

Spring Celebration April 27, 2025

Please turn off your flash and ringers.

Children's Chorus of Carroll County
Jubilate DeoMichael Praetorius

Les Petites Voix

Virginia Morgan Arey, Director
 Joann Benson, Accompanist
 Mia Hall, Student Intern

Bee! I'm Expecting You...by Emma Lou Diemer

This piece is a setting of a poem from a set of three by Emily Dickinson. It is written from the standpoint of a fly who is writing a letter to a bee, announcing that spring is here and is awaiting his arrival. Listen to the piano part as it mimics the sound of the bee! Our singers have had fun with the staccato and accented vocal lines throughout the piece.

Path To the Moonby Eric H. Thiman

The lyrics describe a call to adventure- a longing to sail the path to the moon. The gentle melody is in 6/8 time, creating a sense of the lilting waves as the moon's glistening path runs out to sea. We have worked hard on uniformed vowels and dynamic shaping of the phrases.

A Great Big Sea.....Arr. by Lori-Anne Dolloff

Violin: Alexis Horichs, BC1, Spoons: Diane Jones
This is a rollicking Newfoundland folk song in sea shanty style with text that tells the story of the economic effects of an especially high sea which flooded the village. The arrangement proceeds through several keys – rising just as the water did – until the final sense of determination to set off for a better life if the conditions didn't improve. Lively rhythms and nonsense words made this piece great fun to learn!

Il Coro Della Bella Voce

Rachel Morgan Im, Director
Joann Benson, Accompanist
Madelyn DeMay, Student Intern

Winds.....by Larysa Kuzmenko

The text of "Winds" is a poem that was created as a class project by students from the Faywood Public School in Metropolitan, Toronto. Toronto-based composer and performer, Larysa Kuzmenko, created the vocal lines and piano accompaniment to depict the swirling wind. As the storm builds, the music grows more chromatic and thicker in texture. Calming after the storm, the music quiets to a gentle breeze.

Hold Fast to Dreams.....by Susan LaBarr

Published in 1923 during the Harlem Renaissance, Langston Hughes' poem "Dreams" is a simple yet powerful statement imploring the listener to "hold fast to dreams." He reasons that "if dreams die, life is a broken-winged bird that cannot fly." This poem has been set by several different composers over the past hundred years. Susan LaBarr's 2017 setting is gentle and thoughtful, and it conveys a sense of hope and encouragement.

Shine On Me.....Arr. by Rollo Dilworth

Student Director: Madelyn DeMay

Drums: John Damond

Notes published in the octavo: "Like many African-American spirituals, the melody of 'Shine on Me' is built on a pentatonic scale, and it utilizes a text that has multiple meanings... The second line of the [original] text metaphorically represents a search for guidance and direction on both a physical and spiritual level. The additional text and melodies [written by Dilworth] in this arrangement are partnered with the original melody so as to create harmonic progressions consistent with the African-American singing tradition." In the summer of 2024, members of CCCC's Cantare Bel Canto choirs were privileged to work and perform with famed composer and conductor Dr. Rollo Dilworth when they traveled to Charles Town, WV, to participate in the Appalachian Festival of Young Voices. One such student - Madelyn DeMay - makes her conducting debut with this piece.

Put a Little Love In Your Heart.....

.....Arr. by Greg Gilpin

Drums: John Damond

This piece is a musical mash-up of "Put a Little Love in Your Heart" by Jimmy Holiday, Randy Myers, and Jackie Deshannon and "Love Train" by Kenneth Gamble and Leon Huff. Although the original songs were composed in the late 1960s and early 1970s respectively, their message is timely for us now: love and kindness will make the world a better place for all of us. As in three of the four songs in their set today, the Della Bellas sing in 3-part harmony during this piece; they add a fourth voice part toward the end.

~A 10 Minute Intermission~



Artwork by LPV: Madelyn Frye

Cantare Bel Canto

Rachel Morgan Im, Director

Diane Jones, Accompanist and Artistic Director Emeritus

Mbiri Kuna Mwari.....by Lee Kesselman

Shona Translation:

Glory to God in the highest

And peace to his people on earth.

