ACDA National Convention is one of the highest honors in the choral field - over 300 choirs applied to sing, 20 were selected, including only 2 children's choruses. We will return to Dallas immediately after the second performance so that everyone can get ready for the March 8 events.

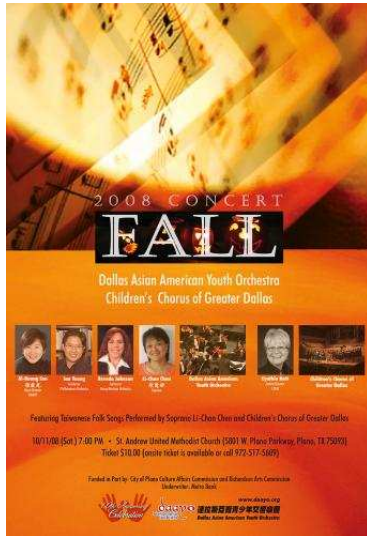
On March 8 we will hold our third annual Gala/Auction at the Meyerson Center, beginning at 5:30 p.m. We have a great committee working on Gala preparations and this promises to be our most exciting Gala yet. The committee is looking for your help - there are many different ways to participate - so please seriously consider getting involved. Call the office and we will put you in touch with the appropriate committee member.

Immediately following the Gala CCGD will present our "Song and Dance" concert, featuring our three new Neighborhood Choirs and the Youth Dance Troop of the Dallas Black Dance Theater. This promises to be a special concert - and a good one to invite family, friends and neighbors to join us!



A Word about Applause!

Just when are you supposed to applaud in a CCGD concert? I'm so



DALLAS ASIAN AMERICAN YOUTH ORCHESTRA CONCERT

Attention Concert I parents!
Tickets for the Oct 11 DAAYO
concert in Plano are on sale
and can be purchased by
calling the office
(214.965.0491).

BE SURE TO PURCHASE
YOUR TICKETS FROM US -
our fee is half (\$5.00) of each
ticket we sell. If we sell 200
tickets (about 2 1/2 per
Concert I singer) CCGD will
make a \$1000 fee.

If you do not have a Concert I
singer, but live in the Northern
area and are looking for a fun
and cheap evening's
entertainment we will be happy
to sell you tickets to this
concert. We have plenty of
tickets available!

→ Parents' Association

Parents,
As the choirs get prepared for their first major concert at the Meyerson, we'd just like to remind you
of a few events:

confused!!

*- And why not after every piece? The kids have worked so hard
and sound so good!*

Let me see if I can shed some light on this subject: First, we've placed stars (***) in the program to guide the listener as to when it is appropriate to applaud. There are several reasons for this:

- Choral pieces are generally short - clapping every 2 or 3 minutes makes for a very choppy musical experience.
- Sometimes, I've planned pieces to be sung as a set because they have a similar text, or thought or they compliment each other.
- Sometimes we are performing a major work and the composer intended the piece to be listened to as a whole before responding with applause.

Second, if it is notated to applaud, watch the conductor. The cue to even think about applause is the relaxation of the conductor's hands and the singer's release of focus. These are some of my most favorite times in a concert. It is almost like we are holding our breath. We are experiencing a moment of beauty.

Sometimes the music is so beautiful the most wonderful thing that could happen would be a moment of silence. This could be a time for the listener to take in the beauty, to watch the singer's faces and to reflect on the text.

Don't get me wrong; I love to hear the excitement in an audience - the immediate, enthusiastic, "no doubt about it that was awesome" response! But in our always noisy world, I hope the CCGD concerts will give you both experiences. Your children deserve both responses!

1) You should have received a tour fundraising packet. This year we have 3 different fundraisers: SCRIP, Poinsettias and Enjoy the City Books for you to consider when looking for ways to build your child's tour account.

2) We will need volunteers to assist with sorting and handout of the Poinsettias on December 6th. Please contact Susan Amason at susan@amazonconsulting.com <<mailto:susan@amazonconsulting.com>> if you can help.

3) We are actively looking for volunteers in the following areas: Social Committee for CCGD (coordinate 2 events per choir year - this year will be spent shadowing our current Social Committee head) and Vice President's for both CCGD and YCGD. Please send either one of us an email if you have questions on any of the open positions.

