

Upbeat

The Newsletter of the Trenton Children's Chorus

Trenton Children's Chorus

Making Music
Making Friends
Making a Difference

Mission Statement

To empower the academic, social and spiritual lives of children through artistry in music.

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Welcome Back Patty Thel!



Alicia Brozovich

Patricia (Patty) Thel has returned to the Trenton Children's Chorus (TCC)! Patty served as TCC's artistic director from 2009 to 2015. In addition, she founded the Westminster Conservatory Children's Choirs at Westminster Choir College and served as their conductor for more than twenty-five years. During her first tenure with TCC, the choirs performed new works with Francisco Nuñez and the Young People's Chorus of New York City, premiered a work by Raymond Wise, sang for the inaugural of Governor Christie, sang for Governor Corzine at Drumthwacket, and performed for President and Mrs. Obama at the White House.

Patty's extensive musical background began with teaching in public schools in the Atlanta, GA, and Washington, DC areas, and singing with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Chorus under the direction of Robert Shaw. She has also served in the Princeton area as the middle school music director at Princeton Day School. Under her direction, the Cantus Choir at Westminster has performed eight times at the White House, once at the National Cathedral and performed at Princeton University and Westminster. She has also taught as an adjunct at Westminster Choir College and Ithaca College School of Music.



Alicia Brozovich

"We are thrilled that Patty is back at TCC and working with the children again," said Board President Nora Schultz. "Her enthusiasm is infectious, and her supportive and nurturing approach helps prepare every child to achieve both musical success and personal potential. I can't wait for the next concert!"

According to Patty, this will be a year of strengthening the level of musicianship of TCC students by collaborating with other organizations and raising musical standards. "We look forward to making music, making new friends, and charting a new course."

We are delighted to welcome Patty back to TCC!

A Letter from the Artistic Director



What an exciting year to return to the Trenton Children's Chorus! The smiles and hugs on the first day would make anyone with a heart-beat glow. The relationship that the TCC children have with each other and all their adult mentors is a special thing indeed. And the smiles and hugs are one thing, but the sound that they make when they sing would light the darkest corner.

I am not the only staff member to return this year. Jo-Ann Sciarrotta, an incomparable accompanist who had previously given 12 years to the choir, and Eric Thomas, the great drummer, jazz musician and mentor, have also returned. Our colleagues, Dr. Rochelle Ellis, Desiree Melegrito, John Floyd, Constance Hurtt, Kristin Schenk, Jim Weber and Josh Wilson are bringing all their expertise, love and devotion back to TCC for another year. Alice Lightner, a loyal TCC parent and former Choir Manager, has accepted the position of Program Manager. New high school volunteer Sam Bezilla is offering his gifts for homework help and part rehearsal. Gloria Bethea stays at the helm of the Learning Academy. Kate Mulligan, our new and very talented Executive Director and a Westminster graduate, has already devoted endless hours of tenacious service to making certain that all the children are registered, have transportation and that all the support systems are in place.

Underlying all our efforts is the work of the TCC board. We thank them, under the leadership of Nora Schultz, for enabling all of us to move TCC forward into the future. Maureen Llor, the tireless TCC advocate, returns to the board this year along with Tanice Fitzpatrick and Rob Connor, Head of School at the Christina Seix Academy.

The board and staff are focused on making the core program of Trenton Children's Chorus the very best it can be. We have set our sights high, and our hearts remain tied to the futures of all the children we serve. And back to our song. The children are our greatest asset, and we put our efforts toward giving them the best musical experience possible - supporting their academic, social and spiritual lives through artistry in music.

Sing and Rejoice!

Patty Thel

"ALL THAT JAZZ" Makes All the Difference

The legacy of "Making Music, Making Friends, Making a Difference" was extended further this summer with a new partnership between Trenton Children's Chorus and Mercer County Community College, premiering the 2018 Summer Jazz Institute. Area high school and college students came together to explore jazz theory, improvisation, and ear training through instrumental and vocal curricula led by distinguished faculty from Princeton University, Westminster Choir College, and Mercer County Community College.

The institute provided a special opportunity for students to learn about the origins of vocal jazz and to experiment singing in the jazz style. They started with a blues riff, just learning the chord changes, then progressed to "scat" singing, where they were asked to improvise a melody. They hesitated, at first, to try creating a melody, but the more they opened up to the idea and tried it out, the freer they felt about taking the risk.



