

# Choo Choo Christmas Chorus

Presents

## *A Family Christmas Show*

Saturday, December 11, 2021 4:00 PM

Ringgold High School Auditorium  
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## WELCOME

There are not enough words to express how happy we are to share this Holiday Season with our friends and family this year! COVID has greatly impacted the world and has deprived us of the joy of interacting with one another as we so enjoy doing. So please know that this year more than most others you are all so welcome to this special Family Christmas Show featuring the Choo Choo Christmas Chorus and various quartets!

This is an especially significant event for the Chorus as we welcome a new member to our family and give a hearty thanks to another. Jimmy Tompkins came to us as our new Director at the first of 2020 just when the world was shutting down. We were limited to only two performances last Christmas and, ironically, Jimmy could not be with us for either one as he was battling the virus. Thus, our former Director of over 30 years, Paul Blazek, stepped up and led us. So here's a big thanks to Paul for all his years of service and a big welcome to Jimmy as he begins his journey with us. Paul remains a part of this local brotherhood of singers that now follows a new Director and we see you all as a grand extension of our family and are so grateful to have you with us this afternoon.

Finally, we are pleased to again be supporting The Candleligthers of Chattanooga as our chosen local charity. These dedicated folks work behind the scenes to assist families who are struggling with a child impacted by cancer. There is a brief explanation of their mission in the program and we are proud to be able to offer them up to you and be a supporting factor in their efforts. Your attendance today makes for a great local partnership during this holiday season.

Again, thanks so much for being here. And now, On With The Show!

Steve Grubb, Co-Chairman & Chapter President

## THE CHOO CHOO CHORUS

The Chattanooga Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society, known as the Choo Choo Chorus, was officially organized in 1962, and 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. Our Director is Jimmy Tompkins

You can find us at [choochoochorus.org](http://choochoochorus.org) or [facebook.com/choochoochorus](https://www.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.

### SHOW COMMITTEE

Show Co-Chairmen	Steve Grubb, Jimmy Tompkins, Jim Frank
Tickets	Steve Grubb
Ads	Charlie Holder
Set Coordinator	Jim Frank
Back Stage Manager	Linda Toups
Program Booklet	Steve Wixson
CCCC Director	Jimmy Tompkins
Door	Choo Choo Belles
Emcee	Jim Reynolds





## CHOO CHOO CHRISTMAS CHORUS

While the Choo Choo Chorus has had Christmas shows since at least the early 1990s, the Chattanooga Community Christmas Chorus (CCCC) was started by Paul Blazek 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 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. Over those years we have raised well over \$75,000 for local charities.

In addition to the main Christmas show, we have invited CCCC members to sing with us at other area performances for several years - we sing at nursing homes and assisted living centers for people who can't make it to the big show.

Thanks for being here today, 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 Thursday in October' so that you can be on stage with us in 2022!

If you can't wait until next October, come visit us - we meet at Ponders, 4203 Brainerd Road (between Belvoir Ave and North Moore Road), Chattanooga, almost every Thursday night starting at 7 PM. I can promise you a great evening of harmony, both musical and personal. *Jimmy Tompkins*, Musical Director

## **CHOO CHOO CHORUS MEMBERS**

### **TENORS**

Drew Adams  
Dan Bullock  
Wally Edmondson  
Fred Jesse  
Wendell Whitmire

### **BARITONES**

Beau Christian\*  
Johnny Jackson  
Benny Malone  
Rich Ptacin\*  
Mel White  
Chuck Wilson

### **LEADS**

Dan Bruns  
David Fleury\*  
Jim Frank  
Steve Grubb  
Charlie Holder  
David Murphree  
Bernard L Peek  
Ron Satterfield  
Ron Weaver\*  
Rich Wilson  
Steve Wixson  
Jerry Wright

### **BASSES**

Barry Arp  
Paul Blazek  
Jack Cook  
Pete Jones  
Barry Owens  
Bob Robbins  
Wilbur Strickland  
Clarence Wall\*

\* Not singing today

## **CHOO CHOO CHRISTMAS CHORUS MEMBERS**

Doug Alexander  
Corey Bain  
Bob Hill  
Mark McKeel  
Larson Mick

Kyle Neal  
Daniel Randolph  
David Robinson  
Lonnie Satterfield  
Marcellus Scott

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





### **JIMMY TOMPKINS, MUSICAL DIRECTOR**

Jimmy Tompkins became the director of the Choo Choo Chorus in April 2020, just as the pandemic started!