We have had an overwhelming response to our earlier volunteer requests and thank everyone for their continued support of the choirs.

Diane Roberts
Co-President CCGD

Kathleen Whiteaker
Co-President YCGD



Prelude and Apprentice will have a Concert Attire Check on Monday October 13, 30 minutes prior to their rehearsal.

Concert I, II and Youth Chorus will be checked at their performances this month.

Please double check now that your concert attire is ready!

CHILDREN'S CHORUS ATTIRE

Girls' formal concert attire consists of the black and white concert dress, black tights (opaque) and black leather ballet slippers. Bedroom shoes that resemble ballet slippers are not acceptable. Hair must be secured away from the face with discrete black or invisible clips. If a chorister's hair is longer than shoulder length, it must be secured in a pony tail. No make-up, nail polish or jewelry is to be worn. This includes earrings, necklaces, bracelets, rings and watches. Girls: please remove the inside "loops" used for hanging the dress.

Boys' formal concert attire consists of a tuxedo shirt, tuxedo pants, black bow tie and cummerbund, black socks, black dress shoes. No jewelry or makeup is to be worn. This includes earrings, necklaces, bracelets, rings and watches. If a chorister's hair is longer than shoulder length, it must be secured in a pony tail. We suggest that boys do not wear an undershirt under their tux shirt because it makes them too hot. However, this is a personal decision for each boy.

Infractions will be addressed on a case by case basis. The Artistic Director reserves the right to exclude any chorister from a performance.

YOUTH CHORUS ATTIRE

Girls' formal concert attire consists of a black concert dress, black hose or knee-hi's and black leather

character shoes.

Boys' formal concert attire consists of a tuxedo coat and pants, white pointed collar tuxedo shirt, black bow tie, black socks and black dress shoes.

SCRIP News

Scrip is a program available through the chorus to earn money for your child's tour account. Even if you do not have an imminent tour, it is a great way to start saving for one.

The program enables choristers to purchase gift cards to popular retail stores (i.e. Home Depot, Tom Thumb, Old Navy/Gap, Payless shoes and more) at a discount from CCGD. CCGD keeps a record of these purchases and records a credit to the individual chorister's tour account fund. Gift card purchases yield around 5% of the gift card sale price.

During Monday evening rehearsals chorus reps (this is the person at your child's rehearsal with a file box who takes attendance) will have an order form. The form lists suggested retailers - www.glscrip.com has a more extensive list. Fill out the form and attach a check payable to CCGD to the form. Return it to your chorus rep. The following Monday I will deliver your order to those reps. You order gift cards on one Monday, and the following Monday you should receive your order. Forms can also be downloaded from the CCGD website.

Maria Weimann will be picking up orders at First Presbyterian for Prelude and Apprentice. I will be at Con II from 5:30p to 7:00p at the Cathedral, and then on to First UMC shortly after 7:00 to pick up orders from Youth and Con I. Please have your orders ready as close to the beginning of rehearsal as possible, or you may miss us.

The Scrip program works best if many people use it. I process orders on Tuesday mornings. The shipping fee (11.00-13.00 dollars) is debited from the overall profit; therefore, a small order is not very cost effective. A minimum of \$500.00 is best in total for all five choruses. If this becomes a weekly practice, your child's money will really grow and a complete tour can be funded by this program alone.

When training for this I was told that one family purchased \$18,000 in Home Depot cards to remodel a kitchen and with a 4% return that is enough to fund a tour to Europe!

The last order processed before our holiday break will be November 10. I know this may sound early, but we have only one more rehearsal at that point for tallying and delivery. Orders are only accepted on Monday nights at rehearsal. Questions? tzworm@sbcglobal.net

Thank you,

Teresa Worm
(mom in Con II)

Calendar

October and November

Prelude and Apprentice

October 6, Monday	Regular Rehearsals	FPC	Regular Schedule
October 13, Monday	Regular Rehearsals	FPC	Regular Schedule
October 13, Monday	Concert Attire Check	FPC	30 mins before rehearsal
October 20, Monday	Regular Rehearsals	FPC	Regular Schedule
October 27, Monday	Regular Rehearsals	FPC	Regular Schedule
November 3, Monday	Regular Rehearsals	FPC	Regular Schedule

