The Choo Choo Chorus Presents

Christmas Memories

A Benefit Concert for Boehm Birth Defects Center

SPECIAL GUESTS

Scenic City Chorus Chattanooga Community Christmas Chorus



Saturday, December 12, 2015 7:00 PM

GPS Fine Arts Auditorium \$15

Children 12 and undi admitted free

Thank You to the Choo Choo Chorus &

Chattanooga Community Christmas Chorus For Your Generous Support!









Making a difference in the lives of children born with birth defects of the brain and spinal column

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WELCOME

Greetings to everyone and Happy Holidays from the Choo Choo Chorus. We are so honored and grateful that you have chosen to spend some of your Christmas season with us tonight. As Show Chairman, I want to personally thank each of you for your presence tonight. Our theme this year is Christmas Memories and we hope to both call to your memory enjoyable moments from past shows and, hopefully, make some new and lasting memories you will take with you tonight.

There are always many people to thank for this show to be a success, but none are more integral than our Director, Paul Blazek, and Associate Director, Chuck Wilson. Their dedication and support to all the men in the chorus is greatly appreciated. Also, we want to thank the ladies in our lives, the Choo Choo Belles, for their love and support for all our singing endeavors.

We are very fortunate to have the Scenic City Chorus of the Sweet Adelines performing with us tonight. They will offer both harmonious singing and something better to look at than the men on the risers. Also, we are featuring the Chattanooga Community Christmas Chorus for the 13th consecutive year on the stage with us. These guys have been very dedicated and have worked extremely hard to perform for you this evening. Additionally, we are excited to have Randy Smith with us tonight to handle the Emcee duties.

We are most pleased and excited to once again be able to donate all of our net proceeds from this show to the Walter Boehm Birth Defects Center. They do great work for the kids they see and we are honored to partner with them in supporting this vital service. It is because of your attendance and support that we are able to participate in this great work so, once again, thank you all so much for being here. And now, On With the Show!

Steve Grubb, Christmas Show Chairman

HISTORY OF THE CHOO CHOO CHORUS

The Chattanooga Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society, known as the Choo Choo Chorus, celebrated its 50th anniversary three years ago with a big show, an anniversary party, and redecoration of our chapter rooms. This year we again present our Christmas Show with the 13th Chattanooga Community Christmas Chorus (see below.) We continue traditions started many years ago of Harmony, Service, Fellowship, and Fun. Our special venues include Scout Flag Day, Memorial Day, Veterans Day, Special Olympics, Naturalization Ceremonies for new citizens, nursing and retirements centers, and more.

You can find us at choochoochorus.org or facebook.com/choochoochorus and let us know how to get in touch with you. If the "interweb" gives you a fit, feel free to call us at (423)265-SING(7464) and leave us a message - we'll get back to you.

HISTORY OF THE CHRISTMAS CHORUS

While the Choo Choo Chorus had Christmas shows since at least the early 1990s, the Chattanooga Community Christmas Chorus (CCCC) was started in 2003 as an outreach program to men in the Chattanooga/North Georgia area. The idea was that we could invite men who enjoyed singing, but weren't already members of the Choo Choo Chorus, to come and rehearse with us on Monday nights in October and November, then sing with us on the Christmas show in December. There would be no pressure to join the chapter, just the availability of singing with fellow harmonizers in four-part a cappella style. Since our chapter was already producing an annual show during the year to raise operating funds, we decided that we could dedicate some or all of our proceeds from the Christmas show to a local charity. This gave us something else to offer potential singers - the chance to raise money for a worthy cause while raising our voices in song.

Our first year we had 55 men on stage in the CCCC and we have had as many as 82 men in previous years. This is our 13th year, and we will have 55 men on stage and hope to raise a lot of money for our

charitable cause. In addition to the main Christmas show, we have invited CCCC members to sing with us at other area performances in the last couple of years - we sing at nursing homes and assisted living centers for people who can't make it to the big show. This year we also sang at Rock City for their Enchanted Garden of Lights.

Thanks for being here tonight, and we hope you enjoy the show as much as we enjoy singing for you. If you're the kind of guy who loves to sing, especially with 100 or so of your closest friends, consider joining us next year. Start planning now for the 'First Monday in October' so that you can be on stage with us in 2016!

