



Betty Bertaux, Artistic Director

News to Note

February 2002/March 2002

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Young Voices Choir Camp June 24 – July 5, 2002

Give your child the gift of singing this summer and come to our Young Voices Choir Camp.

Ages: **PIONEERS** 8 – 10 (grades 3, 4, 5)
TROOPERS 11 – 14 (grades 6, 7, 8)

Date: June 24 – July 5, 2002

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Place: Howard High School,
Columbia, MD

Tuition: \$395 includes T-shirt
(bring your own lunch)

Performance: July 5, 3:00 p.m.
(last day of camp)

Sectionals, choir and music lessons in morning and afternoon. Other activities throughout the day include: arts/crafts, drama, games, movement and sport activities.

You can register:

By phone with VISA, MasterCard, American Express, Check or Money order

In person on weekdays, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Via regular mail.

Contact:

Valarie Mares

Children's Chorus of Maryland

100 E. Pennsylvania Ave., Suite 202

Towson, MD 21286

410-494-1480

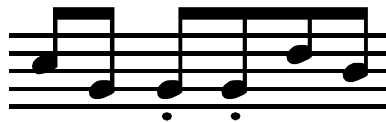
vmares@ccmsings.org

Please make checks payable to:

Children's Chorus of Maryland

New Director of Special Projects

Valarie Mares joins Children's Chorus of Maryland from Carroll Community College, where she served as Foundation Activities Specialist. Ms. Mares created, managed, produced, and directed all aspects of special events, and increased profits, status and attendance at the events she managed. Holding a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre Arts from University of California, Los Angeles and studies at American Conservatory Theatre, Valarie specializes in bringing ideas to life on time and under budget.



From the Artistic Director

Seriously, folks!

From time to time someone asks me why our children look so serious when they sing. It is interesting that those who are concerned by the "serious expressions" are often the same people who are equally amazed at the high levels of artistry achieved in our concerts.

I wonder, sometimes, what people are expecting when they watch children sing. Certainly they expect smiles, facial expressions that match what they are singing about, or some indication that they are enjoying the experience. Children who appear not to sparkle, look bored, stand stiffly, and don't smile when they sing may project the image that they are having no fun.


I believe that there is a myth in our society that unless children are laughing, acting giddy, jumping for joy, and screaming with excitement, they aren't enjoying themselves. Included in that myth is the belief that children like only frivolous, unsophisticated things, are chronically immature, don't like to work, and certainly can't be expected to sing well since, after all, they are *only children*.

While we've all observed some of these qualities in children (and in some adults), let me attempt to put that myth to rest. Real children are also capable of profound levels of emotional and intellectual feelings and thoughts. Many are quite intuitive and remarkably perceptive. The compassion they demonstrate often exceeds that of some adults. A child's aesthetic sensitivity and deep response to music may not be completely understood because of their inability to express it as adults might. Nevertheless, those feelings are often present. Children are as complex as any adult and as wide ranging as adults in their responses to their experiences, especially musical ones.

Children often demonstrate hard work, especially when it is related to things of interest to them and about which they feel successful. Children love to learn and become skilled. And they rise to the standards set for them.

Having addressed the myth of superficiality in children, let me next express my reaction to what seems to be a criticism about children looking "serious" when they sing and then address possible causes.

The American Kodály Institute



of the Children's Chorus of Maryland

Kodály Certification Program

July 13 - July 26, 2002: Level I (of three)
July 7 – July 26, 2002: Level II

Loyola College in Maryland (Baltimore, MD)

A.K.I. Faculty:


Amy Branum Huggins, Director **Betty Bertaux, Assistant Director**
Laurdella Foulkes-Levy **Robbin Schaffer**

Private instruction in Voice and Conducting may be arranged. Graduate, Inservice and Certification Credit are available.

The A.K.I. curriculum follows O.A.K.E. guidelines for Kodály certification programs.

For More Information:

The American Kodály Institute
100 East Pennsylvania Ave., Suite 202
Towson, MD 21286
Phone: (410) 494-1480 * Fax: (410) 494-4673
E-mail: amybhuggins@hotmail.com
Website: www.ccmsings.org



Betty Bertaux, Artistic Director

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UPCOMING CCM EVENTS

Open House - April 13, 2002

The Children's Chorus of Maryland invites you to attend our annual Open House on Saturday, April 13, 2002 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, at the Waldorf School of Baltimore, 4801 Tamarind Road. Families, teachers, musicians are invited to come meet us and enjoy a day of music! We look forward to seeing you there. Refreshments will be served.

Directions to the Waldorf School: From the Jones Falls Expressway (Rt. 83), take the Cold spring Lane exit going west. At the first traffic light, turn right onto Tamarind Road and proceed to the top of the hill. The Waldorf School is the new building on your right.