Lee Kesselman traveled to Zimbabwe in 1993 to hear the music of Africa and decided to transcribe this piece after visiting the Episcopal Cathedral in Harare. Bringing our two Cantare Bel Canto ensembles together to perform this piece is special and brings back memories of performing this piece for Bob Chilcott when we traveled to New Orleans in 2017. There are two quiet sections that are reverent respecting the words found in the translation, but then the percussion joins the song and adds music that embodies Africa, full of life and rhythm!

Cantare Bel Canto I

Jenna Lebherz Daly, Director and Artistic Director

Diane Jones, Accompanist

and Artistic Director Emeritus

Alice Roche, Intern and Alum '23

Can You Hear Me?.....by Bob Chilcott

Composer's 1997 Note: "I wrote this piece to include sign language, as I have always found it to be an incredibly sensitive and beautiful form of communication-it also served as a reminder to me always to try to be open and aware of other people, and also of our surroundings." The members of the BCIs connected to the poetry of this song realizing the person could be feeling isolation and the piano reflects this in its dissonant introductions. The bridge of the song says, "My world's a silent one, but it's enough for me, I hear you through your hands, the movement sets me free." We find these words both powerful and emotional knowing that the person feels so much joy when heard.

Salmo 150.....by Ernani Aguiar

Conducted by Alice Roche

Latin Translation:

Praise the Lord in his sacred places,
praise him in the firmament of his power.

Praise him for his mighty acts,
praise him according to his excellent greatness.

Praise him with the sound of the trumpet,
praise him with the psaltery and the harp.

Praise him with the timbrel and the dance,
praise him with strings and pipes.

Praise him with high-sounding cymbals,
praise him with cymbals of joy.

Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!

Mrs. Daly performed this when she was in the Children's Chorus and has never forgotten her part. This piece is challenging yet rewarding. The first time we got through the song successfully, there was a moment of shock and cheer! We tried many exercises to get to where we are today in this performance, including stomping around the room, rocking side to side, using egg shakers to feel the beat, and sectionals. Salmo 150 is a

part of a series of Latin American Choral Music full of traditional music, rhythms, and Latin soul. Ernani Aguiar is a Brazilian composer who loves to write parts that are rhythmic with rapid articulations.

For the Beauty of the Earth.....by John Rutter

No matter your age, it is never too late or too early to experience the music of John Rutter. His large sweeping phrases, golden harmonies, and orchestra accompaniments are timeless. Rutter wrote this piece in 1980 and one can hear the strings and flute playing within the piano introduction inviting the upward phrase of the choir changing from key to key as though passing through the seasons of our beautiful earth.

Cantare Bel Canto II

Rachel Morgan Im, Director
Diane Jones, Accompanist
and Artistic Director Emeritus

Muhona.....by Cedrick Howoseb

Senior Group: AJ Ledwell, Josie Lewis, Sophie Rogers, and Madelyn DeMay
Drums: John Damond

A new work just published in 2024, "Muhona" was composed by self-taught, award-winning composer and conductor Cedrick Howoseb, who hails from Otjiwarango, Namibia. "Muhona" is a song of praise in the Otjiherero language that translates roughly as: "I love you, Lord. Let your name be praised." The expression "yelelei" is akin to "hallelujah" and "hem" is similar to "amen." We are pleased to feature our graduating seniors on this song.

What a Wonderful World...Arr. by Audrey Snyder

Soloist: Madelyn DeMay

First recorded in 1967 by Louis Armstrong, "What a Wonderful World" eventually became one of the most well-known and beloved songs. Armstrong's recording is included in the Rolling Stone's 500 Greatest Songs of All Time, and the piece has been covered by thousands of singers and instrumentalists over the decades. The arrangement we present today is an a cappella setting that features tight jazz harmonies.

By Nightby Elaine Hagenberg

Drums: John Damond

Note from the composer: "When I compose a new piece of music, the original inspiration always arises from the poetry.

Each composition begins by carefully studying the words, speaking the rhythms, and listening for melodies that will help to convey a story. I want singers and audiences alike to see themselves inside the music, guided by the melodies and the text as one. In 'By Night,' I imagined a dark and mysterious night beckoning a young woman to experience a thrilling adventure.

A galloping accompaniment leads our narrator beyond her familiar walls, while the soaring vocal lines depict her breathless discovery of a bold and beautiful new world. Because nature fills me with joy and peace equally, the contrasting middle section invites listeners into a moment of meditation through the 'beauty born in its Maker's thought.' Our heroine's excitement cannot be contained, however, and the music rushes forth once more, painting a cinematic scene of wonder and awe."

