

The West Towns Chorus

2024 IL District Champions

Directed by: Carrie Marcotte

Presents:

MUSIC AND MISCHIEF A WEST TOWNS GRINCH-MAS

Including:



Affinity Strings

Genuine Brass Quintet



Other Fun Surprises!



December 14th, 2024
3:00PM and 7:00PM

Timothy Christian School,
Huizenga Auditorium
188 W Butterfield Road, Elmhurst, IL

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From our President

**Jim Brown, President
West Towns Chorus**



To our patrons:

Welcome to our 32nd annual Christmas show and our second show in the Huizenga Auditorium. Timothy Christian School has been a wonderful partner for us. It is a marvelous venue, and we are proud to be presenting our Christmas show here.

One of our many blessings is our talented leadership. Carrie Marcotte is in her twelfth year as our director. Our assistant directors, Joe Tomecek and Mark Betczynski, continue to provide us with their considerable skills. We are very grateful for their time, their talents, and their continued dedication to our musical growth.

Our chorus has many talented members who are willing to step forward and make things happen. Our dedication to barbershop includes singing as both a chorus and individual quartets. We compete with other choruses, entertain residents at senior living centers, and perform at parades and sporting events as we try to expand the enthusiasm for our hobby.

Once again this year, we will be showcasing several quartets from within our chorus. Our guests include the Affinity Strings, and, for the first time, the Genuine Brass Quintet will be part of our show. I would like to thank Jim Jarosz personally reprising his role as Show Chairman, and providing guidance and leadership in bringing this show to the stage.

Please scan the box-like QR code in the physical program to find more information about our show and browse through the advertising from the businesses and sponsors supporting us and helping to make this event possible.

After today, we will be taking some time off to spend the holidays with friends and family. We will resume singing on January 6th in the new year. If you, or someone you know, would like to sing with our men's chorus, guests are always welcome at our rehearsals. We rehearse on Monday nights at 7:00 pm at Horizon Community Church, 2129 63rd Street in Downers Grove, in the Meadowbrook Shopping Plaza.

Thank you for choosing to spend a couple of hours with us, and we hope this show will help start your Christmas season. Everyone involved with the West Towns Chorus would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Jim Brown, President
West Towns Chorus

West Towns Ensembles

(in order of appearance)

Quartet: Craig Over Easy
(*Scrambled Bells*)

Lead: Craig Lancaster
Tenor: Jim Jarosz
Baritone: Joe Tomecek
Bass: Mark Betczynski

Quartet: Wonderband
(*Winter Wonderland*)

Lead: Bob Nicodem
Tenor: Tony Emerson
Baritone: Joe Tomecek
Bass: Jacob Cynamon-Murphy

Quartet: Three Wise Men
(*It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas*)

Lead: Craig Lancaster
Tenor: Sid Peterson
Baritone: Dan Murphy
Bass: Bill Burt

Quartet: Afterthought
(*Christmas Island*)

Lead: Dave Hollander
Tenor: Trenton Ferro
Baritone: Dan Murphy
Bass: Ed Childs

Quartet: The Grand Pia-bros
(*Christmas Chopsticks*)

Lead: Mark Servos
Tenor: Brian Luedtke
Baritone: Ryan Lesniak
Bass: Brett Owen

Quartet: Leftovers
(*I Want a Hippotamus for Christmas*)

Lead: Laura Jarosz
Tenor: Carrie Marcotte
Baritone: Jim Jarosz
Bass: Dan Murphy

**Duet: Carrie Marcotte &
Brett Owen (voice & guitar)**
(*O Holy Night*)

Quartet: River City Rhythm
(*The First Noel*)

Lead: Dave Hollander
Tenor: Jim Jarosz
Baritone: Mike Dutton
Bass: Bill Burt

Women's Voices

Kristi Bonn
Amy Hollander
Laura Jarosz
Shannon Webb

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— Jack Roller



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DIRECTOR



Carrie Marcotte

Carrie Marcotte has directed the West Towns Chorus since 2013. She has led us to the Illinois District Barbershop Chorus Championship four times (2014, 2017, 2021, and 2024), and helped us win the "Most Improved Chorus" award, the "Most Entertaining Chorus" award, and a wild card invitation to the 2018 Barbershop International Chorus contest.

