

# Maddie Meier

## singer, conductor, teacher

mmeier@maddiemeiermusic.com // (732) 835-2130//

IG: @maddiemeiermusic // maddiemeiermusic.com



Through my teaching, I hope to bring attention to our shared human experience through music. All are welcome to join my choirs, and I believe that everyone can sing. No voice is ever the same, and finding *your* voice within a joyous and supportive community is important. I strive to bring out the best qualities in the people that I work with and help them to grow, while promoting a welcoming and structured rehearsal environment. Community and teamwork are valued in our rehearsal spaces and I believe that making music collaboratively can be a transformative experience for everyone involved in the rehearsal and performance process. As a teacher/director, I believe it is my job to help facilitate and guide this process.

Participants in my choirs learn about the fundamentals of singing, music reading, music listening and the interrelated nature of music through a variety of different cultures and content areas. I not only pick repertoire that pedagogically serves a purpose and is interesting to my students, but repertoire that is representative of a variety of different cultures, perspectives and orientations, whether that be through the piece's content, context or composer. Cultural relevance and diversity within my rehearsal spaces are of the utmost importance to me, and I learn from the singers just as much as they learn from me. I strive to make sure various members of our choral communities know that my door is always open if a conversation needs to be had in regards to specific needs or concerns. Open-mindedness and flexibility are imperative to maintaining the values of any choral organization.

My curriculum is infused with my teaching philosophy, and designed in a way that makes music learning an organic and enjoyable experience for musicians. In addition to repertoire learning, I teach lessons such as Music Theory, Mindfulness in Music, Aural Skills, Music History, and Body Mapping. Each of these units help to create well-rounded musicians, with developed and flexible learning styles, critical ears, an understanding of music as a whole, and an understanding of music's connection to the world around us. My choirs do service work through music in and outside of our immediate communities. I strive to create experiences that allow the participants in my choirs to connect with other musicians around the world. Younger students in our work with mentors, or older members, that serve to help guide and support them. Our choirs also participate in a variety of state-wide, national and international performances and competitions.

Choral singing can be a transformative experience for any person and music is special in the way that it holistically contributes to our lives in both learning and social spheres. The study of music directly correlates with increased academic achievement and higher quality leadership skills. One of my goals is to teach in support of these parallels.

Listed below are my core values as a Conductor-Teacher:

1. Community - Not only do we cultivate community and promote our togetherness domestically in our choirs, but our communities strive to connect deeply with the world around us through service to others. Communication and empathy skills are cultivated in our program as singers learn how to work as a team and collaborate with one another.
2. Respect - I ensure that members of my choirs place great importance on respect to ourselves, one another, our community and the greater world around us. Respect fosters a supportive rehearsal environment for singers to create and try new things. On a grander level, practicing respect cultivates an open mind, listening skills and the flexibility needed to grow as we navigate our global world.
3. Equality - All members of the choirs that I direct are given equal rights and opportunity. Rehearsals are an environment where success is attainable for every choir member. We strive to create a choral space where every singer knows they are heard, seen and valued.

I aspire to maintain choral programs that build community and emphasize the importance of service through music, both outside of and amongst its members. My biggest hope is that we can inspire and promote positive change in the world around us through the music that we create together. The goal is that my programs can provide participants with a sincere love for music and skills that they can carry with them as they navigate the rest of their lives as important citizens of our world.