

# A Letter from the Mira Costa Choir Boosters



Dear Choir Families,

Welcome! We're so glad your child has chosen to participate in Mira Costa's fantastic choral program, and we're certain he or she will enjoy it and flourish as a musician and as a person under the inspired direction and leadership of Mr. Michael Hayden and Mr. Mark McCormick.

## Awards and Accomplishments

The Costa choirs are award winning and highly regarded within both the academic and professional communities. Did you know...

- Mira Costa Choir students are accepted into the most prestigious universities in the country: Yale, Princeton, UC Berkeley, UCLA, USC, Boston College, NYU, Michigan, Baylor, Wellesley, New England Conservatory, Claremont Colleges, Rochester, and many more, participating in the university choral programs and becoming leaders in their choral ensembles and academic communities.
- In 2019, we were selected as one of only eight choirs from across the state to perform at the fourth annual California Choral Directors Association State Conference in San Jose, California.
- Our 2017 festival choir toured the Rhine River from Amsterdam, Netherlands, to Basel, Switzerland, performing in Cologne Cathedral, Strasbourg Cathedral, St. Maria Himmelfahrt, and others.
- Our 2015 festival choir participated in a Paris-London tour, performing in Notre Dame Cathedral, Canterbury Cathedral, St. Georges Chapel at Windsor Castle, Grosvenor Chapel, and others.
- In 2015, we were one of only three high school choirs in the nation selected to perform at the American Choral Directors Association National Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah. In 2012, we were one of three high school choirs selected to perform at the ADCA Regional Conference in Reno, Nevada.
- Costa Chorale has won Best Women's and Best Overall Choir at Disneyland's Music in the Parks Festival the past five years, and Mustang Chorale has won Best Men's Choir the past four years.
- We have been the featured choir at the Walt Disney Concert Hall, singing a solo set in the LA Master Chorale's High School Festival.
- Our singers were the featured choir in the National Youth Honor Choir in Carnegie Hall in 2012.
- We have students selected to participate in Southern California Vocal Assoc. Honor Choirs every year.
- We were named one of only 3 GRAMMY® Award Winning Signature Gold Schools in the country in 2014. The GRAMMY® Foundation rewarded these top high schools for their total music program curriculum and performance opportunities.
- We are the first high school department to participate with Vox Femina, Los Angeles' premiere community Women's Choir.
- In 2014, the Advanced Women's Chorale was the first choir to perform at the prestigious California Teacher of the Year Gala in Sacramento, where Mr. Hayden was honored as one of five California Teachers of the Year, the first choral director to be given that statewide honor. Mr. Hayden also was named Teacher of the Year for both Mira Costa High School and the MBUSD School District in 2014.
- Mr. McCormick was named a Sandacre Teacher of the Year in 2014 (an award voted on by the senior class recognizing the seniors' favorite teachers), he was a 2017 GRAMMY® music educator award quarter-finalist, and he received the MBX Leader of the Year award in 2019.

## Funding

As you might imagine, a lot of time, work and resources go into making choir one of the most positive and enriching experiences available at Mira Costa High School, and **we need your help**. The funding received from Manhattan Beach Unified School District (MBUSD) is extremely limited and does not come close to covering the actual operating expenses of the choir program. That's where the Choir Boosters come in. In addition to providing Mr. Hayden with the administrative and organizational support he needs to run the

program, we exist to raise funds that allow your child to have an extraordinary choral experience. In fact, over half the cost of our high quality program is paid for by the Choir Boosters.

**Without parent contributions, many of the activities that make up your student's choir experience would be cut from the program (e.g., performances, festivals, our accompanist, work with expert clinicians, etc.).**

**What MBUSD Covers:**

1. Mr. Hayden's regular salary and benefits
2. Hourly compensation for an accompanist for 4 periods
3. A choir room for class and auditorium for concerts
4. Partial funding for sheet music and continuing education

**What Choir Boosters Cover (about \$70,000 over the course of the year):**

1. Salary and benefits to bring Mr. McCormick's compensation to the level of a full-time teacher (\$45,000)
2. Cost of participating in choral festivals (registration, buses, snacks for the trip) (\$11,000)
4. Piano tuning (\$1,000)
5. Music and licensing (\$4,000)
7. Workshops and clinicians (\$5,000)
8. Website, supplies, equipment, and office costs (\$4,000)

We're happy to answer any questions about the budget and always appreciate your involvement and comments.

**Fair Share**

The biggest source of the money we raise is donations, almost all from choir families. To run our GRAMMY® award winning music program, **we are asking for a tax-deductible Fair Share donation of \$300 for each student participating in choir**. We understand that not everyone can give this amount, and that others can give more. We also understand that you already may have been asked to donate to other booster clubs for programs in which your student participates. Unfortunately Mira Costa Choir Boosters does not receive any of the money donated to other programs. Your donation in no way affects your student's ability to participate in the Mira Costa Choirs. However, we would very much appreciate your donation in any amount to help us continue to run the program.

Checks should be made out to **MBX (and list "Choir Donation" on the memo line)**, and they can be dropped in the Booster mailbox in the choir room. (Throughout the year, please put your child's name and ensemble on any check you submit, and note what the check is for [e.g., choir clothes, donation, etc.]). Or go to the Mira Costa Choirs website [www.miracostachoirs.org](http://www.miracostachoirs.org) and click on the **Donate Online** tab.

This year, we have created four levels of tax-deductible support for the program. Please donate generously to maintain the program's excellence, now or any time during the year.

**At the \$300 Bronze Level:**

Your name is listed in the concert programs

**At the \$500 Silver Level:**

Your name is listed in the concert programs, plus  
2 reserved seats at the winter and spring concerts

**At the \$750 Gold Level:**

Your name is listed in the concert programs, plus  
4 reserved seats at the winter and spring concerts

**At the \$1,000 Platinum Level:**

Your name is listed in the concert programs, plus  
6 reserved seats at the winter and spring concerts

Every parent's contribution, big or small, helps make Mira Costa Choirs one of the top programs in the state, with the individual focus that allows each of our children to grow and thrive.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Sene Gray, President  
MCHS Choir Boosters