



Milwaukee Children's Choir Commitment to Area Educators and Students:

Our best singers – whether they are first graders or graduating seniors – tell us they have fun in MCC and love being there because they enjoy learning music and the thrill of performing it well. After many discussions, we agreed upon these commitments to Milwaukee teachers and students:

- **To engage choir members in challenging but age-appropriate learning.** This may be silly singing games with first graders, arrangements of folk songs with third graders, or challenging repertoire from the masters with eighth and ninth graders. At all levels the work we do is challenging but age-appropriate.
- **To be a part of comprehensive and sequential learning environment spanning all school age youth.** At all levels MCC staff share a common teaching philosophy. Sequential learning provides building blocks, and from the youngest singers (4 year olds starting this fall) to graduating high school seniors, the philosophy remains the same. We begin with K4 Songbirds doing fun music activities, and end with high school seniors participating in an "honors" choir experience, with special master classes, and choirs filled with talented and like-minded singers.
- **To provide our singers with performance experiences they can get nowhere else.** All of our singers in grades 1-12 perform. Our young Prelude singers will enjoy the excitement of performing with a hundred other children for family and friends. They also get to perform "with the big kids" throughout the year. Our Cantabile singers perform on stage with the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra (MSO) once a year at an education concert. Our Jubilate and other treble singers perform in the pit with the Milwaukee Ballet at *The Nutcracker*. Jubilate will also perform with the MSO at its holiday concert and will share the stage with the Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra. Some of our singers will be also be on stage with the MSO at a spring 2011 Kinderkonzert. MCC's Youth Chorale performance experiences are the best we have ever been able to offer. For the very first time our singers have been asked to sing with the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra and its Chorus! We will also share the stage again with the Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra and guest choirs. And we begin planning for a tour the summer of 2012. Our singers regularly tell us that the performance experiences they enjoy through MCC membership are events they will never forget.
- **To help our singers become self-sufficient and confident musicians.** We want them to be able to leave MCC ready to sing their whole lives, whether they plan to sing in a college choir, or pursue a professional singing career, or become a music teacher, or want to join a church or community choir. We are dedicated to work on basic music fundamentals, including sight-reading, ear training, and music theory work. In addition, at almost every level we provide written feed back on student work.
- **To remain committed to the principle that school comes first.** Our students are expected to be leaders in their school music programs. They are required to be members of their school choirs (unless school scheduling prohibits it or they play in an orchestra or band instead.) If you ever hear of one of our choir members choosing MCC rehearsals/performances instead of yours, please let us know!
- **To never forget to work with the whole child or that choir is a team sport.** Our choir members often tell us how important it is for them to surround themselves with like-minded youth who want to excel as part of our choir. And you know that although they don't always articulate it, choir is teaching them life skills. We also know that choir is not a place to develop "stars;" instead each member brings unique qualities and it is ultimately the choir "team" that matters.