Children's Chorus of Carroll County

Rejoice and Sing.....by Rollo Dilworth

Alumni and Previous members are more than welcome to come up and join us for this finale!

Children's Chorus of Carroll County Members:

Les Petites Voix

Charlotte Busch	Roxanna Daly	Joanna Mendoza
Graham Blizzard	Madelyn Frye	Abigail Nakashima
Scarlett Blizzard	Everly Hester	Nora Sheridan
Evelyn Case	Celia Iwanowski	Ryleigh Werking
Jensen Corbett	Cash McCabe	Sawyer Werking
Lorelei Daly		Alisa Yermolaieva

Il Coro Della Bella Voce

Adalyn Andrews	Gwennie Cary	Taylor Prodoehl
Cam Andrews	Lyric Corbett	Scarlett Reinert
Monica Bayles	Graham Hester	Lainey Roche
Eleyna Blizzard	Eloise Keenan	Jude Russell
Eva Blizzard	Lia Loraw	Quinn Sasse
Molly Callahan	Xavier Lougee	Sonia Yermolaieva
	Harper Malbrough	

Cantare Bel Canto I

Layla Avaral-Diaz	Sloane Heavin	Ben Riese
Jamie Baker	Tate Holmboe	Quinn Riese
Calvin Bryant	Alexis Horichs	Sophie Riese
Jocelyn Desper	Leah Kemp	Savannah Rogers
Jackson Failla	Gavin Knarr	Leah Shutt
Cooper Hall	Minnie Maples	Gabriel Solomon
Rosalie Hart	Aiden Mitzel	Marisya Ziemski
	Gabriella	
	Rech Pavao	

Artwork by DB:
Lyric Corbett

Cantare Bel Canto I

Evan Bucior	Mia Hall	Korin Ray
Darcy Callahan	Miranda Hart	Sophia Rogers
Madelyn DeMay	AJ Ledwell	Eli Sager
Noelle Finch	Josie Lewis	Estela Sperb
Chloe Fox	Jacqueline	Keagan Willis
	Rech Pavao	

The Chorus Mentorship Program

This is one of the most exciting components of our organization. After two years of membership, a student may qualify to be a rehearsal assistant, with the goal of eventually preparing and conducting a piece in the concert. Interns must demonstrate a high degree of general musicianship in addition to being able to sing well. They must also have a desire to work with children in an educational setting. We are happy to be able to contribute to the future of music education in such a mutually beneficial manner.

Interns for the 2024-2025 Chorus Season:

Madelyn DeMay, BC2 Member
Mia Hall, BC2 Member
Alice Roche, Chorus Alum '23
Jaden Soriano, Chorus Alum '21



Artwork by BC1: Alexis Horichs

Biographies:



Virginia Morgan Arey

Mrs. Virginia Morgan Arey directs *Les Petites Voix*. She is a singer and music educator throughout central Maryland. Mrs. Arey started singing with the Frederick Children's Chorus when she was in 4th grade and continued on with the Chamber Singers. In high school she became interested in teaching and conducting as well as performing. She had

the wonderful opportunity to be one of the first student interns for the Frederick Children's Chorus where she conducted the Training Chorus. She went on to receive her undergraduate degree from Oberlin Conservatory in music education and her master's degree from the American Kodaly Institute at Loyola University in Baltimore. She taught vocal music and chorus in Baltimore County Public Schools for 15 years. Currently, she teaches with the Frederick Children's Chorus as a Little Music Makers teacher. Mrs. Arey has enjoyed singing with many wonderful arts organizations in Maryland as a soloist and chorister such as Annapolis Opera, HUB Opera Ensemble, Baltimore Choral Arts Society, Young Victorian Opera Company, Joyous Voices Carolers and Opus Concert Theatre. Currently she is the Alto section leader and soloist at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Baltimore and is a professional chorister and soloist with the Handel Choir of Baltimore. She is also a sought after church musician and cantor in the area. She lives in Eldersburg with her husband Jim and two children, TJ and Luke.

