

Children's Chorus of Greater Dallas



Prelude, Apprentice, Concert II, Concert I,
Women's Youth and Youth Chorus

Handbook 2010-2011

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ORGANIZATION

The Children's Chorus of Greater Dallas (CCGD) was founded in 1996. The mission of the Chorus is to provide children with the experience of artistic excellence and artistry through choral singing. The Children's Chorus creates a spirit of community, reflects the diversity of greater Dallas, and enriches audiences with the best in children's choral literature.

The Children's Chorus includes girls and boys with unchanged voices in the fourth through eighth grades. The Women's Youth Chorus is composed of young women in the ninth through twelfth grades. The Youth Chorus includes young men and women in the ninth through twelfth grades. Members are selected through an audition with the artistic staff. The qualifications are a good voice, a good sense of pitch and a commitment to regular attendance at rehearsals and performances.

We welcome your participation in this important arts endeavor which provides lasting value to our community and our youth.

STAFF

Cynthia Nott, Artistic Director	cynthia@thechildrenschorus.org
Linda Harley, Associate Conductor	linda@thechildrenschorus.org
Terrie Preskitt-Brown, Conductor	terrie@thechildrenschorus.org
Nora Henson, Conductor	nora@thechildrenschorus.org
Kelly Pfaffenberger, Conductor	kelly@thechildrenschorus.org
Terry Harley, Executive Director	terry@thechildrenschorus.org
Emily Ko, Development Director	emily@thechildrenschorus.org
Susan Tomlinson, Chorus Administrator	susan@thechildrenschorus.org
Mary Duncan, Business Administrator	mary@thechildrenschorus.org

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Chorus Office: (214) 965-0491

Chorus Fax: (214) 965-0264

Chorus Website: www.thechildrenschorus.org

CURRICULUM/PHILOSOPHY

Through the rehearsal and performance of distinctive choral literature, the CCGD will give the children the vocal, musical and artistic skills necessary to express themselves in song.

Through skilled, beautiful singing, children will begin a journey of self-discovery as they learn the music, thought and feelings of cultures that span centuries and continents.

During the course of a year, choristers will have the opportunity to learn the music of the major periods of Western Civilization – Renaissance, Baroque, Classical, Romantic and the 20th Century. Children will explore the folk-based art music of many cultures different from their own.

The children will receive instruction in how musical elements work together. Those elements are melody, rhythm, harmony, timbre, dynamics, form, style, history and performance practice. These musical concepts are taught through the singing, listening, analysis and evaluation of the repertoire.

The children will learn how to use their personal instrument, their bodies and voices, in an expressive, artistic way. In order to sing the varied repertoire, they will be given instruction in classical vocal techniques. In each rehearsal, correct singing posture, vowel shape, breath support, and tone placement will be taught and developed.

Informed performances can transform young singers. Children can experience music through singing with their whole beings. Their relationships to the production of sound into art, of bodies into instruments, transcend the actual notes and words on the page. In singing, they touch the music and the music touches them, for the pure joy of the experience. This experience will enrich all those involved in the process, including the avid concertgoer, the parent and, of course, the child.

We look forward to guiding your child in this adventure.

PLACEMENT AND AUDITIONS

Each child is placed in the appropriate chorus through an audition with the artistic staff. Placement is based on musical and vocal readiness, emotional maturity, consistency of focus, attitude and leadership. Auditions are held each year for new singers as well as for those students wishing to advance to the next level chorus.

Each chorus is designed to be a rewarding experience in its own right. Each chorus will maintain the highest standards of excellence, continue to develop musical and vocal skills and be an exciting learning environment.

The six choruses are:

Concert I – This chorus, the most advanced chorus, rehearses on Monday evenings at First United Methodist Church, Wesley Hall, 1928 Ross Avenue, from 6:45 p.m. – 8:30 p.m., and approximately one Saturday morning or afternoon a month. The performance schedule for this chorus is the most extensive. There can be as many as two performances a month. If CCGD is contracted by the Dallas Symphony, Voices of Change, etc., then Concert I will usually fulfill those obligations. This chorus may tour nationally/internationally every other season. We recognize that the commitment to this chorus is extensive: you may request placement in a chorus with a lighter performing schedule. Tuition: \$500 per year

Concert II – This is an advanced chorus. The children are generally younger than the members of Concert I although there are always exceptions. This chorus rehearses on Monday evenings from 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. at Cathedral Guadalupe and approximately two Saturday mornings or afternoons a semester. Usually two or three performances are scheduled each semester. The chorus may tour regionally every other season. Tuition: \$450 per year.

