



Children's Chorus of Greater Dallas

*Newsletter
April 2008*

FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR:

Dear Parents and Singers,

I can't believe it is April and our final concert of the season is right around the corner. Each chorus is singing so beautifully! I can't wait for you to hear them on May 6 at the Meyerson.

“The very essence of our art – what we are about – why music and people are so important – [is] namely: for the creation and recreation of that which is beautiful. Beauty in form – beauty in sound – and, hopefully, beauty in the wonderful transformation of the human spirit.”

Howard Swan, “Symposium Summary, Observations and Reflections,”
Southwestern Musician, December 1977

Ms. Nott

Dear Parents and Concert II Singers,

Dear Concert II Singers and Parents,

A job well done! I am very proud of your performance last evening with Concert I at Lovers Lane United Methodist Church. The opportunity to sing in a hall with excellent acoustics and beautiful stained glass windows is most inspiring and a rare treat indeed!

Be sure to sign up for a date to audition for Concert I or call the office to let them know if you are planning to remain in Concert II next year.

April 26 – St. Mary of Carmel

May 3 – Nasher Sculpture Center - CANCELLED

May 6 - CCGD concert at the Meyerson

See you Monday.

Mrs. Harley

Apprentice Asides

Aside from the fact that we have been working very hard on our really great new music, and aside from the fact that our singers lead very busy lives outside of Children's Chorus, and aside from the fact that auditions for next year are fast approaching (have you signed up with the CCGD office for your audition???) and aside from the fact that our May concert is truly right around the corner, I have very little to say to our wonderful Apprentice families!

Except that I am so proud to be your conductor; I am constantly amazed by how quickly your talented singers learn new things; and I am thrilled to be preparing our next batch of exciting music. Each rehearsal is filled with beautiful singing, great adventures in musical learning, and the joy that comes from working together as a team. Thank you for your continual support in so many different ways. We couldn't accomplish anything without our great families!

Blessings,

Terrie Preskitt

Parents and Singers:

Let CCGD hear from you! New, first-ever CCGD On-line survey

Simply go to the CCGD web site, click on Current Members and then click on the Parent or Singer Survey link. It is easy to use. Your comments and opinions will help CCGD become a stronger organization!

www.thechildrenschorus.org

The Survey will be on the web site through April 30.



Auditions for the 08-09 season will begin the first of May.

Tell your friends about CCGD!

AUDITIONS for 2008-2009

Current CCGD Singer Auditions:

Many current CCGD singers have already expressed an interest in "moving up" to the next chorus. **Auditions for the 2008-2009 season will be held on Saturdays May 3, 10 and 17 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM and Mondays May 12 and May 19 from 6:30 PM – 9 PM at First United Methodist Church.**

If your child would like to audition for a more advanced chorus, please call 214-965-0491 , fax:214-965-0264 or email susan@thechildrenschorus.org and schedule an audition time. When you contact us, **please specify a day and time that is convenient for you.** We are usually able to accommodate your requests.

The audition will take about 10 minutes. Your child will be asked to sing the 5 vowel sounds: mee, meh, mah, moh, moo. They will be asked to sing a short passage of a song they have been working on in their chorus. I will ask them to echo two, short, unfamiliar, melodic passages. Mrs. Harley, Ms. Preskitt and I will then look at the child's participation in their current chorus. We are looking for eager, expressive participants who exhibit personal rehearsal and performance discipline:

- tall posture that requires only an occasional prompt
- the first to follow directions
- helpful awareness of others
- on time
- excellent attendance

If your child wishes to remain in their same chorus next year, please just let the CCGD office know. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call or email me.

New Singer Auditions for the '08 – '09 season

If you know of someone interested in CCGD, please email us their name. Please start telling your friends about CCGD. You are the best PR we have! You will be given a flier that tells about the auditions and our summer singing camp. Consider photocopying them for your school, putting the flier up at work, at your place of worship, your public library or telling your scout troop or soccer team! **Auditions for the 2008-2009 season will be held on Saturdays May 3, 10 and 17 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM and Mondays May 12 and May 19 from 6:30 PM – 9 PM at First United Methodist Church.**

Youth Chorus Auditions Are Coming for New Singers and interested CCGD 8th graders for the '08 – '09 season:

Auditions will be held on Saturday, May 3, from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM and Mondays May 12 and May 19 from 6:30 PM – 9 PM at First United Methodist Church.

Tell your friends to call 214-965-0491 , fax:214-965-0264 or email susan@thechildrenschorus.org and schedule an audition time.