Peking Acrobats - March 30, 2002 Fundraiser to Benefit Children's Chorus of Maryland

The amazing acrobatic troupe returns to Baltimore, back by popular demand! The Acrobats are comprised of the finest acrobatic troupes in China today and have received acclaim from countries around the world. CCM is offering tickets to this exciting event at the Joseph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall, Saturday, March 30, 2002, 3:00 p.m. Tickets are \$40 for Terrace seats and \$60 for Orchestra and Grand Tier seats. Please make your check out to Children's Chorus of Maryland and mail to: CCM, 100 E. Pennsylvania Ave., Suite 202, Towson, MD 21286. We also accept VISA, MasterCard and American Express.



First Annual Maryland Children's Choral Festival

The Children's Chorus of Maryland invites children's choruses to sing in its First Annual Maryland Children's Choral Festival. The festival will be held Saturday, April 6, 2002 at Kraushaar auditorium on the campus of Goucher College in Towson, Maryland. The festival, hosted by the Children's Chorus of Maryland under the direction of Dr. Betty Bertaux, will feature a full day of non-competitive performances by children's choruses from throughout the state. Any size treble chorus of singers ages 6 to 16 may participate at the festival.

Choral Festival Participants:

All Children's Chorus of Annapolis

Liz Barrett, Director

Cannon Road Elementary School

Nora Jones, Director

Charles Carroll Elementary School

Shelby MacFarlane, Director

Children's Chorus of Maryland

Lyric Choir

Betty Bertaux, Artistic Director

Greater Uniontown Chorale and Children's Chorus

Marsha Brady, Director

Hollifield Station Elementary

Edie Yeager, Director

Indian Creek School

Jill Woodward, Director

Norwood School

Tanya Coyne, Director

St. Paul's Lower School Choral Ensemble

Robbin Schaffer, Director

The Park School Soundwaves

Bruce Bryant, Director

Auction and Dinner - May 11, 2002 Fundraiser to Benefit Children's Chorus of Maryland

Join us for our yearly fundraiser on Saturday, May 11, 2002, from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at the beautiful Mt. Washington Conference Center. Reception and Auction Preview begins at 6:00 p.m. Dinner is served at 6:30 p.m. Silent and Live Auctions, 50/50 raffle and drawings begins at 7:30 p.m. Cash bar and live entertainment. Adults only. Tickets are \$30 each. Please make your check out to Children's Chorus of Maryland and mail to: CCM, 100 E. Pennsylvania Ave., Suite 202, Towson, MD 21286. We also accept VISA, MasterCard and American Express.

We are now accepting donations and auction items for this fundraising event. Please call CCM for more information.

Upcoming Concerts

Kent Island Tour Concert March 3, 2002, 3:00 p.m.

Christ Episcopal Church, 830 Roman Coke Rd., Stevensville, Maryland. The Concert and Lyric Choirs will perform. This concert is open to the public and admission is by free will offering.

York Tour Concert April 14, 2002, 3:00 p.m.

Heidelberg United Methodist Church, 47 W. Philadelphia St., York, Pennsylvania. The Concert and Lyric Choirs will perform on this concert series. The concert is open to the public and admission is free.

Spring Concert May 5, 2002, 3:30 p.m.

2nd Presbyterian Church, 4200 St. Paul St., Baltimore. All choruses will perform. This concert is open to the public and general seating admission is free.

Basket Bingo - April 5, 2002 to benefit Children's Chorus of Maryland

Come and have fun at CCM's Basket Bingo, featuring Longaberger baskets!! Specials, additional packets, door prizes and lots of baskets! 20 Games of Bingo played. First 100 tickets sold will play for a past feature basket. Tickets are \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and bingo begins at 7:00 p.m. Food and drinks available for purchase. Bingo will be held at Tall Cedars of Lebanon, 2501 Putty Hill Ave., Parkville, Friday, April 5, 2002. For more information call CCM at 410-494-1480.

CCM Talent Show April 20, 2002

Come one, come all to our first annual Talent Show, April 20, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. Open to choristers, alumni, staff, parents, family and CCM friends. Suggested acts: impersonations, dancing, singing, monologues, skits, acting, playing an instrument, reading a poem, stand-up comedy, performing a magic act, etc. Awards will be given. Refreshments served. Send a description of your act to the CCM office by April 12.

Choristers in Productions

Molly Mitzner had a leading role as one of the Darling children in *Peter Pan* at Riderwood Elementary School, February 14.

Look for **Rebecca Lachance** in the *Wizard of Oz* on March 16 at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in Essex. She will be performing as Dorothy.

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What many of us see during performances are choristers' faces that radiate with intelligence and concentration. This is not a foreign look to me, nor is it serious in the sense of looking unhappy. After having observed and listened to countless children's choirs all over the United States, Canada and Australia, I've noticed that children who perform in choirs of good quality, under directors who take both children and music seriously, have similar "serious" looks. Singing matters deeply to them, and they are doing something about which they feel strongly. They are participating in something - beyond fun - that touches their affective sensibilities in ways that other things don't...and can't. It is not a superficial experience. Such singers glow with pride, pleasure and satisfaction!

Many of our choristers are not only musically gifted but they also have exquisitely deep feelings. While some enjoy "showing off" and being in the limelight, there are others for whom the performance is an inward, personal experience. Many young choristers speak of their "soaring emotions," of being "blind to everything except the music," or of "feeling carried away" by the musical experience.

