

## The Ephrata Cloister

One of America's earliest communal societies, the Ephrata Cloister was founded in 1732 by German settlers seeking spiritual goals rather than earthly rewards. The community consisted of unique European style buildings, the community consisted of celibate Brothers and Sisters, and a married congregation of families. The lifestyle of the celibate members was characterized by strict discipline and self-denial. The community members became known for their music, calligraphy, and printing.

## Music of the Ephrata Cloister

Music played an important role in life at the Ephrata Cloister. In 1747, Conrad Beissel published the first American treatise on harmony in the preface to his hymnal *Songs of the Lonely and Forsaken Turndove*. Beissel wrote music with his own rules for composition in which he used "master notes" and "servant notes" to create harmony. The texts of these hymns often describe difficulties on earth and the promise of entrance to Heaven. The sound of Ephrata's music, performed with heads bowed and mouths most closed, seems to have made the strongest impression on early visitors.

Ephrata Cloister is administered by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Tom Corbett, Governor; Andrew E. Masich, Chairman; James M. Vaughan, Executive Director. With generous support from the Ephrata Cloister Associates a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of this National Historic Landmark.

632 West Main Street  
Ephrata, PA 17522

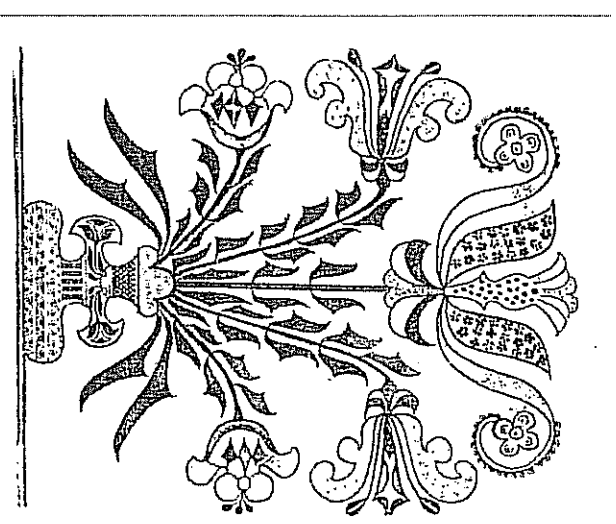
Ephrata Cloister Associates



# Ephrata Cloister

## Chorus

2013/2014 Season



*The music had little or no air or melody, but consisted of simple, long notes, combined with the richest harmony. It is impossible to describe my feelings upon this occasion. I almost began to think myself in the world of spirits...*

~ Reverend Jacob Duché, 1771

**Make Check Payable to:**  
 Ephrata Cloister Associates  
 632 West Main Street  
 Ephrata, PA 17522  
 Attn: Chorus Committee

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to provide support at the following level:  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Sponsor (\$2000 and over) \_\_\_\_\_ Patron (\$751-\$1999) \_\_\_\_\_ Friend (\$251-\$750) \_\_\_\_\_ Donor: (0- \$49)

Contributor to Individual Concert (\$50 -\$250) Please circle one of the following for this category

**Christmas at the Cloister    Charter Day    Spring Concert(s)**

The official registration and financial information of Ephrata Cloister Associates may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1 (800) 732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

*Support Ephrata Cloister*

**YOU** can help keep the historic music of Ephrata Cloister alive by becoming a sponsor today!

The annual budget of the Ephrata Cloister Chorus is approximately \$10,000. Unfortunately, as with most groups of this nature, performance fees and ticket sales do not cover all of the expenses.

You can make a difference! Simply complete the attached form and return it with your contribution to support the Ephrata Cloister Chorus.

*Levels of Giving*

- \$2000+ Sponsor**  
 Donors at this level receive:
- \* Name listed in all programs
  - \* Tax Deductible donation
  - \* Ephrata Cloister Associates Newsletter
  - \* Invitations to special ECA events
  - \* If a business, a full page ad in every program and 4 special tickets for employees.

**\$751- \$1999 Patron**  
 Donor benefits at this level are the same as above, however businesses receive a half page ad in every program and 2 special tickets for employees.

**\$251- \$750 Friend**  
 Donor benefits at this level are the same as above, except without the ads.

**\$50 - \$250 Contributor to Individual Concert**  
 Name will be listed in the program for the concert of your choice. Please be sure to indicate which of the following you would like to support on the adjacent form.  
 Christmas at the Cloister    Charter Day  
 Spring Concert(s)

**\$49 and below Donor**  
 Program Listing

*The Ephrata Cloister Chorus*

The Ephrata Cloister Chorus was formed in 1959 under the leadership of Dr. Russell Getz, a professor at Lebanon Valley College. Dr. Getz transcribed a selection of early Cloister music into a modern notation that could be performed by the chorus. A dozen of Dr. Getz's transcriptions were published in 1971. In recent years, musicologist Dr. Lucy Carroll has continued to investigate and transcribe Ephrata's original music, which offers more insight into the rich musical heritage of the community.

Today's chorus, under the direction of Dr. Daryl Hollinger, is a dedicated group of volunteers which brings to life the music of the Ephrata Cloister as a special educational program of the Ephrata Cloister Associates. Wearing white robes patterned after those worn by the Brothers and Sisters of Ephrata in the mid-eighteenth century, the modern Chorus performs at the historic site and throughout the region. In addition to works from Ephrata's past, the group performs compositions from other early American communities including works from the Shakers, the Moravians, the Harmonists, the Kelpius Community, the First New England School, and African American spirituals.



*Performance Schedule*

Today the Ephrata Cloister Chorus operates on an annual schedule from September through late May. The performance year is divided into two seasons, Fall (September through December) and Spring (January through May or early June). The Chorus presents *Day of Music* Saturday of Columbus Day weekend and the *Charter Day* celebrations in mid-March. In December the group presents the annual *Christmas at the Cloister* program on two evenings. In May the Chorus offers an annual *Spring Concert* that features a major classical work.