The YCGD audition, conducted by Ms. Henson, will consist of singing basic vocalises and a short sight reading exercise. Please bring a prepared piece or a favorite hymn to sing. An accompanist will be provided. Bring the score, book or sheet music for the accompanist. Pre-recorded accompaniments are not appropriate for this setting.



Fundraising News

CCGD recently received a \$7,500 grant from the Harold Simmons Foundation. This is the 8th consecutive year that the Harold Simmons Foundation has supported the Chorus, with grants totaling about \$40,000. We are very appreciative of their strong and consistent support!!!

The near-final numbers are in for our Gala. Net income was just over \$29,000! Thanks again to all who participated – you made this a very successful AND enjoyable event!! This is our largest fundraiser - if we had to replace this income from tuition, for example, we would have to raise tuition by about 20%!! So, the next time you see someone who participated in the Gala, please thank them for their participation.

If you were planning to make a donation to CCGD this season there is still time to do so. (our fiscal year ends June 30). We need to raise \$190,000 from all sources to balance this year's budget – right now we are at about \$185,000. So, “with little help from our friends” we have an excellent chance of making 2007-08 our 4th consecutive season of finishing with a small surplus from operations.



Let's Sell-OUT

CCGD has never sold out a concert other than the Winter concert. Our sellout number for the Meyerson is about 1800 tickets. We have a little more than 300 families participating, so if each family sold just 6 tickets we would be sold out!

Let's give our singers the pleasure of performing before an SRO audience on May 6.

To encourage you to work towards that goal, we are offering the following incentives;

- Sell 10 tickets and get one free (if you sell 10 of one kind you will get one of that kind free, if you sell a mix you will get a ticket closest to the average selling price)
- the family that sells the 4th most tickets gets 4 free Orchestra seats (a \$72 value)
- the family that sells the 3rd most tickets gets 4 free Orchestra Terrace tickets (an \$88 value)
- the family that sells the 2nd most tickets gets 4 free box seats (a \$140 value)
- the family that sells the most tickets gets 2 box seats to all three Meyerson concerts next season (a \$210 value)

Ties will be broken by comparing the \$ value of the tickets sold – the higher value wins. Board and staff are NOT eligible to participate in this program. The contest will end April 28 (one week and one day before the concert). Contest winners will be reimbursed for tickets purchased for their family (up to 4)

The total number of tickets available will be about 1750 (1800 minus comp tickets for donors, teachers, a few others), so if you want to take advantage of this offer, you should plan to sell tickets early. Tickets are on sale now.



Wanted:

We need a photograph of the Prelude/West Dallas kids on stage together. If you have a digital image, please e-mail it to the office so we can put it on the website.

Calendars

April thru Summer

Prelude

April 21, Monday	Regular Rehearsals	FBC	Regular Schedule
April 28, Monday	Regular Rehearsals	FBC	Regular Schedule
May 3, Saturday	CCGD/YCGD Auditions	FUMC	All CCGD/YCGD by appointment 9 AM - 4 PM
May 5, Monday	Regular Rehearsals	FBC	Regular Schedule
May 6, Tuesday	Spring Concert (at 7:30) Meyerson		5 - 9 PM

May 10,	Saturday	CCGD Auditions	FUMC All CCGD by appointment	9 AM - 4 PM
May 12,	Monday	CCGD Auditions	FUMC All CCGD by appointment	6:30 - 9 PM
May 17,	Saturday	CCGD Auditions	FUMC All CCGD by appointment	9 AM - 4 PM
May 19,	Monday	CCGD Auditions	FUMC All CCGD by appointment	6:30 - 9 PM
June 16 - 20, Monday - Friday Summer Singing Camp (Entering Grades 4-8) CG 9 - 12 or 1 - 4 optional				
July 1,	Tuesday	Membership Forms for 2008-2009 Season Due	All CCGD & YCGD	

Apprentice

April 21,	Monday	Regular Rehearsals	FBC (note venue change)	Regular Schedule
April 28,	Monday	Regular Rehearsals	FBC (note venue change)	Regular Schedule