(l to r) Simone Smith, Esmerelda Bodon, Azhaneet Blackwell

Dr. Rochelle Ellis

TCC choristers Esmerelda Bodon and Simone Smith, attended the vocal portion of the workshop and were excited to share some of their experiences. Esmerelda said that her favorite part of the camp was, "blues, scatting, ensemble, and learning how to trust each other in the a cappella group because there were only two of us on a part." The entire experience was designed to develop musical skills and boost the children's confidence in performing.

The students, both instrumental and vocal, worked with seasoned, local professionals in the jazz field, who knew how to make learning fun, while encouraging them to move out of their comfort zones. Each day, everyone participated in "jam" sessions where student and teacher performed side by side. Simone summed up the experience by saying, "Even if you started out knowing nothing about jazz, by the end of the week, you could be a scholar. You learn how all the genres are similar, and each one has a connection."

Meet TCC's New Executive Director

Trenton Children's Chorus is pleased to announce the appointment of Kate Mulligan as its new executive director. She has more than 20 years of experience working with non-profits as an employee, consultant, volunteer, and board member. Kate will provide fresh leadership and vision as TCC moves forward. Under her direction, TCC will continue to provide the best in choral music education, academic support, and the learning of life skills that nurture the whole child and promote future happiness and success.



Kate grew up in a musical family, and it was only natural that she followed in their footsteps. As a child and young adult, she sang on stage with jazz and Dixieland bands as well as in church choirs and madrigal ensembles. She followed her Aunt Linda to Westminster Choir College, where she began her Arts Management track and later began her career in arts management as the executive director of Princeton Pro Musica. Her voice can even be heard on a Super Bowl commercial to the tune of Orff's *Carmina Burana*.

After completing her MBA, Kate took a position with DHR International as a non-profit consultant and recruiter, providing the opportunity to work with Bill T. Jones, the NJPAC, and the Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center among many others. She later started a business importing show jumping horses from Europe and returned to the non-profit sector as a consultant for Riding with HEART. She was promoted to executive director and managed all aspects of the group's /the organization's programs for children and adults with physical, cognitive and emotional disabilities. Kate has a BA from Westminster Choir College with a concentration in arts management and an MBA from Rutgers University in non-profit arts management and marketing. She is a member of the Somerset Hills Chorus and is an avid equestrian.

Save the Date!

Annual Winter Concert

Friday December 7 at 7:00pm

Christ Temple Ministries
471 Parkway Avenue, Trenton

Admission is free to the public.

Goodwill offering from the audience supports
TCC programs and services.



Jessi Franko Designs, LLC

CONGRATULATIONS TCC GRADUATES!



Jessi Franko Designs, LLC

TCC 2018 Graduates (l - r): Madison Miller, Tabia Richardson, Tobias Richardson, Trinity Williams, and Azhaneet Blackwell

TCC continues its tradition of 100% of students who remain in the program through high school go on to attend college.

- Azhaneet Blackwell Westminster Choir College
- Madison Miller Mercer County Community College
- Tabia Richardson Mercer County Community College
- Tobias Richardson Mercer County Community College
- Trinity Williams Norfolk State University

ONE VOICE

**A Benefit for
Trenton Children's Chorus**

**Fabulous Cocktails and
Hors d'Oeuvres**

Small Silent Auction

**Singing by the
Trenton Children's Chorus**
with special guests
the Princeton University Katzenjammers

Make your reservation today!
by mail or online at trentonchildrenschorus.org

Please join us!

**Friday, October 26, 2018
6:00 – 8:30pm**

**Morven Museum & Garden
55 Stockton Street – Princeton, NJ**

**TRENTON CHILDREN'S CHORUS GRATEFULLY
ACKNOWLEDGES OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS**

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The Trenton Children's Chorus, Inc. is a not-for-profit 501(c)3 charitable organization.



This program is made possible, in part, by the Mercer County Cultural and Heritage Commission through funding from the Mercer County Board of Chosen Freeholders, the New Jersey Cultural Trust, and the New Jersey State Council on the Arts / Department of State, A Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts.



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