Carrie serves as the full-time collaborative pianist for the choral program at Waubonsie Valley High School in Aurora, is the Music Director at Woodridge United Methodist Church, and co-organist for the Chicago Blackhawks! In her "free" time she sings with the three-time Illinois District Mixed Quartet Champion, Mixology.

Carrie is the proud parent of Jacob (20) and Lucas (17) and considers the West Towns Chorus her extended family. She is grateful for the opportunity to share her love of music with the West Towns Chorus.

We are **extremely proud** to have her as our director!

This program is partially supported by a grant from the DuPage Foundation & the Illinois Arts Council.



Jeffrey Jaunich

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Mark Betczynski

Mark is a singer and arranger who has been involved in barbershop for over thirty five years. A veteran of many quartets, he sang baritone with Skyline, the proud champions of the 2005 Illinois District quartet competition, and currently serves as President of the Illinois District Quartet Champions Association. In 2015, Mark received the Award for Barbershop Excellence (ABE), the highest honor granted by the Illinois District, given in recognition of significant, sustained contribution to barbershopping. He joined West Towns in 1989 and feels privileged to be able to give back to the hobby through coaching quartets and choruses. Last year Mark was inducted into the West Towns Hall of Fame along with Joe. The men of West Towns Chorus are proud to claim Mark as one of their own and look forward to more “tag teaching,” vocal exercises, and song coaching by Mark.



Joe Tomecek

Joe Tomecek has been an assistant director with The West Towns Chorus for over a decade. In January 2010, Joe became the primary director of The 2nd City Chorus, The Rockford Metro Chapter of The Barbershop Harmony Society. He remains with West Towns as a singer, baritone and tenor section leader, and assistant director. Last year Joe was inducted into the West Towns Hall of Fame along with Mark. When not performing or rehearsing, Joe can be found competing in disc golf tournaments throughout the Midwest.

| | |
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|  <p>Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner</p> <h1>STEVEN'S</h1> <p>RESTAURANT</p> <p>HOME STYLE COOKING</p> <p>2393 63rd Street Woodridge, IL 60517 (I-355 and East 63rd St.)</p> <p>Tel: (630) 810-9812 Fax: (630) 353-1707</p> <p>A Family Business Where Quality Counts</p> <p> facebook.com/StevensRestaurant</p> | <h2>Best Wishes to the West Towns Chorus</h2> |
|--|---|



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Go to ccgpoker.com to see if CCG can help your
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Thank you!

We thank the following individuals and organizations who donated to
The West Towns Chorus during 2024.

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Tomecek), John Kaindl Estate, Lancaster Family.

Your support means a lot to us. Thank you!

A very special **Thank You to the Lancaster Family** for their generous

Dan Mulligan — Percussion



Dan Mulligan is a percussionist, vocalist, and music educator from Joliet. He has performed percussion music onstage at the United Center, Lollapalooza, Soldier Field, the Field Museum, and various musical theater venues in the area. Dan also sings bass with his barbershop quartet, Onset. This quartet earned the 2023 Illinois District Quartet Championship, and recently qualified for the 2025 BHS International Quartet Competition.

Joseph Myers — Grinch



Joseph Myers spends his days designing performance spaces as an acoustics consultant for Kirkegaard, and he loves to be in the audience for all kinds of plays, operas, and concerts. He is occasionally lucky enough to be on the other side of the footlights.

Christmas Show Committee

| | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Producers..... | Jim Jarosz |
| Music..... | Carrie Marcotte, Mark Betczynski, Joe Tomecek |
| Tickets | Ellyn Nicodem |
| Raffle Baskets & Ushers | Nelleke Roffelsen |
| Flyer Design..... | Kara Nyham |
| Program | Bob Nicodem |
| Ad Sales | Bob Nicodem |
| Marketing & Public Relations | Josh Love |

Danielle Wolf—Flute



Danielle has had a lifelong passion for music and an affinity for Christmas. Now, after more than a decade, she is delighted to be back on the music scene doing what she loves. Danielle also enjoys rock collecting and baking Christmas cookies with her two young children.



Plan now for our **Spring Show**

When: Saturday, May 10, 2025, 3:00 PM

Where: Benet Academy, Lisle, IL

Check our website www.WestTowns.org
for information as it becomes available

Please know that West Towns Chorus is a non-profit organization operating under IRS code section 501(c)3. All donations to us where no benefits are derived are tax-deductible. We seek and encourage the support of corporate and individual sponsors and foundations. We also accept contributions and bequests from individuals and estates. Remember us in your will. For more information or to make a gift, contact us by phone at 630-201-5544, by email at info@westtowns.org, or mail at P.O. Box 1005, Downers Grove, IL 60515-1005.

