

The Forty Niners Chorus

Press Release

For Immediate Release

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Forty Niners Begin Rehearsals for 2008 Christmas Show *Christmas Everywhere*

The Forty Niners Chorus began rehearsals this week for their annual Christmas Show, to be held nightly Wednesday, December 3rd through Saturday, December 6th with a matinee on Sunday, December 7th at Henderson High School Auditorium. The Forty Niners Christmas Show has been a holiday tradition in Chester County for over 55 years.

As is the Forty Niners tradition, the Christmas Show is presented in two parts. The first half is a traditional choral performance, consisting of several holiday-themed songs chosen by music director, Greg Givler. "I am excited about this year's first half music! When I heard West Chester University's Concert Choir perform *Deck the Halls in 7/8^{ths}* 29 years ago, I knew I must conduct it one day. It turned out that my wife, Leah, was a member of that year's WCU Concert Choir. Chalk it all up to fate! Continuing in the tradition of performing from Benjamin Britten's *A Ceremony of Carols*, the chorus will present two beautiful songs from his cantata: *That Yonge Child* and *Balulalow*, featuring the Forty Niners women. Randall Thompson's *Alleluia* is a transcendent *a cappella* piece, which leaves the listener holding his breath. For fun and frolic, I've included two P.D.Q. Bach Christmas tunes, guaranteed to tickle the funny bone: *Throw the Yule Log on Uncle John* and *Good King Kong Looked Down*. Rounding out the first half, the chorus will present *Variations on Jingle Bells*, a rousing piece that will keep the audience humming and tapping a beat all the way home!

The second part of the show is a member-written and directed mini-musical entitled "Christmas Everywhere." This year's Christmas Show chairperson is Martha Kline. "Imagine being grounded in an Alaskan commuter airport on Christmas Eve! This is what the passengers of international airline *49 Air* face this year as they hope to make it home in time for Christmas. Not to worry though, they find plenty of ways to pass the time. Through song and dance, these weary travelers share their own unique ways of celebrating Christmas Everywhere. But, no one is quite prepared for the exciting surprise that comes their way!" says Kline.

The Forty Niners Chorus is an all-volunteer community group made up of approximately 50 men and women from Chester County and surrounding areas. In existence since 1952, their performances raise money every year to provide music scholarships for three local high school graduates planning to major in music in college. Its mission is to keep community music alive by encouraging young musicians to develop their talents and give back to their communities through groups like The Forty Niners Chorus.

Tickets for The Forty Niners Chorus Christmas Shows are always free and may be ordered through the chorus's website at www.49erschorus.org

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