

A Program of Sacred and Secular Music

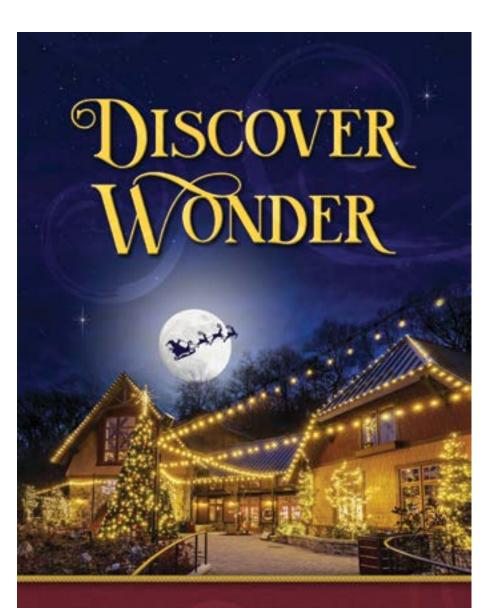
Benefiting the Candlelighters Charity

Celebrating our 60th Anniversary

Saturday, December 10, 2022

4PM

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WELCOME

Thank you for choosing to spend a part of your holiday season with us. We are grateful for your support, and hope that we make your season more joyful and meaningful. Music affects us in more ways than we sometimes realize, especially when we sing about the Reason for the Season.

We are always looking for men who love to sing. If you would like to be a part of what we do, get in touch with any of our members, or visit us at Ponders Funeral Home on Brainerd Road. We rehearse most Thursdays at 7:00pm.

May your holidays be filled with love and joy, and thank you for allowing us to be a small part in that.

Chuck Wilson, Show Chairman

Holiday Greetings to you all! May I echo Chuck's welcome and say how grateful we are that you gave us a little of your time to enjoy this afternoon together. We are excited to be performing today and hope this helps get you in the true Christmas mood. any thanks to everyone who has helped make today possible.

Separately, let me encourage you to wish the Chorus a Happy 60th Birthday. We chartered in 1962 as part of SPEBSQSA and we're still going strong throughout the Chattanooga area! We perform year round for various events, assisted living and nursing homes, patriotic gatherings and special occasions. Singing Valentines are an annual activity, along with an Annual Show and a Christmas Show. We're proud to contribute our net proceeds each year from this show to a local charity. We don't have any cake to share with you but we'll gladly ring a chord with you if you'd like! And now, on with the Show!

Steve Grubb, President Choo Choo Chorus

THE CHOO CHOO CHORUS

The Chattanooga Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society, known as the Choo Choo Chorus, was officially organized in 1962, and today we celbrate 60 years of singing traditions in Chattanooga. These traditions are Harmony, Service, Fellowship, and Fun, and 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 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.

SHOW COMMITTEE

Show Chairmen Chuck Wilson Tickets and Ads Pete Jones Video Backgound Steve Wixson Back Stage Manager Linda Jesse Program Booklet Steve Wixson **CCCC** Director Jimmy Tompkins Choo Choo Belles Door Emcee Kenny Hatton

KENNY HATTON

Kenny Hatton spent his younger years as lead singer of a world champion barbershop quartet called "Bluegrass Student Union." The group's live show and recordings are among the most popular in the history of that genre, and they've traveled from London to Beijing, with stops along the way at Carnegie Hall and the White House. The ensemble eventually visited 47 of the 50 states, and in 2006, the quartet retired from performing.

CHOO CHOO CHRISTMAS CHORUS

While the Choo Choo Chorus has had Christmas shows since at least the early 1990s, the Choo Choo 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 \$80,000 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 consider joining us next year. Start planning now for the 'First Thursday in October' so that you can be on stage with us in 2023!

