



Ames Children's Choirs

Ames Children's Choirs September 2008 Newsletter

P.O. Box 1965, Ames IA 50010 ~ 290-1422

Welcome Back and Greetings to All Singers!

Welcome to the 14th year of the Ames Children's Choirs program! We look forward to an exciting year with special events for all choirs: ACC Holiday and Spring Concerts, performances at the Reiman Gardens, Randall Fine Arts Series, Tea at Terrace Hill, FACES Festival, and Midwest Children's Choir Festival. We are glad you are with us and are looking forward to rehearsing together!

Rehearsals Have Begun!

We appreciate the generosity of Collegiate United Methodist Church-Wesley Foundation for rehearsal space. Rehearsals will be held in the Collegiate United Methodist Church **Annex** (130 South Sheldon). The Annex parking lot is located south of Taco Bell. Please enter the Annex through the north door under the blue awning. Walk straight ahead past the restrooms, jog to the right, and then to the left, and you will see the auditorium.

First rehearsals will be as follows:

(Tuesday, August 26)	5:00-6:00	Concert Choir	Annex Auditorium
Monday, September 8	4:00-4:55	Prep Choir	Annex Auditorium
Monday, September 8	5:00-6:00	Chorale	Annex Auditorium

Something to Sing About

- **Teona Jerman** (Concert Choir) qualified to sing at the State Fair's Bill Riley Talent Contest on August 9. She won the sprouts division at the Gowrie Bill Riley Talent Show Contest.
- **Noah Snyder** (Concert Choir) and **Miles Snyder** (Prep Choir) were both chosen to play on the Ames Little League 9 & 10 year old National All Star Team. They also competed in the Iowa Games and received 3rd place for age 10 and under baseball.
- Please send your items for "Something to Sing About" to: ameschoir@aol.com or call Shon @ 290-1422.

Concert Choir Retreat & Attire Fitting

The Concert Choir will conduct its annual choir retreat the weekend of September 5-7 at the Riverside Lutheran Bible Camp in Story City. This is a great opportunity to get the year started musically and socially. The singers will enjoy singing, playing and getting to know each other. At 2:00 pm on Sunday afternoon, they will perform for their families in the chapel. The singers will also be fitted for their formal and informal attire on Sunday afternoon following the concert. **Parents, please contact Shon at 290-1422 or ameschoir@aol.com if you can help with the attire fittings.**

Concert Choir Informal attire (for both boys and girls)

- red ACC golf shirt (provided for new singers)
- navy blue sport trousers (provided)
- navy blue socks (you purchase)
- navy blue (laced) tennis shoes (you purchase)

Regarding the navy blue tennis shoes, some “recycled” tennis shoes will be available Sept. 7, or you may need to purchase your own. We prefer a style most similar to the “Converse” brand, which has a band of white around the bottom edge and with laces.

Attire Fittings for Prep & Chorale Singers ~ Saturday, September 13

All Prep Choir & Chorale singers will be fitted for their informal and formal attire in the CUMC Annex hallway on Saturday, September 13 as follows:

- Chorale 8:30 – 10:00 am
- Prep Choir 10:00 – 11:30 am

There will be a few “gently used” white blouses available for purchase through ACC on Sept. 13. **Parents, please contact Shon at 290-1422 or ameschoir@aol.com if you can help with the attire fittings.** Information concerning the required Prep and Chorale attire will be distributed at the parent meeting on September 15.

Prep & Chorale Required Parent Meeting ~ September 15

Prep Choir Parents will meet in Annex Room 202 from 5:00 – 5:30 pm on Monday, September 15 for a parent meeting. Chorale Parents will meet in the Annex Auditorium from 6:00 – 6:30 pm on Monday, September 15 for a parent meeting.



Prep & Chorale Pizza Parties ~ September 22

September 22 rehearsals & pizza parties will be held in the Collegiate United Methodist Church at the corner of Lincolnway and Hayward (2622 Lincolnway). Enter through the door on the west side of the church; proceed straight ahead, turn left, and meet in the **Fireside Room**.

Following regular rehearsal, the Prep & Chorale will enjoy pizza parties in **Wesley Hall** in the basement of the church. You may pick up your singer on the east side of the church near US Bank. Prep Choir pizza party: **5:00-5:30 pm** in Wesley Hall. Chorale pizza party: **6:00-6:30 pm** in Wesley Hall. ACC will provide the pizza and beverage. If you will be unable to attend, please let Shon know so she can order pizza accordingly.

ACC Family Ice Cream Social & Photos ~ September 28

The ACC Ice Cream Social will be held Sunday, September 28, in Brookside Park at the Maple Shelter (close to the front parking lot). Come to meet and greet old and new friends in ACC. Please note your choir’s photo location:



- **3:00 p.m. Concert Choir** (informal attire) – meet at **Reiman Gardens!**
- **4:00 p.m. Prep Choir Photo** (jeans + ACC t-shirt) – meet at the Maple Shelter!
- **4:15 p.m. Chorale Photo** (jeans + ACC t-shirt) – meet at Maple Shelter!
- **4:30 p.m. Ice Cream Social!** Bring your family – we’ll see you there!

