



The West Towns Chorus

DIRECTED BY CARRIE MARCOTTE



PRESENTS

Tinsel, Tunes & Toymakers



WITH
Special Guests

AFFINITY STRINGS

SOUTH SHORE BRASS QUINTET

PERCUSSION BY GINA KNIGHT

FLUTE BY DANIELLE WOLF

Sunday, December 14th, 2025
TIMOTHY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL-HUIZENGA AUDITORIUM
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*from Our President
Tony Emerson*

To our patrons:

Welcome to our 33rd annual Christmas show and our third show in the Huizenga Auditorium in Elmhurst. 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 13th 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. I would like to personally thank Jim Jarosz for reprising his role as Show Chairman and providing guidance and leadership in bringing this show to the stage.

Our dedication to barbershop includes singing as a full chorus, as well as smaller ensembles and individual quartets. We compete with other choruses, and throughout the year we entertain residents at senior living centers and perform at parades and sporting events as we share our enthusiasm for our hobby.

Once again, today we will be showcasing several ensembles and quartets from within our chorus. Our guests include the Affinity Strings, percussion by Gina Knight, flute by Danielle Wolf, and, for the first time, the South Shore Brass Quintet will be part of our show.

We greatly appreciate and thank the businesses and sponsors supporting us to help make this event possible. They can be found in our full program by scanning the QR code.

After today's show, we will be taking time off to spend the holidays with family and friends. We will resume rehearsing on January 12th 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 the afternoon with us, and we hope this show will help kickstart your Christmas season. **Everyone involved with the West Towns Chorus wishes you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!**

Tony Emerson
President, West Towns Chorus

Teach your children to sing.

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— Jack Roller



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**Best Wishes
to the
West Towns
Chorus**

Our Director - Carrie Marcotte



Carrie Marcotte began directing the West Towns Chorus in 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 Barbershop International Chorus contest.

Carrie is the Director of Sacred Music at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Winfield and also the organist for the Chicago Blackhawks. She previously did some barbershop singing of her own in the quartet Cantina Vocal Project and, later, in the three-time Illinois District Mixed Quartet Champion: Mixology.

Carrie is the proud parent of Jacob (21) and Lucas (18) 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.

Know a man who likes to sing?
(or wants to get better at singing?)
Tell him about **West Towns Chorus**.

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. 1/12/2026.)
Visit www.WestTowns.org for more information.

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

Gina Knight - Percussion



Gina Knight has been a dynamic contribution to various bands and percussion sections across the Chicagoland area for the last 20 years! Although she loves playing percussion and timpani, she's primarily known around Chicago for her masterful drum set skills! Her latest venture is an interesting tribute show called "Sincerely Sinatra" where she drums with an incredible 18-piece big

band accompanying Nick Pontarelli, Sinatra style vocalist, and, as a twist, opens the show with her own beautiful set that tributes Karen Carpenter! Being a singer herself, Gina has always loved to accompany vocalists, and that's why she is so excited to be back with The West Towns Chorus!

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



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Assistant Directors

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. In 2023, Joe was inducted into the West Towns Hall of Fame. When not performing or rehearsing, Joe can be found competing in disc golf tournaments throughout the Midwest.

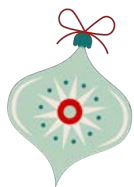


Mark Betczynski



Mark is a singer and arranger who has been involved in barbershop for over forty two 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. In 2023, Mark was inducted into the West Towns Hall of Fame. 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.



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Tinsel, Tunes & Toymakers

December 14, 2025

Act 1:	Orientation Leader:	Kara Nyhan
	Boss Elf:	Dan Murphy
	Musical Director Elf	Carrie Marcotte
	Assistant Musical Director Elf	Joe Tomecek
	“Dance of the Sugar Plum Fair	Affinity Strings
	“I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus”	South Shore Brass Quintet
	“It’s the Most Wonderful Time of the Year”	All Performers
	“Believe”	WTC*
	“It’s Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas”	WTC
	“Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas”	WTC
	“Ring Those Christmas Bells”	WTC
	“Carol of the Bells”	Affinity Strings
	Drum Solo.	Gina Knight
	“Merry Christmas, Darling”	Gina Knight
	“I’ll Be Home for Christmas”	River City Rhythm
	“Jingle Bells”	South Shore Brass Quintet
	“Amazon Shopping Song Parody”	Past Our Prime
	“12 Days After Christmas”	Scrambled Craigs
	“Scrambled Bells”	Scrambled Craigs
	“We Wish You a Merry Christmas”	Affinity Strings
	“S’Vivon”	VLQ+
	“Sleigh Ride”	South Shore Brass Quintet
	“Secret of Christmas”	WTC
	“Fa-La-La”	WTC

