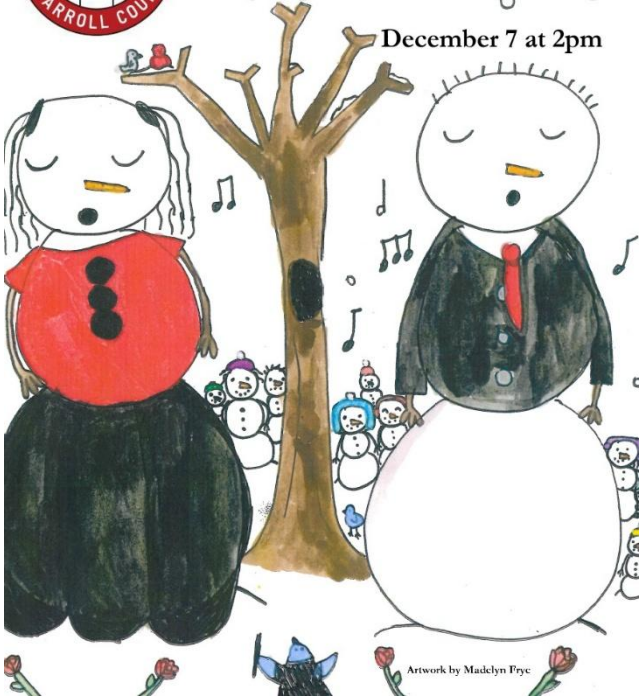




Children's Chorus of Carroll County
Winter Celebration
St. Joseph's Church in Eldersburg

December 7 at 2pm



Winter Celebration December 7, 2025

Please turn off your flash and ringers.

Children's Chorus of Carroll County **O Come All Ye Faithful...Arr. by David Willcocks**

Les Petites Voix

Virginia Morgan Arey, Director
Joann Benson, Accompanist
Chloe Fox, Student Intern

The Cuckoo Carol.....Arr. by Edmund Walters

This is a charming arrangement of a traditional Czech Christmas carol. Listen for the recurring musical motif in the piano and voices that mimic a cuckoo bird call.

Manx Lullaby.....Arr. by Doreen Rao

Flute: Meghan Brown, Alum '24

Manx Lullaby (Arrane ny Clean) is a gentle lullaby in traditional Gaelic style. The Isle of Man is a small island nation off the coast of Great Britain that has a rich Celtic culture. Many Manx folk songs make reference to birds - important symbols of folklore. Manx Gaelic, as spoken on the Isle of Man, is similar to the Gaelic spoken in Ireland and Scotland. "Horo hi ri ri" is a cooing sound meant to soothe a restless child, while "Cadul gu lo" means "sleep on."

Jazzy Old St. Nick.....Arr. by Ruth Artman

This is a fun, syncopated twist on a Christmas classic! "Jazzy Old St. Nick" transforms the traditional, gentle carol "Jolly Old Saint Nicholas" into an energetic jazz-style number complete with scat singing and of course--jazz hands!

Il Coro Della Bella Voce

Rachel Morgan, Director

Joann Benson, Accompanist

Korin Ray, Student Intern

The Sleigh (À La Russe).....

.....Arr. by Walingford Riegger

Composed 100 years ago in 1926, "The Sleigh" is American composer Richard Kountz's most well-known work. It is a fast, crisp tune about a joyful sleigh ride on a winter night. The designation "à la Russe" means "in the Russian style," which at the time of this composition connoted that the piece was characterized by lively, driving rhythm.

Dance in the Snow.....by Rachel Morgan

From the composer: "I wrote the 4-part a cappella version of this song for Il Coro Della Bella Voce in celebration of CCCC's 40th Anniversary Season. Today, we present the premiere performance of this new piece. The song exposes the singers to a new tonality: Mixolydian mode. (A mixolydian scale sounds similar to a major scale except the 7th scale degree is a half step lower than in a major scale.) In addition to the mode, this piece is challenging because it is the ensemble's first time singing in four parts and first time performing a song unaccompanied."

Under Winter Moon.....by Andy Beck

Cello: Georgia Andrews, Chorus Parent

Contrasting the liveliness of "The Sleigh," this piece reflects on the stillness of a winter night. With legato lines, lovely harmonies, and poetic text, this song invites the listener to imagine the beauty of snow "dancing in the moonbeams." Andy Beck is a prolific American composer, who is very active in the modern choral world. We are pleased to be joined on cello in this performance by the parent of one of our choristers.

I Feel Like Fa La La La.....by Teresa Jennings

Sleigh Bells: Korin Ray

This feel-good, up-tempo song is by Teresa Jennings, a current American composer and publisher of the popular Music K-8 magazine used by many elementary and middle school music teachers across the country. This piece offers numerous challenges to our young singers. It is their first experience this year singing in three-part harmony. They also perform contrasting rhythm patterns while part singing.

