



# Ames Children's Choirs May 2011 Newsletter

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

## Something to Sing About!

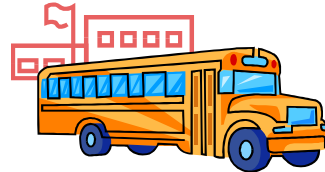
- **Sarah Anderson** (Concert Choir) earned a I rating in storytelling and **Bethany Berger** (Concert Choir) earned a I rating in solo musical theater and radio news at the State Individual Speech Contest in March. Both of them advanced to the All-State Individual Speech Festival.
- A special thank you to all the **parents & board members** who volunteered at the Midwest Children's Choir Festival. We couldn't have presented this festival without those of you who assisted with risers, registration, packaging, seating, nursing, video taping, snacks and meals, etc!
- If your singer has been selected for something special, please let us know! Send your items for "Something to Sing About" to: ameschoir@aol.com or call Shon @ 290-1422.

## ACC Board Announcement

The ACC board is pleased to announce that a new Artistic Director and Conductors have been hired for the next choir season. Mr. Gene LeVasseur will join the Ames Children's Choirs next year as Artistic Director and Conductor of the Concert Choir and Mrs. Misty Renze will become Conductor of the Chorale and Preparatory Choir. Gene is currently the Director of Music Ministries at Bethesda Lutheran Church in Ames, with prior years of experience in choral direction in the Cedar Rapids area. Many of us know Misty from her years of service with ACC as Co-Conductor of the Chorale.

## Chorale School Tour ~ Tuesday, May 3

What: Chorale School Tour  
When: Tuesday, May 3  
Meet: 7:50 am (CUMC Annex parking lot)  
Perform: 8:30 Gilbert Middle School, Gilbert  
9:30 Gilbert Elementary School, Gilbert  
10:30 Windsor Oaks, Ames  
11:40 Kate Shelley Railroad Museum & Park, Moingona (eat sack lunch)  
1:15 Franklin Elementary School, Boone  
2:15 Boone Middle School  
Return: 3:45 pm (CUMC Annex parking lot)  
Attire: Informal attire



Informal Attire: Boys - ACC navy slacks, red ACC t-shirt, and black socks & shoes  
Girls - ACC navy skirts, red ACC t-shirt, flesh-colored nylons, & black shoes

Lunch: Please pack a healthy sack lunch (sandwich, fruit, etc.) Bring a water bottle!

We would like a parent chaperone to assist with videotaping during the morning. Transportation will be provided. If you are interested, please contact Shon Stephenson at 290-1422 or ameschoir@aol.com.

## All Choirs Rehearse! Saturday, May 7

What: Rehearsal for Spring Concert

When: Saturday, May 7      Prep Choir: 9-10 am  
                                         Mass Choir: 10-11 am  
                                         Chorale: 11-11:30 am  
                                         Concert Choir: 11:30-12:30 pm  
                                         Chamber Singers: 12:30-1:00 pm

Where: **Bethesda Lutheran Church**, 1517 Northwestern Ave., Ames

Attire: regular clothes

Note: Concert Choir singers should eat before/after coming or bring a sack lunch to eat in the Commons area during the Chorale's rehearsal.

## Spring Concert ~ Sunday, May 8

What: Spring Concert

Where: **Bethesda Lutheran Church**, 1517 Northwestern Ave., Ames

When: Sunday, May 8

hairbraiding: 12:45 pm (enter through west church door)

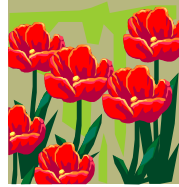
bows & ties only: 1:15 pm (enter through west church door)

meet: 1:30 pm in sanctuary (all singers warm-up + walk-through concert)

perform: 3:00 pm

reception: 4:30 pm in Commons area (adjacent to the sanctuary)

Attire: Formal attire



## Spring Concert Needs!

- Please contact Shon if you can help **braid hair** (12:45 pm) **or tie bows** (1:15 pm). Girls must provide their own brush/comb for the hair braiding. Please mark these items with your singer's name. Enter the west door of the Bethesda Lutheran Church and go down the hall to the Conference Room.
- Please contact Shon if you would be willing to assist with **video taping** (we provide camera), **informal digital photos, and reception**. Shon will be contacting those of you who may have already volunteered to help. Thanks!
- Two Spring Concert tickets for each singer will be enclosed in the May newsletter mailing as part of your tuition. Additional tickets will be available at the door and at Rieman Music in downtown Ames. We encourage you to invite your family, friends, and neighbors to enjoy Mother's Day with a gift of music.



- A reception will follow the Spring Concert in the Commons area next to the sanctuary. **Please send one dozen cookies/bars in a disposable container** with your singer when they arrive at the church on May 8.