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	BARITONES
Drew Adams	Beau Christian
Dan Bullock	Johnny Jackson
Wally Edmondson	Benny Malone
Fred Jesse	Shawn Trivette
Wendell Whitmire	Mel White*
	Chuck Wilson

LEADS
Dan Bruns
David Fleury*
Jim Frank
Steve Grubb
Charlie Holder

David Murphree
Bernard Peek
Ron Satterfield
Bill Slack
Hobby Thomas
Ron Weaver
Rich Wilson
Steve Wixson

Jerry Wright

BASSES
Barry Arp
Paul Blazek
Jack Cook
Steve Evans
Bob Hill
Pete Jones
Barry Owens
Daniel Randolph
Bob Robbins

* Not singing today

Wilbur Strickland

CHOO CHOO CHRISTMAS CHORUS MEMBERS

Corey Bain Mark McKeel
Matt Blazek Larson Mick
Henry Crutcher 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.

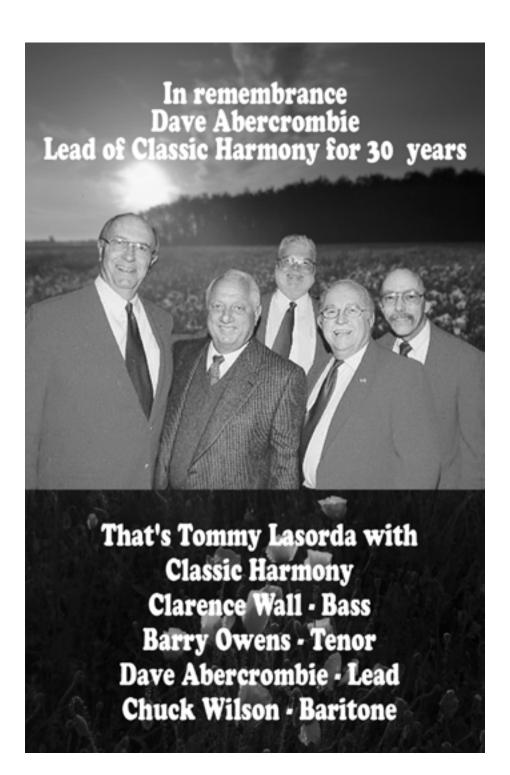
He sang with the Big Chicken chorus after moving to north Georgia in the mid-90s. He sang in several quartets and district events and shows with them over the next two years. He was also able to sing on the international stage with them in Miami in 1995. After serving several churches he moved to Clanton, 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, where he has served Morris Hill Baptist Church as Worship Pastor since.

Background Videos

The set for tonight's show presents videos for the songs sung. The video for *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear* was inspired by member Steve Evans who worked for NASA on the James Webb Telescope Project, and that telescope definitely gives us the '*Clear*'est image of our *Midnight* sky. The *Happy Holiday* video lets us show off our families at Christmas time and Christmas singing to people in retirement homes who cannot make it to the big show.







PROGRAM

CHOO CHOO CHRISTMAS CHORUS

Jingle Bells
Happy Holiday
Didly Squat (Rock City 4)

It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas (Rock City 4)

Santa Claus is Coming To Town
Winter Wonderland (Store Front)
Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree
Merry Christmas Darling (Deep Water)
White Christmas
Christmas Waltz (Silver Ring)
We Need A Little Christmas

INTERMISSION

Joy to the World
Veni, Veni (O Come, O Come, Emmanuel)
God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen (Deep Water)
It Came Upon a Midnight Clear
Mary Had a Baby
O Holy Night (Silver Ring)
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)

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

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

Silver Ring - Bob Davenport, Jimmy Tompkins, Paul Wietlisbach, and Nick Daly

Store Front - Drew Adams, Ron Weaver, Benny Malone, and Daniel Randolph

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,
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,
Christ the Lord.

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



Thanks to Quality Tire Pros who bought an ad in our first program 60 years ago





...because kids can't fight cancer alone!

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!



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Come Sing With Us - The Choo Choo Chorus

Harmony

We are male voices (Lead, Tenor, Bass and Barkone) singing. 4-part unaccompanied music. When done correctly, the voices blend in harmony to produce audible, beautiful overtones not being sung by anyone. This is a goard experience and maless our style of music unique. Reading music is not a requirement but having a good ear does belp.