~A 10 Minute Intermission~



Artwork by BC2: Alexis Horichs

Cantare Bel Canto I

Jenna Lebherz Daly, Director and Artistic Director
Diane Jones, Accompanist and Artistic Director Emeritus
Jaden Soriano, Intern and Alum '21

Bring a Torch, Jeannette, Isabella..... **.....Arr. by Donna Gartman Schultz**

Conducted by Jaden Soriano

A charming French carol from the 17th-century that invites listeners into the quiet wonder of the Nativity. The lyrics depict two young girls, Jeannette and Isabella, rushing to share the news of Christ's birth and urging others to approach the manger with reverence and silence. Originally from the Provence region, this song was traditionally sung by villagers as they made their way to midnight Mass, often carrying torches to light the way.

With its gentle melody and vivid imagery, the carol captures both the excitement and peacefulness of the holy night, making it a beloved piece in Christmas traditions around the world.

Pat-A-Pan.....by Clare Grundman

Continuing the theme of the good news in the stable, "Pat-a-pan" mimics the sound of a drum from Willie and the flute from Robbie. Clare Grundman's arrangement brings this traditional tune to life with vibrant orchestration and playful energy, capturing both the rustic charm and festive spirit of the original. The choir has been working on trying create two different sounds with their voices as they sing the percussive "Pat-a-pan" and the flute's legato "Ture-lure-lu".

Walking in the Air.....by John Leavitt

Student String Quartet of the Opus Community Music School: Violins: Eleanor Seelos & Hannah Caswell, Viola: Bagus Wiswakarma, and Cello: Ryan D'Amato

"The Snowman" is a hauntingly beautiful centerpiece of a beloved animated film based on Raymond Briggs' 1978 children's book. In the story, a young boy and his magical snowman take flight on a nighttime journey to the North Pole. Composer Howard Blake wrote the original music for the film, and this song captures the wonder and serenity of their adventure. John Leavitt's choral arrangement brings new life to the piece, weaving lush that remind us of the quiet magic of winter and the innocence of childhood. With its soaring melody and gentle accompaniment, this piece is a favorite for holiday concerts and a touching reminder of the season's enchantment.

Cantare Bel Canto

Rachel Morgan, Director

Diane Jones, Accompanist and Artistic Director Emeritus
The 12 Days After Christmas.....

..... by Frederick Silver

*"The first day of Christmas my true love gave to me..." ring the words of the famous song "12 Days of Christmas." But, have you ever wondered what happened after the singer received those many Christmas gifts **plus** a breakup? Frederick Silver's hilarious song contemplates just that!*

Cantare Bel Canto II

Rachel Morgan, Director

Diane Jones, Accompanist and Artistic Director Emeritus

Hodie.....by Joan Szymko

Latin Translation:

Today is Christ born;
today the Savior has appeared;
today the Angels sing,
the Archangels rejoice;
today the righteous rejoice, saying:
Glory to God in the highest. Alleluia!

"Hodie Christus Natus Est" is a plainchant antiphon that has existed for more than 1,000 years. This ancient Christmas chant has inspired many composers over the centuries.

Acclaimed American composer Joan Szymko created the arrangement you hear today. This piece offers many wonderful challenges to the singer and interest to the listener's ear, including mixing simple and compound meters and switching between major, minor, and mixolydian scales and harmonies.

Carol of the Bells.....Arr. by Kirby Shaw

The opening four-note pattern upon which this tune was built was derived from a Ukrainian folk song that was a well-wishing song sung around New Year's. Ukrainian composer Mykola Lontovich used that melodic motif to compose a new piece — titled "Shchedryk" — in 1916, and his original text tells of a swallow foretelling a bountiful year for a family. In 1919, the Ukrainian National Chorus included this song in its concert repertoire while touring throughout Europe and the Americas, and the song began to grow in popularity. American choral director Peter Wilbousky heard Lontovich's piece and felt that the tune reminded him of ringing bells. In 1936, Wilbousky wrote and published new bell-themed English lyrics for the song, and it is this version that attached this melody to Christmastime in the English-speaking world. One of America's most influential choral composers, especially for jazz and show choir music, is Kirby Shaw. Today, we present Shaw's jazz arrangement of this piece with Shaw's own bell-themed lyrics.

The First Noel.....Arr. by Dan Forrest

Thought to have originated in Cornwall, England, this is one of the most beloved English-language carols. A music distributor described Dan Forrest's arrangement of this piece with these words: "a wonder-filled reflective gaze inside the stable in Bethlehem... Sweeping crescendos and tasteful piano lines... Captivating."

