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IN THIS ISSUE Full Circle Investment--Teachers Who Give Back
Equipping Tomorrow's Leaders/Upcoming Events

DECEMBER 2025



Your belief in the power of singing propelled Lexie's choral career.

You're Creating Teachers Who Give Back

You believe in investing in young people for the long haul. But measuring the outcome of that investment is sometimes difficult. Other times, it comes full circle in a most beautiful way.

There was a sense of accomplishment in the air during a recent board meeting when artistic director Teri Fay shared exciting news: Lexie (Rusch) Birnbaum, a nine-year alumni, would become the next director of our Cantus choir. **"It's a dream come true to have one of our own fill this position!"** Teri beamed.

Your support made this moment possible, starting back in 2008 when Lexie was an enthusiastic 4th grader who declared, "This year in CDCC has been the best singing experience. Everyone is so nice and it is so fun! No other choir gives us this many chances to perform. Thanks, CDCC!" Because you believed in her potential, Lexie's reflection had deepened considerably by her senior year, "CDCC has been the thing that has made me fall in love with music. Throughout the years of countless rehearsals, amazing friends, and wonderful directors, I've never stopped loving CDCC. The little magic moments that occur while singing in a choir are irreplaceable. **Without the opportunity of being in CDCC, I never would have formed such a deep love of singing.**"

Today, your investment comes full circle. A Bismarck native pursuing her Master of Music in Music Education at NDSU, Lexie teaches band and choir at St. Mary's Academy. She's also an active performer with Dakota Pro Musica and serves as co-chair of the Middle-Level Honor Choirs for the North Dakota Choral Directors Association. "I could never thank this organization enough," Lexie said as a senior. Now, **she's giving back by nurturing the next generation** of young voices. Executive director Tammy Rector said, "It's great! Our program has a rich history of bringing on young talent, so hiring Lexie carries on that tradition. We've got a really nice balance of experience, expertise and interests among our choral directors. More important, they all love working with our choirs and it shows."

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At last year's annual dinner, Lexie shared how honored she felt to be asked to be a collaborative colleague for Central Dakota Children's Choir. Fast forward a few months and she is overjoyed to be directing Cantus, our high school mixed choir. Overwhelmingly positive feedback from current singers and audience members validate the decision to welcome her back into the family in a new role. Her story reminds us that somewhere in our current choirs of 300+ students from over 40 different schools, there's likely another future music educator discovering their calling because you believed in them.

Since 1998, over 2,880 young people have participated in Central Dakota Children's Choir. Stories like Lexie's show what happens when you invest in young people for the long term. **You're not just giving children a place to sing--you're inspiring lifelong learners, building community connections and nurturing the next generation of leaders.** Central Dakota Children's Choir alumni are living and working in our community, raising families, building businesses and sharing their love of singing in community choruses, church choirs and classrooms. Their enthusiasm for singing and understanding of the importance of high quality choral education is a testament to your faithful support and proof that your investment in their lives was well worth it!

You created this beautiful circle. The song continues because you believed in the singers!

Thank You!!

Since the season began back in August, 220 volunteers have generously given the treasure of their time to help make our 28th season a resounding success! Thank you to everyone who helped with choir camps, 50/50 raffles at the Dacotah Speedway, raffle sales at Junkin Cuzins, riser set up and tear down at Kirkwood Mall, hanging posters for upcoming events and any of the 55 volunteer duties required to make the concerts with the Bismarck-Mandan Symphony Orchestra and SIPs go off without a hitch!



Parent volunteers stepping up to help.

Thank you to all the parents, grandparents and family members who make Central Dakota Children's Choir a priority. We could not give over 300 children access to high-level choral education and experiences without your help! **We appreciate you!!**

The gift you give TODAY makes life-changing choral education accessible to every child.

Donate today:

MAIL (make checks payable to CDCC):
Central Dakota Children's Choir
921 South 9th Street, Suite 115
Bismarck, ND 58504

ONLINE:
aboutcdcc.org/support

NOW:
scan the QR code



You're Equipping the Next Generation of Fearless Leaders

You believe every child should be encouraged to test their limits, try new things and make mistakes. It's how they learn! Too many young people start with big dreams, but when they encounter difficulties, they stop trying. Or even worse, they're too afraid to try in the first place.

