

The West Towns Chorus
Presents:



Let's Get Away From It All



A West Towns Road Trip



BOARDING PASS	
May 10th, 2025	3:00PM
Benet Academy St. Daniel Hall 2200 Maple Ave, Lisle IL, 60532	
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From our President

**Tony Emerson, President
West Towns Chorus**



Welcome to our 2025 spring show, "Let's Get Away From It All – A West Towns Road Trip," a musical celebration of travel, both around our country and around our world. We take great pleasure in performing these songs, some of which are distinctly not "barbershop". We hope that our musical selections will bring you fond memories of your own travels.

Our music does not always need a full chorus. This afternoon, several of our own local quartets will perform, along with a couple of very large quartets (VLQ,) where more than four singers step forward to entertain you.

We are also very pleased to welcome a guest quartet, Onset, the 2022 Illinois District Quartet Champions and 2025 International qualifiers, as well as 2nd City Chorus from the Rockford Metro area. We hope you will enjoy their performances.

The slogan of the Barbershop Harmony Society is, "Everyone in Harmony." This is our hobby. We sing because we enjoy it. If you like to sing, whether you are a man or woman, please feel free to talk with any of our members. We will try to answer any questions you might have about getting started.

On behalf of our director, Carrie Marcotte, and our assistant directors, Joe Tomecek and Mark Betczynski, thank you for joining us this afternoon.

Sincerely,
Tony Emerson
President, West Towns Chorus

West Towns Ensembles

(in order of appearance)

Quartet: Gen Z & a Boomer
(*Irish Blessing*)

Lead: Ammon Carter
Tenor: Brian Luedtke
Baritone: Lucas Marcotte
Bass: Brett Owen

Quartet: Afterthought
(*Slow Boat to China*)

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

Quartet: The Dreamers
(*California Dreamin'*)

Lead: Erik Roffelsen
Tenor: Brian Luedtke
Baritone: Adam DeFord
Bass: Jacob Cynamon-Murphy

Quartet: 4 Tenors
(*Goodbye, My Coney Island Baby/We All Fall Medley*)

Lead: Tony Emerson
Tenor: Sid Peterson
Baritone: Jim Jarosz
Bass: Trenton Ferro



Friends and Family of West Towns
Under the direction of
Julie Malecki

(*This Land is Your Land*)

Sopranos
◇ Lydia DeFord, Amy Hollander,
◇ Kara Nyhan, Joyce Tumea

Altos
◇ Becca Dutton, Laura Jarosz,
◇ Kristy Bonn

Tenors
◇ Mike Dutton, Dave Hollander,
◇ Jim Jarosz, Erik Roffelsen,
◇ Tony Tumea

Basses
◇ Bill Burt, Adam DeFord,
◇ Josh Love, Bob Nicodem,
◇ Jack Roller

Quartet: Rhiffy
(*Rhode Island is Famous For You*)

Lead: Mark Servos
Tenor: Sid Peterson
Baritone: Joe Tomecek
Bass: Adam DeFord

Quartet: River City Rhythm
(*Somewhere Beyond the Sea*)

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

Teach your children to sing.

They'll live in a
World of Harmony.

— 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 is the organist for the Chicago Blackhawks! Carrie is the proud parent of Jacob (21) 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.



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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 close to two decades. 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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Thank you!

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

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Your support means a lot to us. Thank you!

A very special **Thank You to the Lancaster Family** for their generous & continuing support over the years!



Plan now for our Christmas Show

When: Weekend of Dec. 12—14, 2025
Exact date(s) and time(s) to be determined
Where: Timothy Christian Schools

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.