Children's Chorus of Carroll County

Silent Night.....Arr. by Diane Jones

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



Artwork by BC1: Lainey Roche



Children's Chorus of Carroll County Members:

Les Petites Voix

Graham Blizzard	Grace Gladhill	Gracie Steiner
Charlotte Busch	Ana Quezada	Clara Stockwell
Teagan Finch	Ryleigh Werking	Amelia Truschel

Il Coro Della Bella Voce

Cam Andrews	Caelyn Foley	Allison Klapstein
Eva Blizzard	Madelyn Frye	Evie Leonard
Scarlett Blizzard	Avery Gray	Scarlet Lescarbeau
Kaylin Brookes	Griffin Hallock	Declan Mirzaev
Gwennie Cary	Liam Heher	Mia Morgenthaller
Lyric Corbett	Lucy Hensley	Abigail Nakashima
Lorelei Daly	Everly Hester	Taylor Prodoehl
Roxanna Daly	Graham Hester	Claire Triplett
Madilyn Espaillat	Brooke Hildebrandt	Sawyer Werking
Frazier		Alisa Yermolaieva

Cantare Bel Canto I

Jamie Baker	Sloane Heavin	Quinn Riese
Eleya Blizzard	Tate Holmboe	Lainey Roche
Calvin Bryant	Eloise Keenan	Leah Shutt
Molly Callahan	Leah Kemp	Gabriel Solomon
James Ciborowski	Gavin Knarr	Jaxon Soriano
Jocelyn Desper	Xavier Lougee	Sonia Yermolaieva
	Aiden Mitzel	

Cantare Bel Canto II

Layla Avalar-Diaz	Miranda Hart	Korin Ray
Darcy Callahan	Rosalie Hart	Jacqueline Rech Pavao
Jackson Failla	Alexis Horichs	Savannah Rogers
Noelle Finch	Annabelle Johnson	Estela Sperb
Chloe Fox	Kamsi Onyeukwu	Marisya Ziemski

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 2025-2026 Chorus Season:

Chloe Fox, BC2 Member
Korin Ray, BC2 Member
Jaden Soriano, Chorus Alum '21

Biographies:



Virginia Morgan Arey

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, *Director of Cantare Bel Canto I*, joined Children's Chorus of Carroll County in 2012 and became the Artistic Director in 2016. 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. Mrs. Daly has taken the Chorus to Festivals in New Orleans, Williamsburg, VA, and Charleston, WV. She thoroughly loves working with children and keeping music alive through their voices.

Rachel Morgan

Rachel Morgan 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 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 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 holds a Master of Music from the Peabody Conservatory, a Kodály Certificate from the American Kodály



Institute, and a Bachelor of Music Education from the Wheaton College Conservatory. She also completed 40 additional graduate credits centered on world folk arts at McDaniel College.



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.

A Note from the Artistic Director:

Happy 40th Birthday, Children's Chorus of Carroll County! It is hard to believe that our Founder, Diane Jones, started this Chorus 40 years ago. Today, we gather to continue her vision with the beauty of music, and to celebrate the resilience and dedication of our chorus community. While we continue to face challenges in growing our enrollment, our commitment to providing exceptional musical experiences remains unwavering.

This year, we are proud to share a significant achievement: the successful award of two grants that help bridge the gap where tuition alone cannot fully sustain our program.

These funds ensure that we can continue to support our talented staff and cover essential expenses such as rehearsal space and performance venues. We are deeply grateful to the organizations that believe in our mission and to each of you—our families, friends, and supporters—for standing beside us.

As you listen today, know that every note sung is a testament to perseverance, passion, and the power of a musical community. Thank you for being a part of this journey and for helping us keep the music alive within the children's hearts.

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, Parent of Alum

Carolyn DeMay, General Manager

Chas Fox, Parent of Current Member

Kathy Drzewianowski, Grandparent of Current Member

\$10 Video Link:

For only \$10.00, you can have a link to the edited recording of our Children's Chorus of Carroll County December 7, 2025 Concert. Fill out [this form](#) and pay by check or the \$10 QR Code below.

December Auditions:

Tuesday, Dec 9, 2025 we will hold mid-year auditions!

Use this hyperlink:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040B4DA4A722A2FC1-58478760-december#/>

Donations!

Please consider donating to the Children's Chorus of Carroll County. 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 consider our Non-Profit. Any small amount helps our organization to create the beautiful sound that you hear today, help our music educators to grow, and send us on adventures!

QR Codes for Digital Donations:

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Donation

\$25



Donation

\$50



Donation

\$100



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