November 10, Monday	Regular Rehearsals	FPC	Regular Schedule
November 17, Monday	Regular Rehearsals	FPC	Regular Schedule
November 24, Monday	Regular Rehearsals	FPC	Regular Schedule
November 26-28, Wed-Fri	CCGD Office Closed (Thanksgiving Holiday)		
November 30, Sunday	Rehearsal and Fall Into Winter Concert (at 7:30 PM) Meyerson 5 - 9 PM		

Concert II

October 6, Monday	Regular Rehearsals	CG	Regular Schedule
October 11, Saturday	Rehearsal - Con II	FUMC Wesley	9 AM - 12 PM
October 13, Monday	Regular Rehearsals	CG	Regular Schedule
October 18, Saturday	Rehearsal at Mesquite Arts Center	Mesquite Arts Center	1:30 PM
October 18, Saturday	Performance at Mesquite Arts Center	Mesquite Arts Center	4:00 PM
October 20, Monday	Regular Rehearsals	CG	Regular Schedule
October 27, Monday	Regular Rehearsals	CG	Regular Schedule
November 3, Monday	Regular Rehearsals	CG	Regular Schedule
November 8, Saturday	Rehearsal - Con II	FUMC - Wesley	9 AM - 12 PM
November 10, Monday	Regular Rehearsals	CG	Regular Schedule
November 17, Monday	Regular Rehearsals	CG	Regular Schedule
November 24, Monday	Regular Rehearsals	CG	Regular Schedule
November 26-28, Wed-Fri	CCGD Office Closed (Thanksgiving Holiday)		
November 30, Sunday	Rehearsal and Fall Into Winter Concert (at 7:30 PM) Meyerson 5 - 9 PM		

Concert I

October 6, Monday	Regular Rehearsals	FUMC	Regular Schedule
October 11, Saturday	Rehearsal - select small group	FUMC - Wesley	12 PM - 2 PM
October 11, Saturday	Rehearsal - Dallas Asian American Youth Orch.		
		St. Andrews UMC Plano	4:45 PM
October 11, Saturday	Performance with Dallas Asian American Youth Orch.		
		St. Andrews UMC Plano	7:00 PM
October 13, Monday	Regular Rehearsals	FUMC	Regular Schedule
October 18, Saturday	Rehearsal - Con I	FUMC - Wesley	9 AM - 12 PM
October 20, Monday	Regular Rehearsals	FUMC	Regular Schedule
October 27, Monday	Regular Rehearsals	FUMC	Regular Schedule
November 3, Monday	Regular Rehearsals	FUMC	Regular Schedule
November 8, Saturday	Rehearsal - Con I	FUMC - Wesley	12 PM - 3 PM
November 10, Monday	Regular Rehearsals	FUMC	Regular Schedule
November 17, Monday	Regular Rehearsals	FUMC	Regular Schedule
November 24, Monday	Regular Rehearsals	FUMC	Regular Schedule
November 26-28, Wed-Fri	CCGD Office Closed (Thanksgiving Holiday)		
November 30, Sunday	Rehearsal and Fall Into Winter Concert (at 7:30 PM) Meyerson 5 - 9 PM		

Youth Chorus

October 6, Monday	Regular Rehearsals	FUMC	Regular Schedule
October 13, Monday	Regular Rehearsals	FUMC	Regular Schedule
October 18, Saturday	Rehearsal at Mesquite Arts Center	Mesquite Arts Center	1:30 PM
October 18, Saturday	Performance at Mesquite Arts Center	Mesquite Arts Center	4:00 PM
October 20, Monday	Regular Rehearsals	FUMC	Regular Schedule
October 27, Monday	Regular Rehearsals	FUMC	Regular Schedule
November 3, Monday	Regular Rehearsals	FUMC	Regular Schedule
November 10, Monday	Regular Rehearsals	FUMC	Regular Schedule
November 17, Monday	Regular Rehearsals	FUMC	Regular Schedule
November 24, Monday	Regular Rehearsals	FUMC	Regular Schedule

November 26-28, Wed-Fri CCGD Office Closed (Thanksgiving Holiday)
November 30, Sunday Rehearsal and Fall Into Winter Concert (at 7:30 PM)

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