You're changing that story.

Studies show our brains can't tell the difference between "I can't do this," and "I've never done this." That small shift in mindset changes everything. The first stops us cold. The second opens the door to a world of possibility! Your support of Central Dakota Children's Choir opened the door at a recent Bis-Man Power of 100 meeting and two of our young singers walked through it....

The PA system failed. No Christmas music to set the mood. The organizers asked if anyone might serenade the crowd. Acapella, impromptu, in front of a roomful people. Silence. **Then Bailey stepped forward.** An eighth-grader from a small, rural community, **volunteering to sing in front of nearly 100 adults.** She brought the house down! Later, when Central Dakota Children's Choir was selected to share our mission, our planned speaker was unavailable. Bailey to the rescue yet again! Her comments were heartfelt. Her composure was nonplussed. You would have thought she'd been preparing for weeks. And you would have been so proud!

Another CDCC singer, **10-yr-old Maggie**, was also invited to share her story. She hesitated at first, then **bravely told the crowd she loved choir** and thought coming to our concerts made people happy.

These moments don't happen by accident. Through Central Dakota Children's Choir, **you give area youth the opportunity to be brave.** The skills that make great learners are the same skills that make great musicians. When you support our program, you're helping students learn to think critically, adapt to change, **and take the lead when it matters.** Music learning is structured, high-level learning. Students learn to try, make mistakes, recover and try again. Isn't that what we all want in our next generation of leaders?

Thanks for giving kids a chance to discover the difference between "I can't" and "I've never tried."
Thanks for helping children learn to be brave!



Bailey sharing her CDCC story with poise and confidence.

Central Dakota Children's Choir Contact Information

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Scan to learn more



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CDCC Angels Sing

featuring All Choirs

December 19 & 20, 2025 - 7:00 pm

Belle Mehus Auditorium

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration

featuring Cantus

January 19, 2026

A Pitch Perfect Evening

featuring Kantorei & 2026 Senior Class

January 28, 2026 - 5:30 pm

Sixteen03 Main Events

CDCC Limited Edition Concerts

March 1, 2026 - Bismarck High School

2:00 pm *featuring Jubilate & Kantorei*

3:30 pm *featuring Bel Canto, Angelica & Cantus*

Giving Hearts Day

Statewide Day of Giving

February 12, 2026

GivingHeartsDay.org

Bismarck Sings

featuring Jubilate

April 8, 2026 - 7:00 pm

Sidney J. Lee Auditorium

2nd and 3rd Grade Educational Outreach Concerts

featuring Bel Canto

April 22, 2026

Bismarck Mandan Civic Chorus Concert

featuring Jubilate

April 25, 2026 - 7:30 pm

Belle Mehus Auditorium

Celebration of Women's Voices

featuring Angelica

April 26, 2026 - 3:00 pm

First Baptist Church

Cantus Unabridged

featuring Cantus

May 3, 2026 - 7:00 pm

McCabe United Methodist Church

2026-2027 Auditions

May 6, 2026 - 4:00-6:00 pm

Bismarck Public Library

Spring Concert

featuring All Choirs

May 15 & 16, 2026 - 7:00 pm

Belle Mehus Auditorium



Start them early...

Give your child's brain a musical advantage!

Treble Makers
Music class for 1st graders

Singing for 2nd Graders

Classes will be held from January - May 2026

Information & Registration
Call: 701-258-6516 Visit: aboutcdcc.org




Central Dakota Children's Choir

A Pitch Perfect Evening

Please join us at our annual awards banquet & fundraiser.

Evening will include:
Cake Auction – Klym Peaks Home Bakery,
“Direct-a-Choir” Card Raffle,
Performance by Kantorei and more!

January 28

Sixteen03 Main Events
1603 E. Main Ave.
Bismarck, ND 58501

Social: 5:30pm
Dinner: 6:00pm



Scan or visit aboutcdcc.org for more information.