Joann Long Benson

Joann Long Benson, Accompanist and Instructor of Skills since 2013, is a graduate of Mansfield University of PA with a degree in piano performance, and has completed a Master's of Music Education at Towson University. Prior to retirement she was a music teacher in Carroll County Public Schools for 25 years, most recently at Sandymount Elementary School. Mrs. Benson worked for the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra several summers designing the teacher's resources for their Education Concerts. She was employed previously as an adjunct at Carroll Community College and taught methods and supervised student teachers at McDaniel College. She is currently the vocal music teacher at North Carroll Community School. Mrs. Benson enjoys accompanying a wide variety of musical groups in the region, including choruses and vocal and instrumental soloists.



Jenna Lebherz Daly

Jenna Lebherz Daly directs *Cantare Bel Canto I*. She first sang with the Frederick Children's Chorus from 5th-12th grade and fell in love with the unique silvery sound of a children's choir. After high school, she went on to Westminster Choir College in Princeton, NJ to earn Bachelor's degrees in Music Education and Vocal Performance. She then earned a Master's in Opera Performance with

University of Maryland's Opera Studio. Mrs. Daly has performed in many states and venues, and she enjoyed being active in the opera world as a mezzo-soprano, singing for opera companies and orchestras. Currently, she is the Chair of the Performing Arts Department and teaches the Lower and Middle School Music Program (Pre-K through 8th grade) at Gerstell Academy in Finksburg, MD. She thoroughly loves working with children and keeping music alive through their voices.

Rachel Morgan Im

Rachel Morgan Im directs *Il Coro Della Bella Voce* and *Cantare Bel Canto II*. Since joining CCCC in 2010, she has led the combined *Cantare Bel Canto* choirs to win awards at choral festivals and adjudications and has co-directed touring ensembles that have performed in prestigious venues both in the United States and Europe. Ms. Morgan



Im works full-time as the Artistic Director of the Children's Chorus of Maryland & School of Music. She also conducts the York County Junior Honors Choir in PA. A school music teacher from 2005-2020, Ms. Morgan Im earned elite recognition as CCPS Teacher of the Year 2015 Finalist and won the prestigious Outstanding Teacher Award. Other organizations with which she has freelanced as a conductor and teacher include Lamplight Artists, the National Christian Choir, the Maryland Academy of Dance, and Carroll Community College. She has also taught private voice lessons and has served as a church musician. Ms. Morgan Im holds a Master of Music in music education from the Peabody Conservatory and a Bachelor of Music Education from the Wheaton College Conservatory. She has completed 40 additional graduate credits in world folk arts at McDaniel College and is currently pursuing specialized certification in Kodály methodology at the American Kodály Institute.



Diane Jones

Diane Jones, Co-Founder, Accompanist, and Artistic Director Emeritus, earned a Masters of Liberal Arts from Western Maryland College and a Bachelors of Music Education from Houghton College in New York. She taught elementary, middle and high school in New York and Maryland public schools for over twenty five years. She was also adjunct faculty at McDaniel College. As Artistic Director of Children's Chorus of Carroll County, she established the Chorus' structure, including an emphasis on musically enriching travel opportunities for its members. She currently has an active private piano studio, is Director of Music for St. Paul United Methodist Church and enjoys a variety of collaborative musical experiences. Under her leadership, Voce Viaggio performed in Estonia, Finland, and Sweden (2004), participated in the "12th International Children's Choir Festival" in Oxford, Canterbury, and London (2008), and "The Children's Choir Festival at Canterbury Cathedral & London" (2011). She and three Chorus members also participated in the "Estonian Song Festival" in July of 2009. As co-directors of Voce Viaggio, she and Ms. Morgan led students who participated in the "Austrian Choral Festival with Henry Leck" in 2014. In June 2015, their BC groups performed in the Manhattan Concert Production's National Children's Festival Chorus, which culminated in a gala event at Carnegie Hall.

Our 2025 Seniors:



Madelyn DeMay has been in children's chorus for nine years. Next year she will be attending Towson university for music education to further her interest in teaching music. She is beyond thankful for the opportunities she's been given during here time in children's

chorus. She will miss the students, teachers and friends she has met along the way who have helped her to grow into the person she is. She also thanks her mom for being the best mom ever and her dad for being the best dad ever.



AJ Ledwell, a senior at Westminster High School, is looking forward to starting his first year at Carroll Community College. He'll also be continuing his work at a local animal hospital, with the goal of eventually going into either

medicine or veterinary medicine. Besides his academic and career aspirations, AJ has been singing in a children's chorus for 11 years, including the last six years specifically with our chorus. Along with his experience playing guitar, he's especially proud of his high vocal range.