## Returning ACC Music and Attire

**Prep:** return music and attire on Monday, May 9 ~ meet in Wesley Hall

**Chorale:** return music and attire on Monday, May 9 ~ meet in Wesley Hall

**Concert Choir/Chamber Singers:** return music and attire at voice evaluations ~ Annex Auditorium

**Note:** In order to receive credit for your attire deposit (whether as a refund or as credit for the next year), you must return your attire at the assigned time or make arrangements with Shon for a time when it can be returned at her convenience.

**Attire to Return:** All ACC attire, which must be returned, includes the following:

**Prep and Chorale:** navy blue skirts or pants

**Concert Choir girls:** dress, navy blue pants

**Concert Choir boys:** navy blue pants, white shirt, long tie

## Concert Choir Recording Sessions ~ May 10 & 12

Recording sessions will be held on May 10& 12 in the Collegiate United Methodist Church sanctuary (2622 Lincolnway) from **4:30-6:00 pm**. Please enter through the south door. We would like to produce another CD; in order for that to happen we need all singers to attend the preparation rehearsals and recording sessions.

## Farewell Picnic for Dr. Munsen

Please join us in saying goodbye to Dr. Munsen at a potluck picnic on Friday, May 13 at 6:00 pm at the Moore Memorial Park (Big Bluestem Shelter) located at 3050 Northridge Parkway. Please bring a main dish and side (salad, vegetable, or dessert) to share + your own table service and beverage. Directions: 13th Street to Stange Rd to George Washington Carver Ave to Northridge Parkway.

## Auditions for New Singers!

Auditions will be held for NEW singers May 21 - June 12. Please let your friends know and encourage them to join us! **If you recruit a new singer who joins ACC, you will receive a \$25 credit/singer toward your tuition!** Have them call Shon @ 290-1422 to arrange for an audition.

## ♪ Annual Voice Evaluations for ACC Singers ~ May 16-24 ♪

All singers are assigned a time for their annual voice evaluation which will be conducted in our rehearsal room in the CUMC Annex. This is the time for Mr. LeVasseur and Mrs. Renze to hear the singers individually and chart their growth. **If for some reason you are not able to come at the scheduled time, it is your responsibility to arrange a change with another singer.**

We encourage one parent to accompany his/her singer for his/her annual evaluation. Shon would like to answer any questions or hear any suggestions you might have about the program. This time is especially important for singers who may be promoted from the Prep to the Chorale and the Chorale to the Concert Choir so that you are better informed about the commitment for each choir. Parents may sit in the back during their singer's evaluation; however, there will be no time to talk to the directors in order for us to stay on schedule. If you have any questions for Mr. LeVasseur or Mrs. Renze, please email Shon and she will forward it to them.

Regarding placement, most singers sing two years in the Prep before being "promoted" to the Chorale and sing two years in the Chorale before being "promoted" to the Concert Choir. This gives singers important experience as a "new singer" one year and the opportunity to serve as a leader when a "veteran" singer in the next year. Placement is determined by the growth and development of each singer based on his/her progress during rehearsal as evidenced by the annual evaluation. **Choir invitations will be sent in June; registrations forms and the first deposit for the 2011-2012 season is due July 15.**

## Prep Choir Annual Voice Evaluation

Be prepared to sing: Bow Wow Wow and This is Day 1 in solfege, Funga (in a round), Charlotte-Town V1 2pts and America V1

### **Monday, May 16 (Prep)**

4:00	Zander Reed	4:07	Sydney Scandrett
4:15	Libby Grunenwald	4:23	Emma Camara
4:30	Alexander Cook	4:37	Rachel Debner
4:45	Seth Durbin	4:52	Aliya Gurganus

### **Wednesday, May 18 (Prep)**

4:00	Lauren Hansen	4:07	Matilda Hogan
4:15	Colin Imhoff	4:23	Sophie Jaselskis
4:30	Julie Lennon	4:37	Kirsten Pixler
4:45	Brayden Smithburg	4:52	Josie Taylor

### **Monday, May 23 (Prep + siblings)**

4:00	Ryan Hinderaker	4:07	Sam Trabue
4:15	Amelia Verkade	4:23	Dorothy Vernon
4:30	Adriana Detrick	4:37	Bram Janvrin
4:45	Ilona Janvrin	4:52	Bryleigh Janvrin (Chorale)

## Chorale Annual Voice Evaluation

Be prepared to sing: Orff Canons, Key (m5-30), Gloria Patri (m1-21 in pts), Jubilee (m49-end w/chor), and Charlotte Town (m37-69 w/pts)

### **Monday, May 16 (Chorale + siblings)**

5:00	Carlie Henderson (Prep)	5:10	Paige Henderson
5:20	Polyphony Bruna	5:30	Dana Bowden
5:40	Alyssa Castro	5:50	Carlie Dellmann
6:00	Natalie Gull		

