

PVS Music Director has invited the Bennington Children's Chorus to perform as the ragazzi choir in the May 16, 2009 performance of the Carmina Burana by Carl Orff, UMASS Fine Arts Center, Amherst, MA



The Bennington Children's Chorus, based in Bennington, Vermont, was started in 1987 by Barbara Kourajian. Kourajian had been an accompanist to a children's choir in Montana as well as a high school choral director there before she moved to Vermont in 1985. While working in admissions at Southern Vermont College Kourajian found she really missed music and, with the help of the van der Linde family, recruited students for a children's chorus. The Bennington Children's Chorus met for its first rehearsal in February of 1987 and gave its first performance three months later.

Kerry Ryer-Parke, Director

Kerry, who majored in music at Bennington College, took over as director in 1995. She continued Kourajian's tradition of emphasizing quality music, including classical, folk and traditional pieces, written for the treble voice. With both junior and senior ensembles, the chorus has performed hundreds of songs in multiple languages in dozens of venues. Countless children between the ages of seven and eighteen have been introduced to the intricacies of rhythm, the beauty of lyrics and the joy of mastering a challenging series of notes during their time with the Bennington Children's Chorus.

Gwen Winseman, Accompanist

Gwen has studied, freelanced and taught piano in New York City and has been a vocal and chamber music recitalist at the Aspen and Waterloo Festivals. Ms. Winseman has been the accompanist for the chorus since 1999.

Deborah Perkins, Chorus Assistant

Deb is a native of Maine, a former elementary school teacher and an experienced musician. She currently sings with the Bennington County Choral Society.

Susan Trimarchi, Chorus Manager

Susan, a lover of music of many genres, is the mother of three young daughters, all with a passion for music and singing. Previously Director/Owner of Little Sprouts Music Together of Dighton, MA, she deeply believes in making the creation of music accessible and fun for all children. Susan is responsible for the administrative duties of the chorus.

<http://www.benningtonchildrenschorus.com/>