



NMC Children's Choir HANDBOOK 2015-2016

"Building a Sound Future"

Singing is the major means of musical experience in the NMC Children's Choir program. Singing is a powerfully personal means of musical expression. We hope this experience will form the foundation of a lifelong relationship with music for the singers and their families and provide the choir members with social, educational, and skill development opportunities.



NMC Children's Choir

HANDBOOK

2015-2016

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WELCOME

The Directors of the NMC Children's Choir and the Office of Extended Educational Services (EES) of Northwestern Michigan College extend a warm welcome to the members of the 2015-2016 choirs. We look forward to working with you and sharing our love of music with our singers and their families. We sincerely hope that you find your year in choir to be a rewarding, fulfilling experience.

MISSION STATEMENT

The NMC Children's Choir is a program of exemplary choral music performance that develops high levels of artistic, expressive singing for students in kindergarten through grade nine in the Greater Grand Traverse Area. The Children's Choir exists to artistically enrich the lives of the children, their families, and the community.

HISTORY

The NMC Children's Choir was established in 1981 by Mark and Barbara Puchala and has grown from one choir of forty students to six choirs serving over 200 students. The program operates under the auspices of Northwestern Michigan College – Extended Education Services. Over the years, the Puchalas were joined by David and Mary Parrish, and Stephanie Schall-Braze. In 2012 Jeffrey Cobb was named as Artistic Director of the NMC Children's Choirs. In 2013 we were happy to introduce Todd Vipond to our NMCCC staff as Director of Dolce.

GOALS

- Develop the skills and understanding appropriate for a lifetime of quality singing for students of all racial, cultural and religious backgrounds.
- Develop choral ensembles that attain the highest levels of excellence in public and recorded performances.
- Develop an appreciation and understanding of choral music representative of diverse styles, cultures, ethnic and religious backgrounds.
- Develop a sense of self-worth, self-esteem, confidence, and pride in all singers.

CURRICULUM

- The students in the NMCCC program study and perform a variety of age-appropriate, quality music ranging from simple folk songs to complex, challenging literature from a variety of historical eras.
- Basic and advanced singing and interpretive skills related to breath, posture, diction, tone production, artistry and musical expressiveness are introduced and developed in each choir.
- Music literacy skills involving reading and interpreting music are incorporated into the weekly rehearsal process.
- Appropriate rehearsal skills and performance etiquette are included as an integral part of the learning process in every choir.

ENSEMBLES

The NMC Children's Choir organization consists of six ensembles. Students are placed in an ensemble based on age and experience level. Our goal is for every child in the NMCCC program to be successful in their experience with us.

Cantus (*kahn'-toos* – Latin for "choir")

Cantus is NMCCC's largest and most advanced performing ensemble for young ladies and gentlemen. Singers rehearse Tuesday evenings as well as monthly Saturday afternoon rehearsals. Cantus performs in NMCCC's Holiday, Winter and Spring Concerts, at community events throughout the season and, as opportunities present, with guest artists and organizations such as the Traverse Symphony Orchestra. Cantus tours each spring, offering singers unique performance and cultural opportunities.

Jeffrey Cobb, Director

Ragazzo (*rah-gaht'-soh* – Italian for "youth")

Ragazzo is comprised of children who audition directly into the ensemble with more advanced musical abilities, along with singers who have been promoted from the Lyric Choir. Singers rehearse Tuesday evenings as well as monthly Saturday afternoon rehearsals. Ragazzo performs in NMCCC's Holiday, Winter and Spring Concerts, and, as opportunities present, at community events.

Jeffrey Cobb, Director

Lyric (*a musical term meaning "having a pleasing or melodious sound"*)

Lyric is comprised of children who audition directly into the ensemble, along with singers who have been promoted from Bel Canto. Singers rehearse Tuesday evenings as well as monthly Saturday afternoon rehearsals. Lyric performs in NMCCC's Holiday, Winter and Spring Concerts, and, as opportunities present, at community events.

Stephanie Schall-Brazee, Director

Bel Canto (*bell kahn'toh* – Italian for "beautiful singing")

Bel Canto includes children with some prior musical experience – who audition directly into the ensemble – and singers who have been promoted from the Dolce Choir. Singers rehearse Tuesday evenings as well as some Saturday morning rehearsals. Bel Canto performs in NMCCC's Holiday, Winter and Spring Concerts.

