



# CHORUS HAPPENINGS

October 2009



## LAW & ORDER 49TH STREET

This year's Christmas Show is destined to be the *best ever!* Presented once again at the Henderson High School auditorium, the show schedule departs slightly from those presented in years past. Specifically, we've dropped our Wednesday night performance in favor of adding a Sunday matinee to accommodate our fans with younger children. So, this year's performance schedule looks like this:

Thursday December 10	Friday December 11	Saturday December 12	Saturday December 12	Sunday December 13
7:30PM	7:30PM	2:00PM	7:30PM	2:00PM

As is the Forty Niners tradition, the Christmas Show is presented in two parts. Part One is a traditional choral performance, covering holiday songs selected by our music director, Greg Givler. Following a brief intermission, Part Two has the chorus presenting an original mini-musical entitled *Law & Order: 49<sup>th</sup> Street* written by chorus members and directed by our own Tom Pitt.

### Part One—A Return to the Christmas Carol

"When we think of the Christmas season, I think most of us remember singing carols, both secular and sacred. I personally have fond childhood memories of singing carols at my neighbors' front doors. This year, the chorus will be caroling for you from the warmth of Henderson High School's auditorium. Arrangements of *African Noel*, *God Rest You Merry Gentleman*, and *The First Noel* start out our first half performance. You'll recognize familiar old 'chestnuts' such as *Caroling Caroling*, *The Christmas Song (Chestnuts Roasting On An Open Fire)*, and *I'll Be Home For Christmas*. Added to the mix are some new songs that could very well become some of your familiar favorites. *Christmas Makes Me Cry* and *It Must Have Been A Sight* evokes memories of those wonderful Andy Williams Christmas Specials. I am sure you will find the music as enjoyable to listen to as it is for us to perform." —Greg Givler, Music Director

### Part Two—Law & Order: 49<sup>th</sup> Street

Santa has had to deal with his share of villains over the years. From The Abominable Snowman to Burgermeister Meisterburger, from Ebenezer Scrooge to Oogie Boogie, from The Winter Warlock to The Grinch. But, he's never met the likes of Shirley Schmidt...on Shirley's own turf: A Court of Law. Counselor Schmidt presents a mountain of evidence. The Bickersome Sisters eye-witnessed Santa's sleigh running down Grandma on a public thoroughfare! An article of Santa's clothing was found at the scene of the crime! Hoof prints! Claus marks! Man, Santa's going to need some serious Counsel to get out of this one!

*Law & Order: 49<sup>th</sup> Street* creatively combines layers of humor that will surely find the funny bone in every audience member, from children to adults. We've taken some classic holiday tunes and put our own spin on them, as well as added some new songs from the Pop genre. Fun is the name of game and we know you're up for playing!

#### BECOME A FRIEND OF THE 49ERS

We welcome you to become a Friend of the Forty Niners!

We are a non-profit organization funded through dues, gifts, business sponsorships, and receipts from private performances. All funding is used to keep our music fresh, our shows vibrant, and our performances appealing to all ages. If you'd like to help, consider joining our patron program, Friends of the 49ers.

Send your tax deductible gift of \$10 or more to the attention of "Friends" using the address at the bottom of our newsletter. Or, you may include it in your ticket request! Please make checks payable to *The Forty Niners Chorus*.

**Thank you for your support!**

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#### VISIT OUR WEBSITE

Our updated website has latest news and information about the chorus and its shows! Links to our Facebook and Twitter pages, as well as our new Blog, can be found there.

[www.49ersChorus.org](http://www.49ersChorus.org)





## JOIN THE FORTY NINERS

Each semester, the 49ers Chorus is open to new members! If you enjoy being a part of a fun group of creative people who love to sing, please consider joining us.

Auditions for spring are scheduled for the evening of Tuesday, January 12<sup>th</sup> in West Chester with our first practice slated for January 24<sup>th</sup>. Our membership application and details about audition requirements may be found in the "JOIN US" section of our website: [www.49ersChorus.org](http://www.49ersChorus.org)

*Join us in keeping community music alive!*

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## THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES...Christmas show memories, that is

The Forty Niners Christmas show is an event that both the Chester County community and chorus members anticipate. During the past 56 years, the group has made many memories.

Tenor Tom Burke remembered attending his first Forty Niners Christmas concert seven years ago. "I was impressed with the level of talent on stage; they were so good," he said. He was so inspired by the talent that he decided to audition. "I just hoped I was good enough to stand with those guys," he said. He's been with the group for six years.

Soprano Rebecca Cichetti shared a top memory from the 2007 *Christmas Sparks* show. "George Haughton and I sang a verse of *Baby, It's Cold Outside*," she reminisced. "As part of the choreography, George had to remove my hat and wear it himself for the rest of the song. So I bought five different hats, one for each performance. I hid the hat until the song started. George never knew what crazy topper he was going to have to wear—a top hat, a sequined tam, a baseball cap embroidered with 'HOTTIE.' I'll never forget his face at the final performance when I stepped out wearing a huge, red felt Western hat with white fur trim!"

