



CHORUS HAPPENINGS

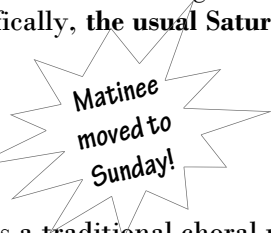
October 2008

OUR 56TH SEASON!

CHRISTMAS EVERYWHERE

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, the usual Saturday matinee has been moved to Sunday, as per the schedule below:

Wednesday December 3 7:30PM	Thursday December 4 7:30PM	Friday December 5 7:30PM	Saturday December 6 7:30PM	Sunday December 7 2:00PM
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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 *Christmas Everywhere!* written by chorus members and directed by our own Martha Kline.

PART ONE—MUSIC AT ITS BEST!

Greg Givler, our Director says “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* twenty-nine 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!”

PART TWO—MUSIC + ACTING AND DANCING AT THEIR MOST ENTERTAINING!

Our 2008 Christmas Show Chair, Martha Kline shares “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!”

Sound like fun? We think so, too! Tickets are complimentary. To order, please use the form provided in this newsletter or the electronic form on our website—www.49erschorus.org **See you there!!** ♪

BECOME A FRIEND OF THE 49ERS

We need your support! Please become our FRIEND! Be listed in our Annual Christmas Program!

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.

Send your tax deductible gift of \$10 or more to the attention of “Friends” using the address below. Or, you may include it in your ticket request! Please make checks payable to The Forty Niners Chorus. ♪

Thank You for Your Support!

VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE

This year, we’ve launched our new website, designed to be more informational, more interactive and more fun! We’ve added ways for you to communicate with us, through online forms and detailed contact information. Please take a few moments to complete the 10-question survey via the popup window. Tell us what you think! ♪



www.49ersChorus.org



JOIN THE FORTY NINERS

Each semester, the 49ers 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 13th in West Chester with our first practice slated for January 25th. Our membership application and details about audition requirements may be found in the Membership Section of our website: www.49ersChorus.org

Join us in keeping community music alive! 🎵

WHY CHORUSES MATTER

"To sing like this, in the company of other souls, and to make those consonants slip out so easily and in unison, and to make those chords so rich that they bring tears to your eyes. This is transcendence. This is the power that choral singing has that other music can only dream of." --Garrison Keillor

According to a national study by Chorus America, nearly 28.5 million adults and children regularly perform in choral groups in the U. S., more than any other art form. One or more adults in 15.6 percent of households in America performed in at least one chorus, and of those, almost 45 percent performed with more than one chorus. The study also estimates the number of choruses in the U.S. to be 250,000.

For most, choral singing begins in a school chorus - almost 70 percent of those who sing in choruses today say they sang in a chorus when they were in elementary or middle school. More than half of choral singers say they grew up in a home where another family member regularly sang in a chorus. These findings have important long-term implications for the role of education and families in early exposure to the arts. The study illustrates that an early introduction to the performing arts is a building block for life-long learning - it helps to build social skills, community involvement, and enhances academic skills in general. Additionally, choral singing provides an extraordinarily accessible entry point for arts exposure, with fewer barriers to participation - economic, cultural, educational - than those posed by other art forms.

The broad appeal of choral singing is based in the unsurpassed opportunity it gives each singer to participate in an activity that involves them artistically, builds community, enhances their skills, and results in a product of great beauty. In working toward a beautiful choral sound, people contribute to an artistic product greater than themselves and forge friendships that change the course of their lives. The synergy of this musical mission infuses choral organizations and their singers with energy and purpose that result in extraordinary contributions to their communities - through stellar performances and recordings of great works, the creation of new repertoire, innovative educational programs, and cooperative partnerships with other community organizations.