David and Mary Parrish, Co-Directors

Dolce (*dohl'-chay* – Italian for "sweet")

Dolce is NMCCC's introductory choir for younger children with little to no prior musical experience. Singers rehearse Tuesday evenings as well as a few Saturday afternoon rehearsals. Singers build their foundational music skills in a fun, interactive learning environment, learning recognizable folk-based repertoire appropriate for beginning singers. Dolce performs in their November "Informance" and in NMCCC's Winter and Spring Concerts.

Todd Vipond, Director

Prelude (*a musical term meaning "introductory music"*)

Prelude is NMCCC's introductory program for Kindergarten and 1st grade students. This non-auditioned group meets Tuesday nights for a shortened eight-week session. In Prelude, young singers have the opportunity to learn about their voices and learn basic singing techniques in a friendly, nurturing environment.

Stephanie Schall-Brazee, Director

TUITION AND FEES

Tuition and fees can be paid in one of two ways. Full payment can be made on or before September 15, or two equal payments can be made with half due by September 15 and the balance due by November 17. (A \$10.00 service fee will be assessed for the two- payment option.) Partial financial assistance is available through NMC-EES for families that qualify; contact the EES office at 995-1700 for an application. There are a limited number of spaces available in each choir; it is a good idea to enroll early.

Tuition and Material Fees: Cantus – \$319, and \$25 uniform rental fee (see Uniform section)
Ragazzo – \$299
Lyric – \$279
Bel Canto – \$259
Dolce – \$249
Prelude – \$89

NMC CHILDREN'S CHOIR STAFF

Jeffrey Cobb – Artistic Director, Director of Cantus and Ragazzo

Jeffrey Cobb holds a M.M. in Choral Conducting from Oakland University and a B.M. in Music Education from Western Michigan University. Jeffrey is currently the Director of Music Programs at Northwestern Michigan College and the Director of Music at T.C. Central United Methodist Church. Choirs under his direction have received invitations to perform at state and national conferences including the Michigan Music Conference, the Michigan Youth Arts Festival, the ACDA Michigan Conference, and the ACDA National Convention. In addition to his work as a conductor, Jeffrey is also a regularly commissioned composer. His award-winning choral works are published through G. Schirmer, Santa Barbara Music, Walton Music, Colla Voce, and Roger Dean Publishing. Jeffrey is also a sought after composer and arranger in other genres. His music can be heard on several television series, radio spots, and in television advertisements.

Stephanie Schall-Brazee – Director of Lyric and Prelude

Stephanie Schall-Brazee is an elementary general music teacher for the Traverse City Area Public Schools where she also directs the select women's choir, Bella Voce. As a choral director, Stephanie's choirs have consistently earned first degree ratings at festivals, and have been invited to sing at the Michigan Music Conference in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Stephanie's training includes a Bachelor of Music Education Degree from Central Michigan University, and a Master of Music Education degree from The Hartt School. In addition to her teaching, Stephanie has served as a clinician presenting sessions on "Singing Development in Young Children," "Music and Movement in Preschool" and "Conversational Solfege." She is also an endorsed Teacher Trainer for First Steps in Music, a methodology for music and music based on the work of Dr. John Feierabend. Stephanie was recently elected to serve as the 2015-17 Member at Large on the board of the Feierabend Association for Music Education. One of Stephanie's greatest joys is working with young singers and helping them to experience the thrill of beautiful, artistic singing!

David Parrish – Co-Director of Bel Canto

David Parrish has a Bachelor and Masters Degree in Music Education and a Master of Arts in Humanities from Central Michigan University. He has worked in the Traverse City Area Public Schools as the former Director of Choral Activities for junior and senior high school. K-12 Music Coordinator, and as Program coordinator and instructor of Humanities at Central High School. He has directed local church choirs, TCAPS All-City Elementary Choirs and the junior and senior high State Honors Choirs for the Michigan School Vocal Music Association. He is one of the Associate Directors of the Bel Canto Choir in the NMC Children's Choir program. He is a member of the American Choral Directors Association.