We seek a Balance of Harmony, Fun. Fellowship, and Service



Fun and Fellowship

Each week we enjoy seeing friends, then working together to improve our singing of songs old and new. We share friendships and get together for meabs and activities throughout the year. Traditionally, we put on an Annail Slow, a Caristmas Show and Singing Valentines. Performing and enfectanting audience always leaves a smile on our faces.







Service

We perform at musing homes and assisted living and retirement centers which is an important part of our service to our community. We have our military by performing at Memorial Day and Veterana Day commonies usually at the National Centery. We have sung at Nationalization Ceremonies for new citizens and sing "The National Anthem" at sporting events haduding Special Olympica, Christmas Show proceeds are denasted to a local charity.





The Choo Choo Chorus

We have been around since 1962 performing throughout the Chattanooga area. Our Director, Jimmy Tompkins, does a great job teaching and motivating us and is always entertaining during rehearsals. We compete twice a year at conventions sponsored by the Dixic District of the Barbershop Harmony Society. We recently achieved our highest score ever and placed second in the 2022 Spring Competition!



Meet Our Director

Immy's first barbershop singing was in high school where he came to love this style of singing. He has sung with many choruses and quartets over the years. He was Director of two choruses before becoming Director of The Choo Choo Chorus in 2020. He is Worship Pastor at Morris Hill Baptist Church. In 2019, Jimmy organized and led a Senior Chorus to win a Gold Pin at Midwinter in Nashville!

Come Sing With Us

Guys, if you like to sing, you may LOVE singing with The Choo Choo Chorust

- We meet Thursdays at 7 pm, Ponders, 4203 Brainerd Road, Chattanooga, TN.
- If you want to come sing, please contact us first and plan to arrive by 6:45. Drive around back and look for the Barbershop Pole!
- If you want to sing just for our Christmas Season, rehearsals begin the first Thursday in October. We have audio learning tracks for everyone.

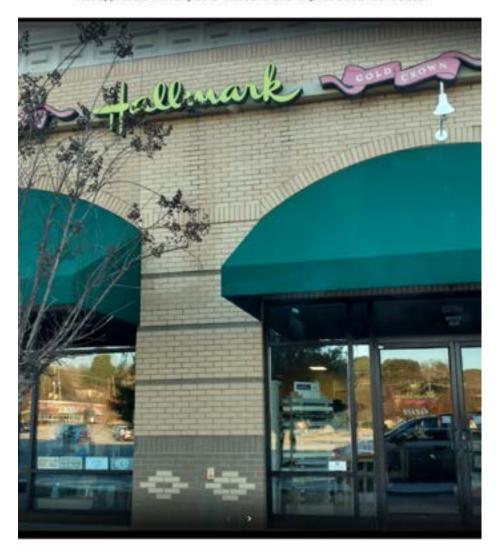
Call 423-265-SING (7464), Website is choochoochorus.org



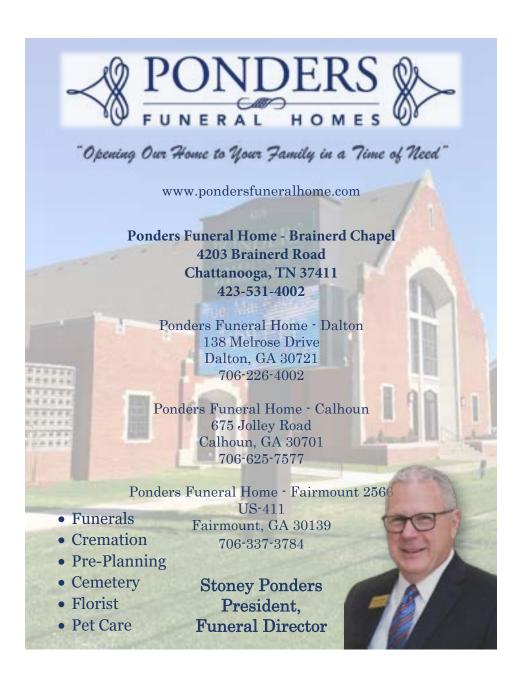
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My wife and I love Christmas so much, so I bought her a Hallmark Store! Now the only one within about 100 miles. *Ron Weaver*







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