Apprentice – This is an intermediate level chorus designed to continue the development of the child's vocal and musical skills that are necessary to participate in one of the Concert choruses. This chorus rehearses on Monday evenings from 6:45 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. in Blakely Hall at First Presbyterian Church, 408 Park Avenue (at the corner of Harwood and Young). This chorus usually performs two or three times each semester. Tuition: \$350 per year.

Prelude – This chorus is designed to introduce the children to the vocal and musical skills required for classical choral singing. The students rehearse on Monday afternoons from 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. in Blakely Hall at First Presbyterian Church, 408 Park Avenue (at the corner of Harwood and Young). This chorus usually performs once or twice each semester. Tuition: \$300 per year.

Women's Youth Chorus – This is an advanced chorus for young women in the ninth through twelfth grades. They rehearse on Monday evenings from 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, 1928 Ross Avenue. This chorus performs one or two times each semester. Tuition: \$500 per year. Each participant purchases her own music for \$50 per year.

Youth Chorus – This is an advanced mixed chorus for students in the ninth through twelfth grades. They rehearse on Monday evenings from 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, 1928 Ross Avenue. This chorus performs one or two times each semester. Tuition: \$550 per year. Each participant purchases his or her own music for \$50 per year.

ACCEPTANCE/MEMBERSHIP PACKET

Acceptance and membership packets are mailed in June. The forms in the packet are to be returned by July 1, 2010. The Membership Packet contains the Season Commitment, Health form, Confidential Member/Family Survey, Fundraising information, Publicity Release Agreement, Indemnification Agreement, Request for the Need-Based Tuition Assistance application form, Choristers' Safety Policy and Procedures, Background Check Consent Form, Volunteer Opportunities, Merchandise Order Form and Concert Attire information.

*REHEARSALS

All rehearsals are held on Monday evenings during the school year. **Prelude** rehearses from 5:30 P.M. – 6:30 P.M. at the First Presbyterian Church in Blakely Hall; **Apprentice** rehearses from 6:45 P.M. – 8:00 P.M. at the First Presbyterian Church in Blakely Hall; **Concert II** rehearses from 5:30 P.M. – 7:00 P.M. at Cathedral Guadalupe. **Concert I** rehearses from 6:45 P.M. – 8:30 P.M. at the First United Methodist Church in Wesley Hall. The **Women's Youth Chorus** rehearses from 7:00 P.M.-9:00 P.M. at the First United Methodist Church in the Choir Room. The **Youth Chorus** rehearses from 7:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M. at the First United Methodist Church in Crossroads. Please do not arrive more than 15 minutes early unless you plan to stay with your child and please be prompt picking up your child. At the end of rehearsal, each child must wait quietly inside the building until his or her ride arrives.

At First Presbyterian Church: Parents may park for free in the First Presbyterian Church parking garage. The entrance is accessed from Young Street at Park Avenue. Take the elevator to the basement floor.

At Cathedral Guadalupe: Parents may park in the Cathedral parking garage. Please use the Crockett Street elevator to return to street level, walk around the corner to the right, and enter the Cathedral. Parking cost will range from \$2 to \$5, depending on your length of stay. Unaccompanied children are not to use the elevator. Because religious services are often in progress, please ask children to walk quietly in the halls.

At First United Methodist Church: Parents may park for free in the public lot at Harwood and Ross after 6:00 p.m. if the bright green parking pass is placed in the car window. Please use the San Jacinto Street ramp entrance to the church. Children may be dropped off and picked up at the San Jacinto Street ramp doors. **Please do not park in the First United Methodist Church parking lot.** Parents and siblings who choose to wait at FUMC during the rehearsal are welcome to observe the rehearsal or wait in the Texas Room behind Wesley Hall.

Choristers are to arrive at rehearsal in comfortable, appropriate attire ready to sing. Prior to rehearsal, choristers should have had a light snack or meal. Upon arrival, they are to use the restroom, get water, and throw away any gum or candy. **There is no food or drink allowed in any rehearsal room.** Each chorister will pick up his/her folder and a pencil, and find his/her assigned seat. Choristers then wait quietly for the rehearsal to begin. They are expected to remain for the entire rehearsal. If a chorister has a personal need, he/she should quietly approach a rehearsal chaperone.

Children are NOT permitted to walk between FPC, FUMC and the Cathedral without adult supervision, and CCGD will not be held legally responsible for any who do.

*Please review this section with your child.