Performance at Edgemere Retirement Community has been cancelled

May 3,	Saturday	CCGD/YCGD Auditions	FUMC All CCGD/YCGD by appointment	9 AM - 4 PM
May 5,	Monday	Regular Rehearsals	FBC	Regular Schedule
May 6,	Tuesday	Spring Concert (at 7:30) Meyerson		5 - 9 PM
May 10,	Saturday	CCGD Auditions	FUMC All CCGD by appointment	9 AM - 4 PM
May 12,	Monday	CCGD Auditions	FUMC All CCGD by appointment	6:30 - 9 PM
May 17,	Saturday	CCGD Auditions	FUMC All CCGD by appointment	9 AM - 4 PM
May 19,	Monday	CCGD Auditions	FUMC All CCGD by appointment	6:30 - 9 PM
June 16 - 20, Monday - Friday Summer Singing Camp (Entering Grades 4-8) CG 9 - 12 or 1 - 4 optional				
July 1,	Tuesday	Membership Forms for 2008-2009 Season Due	All CCGD & YCGD	

Concert II

April 21,	Monday	Regular Rehearsals	FBC	Regular Schedule
April 26,	Saturday	Performance at St. Mary of Carmel		5:45 - 7:20
April 28,	Monday	Regular Rehearsals	FBC	Regular Schedule
May 3,	Saturday	CCGD/YCGD Auditions	FUMC All CCGD/YCGD by appointment	9 AM - 4 PM
Performance at Nasher Sculpture Center has been cancelled				
May 5,	Monday	Regular Rehearsals	CG	Regular Schedule
May 6,	Tuesday	Spring Concert (at 7:30) Meyerson		5 - 9 PM
May 10,	Saturday	CCGD Auditions	FUMC All CCGD by appointment	9 AM - 4 PM
May 12,	Monday	CCGD Auditions	FUMC All CCGD by appointment	6:30 - 9 PM
May 12,	Monday	YCGD Auditions	FUMC New Youth Chorus by appointment	6:30 - 9 PM
May 17,	Saturday	CCGD Auditions	FUMC All CCGD by appointment	9 AM - 4 PM
May 19,	Monday	CCGD Auditions	FUMC All CCGD by appointment	6:30 - 9 PM
June 9,	Monday	Tour Rehearsal	FUMC Touring Choristers	7 - 9 PM
June 16,	Monday	Tour Rehearsal	FUMC Touring Choristers	7 - 9 PM
June 16 - 20, Monday - Friday Summer Singing Camp (Entering Grades 4-8) CG 9 - 12 or 1 - 4 optional				
June 19,	Thursday	Performance for Dallas Historical Society (at 7:30) Fair Park Hall of State 6 - 8 PM		
Touring Choristers				
June 24-29, Monday-Sunday Windy City Tour			Chicago	Touring Choristers
July 1,	Tuesday	Membership Forms for 2008-2009 Season Due		All CCGD & YCGD

Concert I

April 21,	Monday	Regular Rehearsals	FUMC	Regular Schedule
April 28,	Monday	Regular Rehearsals	FUMC	Regular Schedule
May 3,	Saturday	CCGD/YCGD Auditions	FUMC All CCGD/YCGD by appointment	9 AM - 4 PM
May 5,	Monday	Regular Rehearsals	FUMC	Regular Schedule
May 6,	Tuesday	Spring Concert (at 7:30) Meyerson		5 - 9 PM
May 12,	Monday	YCGD Auditions	FUMC New Youth Chorus by appointment	6:30 - 9 PM
May 19,	Monday	YCGD Auditions	FUMC New Youth Chorus by appointment	6:30 - 9 PM
June 9,	Monday	Tour Rehearsal	FUMC	7 - 9 PM Touring Choristers
June 16,	Monday	Tour Rehearsal	FUMC	7 - 9 PM Touring Choristers
June 16 - 20, Monday - Friday Summer Singing Camp (Entering Grades 4-8) CG 9 - 12 or 1 - 4 optional				
(volunteer helpers needed)				
June 19, Thursday Performance for Dallas Historical Society (at 7:30) Fair Park Hall of State 6 - 8 PM				
Touring Choristers				
June 24-29, Monday-Sunday Windy City Tour			Chicago	Touring Choristers
July 1,	Tuesday	Membership Forms for 2008-2009 Season Due		All CCGD & YCGD

Youth Chorus

April 21,	Monday	Regular Rehearsals	FUMC	Regular Schedule
-----------	--------	--------------------	------	------------------

