



Dr. Rollo Dilworth is an active conductor, educator and clinician who has taught choral music at the elementary, secondary and university levels. He is a contributing author for the Essential Elements for Choir textbook series and for Music Express teachers magazine. His research interests are in African American music and music education curriculum and instruction. Dr. Dilworth is an award-winning composer, and his choral compositions are a part of Hal Leonard publications.



Christopher Brown is the Festival Director and the Artistic Director of the Appalachian Children's Chorus. Mr. Brown is the Director of Choral Activities at the University of Charleston, and the Choirmaster at St. John's Episcopal Church. He teaches choir and general music at Horace Mann Middle School. He graduated from Glenville State University with a bachelor's in Music Education, and from Eastern Kentucky University with a master's in trumpet performance.



Ron Sowell serves as co-director for the festival. He is best known for his role as the music + director for the internationally acclaimed public radio show, Mountain Stage. Ron is also a dynamic singer/songwriter, guitarist, performer and producer. We are so happy to have him as an artistic consultant.



APPALACHIAN
FESTIVAL OF
YOUNG
VOICES

June 12 - 16, 2026

wvacc.org/appalachian-festival-of-young-voices



You are invited!

We invite treble choirs and choirs with boys with changed voices from around the country to register. It can be a children's choir program that represents a community, school, or church. The choristers' age range should be between 9 and 18.

Festival fee includes:

- 4 nights of lodging
- 8 meals (4 breakfasts, 1 lunch and 3 dinners)
- Square dance with live music
- Festival handbook
- Festival t-shirt
- Private rehearsal time with Dr. Rollo Dilworth
- Children's choir music workshops/rehearsals
- Professional storyteller
- Q & A time with Dr. Rollo Dilworth, and Ron Sowell, director of Mountain Stage
- Final performance in the Charleston Coliseum and Convention Center Theater
- Performance with classical orchestra and a world class string band
- One complimentary trip per 25 paying choristers is provided

Transport to and from Charleston, WV is the responsibility of the individual choirs.



Schedule

Friday:

Check in, rehearsal, Welcome Dinner & story time

Saturday:

Two rehearsals, free time, special lunch for artistic staff, full ensemble rehearsal with string band, Q&A session

Sunday:

Two rehearsals, free time, dinner, square dance party

Monday:

Ensemble rehearsal with orchestra and string band, private rehearsal time with Dr. Dilworth, dinner at concert venue, performance and farewell party.

Tuesday:

Breakfast and depart for home

*Solo concerts by visiting choirs occur each evening in the Embassy ballroom!

Visit a beautiful, safe river city!

"The accommodations were excellent and the logistics made it one of the easiest tours we have ever done. Thank you again for a very meaningful festival experience, and one I would recommend to others.

- LuAnn Holden, Chattanooga Girls Chorus



The singers were definitely the main focus throughout the event. Combined with your musical direction and that of Dr. Dilworth's, they've had a higher-level musical experience—especially geared for this age singer.

-Anne Saxon, Founding Artistic Director—Winston-Salem Girls Chorus

"Our short time was filled with such rich events! My kids had such a good time – they really loved it and appreciated how friendly the other singers were towards them."

-Diane Simons, South Bay Children's Choir

"...a gift to the world."

- Paul Caldwell



This festival is a "one of a kind" experience that will prove to be both musically and culturally enriching for all participants.

- Dr. Rollo Dilworth



Festival Features:

- Individual and festival choir performance at Charleston's Coliseum and Convention Center Theater
- 4 nights at Charleston's luxurious Embassy Suites Hotel, or nearby hotel
- Performance with a traditional string band and orchestra
- Individual choir time with Dr. Dilworth
- Amazing opportunity to personally interact with composer/conductor Dr. Dilworth, singer/songwriter Ron Sowell
- Square dancing with live music
- Appalachian storytelling



Registration Information

- For questions and an information packet about the festival, please call 304.343.1111, visit our Web site at wvacc.org or e-mail blaine@wvacc.org.
- Interested choirs should complete the application form found on our Web site and submit it along with an audio or video audition and a \$600 nonrefundable deposit fee to the Appalachian Children's Chorus.
- Selina Midkiff - Festival Founder, ACC Emeritus Director, selina@wvacc.org

Registration Deadline: January 15, 2026