If you can't wait until next October, come visit us - we meet at All Saints Academy, 310 E 8th St, Chattanooga almost every Monday night starting at 7 PM. I can promise you a great evening of harmony, both musical and personal. *Paul Blazek*, Musical Director

SHOW COMMITTEE

Chairman Steve Grubb Music Leadership VP Chuck Wilson

Script Steve Grubb, Johnny Jackson

and Paul Blazek

Tickets Dave Rack
Program Steve Wixson
Director Paul Blazek
Associate Director Chuck Wilson

Set Steve Wixson

age Manager Brandon Middlebrooks

Stage Manager Brandon Middlebro Choo Choo Belles Mary Strickland

oo Choo Belles Mary Strickland Emcee Randy Smith

CAST

Ernie: Steve Grubb; Jack Murley: Johnny Jackson; Ghost of Christmas Past: Brandon Middlebrooks; Ghost of Christmas Present: Chuck Wilson; Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come: Henry Crutcher; Hunch: Johnny Jackson; Grunch: Steve Grubb.

CHOO CHOO CHORUS MEMBERS

TENORS
Dan Bullock
Wally Edmondson
Gene Huelman
Fred Jesse
Brandon Middlebrooks
Wendell Whitmire
David White

LEADS
Pat Crowe
Frank Delaney
David Fleury
Steve Grubb
Charlie Holder
Thomas Keegan
Dan Kopf
J.W. Kirk
Julius McShan
William Slack
Steve Vipond
Steve Wixson

BARITONES
Beau Christian
Brooks Gist
Johnny Jackson
John Johnston
Benny Malone
Rich Ptacin
Chuck Wilson

BASSES
Barry Arp
Paul Blazek
Lebron Brock
John Cook
Erby Erwin
Pete Jones
David Rack
Neal Robinson
Marcellus Scott
Chet Tschetter
Wilbur Strickland
Clarence Wall



CHATTANOOGA COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CHORUS

Douglas Alexander
George Ames
Anthony Baker
Matt Blazek
Ray Burnfin
Chris Coles
David Collao
Henry Crutcher
Ted Doss
Anthony Doss
John D Hain

Mark McKeel
Kelly Mercer
Larson Mick
Jerry W Moore
Sam Moore
Philip Newton
Bernard L Peek
Daniel Randolph
Carl Striebeck
Richard Vaupel
Art Von Werssowetz



The 2014 Chattanooga Community Christmas Chorus

Our sincere thanks to the men listed above who gave of their time for this benefit concert and other performances during the Christmas season. That is a gift to the Chattanooga community.

QUARTETS - Tenor, Lead, Baritone, Bass

Birchwood Common - Wendell Whitmire, Charlie Holder, Sam Moore, and Pete Jones

Chattanooguys - Wally Edmondson, Dave Fleury, Beau Christian, and Paul Blazek subbing for Marcellus Scott

Rock City 4 - Fred Jesse, Bill Slack, Benny Malone, and Wilbur Strickland

8th Street Irregulars - Dan Bullock, Steve Vipond, Rich Ptacin, and Dave Rack

PROGRAM

THE CHOO CHOO CHORUS

Winter Wonderland Choo Choo Chorus
The Christmas Song 8th Street Irregulars

The Man With the Bag Rock City 4

Jingle Bell Rock Chattanooguys Red Nose Reindeer Chattanooguys

Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer Chattanooguys
O Holy Night Birchwood Common

I'll Be Home For Christmas Rock City 4

Let It Snow! Let It Snow! Let It Snow! Choo Choo Chorus

Diddly Squat Rock City 4

We Want To Wish You a Merry Christmas Choo Choo Chorus

SPECIAL GUEST THE SCENIC CITY CHORUS

THE CHATTANOOGA COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CHORUS

Jingle Bells
Santa Claus is Coming to Town
We Need A Little Christmas
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (Veni, Veni)
Mary Had A Baby
It Came Upon A Midnight Clear
A Cradle In Bethlehem
Betelehemu (Nigerian Christmas Song - Translation on Page 14)

Audience sing-along (words on Page 14)
Joy to the World
O Come, All Ye Faithful

Finale: Silent Night (Combined Choruses sing second verse)

SCENIC CITY CHORUS



Scenic City Chorus (SCC), under the director of Jen Cooke, is very pleased to be guests on the 2015 Choo Choo Christmas Show and to share in the spirit of giving by helping benefit the Boehm Birth Defect Center.

For over 50+ years, SCC has entertained audiences in the greater Chattanooga area with dynamic, a cappella, four-part harmony. Our 70+ members of all ages come from southeast Tennessee, northeast Alabama, and northwest Georgia and represent a wide variety of backgrounds and lifestyles.