***SUPERVISION OF CHORISTERS**

The children come under CCGD supervision only when they enter the rehearsal room. We will do everything we can to make drop off and pick up as smooth as possible, but there is no substitute for parents ensuring that children arrive at the rehearsal room safely and on time.

Whenever and wherever CCGD gathers, the choristers are under the supervision of the Artistic Staff, assisted by parents who volunteer as chaperones. In as much as the Chorus rehearses and performs in public places, the Chorus instructs the choristers in the concept of 'Director Dependence'. The children are expected to respond appropriately and immediately to all direction from the Artistic Staff, whether given in person or through the chaperones who are acting under the direction of the Artistic Staff. In addition to the Artistic Staff, the Chorus is committed to providing the appropriate number of chaperones at each rehearsal and performance. While Director Dependence is most often an artistic issue, it can at times be a safety issue. Parents are expected to discuss and reinforce the concept of Director Dependence with their child. Children in noncompliance will be asked to leave the Chorus.

***REHEARSAL ATTENDANCE POLICY**

Although we encourage perfect attendance, choristers are allowed three (3) unexcused absences from rehearsal per semester. Awards are given at the end of the year for perfect attendance. **The Chorus office must be notified in advance of the reason for all absences. Please email susan@thechildrenschorus.org with this information.**

Attendance monitors will mark a chorister tardy arriving 10 minutes after the rehearsal start time. Two (2) tardies will count as one absence. After three absences the chorister will receive a letter from the Artistic Director. After the fourth absence, the chorister may be dismissed from the chorus. There are no refunds for tuition. **Leaving rehearsal more than 10 minutes early will count as a Tardy. An absence from Concert II, Concert I, or Apprentice's Saturday rehearsals will count as 1 ½ absences.**

Participation in CCGD requires a serious commitment, as reflected in its attendance policy. Nonetheless, CCGD encourages all choristers to participate in their school music and religious music programs. Absences for graded school music or worship music performances are considered excused absences and will not count toward the three allowed absences. **However, you must let CCGD know at least four weeks in advance of a school music or worship music absence.**

Participation in Your School or Religious Musical Productions

While in most instances participation in a musical is not a required music activity, CCGD recognizes the value and fun in these productions. If you choose to participate in your school's or religious organization's musical theatre production, please first let the musical director know of your Monday night commitment with CCGD. This discussion should occur *well in advance* of the first musical rehearsal. Many musical directors accept a "conflict sheet" at the time of the musical audition for the student's regularly scheduled activities such as piano, sports, ballet and CCGD. They will work with you!

***Please review this section with your child.**

Once you have discussed your CCGD commitment with the musical director, e-mail your CCGD director (Nott, Harley, Preskitt, Pfaffenberg or Henson) to discuss a compromise between CCGD and the school. Please list the dates you foresee being absent from CCGD rehearsal. There is room for compromise, but *you must be present at CCGD rehearsals and performances in order to participate fully*. If your participation in a school musical is required, compromises are still possible with good communications between you and your director.

PLEASE DO NOT ACCEPT A ROLE THAT WILL CONFLICT WITH A CCGD PERFORMANCE!

If you choose to participate in a theatre production outside your school, a compromise may be possible. Participation in community musical theatre productions must not conflict with CCGD performances.

RESIGNATION

Families not intending to complete a season for any reason are expected to confer personally with the Artistic Director.

***CONCERT ATTIRE**

All children should arrive at each performance in complete concert attire, ready to sing.

CHILDREN'S CHORUS

FORMAL 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.

Please take care in choosing your singer's bra or camisole, if needed. Sports bras are not acceptable. They cross in the back and can be seen from the stage. White or beige undergarments are best. Red, black, bright orange, etc. are hard to hide!

Please dry clean or wash and press your outfit before each major performance. If you are singing several times in a short period of time, please make sure to hang up the dress and press, if needed.

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.

Please dry clean or wash and press your outfit before each major performance. If you are singing several times in a short period of time, please make sure to hang up the dress and press, if needed.

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

In the fall an "outfit check day" will be scheduled during one of the regular rehearsals.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH CHORUS

CASUAL ATTIRE

All Concert I and any touring choristers are required to purchase a black CCGD polo shirt. These will be worn with blue jeans and athletic shoes.

YOUTH CHORUS

FORMAL ATTIRE:

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

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.