Laura Jarosz—Narrator



An alumna of the North Central College music program, Laura learned barbershop by osmosis from listening to her dad, a 30-year member of the Barbershop Harmony Society. After performing at Walt Disney World in Florida for several years, she returned to Illinois, where she now works at a not-for-profit organization.



West Towns Chorus
Chicagoland West Suburban Chapter
of the Barbershop Harmony Society
2025 Board of Directors

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| Member at Large | Dan Murphy |
| Past President | Jim Brown |

MUSIC AND MISCHIEF

A WEST TOWNS GRINCH-MAS

December 14, 2024

| | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Act 1: |Narrator: Laura Jarosz |
| | Grinch: Joseph Myers |
| “ <i>A Holiday Road of Carols</i> ” |Keyboard, Percussion, WTC* |
| “ <i>Jingle, Jingle, Jingle</i> ” | WTC |
| “ <i>Carol of the Bells</i> ” | WTC |
| “ <i>Wassail Song</i> ” | Affinity Strings |
| “ <i>Scrambled Bells</i> ” | Craig Over Easy |
| “ <i>You’re a Mean One, Mr. Grinch</i> ” | Solo—Ed Childs, VLQ# |
| “ <i>Coventry Carol</i> ” | Genuine Brass |
| “ <i>Winter Wonderland</i> ” | Wonderband |
| “ <i>It’s Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas</i> ” | Three Wise Men |
| “ <i>You’re a Mean One, Mr. Grinch</i> ” | Solo—Adam DeFord, VLQ |
| “ <i>What Can You Get a Wookiee for Christmas</i> ” | WTC |
| “ <i>Oh! Christmas Tree???</i> ” | WTC |
| “ <i>My Favorite Things</i> ” | Affinity Strings |
| “ <i>Christmas Island</i> ” | Afterthought |
| “ <i>Christmas Chopsticks</i> ” | The Grand Pia-bros |
| “ <i>You’re a Mean One, Mr. Grinch</i> ” | Solo—Brett Owen, VLQ |
| “ <i>I Want a Hippopotamus For Christmas</i> ” | Leftovers |
| “ <i>I Saw Three Ships</i> ” | Genuine Brass |
| “ <i>Welcome Christmas</i> ” |Grinch |
| “ <i>The Secret of Christmas</i> ” | WTC |

Intermission (Be sure to visit the raffle tables in the lobby)

*WTC = West Towns Chorus #VLQ = Very Large Quartet

MUSIC AND MISCHIEF

A WEST TOWNS GRINCH-MAS

| | |
|---|--|
| Act 2: The Story of the First Christmas | Narrator — Laura Jarosz |
| | Flute — Danielle Wolf |
| “ <i>O Holy Night</i> ” | Duet: Carrie Marcotte, Brett Owen—Guitar |
| “Fum, Fum, Fum” | Genuine Brass |
| “ <i>O Little Town of Bethlehem</i> ” | WTC |
| <i>(Please hold your applause until after the Grand Finale. Thank you.)</i> | |
| “ <i>Still, Still, Still</i> ” | WTC |
| “ <i>Es ist ein Rose entsprungen (Lo How a Rose)</i> ” | Genuine Brass |
| “ <i>While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks</i> ” | |
| | Carrie Marcotte—keyboard, VLQ |
| “ <i>Good Christian Men Rejoice</i> ” | Affinity Strings |
| “ <i>The First Noel</i> ” | River City Rhythm |
| “ <i>Joy To the World</i> ” | WTC |
| “ <i>Mary, Did You Know</i> ” | WTC |
| “ <i>Silent Night</i> ” | WTC |
| Grand Finale: “<i>Adeste Fideles</i>” | All Performers |



West Towns Chorus

The West Towns Chorus has a rich, 75-year history of providing education and entertainment in the barbershop style. We love to perform for conventions, shows, churches, etc. with a wide variety of music. Please contact us if you would like to sing with us or have an occasion needing fine entertainment.