### **Wednesday, May 18 (Chorale)**

5:00	Ava Depping	5:10	Elaina Borg
5:20	Anna Ervin	5:30	Wendy Jiang
5:40	Alden Johnson	5:50	Delaney McCormick
6:00	Sofia Lence	6:10	Taylor Bickham
6:20	Taylor Renze		

### **Monday, May 23 (Chorale)**

5:00	Caroline Paxton	5:10	Michael Liu
5:20	Rucha Kelkar	5:30	Sadie Rowley
5:40	Sarah Shen	5:50	Sandeep Stanley
6:00	Chiara Travasset	6:10	Jordan Welp
6:20	Marcus Reecy		

## Concert Choir Annual Voice Evaluation

Be prepared to sing: favorite solfa warm-up, America the Beautiful, and Jaberwocky

### **Tuesday, May 17** (Concert Choir + siblings)

4:00	Amelia Meyer (Prep)	4:10	Jeremy Meyer (Chorale)
4:20	Julia Meyer	4:30	Christabel Forney (Prep)
4:40	Beriah Forney	4:50	Beau Henson (Chorale)
5:00	Fox Henson	5:10	Grace Kim (Chorale)
5:20	Jana Kim	5:30	Lauryn Berger (Prep)
5:40	Bethany Berger	5:50	Oliver Chen (Prep)
6:00	Maya Chen		

### **Thursday, May 19** (Concert Choir)

4:00	Emily Edmonson	4:10	Rachel Edmonson
4:20	Joanna Held	4:30	Miles Snyder
4:40	Noah Snyder	4:50	Hannah Engle
5:00	Kristen Frueh	5:10	Eli Bratsch-Prince
5:20	Andie Newell	5:30	Katie Cheaney
5:40	Francesca Spencer	5:50	Thea Brenner
6:00	Maggie Alexander		

### **Tuesday, May 24** (Concert Choir)

4:00	Ben Knudson	4:10	Sarah Anderson
4:20	Isabel Polashek	4:30	Jotham Polashek
4:40	Josiah Reeves	4:50	Lucy Ching
5:00	Eli Doss	5:10	Nancy Tang
5:20	Melea Robeson	5:30	Jonah Miller
5:40	Soledad Slowing	5:50	Craig Jordan
6:00	Erika Graber		

## Upcoming ACC Concerts/Events

### All Choirs

- Spring Concert Rehearsal – Saturday, May 7 (9:00-1:30)
- Spring Concert – Sunday, May 8 (1:30-5)
- Farewell Picnic – May 13 (6:00 pm)
- Annual singer evaluations – May 16-24

### Prep Choir

- Last rehearsal – Monday, May 9

### Chorale

- School Tour – Tuesday, May 3
- Last rehearsal – Monday, May 9

### Concert Choir

- Recording Sessions – May 10 & 12

## **A Note from Dr. Munsen**

Dear ACC Families and Board Members:

My professional career has been comprised of many interesting chapters from teaching elementary general music in Minneapolis and Arizona to graduate work in music education at the University of Illinois to teaching in several institutions of higher education in Maryland, New York, Washington and Arizona before coming to Iowa State in 1995. The common thread to all of my positions has been teaching children in general music and in choirs.

Being recruited for the Beverley Taylor Sorenson Endowed Chair for Elementary Arts Education at Utah State University (USU) was unexpected. The focus of my work at USU will be in teacher training and promoting the importance of fine arts education for children. In addition, I will provide artistic leadership for the Cache Children's Choir program, conduct Cantate, the "touring" choir, and continue my work as a conductor and mentor teacher.

ACC has been the focus of my life in Ames as a music educator and conductor both from a community standpoint and because of its connection with my work at Iowa State. I never anticipated leaving Arizona and my children's choir there, however, the opportunity arose for me to teach at Iowa State and create a new children's choir program. My "Concert Choir" in Arizona toured throughout the Southwest and was the resident children's chorus for Arizona Opera with whom we collaborated in four productions. As difficult as it was to leave Arizona, I would never have had the opportunities and experiences in Ames if I hadn't made the decision to accept a new position at Iowa State. Leaving ACC is even more difficult; however, the Endowed Chair position and all that it entailed provided outstanding challenges for me professionally and the opportunity to work with colleagues supportive of arts and education for children.

I want to thank each and every one of you for the tremendous support you have given to me and to the ACC program. It has brought so much joy to my life to work with such wonderful young singers. I would like to add a special 'thank you' to Shon Stephenson and to ACC Board Members over the years for their untiring support and enthusiasm for the program. My best wishes to all of you. Keep a song in your heart always; I will carry all of you in my heart.

Sincerely,  
Sylvia Munsen

## **Thank you to Parents**

As the year draws to a close, I want to take this opportunity to thank all of the families involved in the ACC organization. It has been wonderful to become acquainted with so many of you. It would be impossible for ACC to be as successful as it is without your support and willingness to help in so many ways. Thank you for your participation and commitment. I look forward to seeing all of you next fall!

~ Shon Stephenson