***Please review this section with your child.**

*PERFORMANCES

Attendance at performances is mandatory. Consequently, a chorister may be dismissed for a missed performance. **If a chorister must miss a performance for a school music or worship music commitment, the parent(s) and chorister are required to notify the Artistic Director four weeks in advance.**

CCGD is a professional performing organization. Performance standards will be clearly communicated to choristers during rehearsals, and choristers are expected to adhere to those standards. Final written instructions are provided at the last rehearsal prior to each performance in the 'HotSheets'. HotSheets are printed on hot pink paper.

Performances require the very best in conduct, appearance, and musicianship. Prior to a performance, please follow these guidelines:

1. Always eat a nutritious meal and get plenty of rest before a concert. Avoid sugary foods and soft drinks.
2. **Arrive 15 minutes before the performance call time**, which is listed on the HotSheet. Immediately check in with your director. Parents, please accompany child at check-in; make sure he/she is in the right place at the right time.
3. All performers must arrive wearing full concert attire. Failure to wear specified concert attire may prevent a chorister from participating in the concert. For Children's Chorus, this includes removing jewelry, nail polish, makeup, hair in place, etc. Youth Chorus policy will be set by the artistic staff.
4. Choristers are to conduct themselves in a calm, polite, and professional manner at all times. They are to give undivided attention to the conductor(s), staff, and chaperones. **Respect for adults and each other is always expected.**
5. Choristers should notify a chaperone if they are feeling ill. If a chorister feels ill during a performance, he/she should quietly sit down and rest. Choristers are not to leave the stage unless there is no other option. Chaperones are always watching and will help when needed.
6. Choristers represent the Children's Chorus of Greater Dallas. Professional behavior and musicianship are expected for the duration of the performance schedule.

TICKET SALES

Tickets will be sold for most performances. Each family should do its part in selling tickets to concerts because it shows the community "what we do" and it directly benefits the children by providing an enthusiastic and large audience. A ticket is required to attend most Chorus performances. If financial assistance in the purchase of tickets is needed, please call the Chorus office.

***Please review this section with your child.**

TUITION

Tuition is due in full on or before August 9, 2010. An additional fee will be assessed for late tuition payment. Tuition is payable by cash, check or credit card. CCGD accepts Visa, MasterCard, American Express and Discover. Tuition is non-refundable. If tuition is not paid in full by the first rehearsal, your child will not be admitted to rehearsal. An additional \$50 fee will be charged for late payment. Information on need-based, tuition assistance is available upon request.

You may request a payment plan (up to a maximum of three payments). A \$50 administrative fee will be added to your tuition. Your tuition must be paid in full before our winter concert. A \$50 late charge will be assessed for any and all late payments.

NEED-BASED TUITION ASSISTANCE

If you are interested in applying for need-based tuition assistance, please check the box on the Commitment form which you will receive in June. You will be sent the need-based tuition assistance application. **The completed need-based tuition assistance application MUST be submitted no later than August 9, 2010.** Need-based tuition assistance decisions will be completed and notification sent by September 1. If your application is denied, your full tuition payment is due September 15, or you may establish a payment plan as described above. Please note that the music fee for Women's Youth and Youth Chorus is NOT included in tuition assistance.

RETURNED CHECKS

Families will be billed for NSF fees. If a second check is returned for non-sufficient funds, payment will only be accepted by cash, credit card or money order.

LOST AND FOUND

Lost and Found items may be claimed in the Chorus office. Choristers are encouraged to bring a minimum of personal belongings to rehearsals and performances. The Chorus is not responsible for choristers' personal belongings.

PARENT ASSOCIATION COMMITTEES

All chorister parents are members of the Parents' Association. This extremely active group meets periodically and provides volunteer support for CCGD activities. Parents are strongly encouraged to volunteer their time to fulfill Parent Association responsibilities.

COMMUNICATION

The Children's Chorus of Greater Dallas will communicate with parents and singers in a variety of ways, including our e-mail newsletter published by the Parents' Association, Hot Sheets (hot pink, always) before each performance or important change, e-mail, and various handouts. These are given out at rehearsals and mailed to absentees. You may also access all of these forms on the Chorus website. In case of emergency closings for snow, etc., we will also leave information on the outgoing message of the Chorus voice mail. If you have questions not answered in this way, please feel free to call or e-mail the Chorus office.

INCLEMENT WEATHER – REHEARSAL CANCELLATION

A decision about whether to cancel rehearsal will be made by 2:00 pm. At that time, an email will be sent to all chorus families, the notice will be posted on the website (www.thechildrenschorus.org), and the outgoing message on the chorus phone will indicate the cancellation.

TOURING POLICY

PURPOSE

The Children's Chorus of Greater Dallas (CCGD) goes on tour to provide the children with experiences that enhance our artistic excellence.