Call us at 630-201-5544 or go to our website www.WestTowns.org

Active members of West Towns are Mark Betczynski, Jim Brown, Bill Burt, Ed Childs, Jacob Cynamon-Murphy, Don Davia, Adam DeFord, Neil DeVore, Mike Dutton, Tony Emerson, Tom Farrell, Trenton Ferro, the late Earl Fuhrmann, Frank Glas, Dave Hollander, Jim Jarosz, Craig Lancaster, Ryan Lesniak, Arnel Lo, Josh Love, Brian Luedtke, Tony Lyons, Lucas Marcotte, Daniel Melvin, Dan Murphy, Bob Nicodem, Brett Owen, Sid Peterson, Gerry Riva, Erik Roffelsen, Jack Roller, Mark Servos, Curt Spencer, Joe Tomecek, Tony Tumea, Kevin Westburg, Jim Williams, and Jim Wixson. We also welcome **guest singer for this Christmas show**: Zach Bright.

And of course, **our fabulous director, Carrie Marcotte.**

West Towns Chorus



**2024 Illinois District Champions
2016 Most Improved Chorus
2015 Most Entertaining Chorus**



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Affinity String Trio

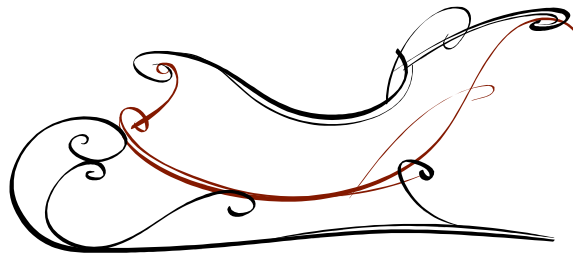
The Affinity String Trio, with Andreanna Moravec on viola, Chikako Miyata on violin, and Mark Anderson on cello, has played at hundreds of venues including, for 5 years, the world-famous Walnut Room Restaurant at Marshall Fields. Chikako received her bachelor of music degree from the Tokyo Nat'l University. She has played in the Civic Orchestra of Chicago and is a member of the Northwest Indiana Symphony Orchestra, New Philharmonic Orchestra, & Light Opera Works. Mark performs regularly with the Elgin and Lake Forest Symphonies, is an active chamber musician with Celebration Strings and the Affinity String Trio and has played with Illinois Philharmonic, Ravinia Festival Orchestra, Ars Viva and South Bend Symphony. Andreanna holds a substitute position with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and has shared the stage with such performers as Barry Manilow, Smokey Robinson, Josh Groban, Peter Gabriel, Art Garfunkle, Rod Stewart and the Trans-Siberian Orchestra. She also plays electric violin with The CoverGirls Violin Show, which recently toured onstage with the band Chicago.

We are honored to continue our tradition of being a part of the West Towns Chorus Christmas Shows!





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(We enjoy it, too.)



The IRS now permits taxpayers to claim a deduction on their federal income tax returns for cash contributions they made to certain qualifying charitable organizations like West Towns Chorus even if they don't itemize their deductions. The maximum deduction is \$600 for married individuals filing joint returns.

Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD)

Taxpayers over age 70 ½ can also make a qualified charitable distribution, up to \$100,000, directly from their IRA, to a qualified charitable organization like West Towns Chorus. That donation would be considered a nontaxable RMD distribution if the IRA trustee sent the amount directly to West Towns Chorus. This amount could also count toward the taxpayer's required minimum distribution for the year. For more information, see your financial advisor or email us at info@westtowns.org.

A special Thank You to Timothy Christian School for the use of their facility which helps to make this show special for our patrons.

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**We rehearse every Monday night at 7:00 pm at
Horizon Community Church, 2129 W. 63rd Street,
Downers Grove, IL.**

**(We'll resume rehearsals on Mon. 1/6/2025.)
Visit www.WestTowns.org for more information**

2025 Chicago Harmony Sweepstakes



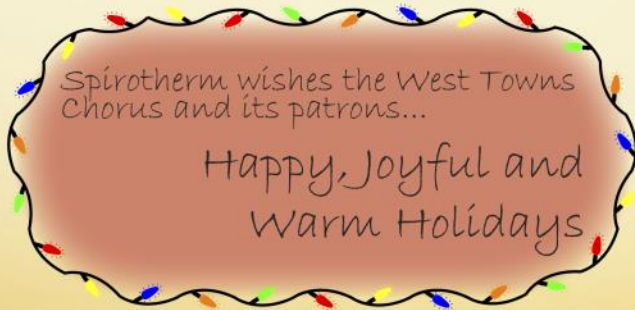
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