

**UNIVERSITY OF HARTFORD**

**THE HARTT SCHOOL COMMUNITY DIVISION**



**Connecticut Children's  
Chorus Handbook**

**2018-2019**

# Personnel

**Meredith Neumann, Director**

**Dr. Vanessa L. Bond, Education Director**

## Overture

Grades 1-3 | Lauren Torres, Conductor  
Tuesdays from 5:30-6:30pm at UHMS

## Prelude

Grades 3-5 | Dr. Vanessa L. Bond, Conductor  
Tuesdays from 5:30-6:45pm at UHMS

## Canticum

Grades 5-7 | Karla McClain, Conductor  
Tuesdays from 5:30-7:00pm at UHMS

## Concert Choir

Grades 7-9 | Meredith Neumann, Conductor  
Tuesdays from 5:30-7:00pm at UHMS

## Men's Choir

Grades 7-12, changed voices | Gabriel Löfvall, Conductor  
Tuesdays from 7:00-8:30pm at UHMS

## Women's Choir

Grades 9-12 | Meredith Neumann, Conductor  
Tuesdays from 7:00-8:30pm at UHMS

## Primi Voci

Grades 10-12 | Mark Singleton, Conductor  
Tuesdays from 5:30 -7:30pm at Hartt

CCC Director: Meredith Neumann  
[mneumann@hartford.edu](mailto:mneumann@hartford.edu)

Hartt Community Division  
Phone: (860) 768-4451  
Email: [harttcomm@hartford.edu](mailto:harttcomm@hartford.edu)  
Website: [www.hcd.hartford.edu](http://www.hcd.hartford.edu)

# Hartt Community Division Mission Statement

Our Mission is to enrich lives through innovative and unparalleled performing arts education.

## Program Description

The Connecticut Children's Chorus provides enriching, pre-professional experiences for young musicians in a supportive, community-centered environment where students' enthusiasm and love for music can be nurtured. Guided by dedicated, accomplished directors, choir members have the opportunity to:

- Develop comprehensive musicianship skills including reading music notation, healthy vocal production, ear training, movement, and musical interpretation.
- Engage in music-making through a rich repertoire of choral music from different time periods and different cultures.
- Perform with professional musical organizations such as the Hartford Symphony, the Hartford Chorale, the New Haven Chorale, the Hartt Symphony, other outstanding children's choirs from around the country, and professional touring artists.
- Develop self-esteem and a sense of musical accomplishment.
- Interact with other passionate and musically skilled peers from different towns in the Hartford area.
- Travel to choral festivals and conferences in the U.S. and abroad.
- Work with professional composers and guest conductors.

## Membership

Connecticut Children's Chorus (CCC) is comprised of 7 choirs, divided into our Junior and Senior Division and sequenced by age and ability.

### Junior Division

The Junior Division is comprised of 3 choirs: Overture (grades 1-3), Prelude (grades 3-5), and Canticum (grades 5-7). These ensembles focus on foundational choral and musical training. Progression from one choir to the next is determined by conductor discretion.

### Senior Division

The Senior Division is comprised of 4 choirs: Concert Choir (grades 7-9, unchanged voices), Men's Choir (grades 7-12, changed voices), Women's Choir (grades 9-12), and Primi Voci (grades 10-12, advanced music literacy required). These ensembles perform challenging literature and maintain active performance schedules. Progression from one choir to the next is determined by audition. Auditions primarily take place in June as part of The Hartt School Community Division Audition Festival.

## Advancement and Auditions

For *NEW* CCC students:

### Grades 1–4

Students will be placed in an ensemble based on grade and experience.

### Grades 5–12

Students will be placed in an ensemble based on audition.

- Perform a song of choice, acapella, demonstrating current skill level and range (or "My Country 'Tis of Thee").
- Sing a major scale on solfege or a neutral syllable ("la").
- Demonstrate aural skills by repeating a series of musical patterns provided at the audition.

For *CURRENT* CCC students:

Current CCC students do not have to audition if they wish to remain in their current choir. Students in grades 1-6 will be moved up to the next choir based on conductor's discretion. Students in grades 7–12 who wish to move up to the next choir should reserve an audition time at our annual [Audition Festival](#) in June and prepare the appropriate audition material (listed above).

