CHESTER COUNTY CHORAL SOCIETY
VOCAL COMPETITION FUNDED IN MEMORY OF DR. JANET L. LONG PH.D.

Instructions

August 2026 UPDATE!

For more than 30 years, the Chester County Choral Society (CCCS) has hosted the ***Vocal Competition*** to recognize and encourage talented high school seniors who reside, attend high school or study music in Chester County, PA. The Competition exists to reward vocal excellence. The competition is now known as the Vocal Competition Funded in Memory of Dr. Janet L. Long Ph.D.

To encourage more applications to our program and new this year, **the CCCS Board has moved our FY 2027 competition to the Fall 2026 season and increased our cash awards.**

Contestants will compete for the following awards:

- First place, $2,500 cash, Certificate of Achievement, and trophy plaque
- Second place $1,250 and Third place $750, with Certificates of Merit

All winners are encouraged to perform an audition piece at the Choral Society's Chamber Ensemble Concert on Sunday, November 8, 2026 at 3:00pm at St. Michael's Lutheran Church, Unionville, PA.

Candidates must complete and return the attached **application, personal bio, and teacher recommendation forms postmarked or received no later than 9/7/2026*.** An application fee of $30 is required; a check made payable to Chester County Choral Society must be included with the application. **If you plan to use our accompanists, please include $65** (which includes an additional $35 fee). Music to be performed must accompany the application. If CCCS accompanists are used, music must also be scanned and emailed by the deadline of 9/7/2026 to: anitanardone@verizon.net.

The Competition coordinator will notify you after the application deadline with your specific audition time. (Please visit our website, chescochoral.org to download and complete the application and, then mail it in/ deliver it with your check.) Also, on our website, please find the link to Antonio Caldara's *Sebben, Crudele*. **It is free and the only acceptable edition** for the required piece.

*Revised: Deadline has been extended from the original date of 8/31/2026!

Application Deadline: Monday, September 7, 2026 (received or postmarked by)

Competition Date & Location:

- Saturday, September 26, 2026 from 10am-1pm
  First Presbyterian Church of West Chester
  Miner Street, West Chester PA 19341

  Parking instructions for this location will be communicated to the applicants.

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Competition Requirements:

- Prepare three (3) pieces to be performed **from memory** including:
  1. Antonio Caldara's *Sebben, Crudele* ***required*** ** Specific edition link to be downloaded from CCCS website**
  2. A classical selection (art song, lieder, aria, etc.) of your choice
  3. A musical theater selection of your choice
- Total audition time will be limited to 10 minutes, at the discretion of the judges
- **Keys:** (submitted) All titles must be sung in the keys submitted to CCCS at the time of application
- **Keys:** (published) Excerpts from Oratorios, Operas, Musical Theatre etc. should be sung in the original published key in which it appears in the context of the larger work
- Early Italian Songs, Lieder, Art Songs may be sung in the appropriate key to the applicant's voice part

  If you prefer to use the CCCS accompanists, Mrs. Ann Ellis or Mr. Anthony Mancuso, your music must accompany this application; must also be scanned and emailed to the coordinator by 9/7/2026 (anitanardone@verizon.net) and you must set up a short rehearsal with them. The competition coordinator will assign your accompanist and share their contact information when your application is received. $35 fee will apply in addition to the $30 application fee.
- **The day of the audition, please bring the ORIGINAL copies of your personal selected audition pieces for the judges.**
- Arrive approximately 30 minutes before your scheduled audition time. A warm-up room will be provided.

Judging Criterion:

1.	Artistry	2.	Presentation	3.	Tone
4	Technique	5.	Musical Accuracy	6.	Musical Sensitivity

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Candidate Application, page 1 **Please print clearly or type**

Candidate's Full Name: _____

Home Address: _____City, State, Zip:_____

Cell phone: _____ Preferred Email: _____

Enrolled in: _____High School

Parent(s) Name: _____Cell phone:_____

Address (if different from above)_____

Preferred method of contact with Applicant---please select: Cell Phone: _____Email: _____

Voice Part: ☐ Soprano ☐ Mezzo-Soprano ☐ Alto ☐ Tenor ☐ Baritone ☐ Bass

Voice Training: ☐ Yes ☐ No If Yes, with whom: _____

(Please provide your voice teacher with the recommendation form (page 3) and return it with this application.)

❒ I will provide my own accompanist. Name of accompanist:_____

❒ I need to use Chester County Choral Society accompanist (Competition music selections **MUST** be included with application, scanned and emailed to coordinator (anitanardone@verizon.net) and a rehearsal time must be arranged with Mrs. Ellis or Mr. Mancuso)

What genre of music do you prefer to sing? _____

Do you plan to pursue music in college? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, what college(s) are you exploring or hope to attend?_____

Please identify the music you will be singing at the audition in addition to *Sebben, Crudele* – please review with your vocal coach (Note: all music must be sung from memory in its original key)

Classical:
Title: _____

Composer: _____

Musical Theater:
Title: _____from (name of show)_____

Composer(s):_____

I understand all of the requirements and criterion of Chester County Choral Society's Vocal Competition.
Applicant Signature: _____Date: _____

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Candidate Application, page 2 Please print clearly or type

Student's Name: _____

Candidate's Personal Bio
(Please provide a description of your vocal training, choirs, choruses, solos, tours, etc. in which you have participated. Also include your future plans – college, field of study, etc. If you are selected as a 2026 Competition winner, this bio will be printed in the Choral Society's Spring Concert program)

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This bio may be edited to fit the size and available space in the concert program.

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Candidate Application, page 3

Please print clearly or type

Student's Name: _____

Music/Voice Teacher Recommendation

(Please provide your comments/recommendation for your student's participation in this Competition. How long has s/he studied with you, vocal development, musical abilities, etc.)

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Name (Please print): _____

☐ School Music Teacher ☐ Private Voice Teacher

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Email_____ Best phone #_____

Mailing Address: _____

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Application Checklist:

- ☐ Completed, signed and mailed/delivered the Candidate Application by the **9/7/2026 deadline (received at address below or postmarked by)**
- ☐ Included a $30 check made payable to Chester County Choral Society, or $65 check if using a CCCS accompanist
- ☐ Included my music/voice teacher's recommendation form
- ☐ Have arranged for my own accompanist and included his/her name on the application
- ☐ Included the music for the CCCS accompanist (if needed). Rehearsal time TBD. Emailed scanned music for CCCS accompanist to : anitanardone@verizon.net by 9/7/2026 deadline.
- ☐ Included the Candidate's Personal Bio form
- ☐ Listed the music **I will memorize** for the Competition audition
- ☐ Retained a copy of the 3- page application form
- ☐ Have ORIGINAL music of 2 personally selected pieces ready to give to the judges at the audition
- ☐ If selected as a Competition Winner, I am **encouraged** to reserve Sunday, November 8, 2026 at 3:00 PM at St. Michael's Lutheran Church, Unionville, PA to perform at the Choral Society's Chamber Ensemble concert, however I understand that it is not a requirement if I am unavailable.

Mail/ or deliver the 3-page application form by the 9/7/26 deadline to the Vocal Competition Coordinator:

Anita Nardone
309 Green Circle
Exton, PA 19341

If you have any questions, please feel free to call, text or email Anita Nardone at:

Phone: 610-322-3872 or email at: anitanardone@verizon.net