Mary Parrish – Co-Director and Accompanist of Bel Canto

Mary Parrish graduated from St. Joseph High School in St. Joseph, Michigan. She earned her music education degree from CMU and has lived in Traverse City since 1965, teaching general music in TCAPS until she retired in 2004. She and her husband David have two sons who live in the area. Mary has attended conferences and classes to learn more about the child's voice for the last 20 years and she is passionate about the beauty of sound that only children can produce. It is her privilege to be a part of the NMC Children's Choir family.

Todd Vipond – Director of Dolce

Todd Vipond is a certified K-12 music teacher with Traverse City Area Public Schools, where he has taught since 1996. He currently teaches elementary general music and is a former director of the TCAPS All-City Boys Choir. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary Education/Music from Western Michigan University and a Master of Music degree in Choral Conducting from The University of Tennessee. Todd is an American Choral Directors Association member, a Traverse City native and an avid boater.

Ann Hackett – Administrative Coordinator

Ann Hackett has no musical training whatsoever, but she does have an ability for organization and a love for children's music! Upon retirement from a 34 year teaching career in 2005, Ann was invited to assist the NMC Children's Choir with its myriad of details. She is well familiar with the program; Ann is a parent of two daughters who sang in the inaugural choir in 1991. Ann and her husband, Jamie, raised three daughters since moving to Traverse City in 1973 and now enjoy the visits of 4 grandchildren. Beginning her tenth year as Administrative Coordinator, Ann gives credit and gratitude to all of the families who step up to help in some way throughout the choir year.

Peggy Johnson – Accompanist for Cantus and Ragazzo

Peggy Johnson, accompanist for the Ragazzo and Cantus Children's Choirs and NMC Canticum Novum has been a musician in the Grand Traverse area for over 15 years. With a B.A. degree in Music Education and Performance, she has maintained an active private studio for students of piano for over 25 years and teaches Applied Piano at NMC. Ms. Johnson also freelances as an instrumental, vocal and choral accompanist.

Margie Hunter – Accompanist for Lyric

Margie Hunter recently retired from Traverse City Area Public Schools, having been a K - 12 music educator in the area for several years. Margie earned both her Bachelor of Music Education and Master of Music Education degrees from Central Michigan University. She has conducted, accompanied and sung in church, school, and community choirs in the Grand Traverse area for the past 25 years.

Dana Fall – Accompanist for Dolce

Dana Fall, a native to the Grand Traverse area, recently received her Masters of Music in Piano Performance from Western Michigan University. In the past, Dana has accompanied for several schools in the area and is currently working as a private piano and voice instructor. Dana is excited to be involved in the NMCCC choirs as it was here that she had her first choir experience.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

I. Rehearsal and Performance Attendance Policies

Membership in the NMC Children's Choir is a commitment to faithful, consistent and punctual attendance. It is expected that rehearsals take a very high priority in each child's life. Every singer plays an important role in the success of their choir and consistent rehearsal attendance is essential to the success of both the individual singer and the organization.

Except for those absences relating to illness, family emergency or a school event that is based on academic merit, attendance is required at all rehearsals and concerts. Should an absence be necessary, please contact your child's director via email as soon as possible before or after an absence to inform them of the nature of your child's absence. Communication is key to ensure your child's success in our ensembles!

Because each child's success in the NMCCC program is directly tied to regular attendance, the following protocol for absences will occur in each concert cycle – a concert cycle consists of a concert and the rehearsals leading up to that particular concert.

- 1st missed rehearsal (excused or unexcused) – NMCCC staff will send an email to the singer's parents acknowledging the absence.
- 2nd missed rehearsal (excused or unexcused) – NMCCC staff will send an email to the singer's parents acknowledging the absence.
- 3rd missed rehearsal (excused or unexcused) – The singer and singer's parent(s) will be required to meet privately with the NMCCC director. The singer will be asked to sing the current repertoire to ensure that the singer is adequately prepared and comfortable enough with the repertoire to sing on the upcoming concert.
- 4th missed rehearsal (excused or unexcused) – At the director's discretion, the singer may not be allowed to sing on the upcoming concert.

