

# The Choo Choo Chorus Presents ALL ABOARD IN HARMONY

## Special Guest Chorus THE SOUND OF TENNESSEE



7PM Saturday, August 18, 2018  
GPS Fine Arts Auditorium

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## **WELCOME**

Welcome to the Choo Choo Chorus 2018 Annual Show. Our theme for this year's show is 'Everyone In Harmony', and I would think that we are all here because we enjoy harmony, whether listening or singing. Barbershop harmony has its origin as an American art form, but is popular all over the world. Any barbershopper can find 3 other barbershoppers anywhere in the world and sing a song that they all know, and create harmony and enjoy a great fellowship.

In that light, beginning the first Monday in October, the Choo Choo Chorus is inviting all gentlemen who enjoy singing to join us, rehearse with us, and sing in the Christmas show. Thank you all for your support of our music, which, I hope you can tell, we thoroughly enjoy.

Chuck Wilson, Show Chairman

## STEAM ENGINE NO. 349

On stage tonight is a side view of Steam Engine No. 349 which is owned by Chattanooga's Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum. The engine was photographed and then printed on plastic to become part of the fence surrounding the new Erlanger Children's Outpatient Center.

It was given to the Choo Choo Chorus in thanks for our annual Christmas Benefit Shows that have raised over \$50,000 for Erlanger's Boehm Birth Defects Center. And by supporting us tonight at our Annual Show you give us the funding whereby we give the net proceeds from this year's Christmas Show to a local charity.



### History of Engine 349

Engine No. 349 was built by Baldwin Locomotive Works in June 1891 for the Savannah & Western Railway, later being sold to the Central of Georgia Railroad in 1894. The 349 is one of the few remaining examples of the most common type of locomotive ever built. The design was so ubiquitous that it earned the name "American" locomotive. It is distinguished by its four small wheels in the front and four large wheels behind, with no wheels in the rear. Thus it is a 4-4-0 type wheel arrangement. Various locomotive manufacturers built the American-type locomotive from prior to the Civil War until the 1920s.

The year of its build - 1891 - is shared with the year that Erlanger's first children hospital was constructed in Chattanooga - making this the perfect engine to loan for display at the new Erlanger Children's Outpatient Center. Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum is honored to have partnered with Erlanger in making this display happen. [Note: the engine was moved to the new Children's Center just a few days ago.]

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Paul Blazek	Pat Crowe	Charlie Holder
Dan Bullock	Wally Edmondson	Gene Huelman
Beau Christian	Erby Erwin	Johnny Jackson
Jack Cook	David Fleury	Fred Jesse
Jim Costello	Jim Frank	John Johnston

## **ABOUT THE CHOO CHOO CHORUS**

Fifty-six years ago (May 17, 1962), the Chattanooga (Rock City) Chapter became a charter member of what is now the Barbershop Harmony Society.

The Rock City Chorus performed their first show on July 14, 1962 at the new Chattanooga High School auditorium. The Knoxville Smokyland Chorus and Knoxville Sweet Adeline Chorus and the Atlanta Peachtree Chorus along with four quartets, including Dixie District Champions, The Dignitaries, also performed that day.



## CHORUS

Pete Jones  
 Dan Kopf  
 Benny Malone  
 Rich Ptacin  
 David Rack  
 Bob Radel

Bob Robbins  
 Ron Satterfield  
 Wilbur Strickland  
 Chet Tschetter  
 Matt Van Stelle  
 Clarence Wall

Wendell Whitmire  
 Chuck Wilson  
 Rich Wilson  
 Steve Wixson

In 1975 the chorus name was changed to The Mountain City Chorus and in 1982 the name was changed finally to The Choo Choo Chorus. The Chorus has had as many as 62 members in 1963 and as few as 12 members in 1970 and currently has 32 members.

Of ten different musical directors beginning with Dick Clem, our current director, Paul Blazek, has been director for the longest time (30 years). Thirty-two chapter quartets have competed for Dixie District honors over the years and one quartet, the Chattanooga Shoe Shine Boys, won a Dixie District Quartet Championship (1981).

From its inception the chorus has been busy singing in the Chattanooga area. With two contests each year, an annual show, a Christmas show and singing in the community, the men get their barbershop "fix" and provide audiences with lots of entertainment opportunities. With performances ranging from entertaining at a nursing home or retirement center to singing the National Anthem at sporting events, Memorial and Veterans Day ceremonies at the National Cemetery, several Special Olympics events, to performing with the Chattanooga Symphony, the chapter provides ample chances for men to indulge the inner "ham" while making people happy. An added benefit is health improvements as the result of singing - we've had men performing with us into their 90's!