You, Your Voice, and Rehearsal Attendance

“I have a sore throat and can’t come to rehearsal.” This is the season for all sorts of bugs who are waiting to attack singers. Please be sure to get enough sleep and drink plenty of water every day. You may bring your own water bottle (water only in the church) or get a drink at the church before rehearsing. Singers must stay hydrated. As to a sore throat – technically, **if you can talk, you can sing**. My advice is to **limit your talking (even whispering) and singing** if your voice is “sick.” Any use of the voice can be excessive while you are “recovering.” You can, however, still come to rehearsal and listen and mark your music.

Tuition Payments!

Please remember that tuition payments (including the attire deposit for new singers) are due the 1st of each month; please send the appropriate stub from the tuition page along with each payment. (This helps the Treasurer with the records.) Remember that **siblings receive a 10% discount** (which is our own special scholarship!) for both/all singers. Please write your singer's name + choir on the memo line. The ACC Bookkeeper is Dario Zaffarano (dzatty@isunet.net). **Send tuition payments to: ACC, P.O. Box 1965, Ames, IA 50010-1965.**

Pencil Awards

ACC pencils are given out each rehearsal to several singers who have done an excellent job throughout the entire rehearsal. It is organized so that each singer earns a pencil once a semester. Please remember that it is difficult to choose because all of the singers are great! Be patient – your day is coming!

Fundraising

Parents may organize fundraising activities to support the fees for Concert Choir tours. Paying for Concert Choir tours is the responsibility of each singer's family. Participation in fundraising activities to help defray touring expenses is each family's individual choice. Singers in the Prep Choir and Chorale can be accruing funds towards a future tour in the Concert Choir; however, there is no refund of any account if and when a singer leaves the ACC program. Any remaining funds in that account will be transferred to a sibling's account, or to the general program. Parents may request that the amount of money in their account be verified in a letter as a tax-deductible contribution when they leave the program.

Younkers, Butter Braid, and Pizza Ranch have fundraising options available to us. **We do need parents to chair or co-chair each fundraising event. An ACC board member will serve as an advisor.** Please contact Shon (290-1422) to let us know which fundraisers interest you! More information will follow.

ACC Newsletters

ACC Newsletters will be mailed/emailed to each ACC family on a monthly basis. They will soon be available on our website: ameschilrenschoirs.org. Communication is critical to the success of our organization and the newsletter is one of our best avenues. Shon Stephenson (290-1422 or ameschoir@aol.com) is the Editor; please let her hear from you about things to include in the newsletter.

Upcoming Concerts/Events

Concert Choir ~ Order of the Knoll ~ October 3

What: Order of the Knoll Performance

When: Friday, October 3

Where: Stephens Auditorium

Meet: (Tentative Times) 6:00 pm - hair braiding; 6:30 pm - vocal prep

Attire: Wear formal attire

Prep Choir ~ Mini-Concert ~ Monday, October 13

What: Mini-Concert for Parents
When: Monday, October 13
4:00-4:40 regular rehearsal
4:40-4:55 perform for parents
Where: Annex Auditorium
Attire: jeans and red ACC t-shirt

Chorale ~ Mini-Concert ~ Monday, October 13

What: Mini-Concert for Parents
When: Monday, October 13
5:00-5:45 regular rehearsal
5:45-6:00 perform for parents
Where: Annex Auditorium
Attire: jeans and red ACC t-shirt

Prep Choir & Chorale ~ Bring a Friend to Rehearsal ~ Monday, October 20

Concert Choir ~ Mini-Retreat ~ Saturday, October 25

What: Mini-Retreat for Concert Choir singers
When: Saturday, October 25
9:00 am - 1:00 pm (pizza lunch provided)
Where: Annex Auditorium

ACC People to Know

Artistic Staff

Dr. Sylvia Munsen – Founder
– Conductor, Concert Choir & Prep Choir
– Co-Conductor, Chorale
Mrs. Misty Renze – Co-Conductor, Chorale

Business Staff

Mrs. Shon Stephenson – Executive Assistant
Mr. Dario Zaffarano – ACC Bookkeeper

ACC Board

Mr. Ted MacDonald – Past President
Mr. Craig Forney – President
Mrs. Debbie Johnson – Secretary
Mr. Michael Budnick – Treasurer
Dr. Sylvia Munsen – Artistic Director/Conductor
Mrs. Shon Stephenson – Executive Assistant
Dr. Dawn Bratsch-Prince
Mrs. Jill Kolb
Dr. John Levis
Dr. Chungyeol Shin
Mr. Eric Weber