

Dr. John Alston
Founding Director of the Chester Children's Chorus

John Alston is the Founder and Artistic Director of the Chester Children's Chorus. Begun in 1994 with seven boys, The Chester Children's Chorus is an after-school community chorus, serving more than 100 children who love to sing Mozart's *Requiem*, The Beatles, and the best of R & B. During the summers, they practice, study, play and grow in the Chorus's Summer Learning Program.

Over the past five years, the CCC has developed its Math Practice Program, a serious math intervention led by our full time math teacher. Currently more than 50 CCC students practice math twice weekly with our teacher and 30 Swarthmore College students who serve as math coaches.

John was an Associate Professor of Music at Swarthmore College (1991 - 2014) where he conducted some of the great choral and orchestral masterpieces, including Handel's *Messiah*, Bach's *Mass in B Minor*, and Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony*. He also led the jazz ensembles, and taught jazz history and jazz improvisation.

As a bass soloist, John has sung with The Santa Fe Pro Musica, The Cleveland Baroque Orchestra, and the Smithsonian Chamber Players. While a member of New York's Ensemble for Early Music, John sang the role of Darius in The Play of Daniel, which toured throughout the United States. About his singing, the Washington Post wrote, "the revelation on the program was the quality of bass in John Alston's singing... his voice is graceful in its movements...and his diction and emotional shading of the words are exemplary." John earned his Doctorate of Music in Choral Conducting with a minor in Jazz Studies from Indiana University, Bloomington.