A missing performer changes the dynamics of the ensemble and has a detrimental effect on the artistry of a performance. Therefore, attendance at dress rehearsals and concerts is mandatory. *The director reserves the right to exclude singers who are not adequately prepared from performing in the next scheduled concert.*

Singers who are absent from a dress rehearsal will not be allowed to sing on the upcoming concert.

Absence from a concert may lead to removal from the NMCCC program. Singers who are absent from a concert will be required to meet with their director, along with the singer's parents, to determine if continued participation in the NMCCC program is appropriate.

II. Inclement Weather Policy

Please be aware that the NMCCC Program does not necessarily cancel rehearsals according to area school closings. If rehearsals are cancelled due to weather, you will be notified via email, local TV and radio, and on our website: nmc.edu/childrenschoir.html. Cancellations will be posted by 3:00pm on the day of the rehearsal. The NMC-EES phone number to call to check on cancellations is 231-995-1718. Because of the uncertainty of Northern Michigan weather, we have built a few “Snow Day Rehearsals” into the schedule – to be used in the event of a cancellation of a regularly scheduled rehearsal. Families will be notified if when/if any of those “Snow Day Rehearsals” will be implemented.

III. Music and Folders

All students will be given music and either a folder or packet in which the music is to be kept. Each student must have their music and a pencil (for taking notes and adding rehearsal reminders) at every rehearsal. No pens or markers! If music or folders are lost, irreparably damaged, or not returned, an additional fee will be charged to cover the replacement costs.

IV. Non-Scheduled Performances

Occasionally, the NMCCC program will receive a request to perform at an event not previously scheduled on our calendar. Parents will be contacted as soon as possible to ascertain interest and availability. We will accept those performances only if:

1. We have enough performers committed to attend for a viable performance
2. The concert venue will showcase the ensemble in an artistic way
3. The concert has some benefit to the overall organization

V. Student Decorum

Students are expected to be on their best behavior whether on stage, in rehearsal, or at an NMC Children’s Choir event. As a representative of the Children’s Choir, it is expected that every child’s behavior will be a positive reflection of our organization.

VI. Removal and Reinstatement

It is a privilege, not a right, to participate in the NMC Children’s Choir. We recognize that the NMCCC is not a good fit for every student – students must be able to demonstrate good behavior, self-control and maintain regular attendance. Only those children exemplifying these attributes will be allowed to participate in the NMCCC. If there are attendance or behavior problems with a singer, the following will occur:

1. The Director will communicate with the child’s parents (via face-to-face, phone call and/or email) regarding any concern(s).
2. If the problem(s) persist, the Director will notify the parent of the continued concern and schedule a meeting with the singer and their parent(s). The singer will be considered on probationary status.

3. If the concerns (attendance, behavior) persist, then the singer will be removed from the NMCCC. (At that time, the singer will return any music and uniform pieces that belong to the NMCCC.)

Students who have been removed from the NMCCC program, may re-apply the next season by accomplishing the following:

1. Re-audition
2. Following the re-audition, meet with the Director and their parents to determine any further steps needed for re-admittance, and/or if the NMCCC is indeed a good fit for the child.

VII. Uniforms

Just as the ensemble's sound is important, so is the ensemble's appearance when in performance, dress rehearsals and touring. A uniformly, neatly outfitted ensemble is essential for a truly artistic experience. A couple of rules for all singers:

- Appropriate concert dress and grooming are a requirement for participation in a performance
- Boy's shirts are to be tucked in
- No obvious make-up, cosmetics, jewelry, earrings, accessories, watches, etc.
- Singers must have their hair pulled back, away from their face

Informal uniforms may be worn to rehearsals, but must be worn to dress rehearsals and when singers are in public touring or traveling or otherwise as designated.

- Navy polos \$15 required all singers (not Prelude)
- Navy t-shirts \$12 optional all singers
- Green sweatshirts \$20 required Cantus only, optional for others

Returning singers are encouraged to check the size and condition of their current uniforms. We will ensure that every child has a uniform – please contact the EES office or Ann Hackett if you need assistance. Polos, t-shirts and sweatshirts are available for purchase or ordering in September and October during Tuesday rehearsals in the Fine Arts building. Checks are preferred or exact change. Contact Mrs. Hackett.