April 28, Monday	Regular Rehearsals	FUMC	Regular Schedule
May 3, Saturday	CCGD/YCGD Auditions	FUMC	All YCGD by appointment 9 AM – 4 PM
May 5, Monday	Regular Rehearsals	FUMC	End at 8:15
May 6, Tuesday	Spring Concert (at 7:30) Meyerson		5 – 9 PM
May 12, Monday	YCGD Auditions	FUMC	New Youth Chorus by appointment 6:30 – 9 PM
May 19, Monday	YCGD Auditions	FUMC	New Youth Chorus by appointment 6:30 – 9 PM
June 9, Monday	Tour Rehearsal	FUMC	7 – 9 PM Touring Choristers
June 16, Monday	Tour Rehearsal	FUMC	7 – 9 PM Touring Choristers
June 16 – 20, Monday – Friday Summer Singing Camp (Entering Grades 4-8) CG 9 – 12 or 1 – 4 optional (volunteer helpers needed)			
June 19, Thursday Performance for Dallas Historical Society (at 7:30) Fair Park Hall of State 6 – 8 PM Touring Choristers			
June 24-29, Monday-Sunday Windy City Tour Chicago Touring Choristers			
July 1, Tuesday	Membership Forms for 2008-2009 Season Due		All CCGD & YCGD

Parent Association News:



Volunteer Opportunities

Please volunteer for a very easy project! Children's and Youth Chorus auditions will be held in May and we need volunteers to work at minimum 2-hour shifts during auditions at FUMC. All you need to do is check names off the audition list and direct audition candidates where to go and when. Someone will contact you closer to the date to assign you a time slot, but if there's a particular date or time period that you can work, please

let me know. If you would like your name added to our list of potential volunteers, please call Sabrina Hancock at 214-340-6143. Thanks!



Hello, Cheryl Winnenberg has been gone since fall. Before she left, she asked me if I would continue the position as scrip fundraising coordinator. For those who do not know, scrip is a way to earn extra money through making a debit or gift card purchase. I knew what a valuable way to make extra touring money that it can be, therefore I personally did not want scrip to go away. My daughter started CCGD in Prelude and is now in Apprentice. She has earned around \$400.00 through this program alone, just by going to the grocery store, Home Depot or Lowes, out to eat, the office supply, or buying shoes. Do you do any of these things? If you do, then you can earn up to 7% of your dollar for dollar spending back to your chorister's account. You do not have to just use this program for buying gifts. This money is saved for you by CCGD. My daughter should have enough money to go to Italy in 2010, or wherever the International Festival may be. All you have to do is get into the habit of thinking a week ahead for your needs. Orders are picked up at Monday rehearsals and dropped off to your chorus reps the following Monday. They will have order forms to give to you. I also invite you to go to the scrip website www.glscrip.com. You will see all the available cards for purchase. Use your order form to make your order. I will not be taking phone or e-mail orders, but you may call me or e-mail me to ask questions. Thank you, now go spend to earn!

I have plenty of Pizza Hut \$10 cards in stock. Keep this in mind for year-end parties. These don't have to be ordered, but can be purchased at rehearsals.

Teresa Worm 214-549-2477, or tzworm@sbcglobal.net.

Tour News

Our tour group has settled out at 90 singers, 14 chaperones and 5 staff.

The week's schedule is firming up, but still not completely set. We will not be singing at a Cubs game but we will be going to the theater (Blue Man Group is the first choice). Other confirmed events include:

- Clinics for both Con I/Con II and Youth with festival conductors
- A bus tour of Chicago
- A visit to the Field Museum
- An evening visit to the Sears Tower Skydeck
- A visit to the Shedd Aquarium
- A Chicago waterfront cruise
- A visit to Navy Pier (prime shopping area)

Parent Association Board

Co-President-

Jeanne Sherman – YC 972/529-9851

Diane Roberts – CC 972/690-9339

Vice-President-

Kathleen Whiteaker - YC 972/291-8751

Suzy Cox - CC 972/907-1455

Concert Events-

Suzy Cox 972/907-1455

Company Manager-

Kathleen Whiteaker 972/291-8751

Administration-

Sabrina Hancock 214/340-6143

Fund Raisers-

Susan Amason 214/941-0946

Merchandise/Wardrobe-

Linda McClinchie 214/221-2070

Chorus Representatives-

Youth Chorus

Debi Wooten 972/612-0229

Steve Carson 972/727-5291

Stephanie & Tyler Nelson 972/668-5878

Concert I

Carol Burris

Laura Ponnors 972/644-3503

Julie Nudo 972/393-8040

Concert II

Ruth Cheatham 214/348-4205

Maria Holland 972/517-3365

Rebecca Savage 214/341-5141

Apprentice

Jeffrie Scott 972/437-2902

Kristy Greene 972/243-2040

Christina Bowling 214/942-7158

Prelude

Denise Pauletti 972/686-9129

Peggy Metcalf 972/712-1540