The vision for the future is continued efforts for preservation of barbershop music, entertainment of patrons, help for service projects, and continued friendship with fellow barbershoppers.

#### **SHOW COMMITTEE**

Chairman	Chuck Wilson
Ad Sales	Gene Huelman
Ticket Sales	Dave Rack
Program, Set Design	Steve Wixson
Treasurer and Risers	Wendell Whitmire
Publicity	Dan Kopf
Script	Steve Grubb
Stage Manager	Linda Touns
Music VP	Chuck Wilson
Afterglow	Barry Arp
Emcee	Steve Grubb

#### **Fourcasting Chords**

Dan Bullock, Dan Kopf or Jim Franks, Paul Blazek, and Chuck Wilson

#### **The Histones**

Dan Bullock, Jim Frank, Matt Van Stelle. and Pete Jones

#### **Rock City 4**

Fred Jesse, Bill Slack, Wilbur Strickland, and Benny Malone



## **OUR CHORUS DIRECTOR - PAUL BLAZEK**

Paul Blazek celebrates 31 years as our Director. Paul was born in Chicago, Illinois. He moved to Nashville in 1965 and then to Chattanooga in 1977. He and his wife Lindy have four children, Mary Kathryn, Melissa, Megan, and Matt, and grandchildren Maddie and Caleb. Matt and son-in-law David Grass have sung with the chorus at various times.

Paul joined the Nashville chapter in 1976 and sang in his first barbershop contest at the Cow Palace in San Francisco International that same year. He also competed with Nashville at '77 Philadelphia International and '78 Cincinnati International, and rejoined the Music City Chorus to compete at the International level six times since 2010 and achieve Fifth Place International Bronze Medalist status.

He has been a member of several quartets: Round Mound of Sound (Nashville), Backstage, Stage II, Four Guys, and Honchos (Chattanooga). Paul has attended Harmony College many times, attended the first Director's College in 1990, and many Society-sponsored schools over the years. He was Director of Tullahoma, TN chapter in 1984-85, assistant director of the Chattanooga chapter in 1985-86, and director of the Chattanooga chapter since 1987. He is currently on the Dixie District Board of Directors as Board Member at Large and Chairman of the Budget & Finance Committee. In his spare time, Paul is database administrator for TXI Systems, Inc.

## **ASSOCIATE CHORUS DIRECTOR - CHUCK WILSON**

Associate Director Chuck Wilson has been a member of the Chattanooga Choo Choo Barbershop Chorus since 1990 and the Associate Director since 2003. He was the baritone for Classic Harmony quartet for 20 years and is currently singing baritone with Fourcasting Chords. He attended the Barbershop Harmony Society's Harmony College/Director's College and is a Certified Chorus Director. He has an Associate Degree (Music Emphasis) from Chattanooga State Community College and has been the Minister of Music at Riverside Baptist Church in Lookout Valley since 2015. "Thank you, Melissa, for letting me enjoy this wonderful hobby."



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IT TAKES<sup>SM</sup>**

# THE CHOO CHOO CHORUS PRESENTS

## *All Aboard in Harmony*

### PROGRAM

Tonight's program consists of performances by the Choo Choo Chorus, local quartets, Fourcasting Chords, The Histones, Rock City 4, and our Special Guest Chorus, Sound of Tennessee

### ACT I

Star Spangled Banner  
Let's Get Away From It All  
Java Jive - Rock City 4  
Play A Simple Melody  
Mam'selle - The Histones  
Georgia On My Mind  
California Here I Come  
Up a Lazy River - Fourcasting Chords  
When There's Love At Home  
From the First Hello, To the Last Goodbye - The Histones  
Old Folks At Home  
When I'm 64  
Back To Dixieland - Rock City 4  
' On Top Of The World  
Bye, Bye, Blues - Fourcasting Chords  
Darkness On The Delta

### INTERMISSION

### ACT II:

### Sound of Tennessee

God Bless America, Combined Choruses

# Guest Chorus - Sound of Tennessee



The Sound of Tennessee Chorus was founded in 1998 with a goal of creating a unique musical experience for its members. A former Dixie District Championship chorus, we strive for musical excellence. Although the Sound of Tennessee sings a wide variety of musical styles, we are proud members of the Barbershop Harmony Society.

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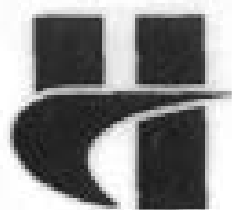
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