CANTUS – Ladies (\$25 non-refundable rental fee)

Dress rehearsals, informal performances, or travel:

- NMCCC sweatshirt and NMCCC polo shirt
- Khaki slacks

Formal Performances:

- NMCCC-owned formal dress (rented)
- Black dress shoes with black hosiery

Formal uniforms will be assigned to Cantus girls on: Thursday, October 8 (6:00-7:30pm), Friday, October 9 (6:00-7:30pm), and Saturday, October 10 (10:00am-12:00pm) – these will be the only times for formal dress distribution.

Families accept the responsibility for replacement of the assigned garments should they be lost or returned in unacceptable condition.

CANTUS – Gentlemen (\$25 non-refundable rental fee)

Dress rehearsals, informal performances, or travel:

- NMCCC sweatshirt and NMCCC polo shirt
- Khaki slacks

Formal Performances:

- NMCCC-owned black dress shirt (rented)
- NMCCC-owned black dress slacks (rented)
- Black dress socks and shoes
- NMCCC-owned tie (we provide)

The Cantus Gentleman will be sized for shirts and slacks at Captain's Quarters of Traverse City. Please do this prior to October 8, so that ordering and alterations can be completed prior to uniform check night on Oct. 27. Men also have the option of purchasing the slacks and shirt directly from Captain's Quarters. (If parents choose to purchase their son's outfit from Captain's Quarters, the \$25 uniform rental fee will be waived.)

Families accept the responsibility for replacement of the assigned garments should they be lost or returned in unacceptable condition.

RAGAZZO, LYRIC, BEL CANTO, and DOLCE – Girls

Dress rehearsals, informal performances, or travel:

- NMCCC polo shirt
- Blue (in color) jeans

Formal Performances:

- Black, pleated, knee-length skirt (see below)
- White, long-sleeve, Peter Pan collared blouse (see below)
- Plain, flat, black dress shoes with plain black tights
- NMCCC-owned bow (we provide)

To maintain uniformity, parents must purchase the designated skirt and blouse from a uniform company.

- Go to www.FrenchToast.com or call 1-800-373-6248.
- Enter or state our school code QS5CGNH to be directed to the designated pieces.

Subscribe to the site to take advantage of special offers, discounts and free shipping. Calendar note: **order right away or no later than Sept 1!** Dolce too! We found out last year that the company runs out of stock just as school starts.

RAGAZZO, LYRIC, BEL CANTO, and DOLCE – Boys

Dress rehearsals, informal performances, or travel:

- NMCCC polo shirt
- Blue (in color) jeans

Formal Performances:

- Black dress slacks
- White, long-sleeved, fly-collared shirt, not button-down collared (see below)
- Black dress socks and shoes
- NMCCC-owned tie (we provide)

The uniform company mentioned above has boys' shirts with the fly collar. They do not have black slacks. Most families are able to outfit their sons locally with the required shirt and slacks.

USED UNIFORM PIECES

There is no inventory of used pieces or a used uniform sale. To sell or donate used, but clean, pieces:

-Use NMCCC Facebook page to advertise

-Hang the pieces in the rehearsal hall with a note ATTACHED stating your wish to sell or donate the piece(s)

All singers are required to wear their complete formal uniform to the October 27 rehearsal to check for conformity. This includes Dolce too!

VIII. Commitment To School Music Programs

The success of NMC Children's Choir is dependent in large part on the support of music teachers throughout the Grand Traverse Area. Children's Choir singers should be leaders in their school music ensembles. Every NMC Children's Choir singer is strongly encouraged to be an active participant in his or her school music program.

IX. Fundraising

The NMC Children's Choirs will organize planned fundraising activities to offset the cost of program, scholarship and travel expenses. Individual participation in these fundraisers is a vital component in our organization's success. It is expected that all singers will participate in the fundraisers.

- Our Holiday Greenery Sale will begin on October 6 and wrap up on October 20. (This allows for the greenery to be delivered by the weekend at Thanksgiving time.)
- Our Flower sale fund-raiser will begin March 1 and wrap up March 15.