For more information, contact the Hartt Community Division office at (860) 768-4451 or [harttcomm@hartford.edu](mailto:harttcomm@hartford.edu).

## Tuition and Fees

Tuition for the Connecticut Children's Chorus is as follows:

ENSEMBLE	HCD Private Lesson Student and U of H Magnet School Rate	All Other Students
Overture	\$175/year	\$300/year + reg fee
Prelude	\$175/year	\$375/year + reg fee
Canticum	\$175/year	\$450/year + reg fee
Concert Choir	\$190/year (includes uniform)	\$615/year + reg fee (includes uniform)
Men's Choir	\$175/year	\$600/year + reg fee
Women's Choir	\$175/year	\$600/year + reg fee
Primi Voci	\$175/year	\$600/year + reg fee

**Students will be charged for any music or materials that are lost or damaged. Uniforms must be purchased at an additional cost.**

### Registration

Students who are accepted into Connecticut Children's Chorus **must register online or through the HCD office with appropriate deposit paid before the first rehearsal.** Completing registration and accepting a position in CCC by attendance constitutes agreement with all policies stated in this handbook and the HCD policies packet. We recommend that you carefully review this document and the attendance policies in particular.

Students and parents/guardians should review the calendar and handbook. Being a member of CCC is a serious commitment. Participants who do not fulfill his/her commitment to the organization may jeopardize current and future membership in the organization.

## Attendance Policy

Attendance and active full participation at rehearsals and classes is crucial to the success of any organization. Students are allotted 3 absences per semester. In the case of illness or a known conflict, members are expected to email their ensemble manager. *All absences (either planned or unplanned) count towards the student's absence count for the semester.* **Excessive absence (more than three times per semester) is not acceptable and may result in dismissal without refund for tuition and fees.**

## Student Expectations

### At Rehearsals

Students are expected to

- be in place, ready to begin with music and materials at the designated time
- be attentive to all directions and follow them quickly
- be responsible for knowing assigned music

- have a sharpened pencil available at all times
- handle business matters with the director or manager prior to rehearsal
- maintain neat and organized folders
- have the enclosed CCC calendar where it is easily accessible

### **At Performances**

Students are expected to

- be in place, ready to sing, at the designated time
- wear the designated uniform for their performing group (altered uniforms are not permitted)
- refrain from wearing perfume or cologne
- not use electronics devices (**including cell phones**)

### **Music Folder Policy**

Each singer will be issued a black folder with music (with the exception of Overture participants). Students are expected to maintain their folder, keeping it organized, clean and “performance ready”. The folder and all music is the property of The Hartt School Community Division, and is being loaned to each singer.

Students/Families will be responsible for the replacement cost of all lost or damaged music and materials, and can expect to be billed \$25.00 for each replacement folder and its contents.

### **Behavior Policy**

Although behavior is rarely an issue, we still must outline our Behavior Policy. When behavioral problems do arise, we have a protocol in place that is fair to the student, family, and CCC. Below is the four-step process for mitigating behavioral issues:

1. Parent manager will contact the student’s family and discuss a plan for success.
2. Conductor will contact the student’s family to develop appropriate strategies for helping the student learn how to self-monitor behavior.
3. Student, parent and conductor meet with the Division Director to review behavior and expectations.
4. If behavioral problems persist, student is dismissed from the group and no tuition is refunded.

Managers will keep track of where students are in the behavioral process. Each offense (whether it is the same or different) will move the student to the next level of behavioral intervention.