OBJECTIVES

- To enrich the children's musical skills and experiences through participation in music festivals with other excellent choirs from around the world and through singing at unique events and/or venues
- To develop camaraderie among singers, parents and staff
- To learn about the music, history and heritage of other cities, states, and countries
- While making every effort to ensure that finances do not preclude a singer from participating

TYPES OF TOURS

Regional Tours

- By bus
- 2 - 4 days
- Early summer
- Generally a single destination
- Built around singing at one or more specific events
- Costs in the \$350 - \$500 range

National Tours

- By plane
- 5 - 8 days
- Early summer
- Could be built around a music festival. May involve a side trip
- Costs in the \$1000 - \$2000 range

International Tours

- By plane
- 8 - 11 days
- Early summer
- Could be built around a music festival. Usually will involve side trip(s)
- Costs in the \$2000 - \$3000 range

TOURING FREQUENCY

Usually, no more than one tour will be taken in any season. There may be years when no tour is taken or when an in-season out-of-town performance is substituted for a summer tour.

WHO TOURS

In general, Concert I will tour nationally/internationally and Concert II will tour regionally. There could be cases that depart somewhat from these guidelines. A child who enters CCGD early (fourth or fifth grade) may have two tour opportunities - one regional and one national/international tour. A child entering later may have one tour opportunity. There will be exceptions to these "norms."

CHAPERONES

Parent chaperones will be selected by the CCGD staff. Parent chaperones will pay the full tour price and will be expected to oversee a small group of singers throughout the tour. Typically, there will be one parent chaperone for every four to six singers on regional tours and one per six to eight students on national/international tours.

TOUR CONTRACTS

Each tour participant will sign a tour contract at the time he/she signs on to the tour, which will cover payment schedules, behavioral requirements, legal issues and other tour-related items.

TOUR FUNDRAISING

CCGD's intention is to offer fundraisers to help families cover tour expenses. Fundraising suggestions are welcome, but only those approved by CCGD staff will be offered through CCGD.

CCGD regards its singers as artists, not salespeople. Thus, the fundraisers offered will involve parent participation. In general, CCGD will avoid fundraisers that involve selling "things" to friends and relatives, those that compete with school fundraisers, or those that involve products offered through Chorus parents (e.g., Tupperware). The fundraisers chosen will be based on parent interest, potential return for the effort required, the level of volunteer support needed and offered, and on preserving CCGD's image. CCGD reserves the right to use a portion of the tour fundraising proceeds to cover administrative expenses.

All families are welcome to participate in the fundraisers from the time they enter CCGD, even if their child is not touring in a given year. In general, a family will have more than one year to build its tour account. When a family leaves CCGD any credit remaining in its account will transfer to CCGD for use at its discretion.

The fundraisers will be run by the Parent's Association (PA), whose PA Board position oversees this effort. Chorus staff will provide advisory support, will review and approve fundraising proposals, and will develop and oversee the bookkeeping necessary to maintain the individual family accounts. Each CCGD family has the option of participating in none, some or all of the fundraisers offered.

In general, more than one fundraising option will be available at any given time. Specific programs are likely to change from time to time as dictated by results, new opportunities, or administrative issues.

Nothing above precludes a family from conducting its own fundraising effort (e.g. asking a church to help a child go on tour), provided that the approach does not reflect negatively on CCGD.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM CCGD

CCGD's intention is to offer need-based financial aid to families that require help in covering tour costs, to the extent that CCGD can afford. In general, those receiving full or partial tuition assistance will be considered first, and those just above the tuition assistance thresholds next. Touring assistance will be provided only when Chorus finances permit and, except in rare cases, only up to one-half of the total tour cost.

CHORISTERS' SAFETY POLICY AND PROCEDURES

For the protection of our children and persons who work with them, the Children's Chorus of Greater Dallas ("CCGD") hereby adopts the following policies and procedures intended to provide a safe environment, free of sexual, physical and/or emotional abuse.

CCGD will seek the most qualified applicants, volunteer or paid, for positions involving the supervision of our choristers. All applicants will be screened by the procedures listed below. Applicants found to have indicators of risk for possible child mistreatment will be ineligible for a position, whether volunteer or paid staff.