X. Touring Account

Opportunities are available for Cantus singers to participate in tours to various locales both foreign and domestic. NMCCC maintains a separate "touring" account for each singer. If a child chooses to participate in NMCCC sponsored fundraising opportunities, a percentage from his/her individual sales and donations are designated to be held in escrow in the singer's personal touring account. The percentage that goes directly into the singer's touring account depends on the choir they are currently enrolled in. The percentages are as follows:

- Ragazzo – 20% of a student's yearly fundraiser sales/donations goes into their personal trip account for future use
- Cantus – sliding scale percentage of a student's yearly fundraiser sales/donations goes into their personal trip account (\$1-\$500 = 30%, \$500+-\$1000 = 35%, \$1000+ = 40%, the percentage will be determined by the student's fundraising total after completion of the Spring Fundraiser.)

The credits held in escrow are available to help pay for any future tour expenses which the singer might incur. They are not available to pay any other NMCCC fees, such as tuition, uniform rental, etc. The escrowed funds are owned by NMCCC and are not eligible for cash withdrawal by the singer. Direct deposits made by a family toward a singer or chaperone's tour costs as well as charges for the tour are also accounted for in the singer's touring account. Statements showing activity in the touring account are provided once each year and more frequently if your child is chosen to participate in an NMCCC tour. You may also request a statement for your singer's touring account at any time, and parents are encouraged on occasion to review the account activity and accuracy of the information shown. Any balance remaining in the touring account at the time of graduation or withdrawal/removal from the NMCCC program reverts to the NMCCC general fund. Upon request, any balance remaining in a graduating singer's touring fund can be transferred into an active sibling's touring account.

The NMC Children's Choir cannot be held responsible for any incorrect information or accounting in a singer's Touring Account. It is the parent's responsibility to check for accuracy following each fundraiser.

XI. Volunteerism

The NMCCC program depends greatly on volunteers. Opportunities run the gamut from office help to concert management. Families can contribute time to the choir from home, at rehearsals, on tours or at a concert in the following broad categories:

- Troubleshooting
- Box office
- Ushering
- Chairs
- Chaperones
- Fundraising orders
- Sponsorships
- Uniforms
- Stage crew

Volunteer efforts are coordinated by Administrative Coordinator Ann Hackett. An introduction to volunteer opportunities will be part of our Parent Meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 15, 2015, in Fine Arts #115 on the NMC campus. Please submit the Parent Volunteer form with your registration.

XII. Music Literature

The music that is studied in the NMC Children's Choir program ranges from simple folk songs to sophisticated, complex compositions written expressly for children's voices. Works using both a secular and a sacred/religious text are presented in an age-appropriate manner in the various ensembles. It is important to note that the use of music with a sacred text does not in any way imply that NMCCC is promoting a particular religious agenda. Rather, the program attempts to expose singers to the rich and varied tradition of music from many cultures and belief systems that is part of our rich choral heritage.

** Please see the article from the American Choral Directors Association regarding the use of music with a religious text in Addendum A.*

XIII. Parental Understanding

By enrolling your child in NMC Children's Choir it is assumed that there is parental understanding and acceptance of the policies and procedures as outlined in this handbook. Any questions should be referred to the directors of the program.

XIV. Conclusion

We welcome all singers and their families to the NMCCC program. We believe that through singing, children can experience the "inner life" of the music in a way that transcends the surface of notation and words. Singing is a way of "touching" the music and a way of being "touched" by the music. The process of learning and performing quality music in an expressive, artistic manner can provide each child with a unique, enriching experience that can lead to a lifelong love of skillful singing. We eagerly look forward to our shared journey into the wonderful world of choral music.

Jeffrey Cobb – Artistic Director, Director of Cantus and Ragazzo Choir
(231) 995-1338 jecobb@nmc.edu

Stephanie Schall-Brazee – Director of Lyric and Prelude Choir
(231) 944-6142 schallbrazee@charter.net

David and Mary Parrish – Directors of Bel Canto Choir
(231) 946-6615 dlparr1943@yahoo.com

Todd Vipond – Director of Dolce Choir
(231) 313-1691 tvipond@nmc.edu

Ann Hackett – Administrative Coordinator
(231) 620-1049 abhcedar@gmail.com

Questions regarding registration, financial aid, or tuition should be directed to NMC Extended Educational Services at (231) 995-1700 or at ees@nmc.edu.

