



Historic Ephrata Cloister

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

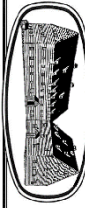
Music of the Ephrata Cloister

Music played an important role in life at the Ephrata Cloister. In 1747, Conrad Beissel published one of the nation's earliest treatises on harmony in the preface to his hymnal *Songs of the Lonely and Forsaken Turtledove*. 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 almost closed, seems to have made the strongest impression on early visitors.

Ephrata Cloister is administered by the
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission
Tom Wolf, Governor, Nance Moses, Chair
Andres Lowery, Executive Director.

With generous support from the *Ephrata Cloister Associates*,
a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of this
National Historic Landmark.

Ephrata Cloister Associates
632 West Main Street
Ephrata, Pennsylvania 17522



Ephrata Cloister Chorus



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

The Ephrata Cloister Chorus

In the 1950s Dr. Russell Getz began transcribing a selection of early Cloister chorales into a readable modern notation. Under his direction in 1959, a group of volunteers set out to revive Ephrata's musical heritage by forming the Ephrata Cloister Chorus. In recent years, continued research continues to add more pieces to the modern repertoire. This continued research offers more insight into the rich musical heritage of the community. To place Ephrata's music in context, the Chorus also performs works by other early American composers. Mr. Martin Hinkley serves as the choral director, and Mrs. Becky Degan is the accompanist.



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 is part of a day-long presentation on Columbus Day weekend in October, 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.

Support Ephrata Cloister Chorus

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 group of this nature, performance fees and ticket sales do not cover all the expenses.

You can make a difference! Simply complete the attached form and return it with our 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
- Invitation to special Ephrata Cloister events
- If a business, a full-page ad in every program and 4 special tickets for employees

\$751- \$1999 : Paton

Donor benefits at the level are the same as above, however business 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 advertisements.

\$50-\$250 : Contribute to Individual Concert

Name will be listed in the program for the concert of our 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 Concerts

\$49 and below : Donor

Name listed on program

Ephrata Cloister Chorus

Make check payable to:

Ephrata Cloister Associates

632 W. Main St., Ephrata, PA 17522

Note CHORUS SPONSOR on check

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

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I would like to provide support at the following level:

_____ Sponsor (\$2000+) _____ Patron (\$751 - \$1999) _____ Friend ((\$251-\$750) _____ Donor (\$49 and below)

Contribute to Individual Concert (\$50-\$250) **PLEASE CHOOSE ONE:**

Christmas at the Cloister Charter Day Spring Concert