



Ames Children's Choirs

Ames Children's Choirs September 2011 Newsletter

P.O. Box 1965, Ames IA 50010 ~ 515-290-1422
www.ameschildrenschoirs.org

Welcome Back and Greetings to All Singers!

Welcome to the 17th 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 Randall Fine Arts Series, and the Celebrate Singing Choral Festival. We are glad you are with us and are looking forward to rehearsing together!

Something to Sing About

- **Anna Ervin** (Chorale) sang "America, the Beautiful" for Share the Fun in 4-H. She received a purple ribbon and was chosen to sing again at the Clay County Fair in September.
- Please send your items for "Something to Sing About" to: ameschoir@aol.com or call Shon @ 290-1422.



Meet the Conductors!

Misty Renze will conduct the Prep Choir and the Chorale, and Gene LeVasseur, artistic director, will conduct the Concert Choir

Rehearsals Begin!

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 Swift Stop. 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 are as follows:

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Tuesday, September 6 | 5:00-6:45 | Concert Choir | Annex Auditorium |
| Monday, September 12 | 4:00-4:55 | Prep Choir | Annex Auditorium |
| Monday, September 12 | 5:00-6:00 | Chorale | Annex Auditorium |

Concert Choir Required Parent Meeting ~ September 6

Concert Choir Parents will meet in the Annex Auditorium from 6:00 – 6:45 pm on Tuesday, September 6 for a required parent meeting. We will discuss the Concert Choir tour and formal attire.

Concert Choir Retreat & Attire Fitting ~ September 9-10

The Concert Choir will conduct its annual choir retreat the weekend of September 9-10 at the Riverside Lutheran Bible Camp in Story City. This is a great opportunity to get the year started musically and socially. On Saturday evening at 7:00 pm the Concert Choir will perform for their families in the chapel. The singers will also be fitted for their attire on Saturday afternoon. Parents, please contact Shon at 290-1422 or ameschoir@aol.com if you can help with the attire fittings.

Concert Choir Attire provided

- red ACC polo shirt (new singers)
- navy blue trousers (boys and girls)
- white long-sleeved dress shirt & tie (boys)

Concert Choir Attire you purchase

- black dress pants (boys)
- black formal dress (girls)
- black dress shoes (boys and girls)
- 2 pair off-black hose (girls)
- black leather belt and black socks (boys)
- navy blue socks (boys and girls)
- navy blue canvas shoes (boys and girls)

Regarding the navy blue canvas shoes, a few “recycled” tennis shoes may be available. We prefer you purchase a style most similar to the “Converse” brand, which has laces and a band of white around the bottom edge.

Attire Fittings for Prep & Chorale Singers ~ Saturday, September 17

All Prep Choir & Chorale singers will be fitted for their informal and formal attire in the CUMC Annex hallway on Saturday, September 17 as follows:

- Chorale 9:00 – 10:15 am
- Prep Choir 10:15 – 11:30 am

There will be a few “gently used” white blouses available for a \$5 purchase through ACC on Sept. 18. 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 19.

Prep & Chorale Required Parent Meeting ~ September 19

Prep Choir Parents will meet in Annex Room 202 (just inside the north Annex entrance) from 5:00 – 5:30 pm on Monday, September 19 for a parent meeting. Chorale Parents will meet in the Annex Auditorium from 6:00 – 6:30 pm on Monday, September 19 for a parent meeting.

ACC Family Ice Cream Social & Photos ~ October 2

The ACC Family Ice Cream Social will be held Sunday, October 2, 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 the time for your choir’s photo:



- **2:00 p.m. Concert Choir Photo** (informal attire) – meet at Maple Shelter!
- **3:00 p.m. Chorale Photo** (jeans + red ACC t-shirt) – meet at the Maple Shelter!
- **3:15 p.m. Prep Choir Photo** (jeans + red ACC t-shirt) – meet at the Maple Shelter!
- **3:30 p.m. Ice Cream Social!** Bring your family – we’ll see you there!

You, Your Voice, and Rehearsal Attendance

This is the season for all sorts of bugs who are waiting to attack singers. All ACC singers should wash their hands with soap for as long as it takes to sing through “Happy Birthday” slowly! 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.

“I have a sore throat and can’t come to rehearsal.” 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 tuition discount) for both/all singers. Please write your singer’s name + choir on the memo line. The ACC Bookkeeper is Dario Zaffarano (dario@white-zaffarano.com). **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.

We do need parents from each choir to chair or co-chair each fundraising event. An ACC board member will serve as an advisor. Please contact Shon (290-1422) to help!

ACC Newsletters

ACC Newsletters will be emailed to each ACC family on a monthly basis. They will also be available on our website: ameschil提高schoirs.org. **Please read through each newsletter!** 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.

ACC People to Know

Artistic Staff

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|-----------------------|--|
| Mr. Gene LeVasseur | – Artistic Director and Conductor, Concert Choir |
| Mrs. Misty Renze | – Conductor, Prep Choir and Chorale |
| Mrs. Lois Downs | – Assistant Conductor, Prep Choir and Chorale |
| Mrs. Jerusha Cascione | – Rehearsal Assistant, Concert Choir |
| Mrs. Carol Weber | – Accompanist, Prep Choir |
| Ms. Emily Erickson | – Accompanist, Chorale |
| Mrs. Heather Botine | – Accompanist, Concert Choir |

Business Staff

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Mrs. Shon Stephenson | – Executive Assistant |
| Mr. Dario Zaffarano | – Bookkeeper |

ACC Board

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| Mrs. Sheryl Montabon | – President |
| Mrs. Diane Janvrin | – Treasurer |
| Mrs. Wendy Pixler | – Secretary |
| Mr. Michael Ching | |
| Mr. Richard McCoy | |
| Mrs. Marcie Osmundson | |
| Mrs. Shannon Taylor | |
| Mr. Dario Zaffarano | |
| Mrs. Cinian Zheng-Durbin | |

Upcoming Concerts/Events

All Choirs

- ACC Ice Cream Social + Photos – Sun., Oct. 2
- Younkers Community Day Sale – November 11/12

Prep Choir

- Required Parent Meeting – Mon., Sept. 19 (5-5:30 in Annex Room 202)
- Rehearsal + Pizza Party + Games – Mon., Oct. 10 (4-5:45)
- “Bring a Friend to Rehearsal” – Mon., Oct. 17
- Mini Concerts – Mon., Oct. 24 (last 15” of rehearsal, CUMC Annex)

Chorale

- Required Parent Meeting – Mon., Sept. 19 (6-6:30 in Annex Auditorium)
- Rehearsal + Pizza Party + Games – Mon., Oct. 10 (5-6:45)
- Chorale Mini-Retreat – Sat., Oct. 15 (1:30-4:30)
- “Bring a Friend to Rehearsal” – Mon., Oct. 17
- Chorale Fall Tour – Sat., Oct. 23
- Mini Concerts – Mon., Oct. 24 (last 15” of rehearsal, CUMC Annex)

Concert Choir

- Concert Choir Mini-Retreat – Sat., Oct. 15 (9-1)
- Good Neighbor Concert – Sun., Nov. 6 (3 pm Collegiate Presbyterian Church)