ADDENDUM A. – Music Literature *(from the American Choral Directors Association)*

Choral music educators recognize that choral music may fulfill diverse objectives. At one end of the spectrum are aesthetic education and artistic performance that can ensure development of musicality and sensitivity. At the opposite end of the spectrum is pure entertainment. Between these two poles may be found opportunities to enhance knowledge and understanding through a growing awareness and perspective of history and art as reflected in great music. **To achieve any selected educational objective, the quality of repertoire is of paramount importance.**

An assessment of the quality of repertoire which can fulfill the highest objectives of aesthetic education necessitates careful examination of the relationship of text and musical setting. The wealth of choral literature which represents and reflects peoples, cultures, and traditions of all lands and compositional styles of all eras includes much music in which the composer has utilized a sacred text. The term "sacred" refers to all manner of religious belief and not only to the practices of the Judeo-Christian teachings. **It is important that almost all of the significant choral music composed before the 17th century was associated with a sacred text.**

To study and perform music in which the musical setting of a text is artistically accomplished is a highly commendable objective. While public school teaching objectives and criteria for repertoire selection should not include religious indoctrination, the selection of quality repertoire will invariably include within its broad scope music with a sacred text. **To exclude from a public school curriculum all choral music which has religious meaning associated with the text is to severely limit the possibilities of teaching for artistic understanding and responsiveness.** Such an exclusion has as its parallel the study of art without any paintings related to the various religions of the world, the study of literature without mention of the Bible, or the study of architecture without reference to the great temples and cathedrals of the world.

Since choral music with a sacred text comprises such a substantial portion of the artistic repertoire representative of the choral medium and the history of music, it should have an important place in music education. Its study and artistic performance have nothing to do with the First Amendment to the Constitution and the doctrine which advocates separation of Church and State.

ADDENDUM B. – Consent & Compliance Form *(next page)*



NMC Children's Choir

CONSENT & COMPLIANCE FORM 2015-2016

The following pertains to my child: _____ (please print child's first and last name)

Please check your child's choir: Prelude Dolce Bel Canto Lyric Ragazzo Cantus

Known allergies/significant medical conditions: _____

I. FIELD TRIP PERMISSION – I grant permission for my child (named above) to attend NMC Children's Choir field trip activities which may occur during the 2015-2016 season. I understand that the NMCCC Staff strive to give timely notice (e.g. two weeks notice) to parents of all field trip(s). We understand and believe that the necessary precautions and plans for the care and supervision of the students during the trip will be taken. We understand that a copy of this permission form will be archived at the NMC-EES Office with a copy taken by NMC staff on all respective field trips my son/daughter may participate in.

II. PHOTO RELEASE PERMISSION – I hereby grant to Northwestern Michigan College the right and permission, in respect of the photographs that are taken of my child alone, or included with others, to copyright the same; and to use, reuse, and publish in any media now and hereafter known for illustration, promotion, art, advertising, or any purpose; and to have the option of using my child's name. I hereby release and discharge NMC from any and all claims and demands arising out of or in connection with the use of the photographs including without limitation any and all claims for libel or invasion of privacy. I am the legal guardian of the named child and have read the foregoing contents. This release shall be binding upon me and my heirs, legal representatives, and assigns.

III. STATEMENT OF PARENTAL COMMITMENT – I have read and understand the policies and procedures of the NMC Children's Choir program and recognize the commitment associated with enrolling my child in this program.
I understand that a commitment to regular attendance is key to my child's success. My signature serves as a pledge to assist my child in making the NMC Children's Choir experience meaningful and artistically rewarding.

Parent's/Legal Guardian's Name (please print) _____

Parent's/Legal Guardian's Signature _____

The following Agreement of Compliance is for NMCCC Singers to complete.

I, _____ (please print your name) understand the rules and expectations for participation as a choir member in the NMC Children's Choir. I understand that a commitment to regular attendance is key to my success. My signature below is a pledge that I will meet the obligations of the choir.

 student signature

 date

Please bring this form to our first rehearsal on September 15.