As all barbershoppers know, learning and honing our craft is a journey that never ends. We're delighted to say that this year we brought home second place medals in our division (mid-size) and third place overall at Sweet Adelines Region 4 Competition in Kentucky.

Our Mission

We strive to bring our unique a cappella blend to the community through performance, education, community involvement and collaboration. We're always on the lookout for opportunities to foster relationships with other arts and nonprofit entities, and area schools.

This year has brought positive change for us. We've grown in number and visibility in the greater Chattanooga area. A sample of 2015 appearances besides our annual show include: The Mayor's Breakfast Opening Ceremonies, the North River Civic Center Concert Series, the Downtown Rotary Club, The Midtown Chamber of Commerce, The American Cancer Society, EXPO Chattanooga, 4 Bridges Art Festival, and the Grassroots Midtown Festival.

Some upcoming appearances in the works for 2016 include: Show guests for The Chattanooga Music Club on January 24, MACC–Signal Mountain on March 19, Sequatchie County Valley-Fest 2016 in Dunlap on May 1, and a collaboration with the Symphony of Praise Orchestra in Chattanooga at year's end.

Forming Partnerships

We've formed a strategic partnership with WTCI-PBS and have helped and performed at their events like telethons and Family Day. WTCI-PBS is also a current platinum level sponsor and Morning Pointe of Chattanooga is on the silver level. Scenic City Chorus is grateful for their support.

Education

It's important to keep the barbershop craft alive and to educate the community that today's barbershop is not their grandparents (or great-grandparents) barbershop.

Besides performing at the Barbershop Harmony Society sponsored Harmony Explosion 2015 aimed at youth, and facilitating the Sweet Adeline's Young Women in Harmony program in the area, SCC is networking to collaborate with area schools. We recently took a teaching role in a groundbreaking, new program—a Hamilton County Schools Music Workshop—performing later on at a well-attended concert for educators and the families of the participating students.

Contact Info:

To hire SCC (full chorus, smaller ensemble or quartet configurations), to find information on upcoming performances, or to find out about joining the chorus, please visit www.sceniccitychorus.com. We look forward to hearing from you!

Scenic City Chorus, a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, is part of Sweet Adelines International, Inc. Member of the Chattanooga Chamber of Commerce.

BENEFIT CONCERT FOR BOEHM BIRTH DEFECTS CENTER

The net proceeds from tonight's benefit performance go to the Boehm Birth Defects Center. This would not be possible without support from patrons and businesses who purchased an ad in our 2014 Annual Show Program. Several of them made an additional contribution and their ad is included in this program. If you get the chance, please thank them for their support. And thank yourself for purchasing a ticket to tonight's show.



QUESTIONS

- 1) What year was the first Choo Choo Chorus Christmas show?
- 2) How many times have the Scenic City ladies been our guests at Christmas?
- 3) How many times have we had a handbell choir join us?
- 4) How many quartets have performed at our holiday event?
- 5) How many local celebrities have emceed for us?
- 6) Which local celebrity has emceed the most often for us?
- 7) How many members of the chorus have emceed a Christmas show?
- 8) Name the only member's wife who has emceed a show for us?
- 9) How many times has the chorus presented "What the Dickens"?
- 10) Name the religious song that has been performed by both the audience and the chorus to close each holiday performance?

Our Lady of Perpetual Belp Catholic Church



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TRANSLATION OF BETELEHEMU

(Olatunji, Via) - arr. Wendall Whalum

We are glad that we have a Father to trust.
We are glad that we have a Father to rely upon
Where was Jesus born? Where was He born?
Bethlehem, the city of wonder.
That is where the Father was born for sure.
Praise, praise, praise be to Him.
We thank thee, we thank Thee, we thank Thee for this day,
Gracious Father.
Praise, praise, praise be to Thee, Merciful Father.

SING ALONG SONGS

Joy to the World

Verse 1
Joy to the World, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing.

Verse 4
He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders, of His love.

O Come All Ye Faithful

Verse 1

O come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem, Come and behold Him, born the King of Angels

Chorus
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.

Verse 2
Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation,
O sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above,
Glory to God all glory in the highest,
Chorus

Verse 3
Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning,
O Jesus to Thee be all glory giv'n,
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing,
Chorus

Silent Night

Verse 1
Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child,
Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Verse 2 Sung by Christmas Chorus





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