

Choo Choo Chorus Presents

Letters To Santa

A Benefit Christmas Show for The Candlelighters
Helping Families With Kids Fighting Cancer

Guest Quartet: Full Effect

Saturday, December 9

4 PM



Dear Santa,
I want a
puppy and a
red wagon.
Johnny

Children 12
and under
are Free

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School, 29 Tiger Trail

For Information, go to choochoochorus.org

Santa Paul Blazek

NEVER TEXT AND DRIVE

MERRY

Christmas



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WELCOME

With a little jingling of the sleigh bells and the singing of some of our yuletide favorites, we hope to get you in the Christmas spirit once again. It sure does it for us. As we all deal with our everyday routine and now the hustle and bustle of a holiday season, the chorus would like to give you our Christmas gift of song.

It is the giving spirit that makes Christmas time special. With that being said, once again we will donate net proceeds from today's show to the Candlelighters, a local charity.

If you are a returning audience member or hearing the chorus for the first time, we hope that it fills you with the Christmas spirit and makes the day special. So, sit back in the sleigh (your seat) and enjoy the show. On behalf of the Choo Choo Chorus we thank you once again for being here.

Pete Jones, Show Chairman

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 celebrate 61 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](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 Chairmen	Pete Jones
Script	Bill Slack and Steve Grubb
Tickets and Ads	Pete Jones
Back Stage Manager	Linda Jesse
Program Booklet	Steve Wixson
CCCC Director	Jimmy Tompkins
Door	Choo Choo Belles
Emcee	Jim Stevens

A BIG Thank You to the Choo Choo Belles and friends for helping with ticket sales at the door.

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 2024!

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

Johnny Jackson
Benny Malone
Mel White
Chuck Wilson

BASSES

Barry Arp*
Paul Blazek
Jack Cook*
Bob Hill
Pete Jones
Mark McKeel
John Moselage
Dan Peterson
Daniel Randolph
Bob Robbins
Wilbur Strickland

LEADS

Dan Bruns
William Darby
David Fleury*
Jim Frank
Steve Grubb
Charlie Holder
JJ McShane
Maury Morris
David Murphree
Bernard Peek
Ron Satterfield
Bill Slack
Hobby Thomas
Ron Weaver
Rich Wilson
Steve Wixson
Jerry Wright

* Not singing today

CHOO CHOO CHRISTMAS CHORUS MEMBERS

Henry Crutcher (Bass)
Larson Mick (Baritone)

Marcellus Scott (Bass)

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.

THE CHOO CHOO CHORUS



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, Alabama 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 since served Morris Hill Baptist Church as Worship Pastor.

Come Sing With Us This Spring

We want and need men to sing with us this Spring. Our District Convention will be in Chattanooga in March, and we would like to put at least 50 guys on stage for the Chorus Competition. This would be for SIX weeks starting on February 8th (or before). You would need to learn two songs and be willing to pay for at least one month membership in the Barbershop Harmony Society, registration for the Spring Contest, and any outfits (minimal cost). If you are interested, and we hope you are, send us an email at info@choochoochorus.org or call us at 423-265-7464 and leave a message. We will get back to you. The Choo Choo Chorus



...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!

PROGRAM

CHOO CHOO CHRISTMAS CHORUS

Jingle Bells
Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree
Winter Wonderland (Three Guys With a Hobby)
Little Saint Nick
Didly Squat (Rock City 4)
We Need A Little Christmas
Sweet Mae (Sound Decision)
Happy Holiday
Merry Christmas Darling (Deep Water)
Santa Claus is Coming To Town

INTERMISSION

Guest Quartet: *Full Effect*

Joy to the World
Angels We Have Heard on High
God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen (Deep Water)
Veni, Veni (O Come, O Come, Emmanuel)
Hallelujah (Sound Decision)
It Came Upon a Midnight Clear
Mary Had a Baby

Audience sing-along (words on Pages 11 and 12)

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

Sound Decision - Drew Adams, William Darby, Ron Weaver, and Daniel Randolph

Three Guys With a Hobby - Ron Satterfield, Hobby Thomas, Pete Jones, and Johnny Jackson

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.

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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Our Guest Quartet



Full Effect formed in the fall of last year out of the Cleveland, TN Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society. The quartet is made up of Brett Beard (Tenor), Andrew Easterling (Lead), Caleb Hayes (Baritone), and Wyatt McCarter (Bass).

The quartet quickly found success, qualifying 1st for the Next-Gen Varsity Quartet contest in January. The foursome would go on to win the contest at the Society's International Contest held this past July in Louisville, KY, boasting the second highest score in the contests' 31 year history.

Full Effect would go on to take home the Dixie District Quartet Championship this past fall, becoming the district's 75th Anniversary Champions.

This quartet loves sharing classic barbershop tunes with an exciting, new flair, and strives to move and bring joy to audiences through their music.

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Come Sing With Us - The Choo Choo Chorus

Harmony

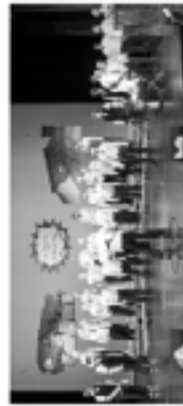
We are male voices (Lead, Tenor, Bass and Baritone) singing 4-part unaccompanied music. When done correctly, the voices blend in harmony to produce audible, beautiful overtones not being sung by anyone. This is a grand experience and makes our style of music unique. Reading music is not a requirement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

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



Fun and Fellowship

Each week we enjoy seeing friends, their working together to improve our singing of songs old and new. We share friendships and get together for meals and activities throughout the year. Traditionally, we put on an Annual Show, a Christmas Show and Singing Valentines. Performing and entertaining audiences always leaves a smile on our faces.



Service

We perform at nursing homes and assisted living and retirement centers which is an important part of our service to our community. We honor our military by performing at Memorial Day and Veterans Day ceremonies usually at the National Cemetery. We have sung at Nationalize! Ceremonies for new citizens and sing "The National Anthem" at sporting events including Special Olympics. Christmas Show proceeds are donated 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 Dixie District of the Barbershop Harmony Society. We recently achieved our highest score ever and placed second in the 2022 Spring Competition!



Meet Our Director

Jimmy'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 Chorus!

- 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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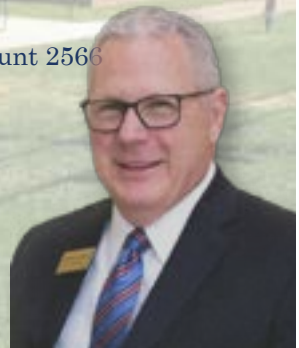
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