## **Withdrawal Policy**

**Please note: Absence does not constitute a withdrawal from any program. Completed registration constitutes agreement to pay tuition in full, regardless of how much has actually been paid at the time of withdrawal.**

All students register for an entire academic year (through June) and tuition and fees are assessed for the full academic year. Tuition may be prorated for students who become members after the start of the academic year. Absence and/or verbal notice is not sufficient for withdrawal notification. **All requests for withdrawal must be made in writing to the Registrar.** Withdrawal at any time is subject to the following program-specific penalties:

**Withdrawal prior to the first rehearsal:**

- **No penalty**

**Withdrawal received prior to 4<sup>th</sup> rehearsal:**

- **Prorated tuition based on the number of rehearsals attended**

**Withdrawal on or after 4<sup>th</sup> rehearsal:**

- **Full year tuition penalty**

**\*\*Note: there are no mid-year withdrawals for Ensembles, Choirs and Group classes. Students will be responsible for the full tuition if they withdraw on or after their fourth rehearsal, plus any applicable fees associated with their account.**

Please see our Academic Year 2018-2019 HCD Policies packet for more information regarding billing, medical withdrawals, and delinquent accounts.

## **Concert Attire**

Uniformity, cohesion, and sense-of-ensemble are large parts our performing organization. Therefore, it is important that we maintain a professional attitude toward our performance responsibilities which include our concert attire.

### **Overture, Prelude and Canticum Choir**

Black dress pants, white uniform polo with black socks and black closed-toe dress shoes. No skirts, jeans, leggings, or sneakers.

Small stud earrings are the only jewelry allowed.

### **Concert Choir**

Black dress pants, **Concert Choir T-Shirt** (\$15 charge included in tuition), black socks, and black closed-toe shoes. No skirts, no sneakers.

Small stud earrings are the only jewelry allowed.

### **Men's Choir**

Black dress pants, black **Laydown Collar Non-Pleated Dress Shirt** (Cousin's Uniforms, Style #M03), black belt, black socks, and black dress shoes. No jeans or sneakers.

Small stud earrings are the only jewelry allowed.

### **Women's Choir and Primi Voci**

Black dress pants, black **Priscilla Cowl Neck Blouse** (Cousin's Uniforms, Style #2433), black closed-toe dress shoes (flats ideal). No jeans, skirts, leggings, or sneakers.

Small stud earrings are the only jewelry allowed.

Please note that religious uniform accommodations will be made when necessary.

### **Cousin's Concert Attire**

[www.concertattire.com](http://www.concertattire.com)

800.881.5343 or 203.329.8603

Black Priscilla Cowl Neck Blouse, Style #2433 (Women's Choir and Primi Voci)

Black Laydown Collar Non-Pleated Dress Shirt, Style #M03 (Men's Choir)

## Concert Schedule

### **JUNIOR DIVISION:**

#### **LA BOHEME – Millard Auditorium, University of Hartford Campus**

*Volunteer Participants Only*

Friday, October 19<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, October 21<sup>st</sup>

#### **WINTER CONCERT – Saint Thomas the Apostle, West Hartford**

*All Choirs*

Sunday, January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2:00pm

#### **JUNIOR SPRING CONCERT – Lincoln Theater, University of Hartford Campus**

*Junior Division (Overture, Prelude, Canticum)*

Saturday, June 1<sup>st</sup>

### **SENIOR DIVISION:**

#### **LA BOHEME – Millard Auditorium, University of Hartford Campus**

*Volunteer Participants Only*

Friday, October 19<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, October 21<sup>st</sup>

#### **WIDOR ORGAN CONCERT – Location TBD**

*Men's Choir Only*

Saturday, October 27<sup>th</sup>, 4:00pm, and Saturday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 7:00pm

#### **THE NUTCRACKER – Millard Auditorium, University of Hartford Campus**

*Women's Choir Only*

Friday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, Saturday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, and Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup>

#### **MLK CEREMONY – Lincoln Theater, University of Hartford Campus**

*Senior Division (Concert, Men's, Women's, Primi)*

Date TBA, 9:00am-12:00pm

#### **WINTER CONCERT – Saint Thomas the Apostle, West Hartford**

*All Choirs*

Sunday, January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2:00pm

#### **HARRY POTTER WITH THE HARTFORD SYMPHONY – Belding Theater, Bushnell**

*Senior Division (Concert, Men's, Women's, Primi)*

Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup>

#### **HARTTWORKS – Millard Auditorium, University of Hartford Campus**

*Primi Voci Only*

Friday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 7:30pm, and Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 7:30pm

#### **SENIOR SPRING CONCERT – Immanuel Congregational, Hartford**

*Senior Division (Concert, Men's, Women's, Primi)*

Sunday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>