Let's Get Away From It All

May 10, 2025

Act 1:

- "Let's Get Away From It All" WTC*
- "Africa" WTC
- "Kokomo" WTC
- "Irish Blessing" **Gen Z & a Boomer**
- "Slow Boat to China" **Afterthought**
- "California Dreamin'" **The Dreamers**
- "Route 66" WTC VLQ#
- "Goodbye, Coney Island Baby/We All Fall Medley" **4 Tenors**
- "You've Got a Friend in Me" WTC
- "King of the Road" WTC
- "Country Roads" WTC
- "This Land is Your Land" **Friends and Family of West Towns**
- "How Can I Miss You if You Won't Go Away" **2nd City Chorus**
- "Selections by Onset" **Onset Quartet**

Intermission



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

Let's Get Away From It All

Act 2:

- "Gilligan's Island"* 2nd City Chorus
"Home on the Range" 2nd City Chorus
"Riders in the Sky" 2nd City Chorus
"William Tell Overture" (aka "The Lone Ranger Song")
..... 2nd City Chorus
"Rhode Island is Famous for You" **Rhiffy**
"Somewhere, Beyond the Sea" **River City Rhythm**
"Sentimental Journey" WTC & 2nd City Chorus
"Where Everybody Knows Your Name"
..... WTC & 2nd City Chorus
"Cups" WTC & 2nd City Chorus
"Keep the Whole World Singing" **All**

The West Towns Chorus:
2024 Illinois District Champions
2016 Most Improved Chorus
2015 Most Entertaining Chorus

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, Ammon Carter, Ed Childs, Jacob Cynamon-Murphy, Adam DeFord, Neil DeVore, Mike Dutton, Tony Emerson, Tom Farrell, Trenton Ferro, Frank Glas, Dave Hollander, Jim Jarosz, Craig Lancaster, Ryan Lesniak, Arnel Lo, Josh Love, Brian Luedtke, Lucas Marcotte, 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 — and, of course, **our fabulous director, Carrie Marcotte.**



The West Towns Chorus

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

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Onset Quartet

Onset Quartet was formed when Dan Mulligan (bass) and Frank Blackman (tenor) were students at Vandercook College of Music in Chicago, IL. In 2018, they gathered some friends to perform at a "Night At The Pops" concert and realized they had something special. From there, Onset took the Illinois District by storm, winning both the 2019 and 2020 Chicago Metro Chorus' Annual A Cappella Quartet Contest. Their first step into the world of competitive barbershop was in 2021, when they were named the District Novice Quartet Champions and placed fourth overall in the Illinois District Quartet Contest. Current baritone Nathan Gross joined the group shortly afterward, and the ensemble returned the next year to claim the title of 2022 Illinois District Quartet Champions. In early 2024, Mark Servos (lead) joined the group, and in September 2024, Onset qualified to represent the Illinois District at the 2025 Barbershop Harmony Society International Quartet Competition to be held in Denver, CO. They are very excited to perform for you today!

Please consider booking us for your next musical event! Contact us at onsetquartet@gmail.com or call (815) 954-7077.



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Coaching session with Joe Cerutti
 June 2024

A few photos of life with
 West Towns!



Watching the Bags Tournament
 at our annual picnic
 August 2024



Adam DeFord
 2024 Rookie of the Year



Dave Hollander
 2024 Barbershopper of the Year

Music & Mischief
 2024 Christmas Show



Spring Show Committee

Producer..... Jim Jarosz
MusicCarrie Marcotte, Mark Betczynski,
.....Joe Tomecek, Mark Servos
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for prices and scheduling



2nd City Chorus

The 2nd City Chorus was founded in 1996 and has earned distinction as one of Rockford's premier musical ensembles. As part of the Barbershop Harmony Society, the Rockford Metro Chapter has competed in many Society competitions. They have been crowned the Illinois District Small Chorus Champions as well as the Most Entertaining Chorus multiple times. In 2017, 2nd City welcomed women into the chorus, and they became the first Mixed Chorus Champions in the Illinois District. The men and women of the 2nd City Chorus come from all walks of life: They are teachers, engineers, salesmen, pilots, mechanics, counselors, doctors, nurses and retirees. The one thing they all have in common is a tremendous love for music in the Barbershop style! Under the direction of Joseph Tomecek since 2010, the group has become known for its entertaining parody songs and creative presentations.



The IRS now permits taxpayers to claim a deduction on their federal income tax returns for cash contributions they make 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 70½ 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 or go to westtowns.org/content/support-us.

A special Thank You to Benet Academy and Brian Wand for the use of their facility which helps to make this show special for our patrons.

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