I've noticed children who appear bored in performances. But I've learned not to be surprised when I hear them excitedly ask after the concert "How did I do? Did you like it? Did we sing well? May we go out for ice cream?!" In short, the look on children's faces doesn't always appear to reveal what is actually going on inside.

That often-subtle glow of young choristers is legitimately earned. They work hard for their musical accomplishments. During the rehearsal process they may feel the entire range of emotions from confusion, discouragement and fatigue to curiosity, comprehension and delight. Before long I see looks that say "YESSSSS! I got it!" and "We sound really good!"

These allegedly "serious expressions" may have other causes such as concentration, being personally unaware, being self-conscious, and being nervous.

I'm among the countless directors who encourage children to "Smile when you sing!" Some of them actually manage to smile, but then "concentration mode" takes over. It is difficult for anyone other than professional performers and actors, and especially for children, to concentrate on smiling and looking happy for the audience when they have so much work to do. Even on lighthearted, novelty songs, young performers are still attending to details they have learned in rehearsal. They must watch the director, remember the words and music, sing with good breath support, intonation, resonance, well formed vowels, clearly articulated consonants and good tempo

control. They must recall entrances, releases, phrasing, dynamics, and interpretation. And they are doing all of this while trying to keep from being distracted by stage lights or audience. Adding the smiling face or trying not to appear to be standing stiffly while singing is just one more challenge to be managed on top of all the other things they are juggling.

Secondly, children, especially younger ones, are often personally unaware that they "look serious" or that they are supposed to be "entertaining others" during a performance. To them they are simply enjoying themselves and "strutting their musical stuff" in the hope that their parents are proud of them.

Self-consciousness could be another cause of serious (or silly) expressions. Singing can make a person of any age feel extremely vulnerable. To add something as seemingly simple as a facial expression or movement while singing makes some singers feel exposed and ill at ease. In such cases, the sought after smile feels entirely too artificial.

Finally, a serious case of nerves may also cause a young chorister to look serious, even grave. Appearing before an audience can be quite unsettling for young and old alike. It's not so easy to sing and "look happy" in front of so many people while suffering from knots in the stomach, cold hands and shaking legs!

The uninitiated observer who is still unconvinced might conclude that serious children look that way because they don't like the music. Children's musical tastes should not be underestimated. It is often the least likely selection on the program that one would think the children might like. Young singers frequently become "turned on" by the most serious, difficult, or "artsy" selection on the program. I've seen children transformed by singing a song with a beautiful melody, sophisticated harmonies or challenging rhythm. Many have expressed appreciation for learning music that is not meant for the masses, music that elevates them and resonates with the deeper, noble aspects of their souls (*i.e.* "That Palestrina guy was

really *cool*!" or "*Nollaig* was fun! I'm glad we're going to sing it again!" or "Let's sing the '*Kyrie*!'").

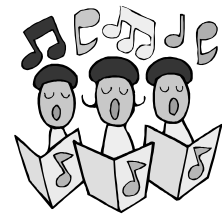
While an expressive face often results from a spontaneous emotion, it must be frequently developed as a learned skill. On television and in theaters we see gifted child actors for whom expression is easy and natural. For the average child, however, and for some adults, it takes conscious effort and practice to use the face to express the feelings that one has or might want to express. Learning to be expressive is a process of becoming self aware, like acting, until it feels natural. Even frolicsome members of show choirs must learn to "keep the smile on" while they are singing and dancing around the stage.

All of this is not to say, however, that young singers should not be encouraged to "look alive" when they perform. Developing appropriate facial expressions is a worthy goal to be pursued as part of the lessons on performance etiquette. After all, expressive faces and body language help communicate something about the music to the satisfaction of those who are listening and watching. It is important to learn to connect with an audience.

CCM choristers put their hearts, souls and minds into learning, making music and performing well. They take music seriously, and we take them seriously. If you believe they look too serious when they sing, look deeper. Any number of things could be going on within them. Or you could be seeing the faces of young people with musical comprehension and feelings of which you never suspected they were capable.



Betty Bertaux



CCM Wish List

Be an *ANGEL* and help us out with a tax-deductible contribution. We are in need of the following:

Yamaha (P-80) portable piano keyboard
1/4" cable
Piano bench
Office desk chair
3 computer monitors (14" or larger)
2 PS/2 computer keyboards
4-drawer file cabinet

Amplifier (100 watt)
Piano stand (double braced)
Office Desk (L-shaped)
Tectronics printer
4 Computer Mouse(s)
100 ft. network cable (CAT 5)



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AMERICAN KODÁLY INSTITUTE

YOUNG VOICES SUMMER CHOIR CAMP

CCM AUCTION AND DINNER FUNDRAISER

Annual Fund Campaign

We are in our 26th Annual Fund Season. This is your chance to lend your financial aid to the chorus. Your tax-exempt donations will help the chorus carry on its mission. If you have not yet received an Annual Fund letter and wish to donate, please contact the CCM office at **410-494-1480** or by email at **ccm@ccmsings.org**. All gifts are deeply appreciated.