He began singing barbershop in high school in the late 1970s. After graduating from high school in 1981 he continued to sing with a barbershop quartet in college. He participated in a production of “The Music Man” at Jacksonville State University in the early 1980s.



He moved to Niceville, Florida in 1990 and realized he was close to a barbershop chapter in Ft. Walton Beach. He began visiting them in 1991 and soon after he joined their director retired and became their director. The chorus showed consistent improvement over the next three years.

He sang with the Big Chicken chorus after moving to north Georgia in the mid-90s. He sang in several quartets and district events and shows with them over the next two years. He was also able to sing on the international stage with them in Miami in 1995.

After serving several churches he moved to Clanton, AL in 2007. He was then able to participate again in the Birmingham chorus. After singing with them for a while their director left and he became their director and directed them until his family moved to Chattanooga in 2012.

### **A Family Christmas Story**

When I was six my future Uncle Wally was a SeaBee in the South Pacific building air fields as Marines moved across islands. Christmas week we got a letter saying he'd get leave in mid February, asking us to keep our Christmas tree up. My parents agreed. We joyfully lit it each evening and watered it. He arrived mid-February after 3 years over seas. He cried when he saw the tree, though more needles were under the tree than on it. *Rich Ptacin*



### **A Good Hearted Christmas Story**

Paul Blazek suffered a heart attack, resulting in 7 bypass surgery, two days after directing the 2019 Christmas Show. Christmas had to happen, so here are most of us (Mary Kathryn and Sarah came



in later) in his hospital room early on Christmas morning. We trucked in all the presents, cooked a slightly modified Christmas dinner and spent Christmas at Memorial. So many barbershoppers joined

us that week-we are convinced and the surgeon agreed- that the need to sing with his fellow barbershoppers led to a faster recovery! BTW, thanks to Santa's magic, all the kids around the world still got their presents! *Lindy Blazek*

## **An Elf Christmas Story**

Most children grow up loving Christmas because it means getting presents. It wasn't until my 14th celebration of the holiday that I began to realize the true joy of the Season was in the giving and not the receiving. I was enlisted by my Uncle to help him assemble and arrange on Christmas Eve the presents he had gotten for his 8 year old son. I still recall the look on my Cousin's face that morning and the pleasure it gave me having helped make it happen. I had become an Elf in Santa's service and it brought a nice reward. *Steve Grubb*

## **A Memorable Christmas Story**

In 1954 my father, as a result of a short tour of duty with the U.S. Army Dental Corps, was stationed in Stuttgart, Germany. It was the holiday season where the family would for the first time be away from the small hometown in New Jersey where both parents had grown up and where nearly all of the close family lived. As a surprise for my mother and the two kids, my father had arranged for my maternal grandparents to fly to Germany for the holidays. Dad concocted a story that an old friend from Egypt was flying in and he wanted all of us to drive out to the airport to meet the friend. Needless to say, there was lots of excitement and tears when we saw my grandparents debark from the plane and walk across the tarmac towards us. We spent Christmas together, and then went to Obersdorf (a very German resort in the German Alps) for a memorable few days. *Larson Mick*

## **The Silent Night Story**

On a cold Christmas Eve in 1818, pastor Joseph Mohr walked three kilometers from his home to visit his friend Franz Gruber in the neighboring town. Mohr brought with him a poem he had written some two years earlier. He desperately needed a carol for the Christmas Eve midnight mass that was only hours away, and hoped his friend could set his poem to music. Amazingly, the tune was written and the song sang for the first time at the Christmas Eve service accompanied by Gruber on guitar. For a more complete story Google "Silent Night: The True Story." *Rich Ptacin*

## My Barbershop Story

My parents got me into scouting, and my first choral singing experience was in the Cub Scout Chorus in Tulsa, Oklahoma (I am the tallest in the back row). Tulsa is where the Barbershop Harmony Society was organized, and I have often wondered (but could not prove) if our director was the wife of one of those early barbershoppers. I sung in a college glee club and in most of the choirs of churches I joined, but I learned more about choral singing in my first year after joining the Choo Choo Chorus than all of the previous experiences combined. And today I sing again in our Christmas Chorus. *Steve Wixson*