Linda Reilly shared a story from her 49ers show directing days. When giving feedback to the chorus after a rehearsal, "I told a chorus member to please get someone to fix her wig, as it was driving me crazy. Silence fell over the group when she replied that she wasn't wearing a wig. Then came the howling laughter from the chorus as they enjoyed my moment of embarrassment." She also has fond memories of crafting costumes for many shows. "It was fun creating angels, Pooh, Eeyore, a clock, and especially the flower pot hats [from the 2008 spring show *Shhh...It's a Secret!*]."

Ten-year-old Billy Streleckis can't remember a time he hasn't been coming to 49ers shows. It's a three-generation family tradition for him. His favorite memories include "the three wise ladies" [the Bickersome Sisters from the 2008 Christmas show *Christmas Everywhere*]. But tops for him was the 2007 Christmas show, *Christmas Sparks*. "The Christmas wrapping song was awesome," he said.

The 2009 show, *Law & Order: 49th Street*, is almost here. Come make some new memories with us—and think about joining, too. -

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### OUR FUTURE

The Forty Niners Chorus annually grants cash awards to local high school graduates planning to major in music.

This year's recipients are:

Ward J. Remington Music Award  
Henderson High School Graduate

*Carolyn Brown*

Phyllis Remington Memorial Award  
East High School Graduate

*Katie Wicka*

Florence Remington Memorial Award  
Rustin High School Graduate

*Autumn Pierson*

We encourage them to share their talents through community groups like *The Forty Niners Chorus!* -

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### Choral singing is good for you!

According to an article in *Medical Hypotheses*, "Vibration of the human skull, as produced by loud vocalization, exerts a massaging effect on the brain and facilitates expulsion of metabolic products into the cerebrospinal fluid," leading neurophysicists to hypothesize that vocal vibrations cause a kind of cleaning of the chemical cobwebs out of the head. A process as simple as singing might well make the removal of chemical waste from the brain more efficient.

And according to a recent study by the University

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# The Forty Niners Chorus

## Evening Performances

7:30pm

Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup>  
Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup>  
Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup>

proudly presents



## Matinee Performances

2:00pm

Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup>  
Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>

# LAW & ORDER 49TH STREET

Henderson High School Auditorium  
400 Montgomery Avenue, West Chester, Pennsylvania

Request tickets using the form below or through our website - [www.49ersChorus.org](http://www.49ersChorus.org)

For questions about ticketing, please call (610)-918-0213, Mailbox #3 or email: [tickets@49ersChorus.org](mailto:tickets@49ersChorus.org)

## TICKET REQUEST FORM

Please indicate in the appropriate block the number of complimentary tickets you are requesting:

Thu  
Dec 10  
7:30pm

Fri  
Dec 11  
7:30pm

Sat  
Dec 12  
2:00pm

Sat  
Dec 12  
7:30pm

Sun  
Dec 13  
2:00pm

Yes! Please count me in as a *Friend of the 49ers* with my enclosed tax-deductible donation of:

\$10

\$25

\$50

\$75

\$100

\$200

\$500

Check here if you would like your donation to remain anonymous.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

To request your complimentary tickets, please return the above completed form,  
along with a Self-Addressed Stamped Envelope to:

The Forty Niners Chorus  
Tickets  
PO Box 402  
West Chester, PA 19381-0402

PO Box 402 West Chester PA 19381

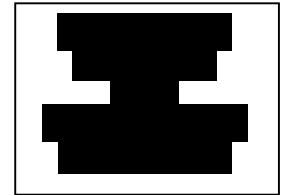
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of California, Irvine, singing in a choir just might make you healthier. This study, authored by Robert Beck and Thomas Cesario and published in *Music Perception*, found that Immunoglobulin A, a protein used by the immune system to fight disease, increased 150 percent during rehearsals and 240 percent during performance.

There certainly is a sense of euphoria that choral singers experience after a particularly inspiring rehearsal or performance. But part of that sensation is due to more than just individual physiology; it derives from the cooperative effort that is at the heart of the choral endeavor. The late great conductor Robert Shaw thought of a chorus as a “community of expression,” whose meaning “rests upon a common devotion to the composer’s utterance and a mutual respect for the personal dignity of fellow-workers.” Shaw’s associate, Ann Howard Jones enlarged on this idea. Noting that in a chorus the whole is far greater than the sum of its parts, she wrote, “I know of no other activity where access to the most profound artistic works can be made possible and satisfying for the participant who has limited skills as an individual but whose capacity is enlarged by the group.”



The Forty Niners Chorus  
PO Box 402  
West Chester, PA 19381-0402



## FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Hello again to our Faithful 49er Friends!

It's time again to mark your calendars for the upcoming Christmas show being held at Henderson High School in West Chester. We have been hard at work writing dialogue, choreographing dances, and memorizing music to help you kick off the Christmas season in a big way. We are excited to have several fresh faces and just as thrilled to have many returning ones that you will recognize as familiar friends.

It is always a pleasure to sing for you, especially at Christmastime—this very special time of year in which we share the joy and magic of holiday music. We look forward to seeing you come out again this year with your family and friends to enjoy another original production from your neighbors across Chester County. We are honored to share this wonderful tradition with you and can't wait to see each one of you at the show!

Warmly,

*Martha Kline*

*49ers President, 2009-2010 Season*

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