All paid staff and volunteers for any position involving direct interaction with the choristers (i.e., chaperones, rehearsal monitors, etc.) will complete an application form. The completed form will be forwarded to the Administrative Director. The form will include:

- Applicant's name with identity confirmed by driver's license or other photographic identification. (*A copy of the photographic identification must be attached to the application*);
- Current address and telephone number;
- Other addresses for the last five (5) years;
- Position applying/volunteering for;
- Permission allowing CCGD to conduct a criminal background check to be performed by a professional agency;
- Written agreement to follow the CCGD "Choristers' Safety Policy and Procedures."

CCGD will seek to create a safe environment in which opportunities for abuse are minimized by providing proper supervision by paid staff and volunteers, and by offering education and training to paid staff and volunteers on the subject of protecting children from abuse situations.

There must be at least one (1) adult chaperone/monitor for every 15 choristers at all off-site events. For on-site events and rehearsals, a minimum of one (1) adult chaperone/monitor for every 25 choristers will be required. In addition to the rehearsal/staging area, chaperones shall be assigned to monitor the venue entry points as well as the corridors outside of the rehearsal/staging area. Chaperones and monitors should avoid being placed in a position of being in a one-on-one situation with a chorister.

A release procedure that requires a chorister to be picked up only by their respective parent or guardian, unless written authorization and release of liability is on file from the parent or guardian to the contrary, shall be enforced.

CCGD will report all alleged or suspected incidences of child abuse in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas. The response by CCGD to a reported incident of alleged or suspected child abuse will be with an effort to protect the child and any individuals involved in the incident. It is NOT the policy of CCGD to prove whether the alleged or suspected abuse has or has not occurred, as this will be the responsibility of the proper legal authorities.

STAFF BIOGRAPHIES

Cynthia Nott, *Artistic Director*

Cynthia Nott has been Artistic Director of the Children's Chorus of Greater Dallas since its inception in 1997. Under her leadership, the Chorus has grown dramatically, earned the respect of the Dallas area music community, and impressed audiences by its artistic excellence. In addition to its own concert schedule, Ms. Nott has prepared the Chorus to perform with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, the Dallas Opera, the Mesquite Civic Chorus, Orpheus Chamber Singers, and the Voices of Change. Prior to becoming full-time Artistic Director of the CCGD, Ms. Nott taught public middle school choral music for 23 years.

Nott has been actively involved in a wide range of professional choral activities. She has served as clinician and consultant for music teachers, conductors and singers throughout the United States. She has appeared as guest conductor for All-Region and All-State choirs.

Nott earned a Bachelor of Music Education from Florida State University and a Master of Music in Choral Conducting from Southern Methodist University. She holds affiliations with the American Choral Directors Association and the Texas Music Educators Association.

Linda Harley, *Associate Conductor*

Linda Harley joined the Children's Chorus of Greater Dallas in the fall of 1999. As associate conductor, she conducts Concert II, assists with Concert I, coordinates the summer music camps, and is responsible for a portion of the chorus administration.

Mrs. Harley has taught public elementary music and middle school choral music in the Houston and Dallas areas. She has served as Director of Children's Music at Canyon Creek Presbyterian Church in Richardson, where she also was Music Specialist for the Discovery School, and as Director of the Junior High choral program at Park Cities Baptist church. She is a contributing writer for the new Macmillan/McGraw-Hill Music Program. Linda also leads clinics and festivals and adjudicates various choral and vocal competitions.

A native of College Station, Texas, Linda earned the Bachelor of Music Education and Master of Music degrees from the University of Texas. She has completed extensive work in the doctoral program at the University of North Texas. She is affiliated with Texas Music Educators Association, Texas Choral Directors Association, American Choral Directors Association, and the Choristers Guild.

Nora Henson, *Conductor of the Youth Chorus*

Nora Henson has conducted the CCGD Youth Chorus since its inception in 2004. For twenty-seven years, Ms. Henson taught choral music to sixth through twelfth grade students in the Texas public schools. From 1990 to 2003, she was the choral director at Plano Senior High School. PSHS groups under her direction were invited to perform for the American Choral Directors Association and the Texas Music Educators Association. Her choirs were awarded “Best in Class” in festivals in Texas, Florida, Colorado, California, Nevada, and Tennessee. During her tenure at PSHS fifty-two students were selected for the Texas All-State Choirs. Ms. Henson has served as soloist and section leader in several Dallas area churches and was a charter member of the Dallas Bach Society. She currently serves as clinician and consultant for music teachers, conductors, and singers throughout the United States. This fall she is serving as the guest conductor of Orpheus Chamber Singers, Dallas’ premier professional chorus.