Josie Lewis will be graduating this year from Westminster High School. She has been singing with the Children's Chorus of Carroll County for 10 years! While singing with her friends was something that she looked forward to every Tuesday, she also has found art to be her passion. After graduation, Josie plans to study Graphic Design and Art at the State University of New York at New Paltz. If this plan changes, Josie plans to stay local and continue her education.



Sophia Rogers is proud to be a Senior of Westminster High School. While active in music at school, she has also been a proud member of the Children's Chorus of Carroll County for 12 years. There were many schools to choose from when focusing on Business Administration, but Salisbury University has won the attention of Sophia. She is excited to venture on to college and experience what life has in store for her future.

A Note from the Artistic Director:

This 2024-2025 Season has been one of adjustments and forward thinking. While planning for the future of our choir, we have the blessing of retaining an outstanding professional staff. However, the fiscal reality is that we need to more funds to maintain the artistic and educational level we have enjoyed for 39 years. To accomplish our financial goals, we have applied for grants, sponsorships, and asked for corporate donations. We received a Grant from the Carroll Arts Center and applied for a Creative Grant from the Maryland State Arts Council and are patiently waiting to see if it has been approved. Recently we were awarded a generous donation from our Board Secretary's company, Index Analytics, which was above and beyond. However, at this point we still need to raise significantly more funds to continue what we know is a terrific program.

Our young singers gain the many scientifically proven benefits of singing and parents are making a financially sound investment in their child's musical training and personal growth on many levels. We are occasionally asked if private voice lessons are a good option for vocal development. While they may be

beneficial to high schoolers, a child's body makes many changes until it settles into its adult frame. Also, families who ask for voice lessons earlier than high school are often met with a long answer from me explaining how it makes more sense financially for their child to take group voice lessons within a choir than it is to pay for private lessons that can charge \$1 per minute (\$45 for 45 minute lesson each week). To receive voice lessons on how to breathe with a ribcage the size of an elementary school student and then their ribcage grows rapidly into the size of an adult, the child has to start all over again with their training. Nurturing their ear training, working on expression, analyzing text, music sight reading skills, experiencing part-singing, working with seasoned adult musicians and cooperating on a team are gained through our chorus rehearsals. All of this experience culminates in what you will enjoy today: **OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCES.**

Moving forward, the Board of Directors and professional staff are making the best decisions that they can make for the good of our Chorus in order to last at least another 40 years. As in the past, we are counting on our entire community to help make this possible and are open to suggestions and, of course, donations!

The Board of Directors:

Brian DeMay, President

Titus Mataban, Vice-President

Brenda Little, Treasurer

Suzanne Swenson, Secretary

Jenna Lebherz Daly, Director and Artistic Director

Diane Jones, Founder and Artistic Director Emeritus

Renee Rogers, Fundraising Chair

Dianne Delgado, General Manager

Carolyn DeMay, Head Choir Coordinator

Nick Wagman, Alum

May Auditions:

Tuesday, May 6, 2025 we will hold auditions for the 2025-2026 Season!

Use the hyperlink below:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040B4DA4A722A2FC1-54674227-auditions#/>

Video Recording:

If you have enjoyed this concert today, please know that we are recording!

Those interested in the link to the edited video, please:

1. Pay us digitally with the QR Code to the right:

2. Fill out this google form:

<https://forms.gle/87uXJ4z4fWvRHt5q7>



Donations!

Please consider donating to the Children's Chorus of Carroll County.

Being a Non-Profit, we are in need of support financially.

We do not charge tickets to our concerts because we understand that the parents already paid for their child's tuition. If you find that you are able to donate today, please do. Any small amount helps our organization to

create the beautiful that sound you hear today, help our music educators to grow, and sends us on adventures like festivals or trips to Hershey Park.

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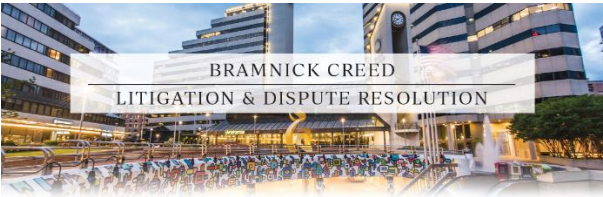
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