## A Family and Home Story

Family and “home” have always been important in our lives. We always cherish the times that we get to spend with our children, who are growing way too fast, and our extended family. Growing up, Christmas was always about extended family the days before and after Christmas, but Christmas eve, and day, were all about being home. As children we always opened one present on Christmas eve and the rest as soon as we could convince mom and dad to get up on Christmas day. One of the things I remember as a small child was the silver Christmas tree we had that had the color spinning wheel to illuminate the branches. (I think you can still get one) Now, since I survived the virus in December of last year, we are certainly grateful that we have another Christmas to gather with family and friends. And we are happy that many



of you have become our friends. We hope that you have a blessed Christmas, and I want to remind all of us to remember the real reason for the season. Merry Christmas! *Jimmy Tompkins*



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# **Candlelighters™**

## *Family Support Group*

A portion of the proceeds from today's show will be given to The Candlelighters Family Support Group. This organization is dedicated to helping families with a child stricken with cancer by paying house payments or rent, utility bills, buying food or helping with transportation needs since, oftentimes, one or both parents have to be away from their work to care of the child.

Candlelighters has been active since 1988 and provides help behind the scenes, maintaining the confidentiality and dignity of the families that the organization assists. Any contributions can be sent to Candlelighters Family Support Group, 1305 Darlene Circle, Chattanooga, TN 37412 (phone 423-827-0800)

### **A Candlelighters Story**

We don't know what we would have done without the help of the Candlelighters when our daughter was diagnosed with cancer. While we needed to be with our daughter, we could not work full time, and we were getting behind on our mortgage. We were advised by someone in the Clinic that there was an organization that could help us with this. We contacted the Candlelighters, and they paid several of our house payments while our daughter was so critically ill. Also, when having to drive back and forth for treatment, they helped with gas and other travel expenses. This reduced the stress we were under during this time. We will forever be grateful for the Candlelighters!

## PROGRAM

### CHOO CHOO CHRISTMAS CHORUS

*Jingle Bells*

*Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree*

Dancers: Lou & Randie Achille. Choreographers: Doug & Cheryel Byrd

*Didly Squat* - Rock City 4

*It's Beginning To Look A Lot Like Christmas* - Rock City 4

*White Christmas*

*Where are You Christmas* - Masquerade

*Christmas Island* - Masquerade

*The Christmas Song* - Generation Gap

*Happy Holiday*

*Merry Christmas Darling* - Deep Water

*Home for the Holidays* - House Blend

*Santa Claus is Coming To Town*

*We Need A Little Christmas*

### INTERMISSION

Iley Barnes - Ringgold High School Soloist

Scripture Readings by Landon Prairie

Audience sing-along (words on Page 16)

*Joy to the World*

*Coventry Carol* - Chix Mix

*The Little Drummer Boy/Peace on Earth Medley* - Chix Mix

*Veni, Veni (O Come, O Come, Emmanuel)*

*God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen* - Deep Water

*It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*

*O Holy Night* - The Chattanooga guys

*Mary Had a Baby*

*Secret of Christmas*

Audience sing-along (words on Pages 15 and 16)

*O Come All Ye Faithful*

*Silent Night*

Finale - *Christmas Tag*

## **QUARTETS (Tenor, Lead, Baritone, Bass)**

**Chix Mix** - Paula Zettel, Julia Westerfield, Diane Kerr, Beverly Jordan

**Deep Water** - Dan Bullock, Jim Frank, Chuck Wilson, and Paul Blazek

**Generation Gap** - Drew Adams, Charlie Holder, Mel White and Barry Owens

**Masquerade** - Kathy Yonka, Lisa Holland, Pam Jett, Kelly Ogle

**House Blend** - Ladies: Paula Zettel, Christine Fish, Melea Tompkins, and Beverly Jordan. Men: Drew Adams, Jimmy Tompkins, Benny Malone and Pete Jones

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

**The Chattanooga guys** - Wally Edmondson, Dave Fleury, Mel White (substituting for Beau Christian), Barry Arp

## **SING ALONG SONGS** **O Come All Ye Faithful**

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:

O come, let us adore Him,

O come, let us adore Him,

O come, let us adore Him,

Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,

Sing, all ye citizens of Heaven above!

Glory to God, glory in the highest:

O come, let us adore Him,

O come, let us adore Him,

O come, let us adore Him,

Christ the Lord.



## **Joy To The World**

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 nature sing,  
And heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

Joy to the world! the Saviour reigns;  
Let men their songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

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.

## **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 the Choo Choo Christmas Chorus



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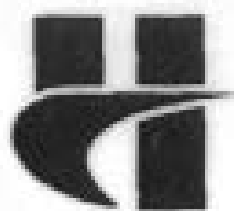
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