Ms. Henson earned a Bachelor of Music Education from the University of Oklahoma and a Master of Arts in Conducting with Dr. B. R. Henson from Sam Houston State University. Her professional affiliations include the American Choral Directors Association, Texas Music Educators Association, Texas Music Adjudicators Association, and honorary fraternities Pi Kappa Lambda and Delta Kappa Gamma.

Terrie Preskitt-Brown, *Conductor of the Apprentice Chorus*

Terrie McKenzie Preskitt-Brown joined CCGD in 2003. As Assistant Conductor, she conducts the Apprentice Chorus and assists with Concert II. Preskitt is Coordinator of Children’s Music and voice instructor for the TowerArts Conservatory at Highland Park United Methodist Church. Previously, she taught elementary music at Hillside Academy for seven years. She has been the soprano section leader for the Orpheus Chamber Singers since its inception. A private vocal instructor, she has coached more than twelve All-State Choir Members. She has sung as a soloist in recitals, concerts and oratorios around the United States, Austria, Germany, Switzerland, England and Italy.

Preskitt holds the Bachelor of Music Education and Bachelor of Vocal Performance degrees from Texas Christian University (magna cum laude). She is also a Level III-certified Orff-Schulwerk instructor and utilizes this philosophy in her teaching.

Kelly Pfaffenberger, *Conductor of the Women’s Youth Chorus*

Kelly Pfaffenberger joined CCGD in 2009 as Youth Women’s Chorus conductor. For fifteen years, she was a choral music educator in the Richardson, Plano, and Carrollton/Farmers Branch school districts. During her tenure as choral director of Creekview High School in Carrollton (1998–2006), the choir program grew from 60 members in its charter year to 180 members and her A Cappella Women’s Chorus was chosen as a featured choir for the 2002 Southwestern Division Convention of ACDA. In addition, her choirs consistently received Sweepstakes ratings at UIL Contests and “Best in Class” distinction from festivals in Texas, Colorado, and Washington, DC. Mrs. Pfaffenberger frequently serves as an adjudicator, clinician, and accompanist to choir programs in the Metroplex. She is currently the pianist for First Baptist Church, Farmers Branch, TX.

Mrs. Pfaffenberger earned the Bachelor of Music Education from Hardin-Simmons University and a Master of Music in choral conducting from the University of North Texas. During her studies at UNT, she served as the director of the UNT Men’s Choir and the UNT Women’s Chorus. Her professional affiliations include: Texas Music Educators Association; Texas Music

Adjudicators Association; American Choral Directors Association; Texas Choral Directors Association; and the honorary fraternity, Pi Kappa Lambda.

Jason Dove, *Youth Chorus Rehearsal Assistant*

Jason Dove joined CCGD as rehearsal assistant in 2004. Since 1996, Jason Dove has been a public school music teacher. He is currently the head choir director at Marcus High School in Lewisville, Texas. His choirs have received superior ratings at UIL Contests and have been awarded “Best in Class” and “Best in Festival” at the American Classics Bluebonnet Music Festival in San Antonio. His students have been consistently selected to All-Region Choirs and have received superior and exemplary ratings at solo and ensemble contests. Mr. Dove served as the assistant director and accompanist for the Younger Generation Chorus of Plano, TX. Prior to moving to Texas he served as the assistant director and accompanist for the Floyd County Children’s Choir including performances with the Louisville Ballet. He has served as a guest clinician for various choral directors and school districts in Texas and Indiana.

Mr. Dove received the Bachelors of Music Education degree from the University of Louisville with honors. He holds membership in the Texas Music Educators Association and the American Choral Directors Association.

Alan Dyer, *Accompanist*

Alan Dyer joined the Children’s Chorus of Greater Dallas as accompanist in 2001. He has been a choral director, performer, and music educator in the Dallas / Fort Worth area for more than 20 years. In addition to accompanying CCGD’s Concert I and Prelude choirs, Dyer is the Founder and Artistic Director of The Texas Voices, a professional chamber chorus in Plano. He is also the Director of Music at Resurrection Lutheran Church in Plano, where he conducts the handbell, adult, and youth choirs. Dyer has performed with area groups such as the Dallas Wind Symphony, Richardson Symphony Chorus, Orpheus Chamber Singers, and the Dallas Civic Chorus. He also tours with professional mezzo-soprano Debra Scroggins Sowerwine, performing in Kansas City, Dallas, Plano, and New York City.

Dyer earned a Master of Music in Piano Pedagogy from Southern Methodist University and a Bachelor of Arts in Piano Performance from Dallas Baptist University. He has completed doctoral courses at the University of North Texas. He is active in the American Choral Directors Association and the Texas Choral Directors Association.