Choruses, Civic Engagement, and Bridging Social Gaps

The fact that choral singing is a communal activity is especially significant today when we increasingly rely on Internet-based communications, rather than face-to-face interaction. Several recent studies have shown a significant decline in civic engagement in our communities. Robert Putnam, Harvard's Kennedy School of Government scholar (best known for his book, *Bowling Alone*) asserts that the significance of choral singing goes beyond music making, and even beyond the arts. He sees group performing as contributing directly to the social trust and reciprocity that is the basis of civic engagement. His work shows that the mere existence of choral groups helps foster America's democratic culture (see his website, www.BowlingAlone.com).

Chorus America's study found that choral singers are far more likely to be involved in charity work, as volunteers and as donors (76 percent), than the average person (44 percent according to a 2001 report by *Independent Sector*). Choral singers are also more than twice as likely as non-participants to be aware of current events and involved in the political process. They are also twice as

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

Rebecca Knoll

Phyllis Remington Memorial Award
East High School Graduate

Ashley Hard

Florence Remington Memorial Award
Rustin High School Graduate

Kelsey Corbett

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

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The Forty Niners Chorus

Proudly Presents

CHRISTMAS EVERYWHERE

Wednesday December 3rd thru Saturday December 6th at 7:30 PM
Sunday December 7th at 2 PM

Matinee
moved to
Sunday!

Henderson High School Auditorium
North Penn Street, West Chester PA

Request tickets using the form below or through our website - www.49ersChorus.org

For ticket questions, please call (610) 269-8446.

TICKET REQUEST FORM

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

Wed
Dec 3
7:30pm

Thurs
Dec 4
7:30pm

Fri
Dec 5
7:30pm

Sat
Dec 6
7:30pm

Sun
Dec 7
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

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

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

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

PO Box 402 West Chester PA 19381

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likely as the general public to be major consumers of other arts - and not just music.

The study explored the depth of feeling that participants had about their choral experience, with many reporting that the requirements of choral singing - discipline, attention to detail, teamwork, and the social value of the experience - combine to improve their daily lives, in both their work and in family relationships. Many choristers testified to the degree to which their choral singing made them more aware of other people's life experiences, helping them to bridge social gaps.

"That connection with people exposes me to ideas...that aren't otherwise available," one respondent said. Another chorister said of fellow singers, "These people, whom I love dearly, are politically or religiously very different from me." Seventy-four percent said they "agreed strongly" that choral participation had helped them develop new friendships.

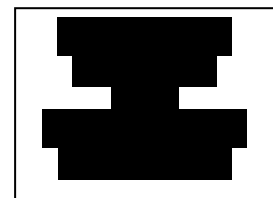
Choral groups and choral singers are diverse in the broadest sense: involving people from every region of all ages, in myriad musical styles from classical to gospel. Some choruses employ professional singers with significant music background and training. Professional choruses often set the standard of quality and beautiful choral sound. Some choruses are rooted in volunteerism, and their mission is to involve singers from the community who share the love of singing.

All of these various groups promote cultural excellence, community and national pride. Their performing venues are equally diverse - from community festivals and shopping malls to major concert halls - ensuring that choral music touches all members of a community, regardless of economic status, age, or ethnic origin. ♪

Used with permission from Chorus America—www.chorusamerica.org



FORTY NINERS CHORUS
PO Box 402
WEST CHESTER, PA 19381-0402



FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

Listen hard and you might just hear the sound of 49ers practicing. Yes, it's that time of year again when you'll find us hard at work preparing to once again regale you all with yet another original Christmas Show. So mark your calendars! While the holiday season abounds with opportunities to enjoy the seasonal offerings of talents far and near, you won't want to miss our unique blending of a heartfelt message with musical fun – dancing, acting, and especially, fine singing by your Chester County friends and neighbors.

I'm honored to be a part of this wonderful West Chester tradition and I look forward to helping you all get into the spirit of Christmas. This year, in particular, it's probably worth pointing out that you can hardly get more for your money, but our message certainly bears reinforcing every year. So come out with your whole family and have a wonderful time. See you then! ♪

George Cipperly

49ers President, 2008-2009 Season

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