Henry McDowell, *Accompanist*

Henry McDowell joined CCGD in 2010 as accompanist for the Youth Chorus. Mr. McDowell is Director of Music at Christ the King Roman Catholic Church in Dallas, TX, where he oversees a music program of four choirs and three handbell ensembles, including the Christ the King Singers, a professional choir of twelve-to-twenty-four voices. For twelve years, he served as Director of Music at Holy Trinity Seminary, Irving, Texas, where he trained hundreds of Roman Catholic seminarians in music.

Mr. McDowell earned the Bachelor of Music in Organ Performance from the North Carolina School of the Arts, Winston-Salem, NC; the Master of Music in Organ Performance from Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX; and the Master of Sacred Music in Choral Conducting from SMU. He pursued doctoral studies at the University of North Texas in Denton, with emphases in organ performance, music history, and harpsichord. As an organist, he has

received numerous awards and honors, including a performance on the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Hall's Fisk organ. In 2009, he made his symphonic debut with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

James C. Emery, *Accompanist*

James C. Emery joined CCGD as accompanist in 2005. He serves as Director of Music and Fine Arts Ministries at Lovers Lane United Methodist Church in Dallas. In his tenure at Tyler Street United Methodist Church in Dallas, Jimmy conducted orchestrated performances of Schubert's *Mass in G*, Handel's *Messiah*, Vivaldi's *Gloria*, and Dubois' *The Seven Last Words of Christ* and established the respected Summer Classics Series. Jimmy collaborates with The Texas Voices, under the direction of Alan Dyer, and with flutist Sabrina Trujillo in the eclectic duo Pas de Deux. He has also recorded with acclaimed tenor Scot Cameron and Seattle-based clarinetist Erling Iverson.

Mr. Emery holds degrees in Piano Performance, Piano Pedagogy and Music Education from the Meadows School of the Arts at Southern Methodist University, where he studied piano with Alfred Mouledous and choral conducting with Dr. Barbara Brinson. He is currently completing a Master of Music in Music Education with a Concentration in Choral Conducting at Southern Methodist University with Dr. Alfred Calabrese.

Michael Chandler, *Accompanist*

Michael Chandler joined CCGD in 2008 as accompanist for the Apprentice Chorus. Mr. Chandler is a K-6 music specialist at Yale Elementary in Richardson, where he directs the Yale Chorale. He is also the organist and pianist for Round Grove United Church (UCC) in Lewisville. Michael teaches in the Orff Schulwerk certification courses at Southern Methodist University in Dallas and at the University of St. Thomas in Minnesota. In 2005 and 2007, his students performed as featured elementary ensembles at the TMEA Clinic/Convention in San Antonio, Texas.

Mr. Chandler earned a Bachelor of Music Degree from Union University in Jackson, Tennessee and a Master of Music degree from the University of Arkansas (Fayetteville) in piano performance in 1996. In 1997-98, he was a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar and studied piano privately at the *Hochschule für Musik* in Frankfurt, Germany. A winner of a number of competition prizes, Michael has performed as a concerto soloist with the North Arkansas Symphony Orchestra as well as with the University of Arkansas Chamber Orchestra. In 1999 and 2003, he was a guest performer at the *Mendelssohn-Haus Musiksalon* in Leipzig, Germany.

Terry Harley, *Executive Director*

Mr. Harley became the Chorus' executive director in the fall of 2002, after three plus years on the Chorus Board and, prior to that, a long career at Texas Instruments (TI).

During his TI career, he served in technical, marketing, management, and strategic planning roles, gaining experience in proposal writing, managing small and large groups, customer relations, and operational management.

Shortly after retiring from TI, Mr. Harley joined the Children's Chorus of Greater Dallas Board of Directors, with responsibility for fundraising efforts. During his three years in this capacity he implemented several fundraising initiatives, including a fall "friends and family" mail out

campaign, a summer choir camp, formal proposals to Dallas area arts-supporting organizations, and a silent auction. These efforts have yielded a four-fold increase in fundraising levels.

Mr. Harley has also served on the Board's Executive Committee, working closely with the chairperson, artistic director, and others to develop long-range plans, annual budgets, and operating policies and procedures. As a result, he is fully versed in Chorus history, goals, operations and culture, and has established strong working relationships with other chorus leaders.

Mr. Harley holds a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Toronto, has 36 post-graduate hours in statistics and computer science from SMU, and has participated in numerous TI training activities, including strategic planning, quality management, contract negotiations, and supervisory methods.