Intermission

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

*WTC = West Towns Chorus

10 +VLQ = Very Large Quartet (aka West Towns Ensemble)

Tinsel, Tunes & Toymakers

Act 2:	The Story of the First Christmas	Narrator:	Kara Nyhan
		Flute:	Danielle Wolf
	“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”	South Shore Brass Quintet	
	“O Little Town of Bethlehem”	WTC	
	“Still, Still, Still”	WTC	
	“God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen”	Affinity Strings	
	“Away in a Manger”	Afterthought	
	“As Lately We Watched”	WTC	
		Soloist	Adam DeFord
	“Joy to the World”	WTC	
	“Angels We Have Heard On High”	South Shore Brass Quintet	
	“In the Bleak Midwinter”	VLQ	
	“It Came Upon a Midnight Clear”	Affinity Strings	
	“Silent Night”	WTC	
Grand Finale:	“Adeste Fideles”	All Performers	
Reprise:	“Adeste Fideles”	with Audience	



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, Adam DeFord, Neil DeVore, Mike Dutton, Tony Emerson, Tom Farrell, Trenton Ferro, Dave Hollander, Jim Jarosz, Craig Lancaster, Ryan Lesniak, Arnel Lo, Josh Love, Brian Luedtke, Dan Murphy, Bob Nicodem, Brett Owen, Sid Peterson, Erik Roffelsen, Jack Roller, Mark Servos, Curt Spencer, Joe Tomecek, Tony Tumea,



*The
West Towns
Chorus*

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

Kevin Westburg, Jim Williams, and Jim Wixson. ***Not pictured:*** Aamon Carter, Don Davia, Frank Glas, Lucas Marcotte, Gerry Riva, and Ron Welch. We also welcome guest singer for this Christmas show: Steve Heath. And, of course, **our fabulous director, Carrie Marcotte.**



Plan now for our
Spring Show

When: Saturday, May 16, 2026, 2:30 PM

Where: Benet Academy, Lisle, IL

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



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.



**West Towns Chorus
Chicagoland West Suburban Chapter
of the Barbershop Harmony Society
2026 Board of Directors**

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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.



CHICAGO CHARITABLE GAMES

West Towns Chorus is happy to have
Chicago Charitable Games
as a sponsor.

Go to ccgpoker.com to see if CCG can help your
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S'vivon

The Hebrew letters on the sides of the dreidl are “neis gadol haya sham,” or “A great miracle happened there.” It marks the miraculous victory of the Jews, led by the Maccabees, against Greek persecution and religious oppression. In addition to being victorious in war, a second miracle occurred. When the Maccabees came to rededicate the Temple, they found only one flask of oil with which to light the Menorah. This small flask lasted for eight days, giving them time to purify more. In order to commemorate this miracle, Jews light a Menorah for the eight days of Chanukah.



S'vivon sov, sov, sov
Chanuka hu hag tov
Chanuka hu hag tov
S'vivon sov, sov, sov

Dreidel, spin, spin, spin
Chanuka it is a good holiday
Chanuka it is a good holiday
Dreidel, spin, spin, spin

Hag sim ha hu la'am
Nes gadol haya sham
Nes gadol haya sham
Hag sim ha hu la'am

A happy holiday for our people
A great miracle happened there
A great miracle happened there
A happy holiday for our people

West Towns Ensembles

(In order of appearance)

Quartet: River City Rhythm (I'll Be Home for Christmas) Lead: Dave Hollander Tenor: Jim Jarosz Baritone: Mike Dutton Bass: Bill Burt	Quartet: Scrambled Craigs (12 Days After Christmas & Silver Bells) Lead: Craig Lancaster Tenor: Jim Jarosz Baritone: Joe Tomecek Bass: Craig Ahlgrim
Quartet: Past Our Prime (Shopping For My Wife on Amazon) Lead: Craig Lancaster Tenor: Sid Peterson Baritone: Dan Murphy Bass: Bill Burt	Quartet: Afterthought (Away in a Manger) Lead: Dave Hollander Tenor: Trenton Ferro Baritone: Dan Murphy Bass: Ed Childs

Women's Voices

<u>Sopranos</u> Lori Bush Shephard Kara Nyhan Jennifer Pollock	<u>Altos</u> Kristen Lemke Clarice Swanson
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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.



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Christmas Show Committee

Producers Jim Jarosz, Carrie Marcotte
Music Mark Betczynski, Carrie Marcotte, Mark Servos, Joe Tomecek
Stage Managers Kristi Bonn, David Hollander
Tickets. Ellyn Nicodem
Raffle Baskets & Ushers Nelleke Roffelsen
Stage Decor Linda Emerson assisted by Cara Emerson
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Singing Valentines

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Noon to 6 PM

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Affinity String Trio



The Affinity String Trio, with **Andreanna Moravec** on viola, **Chikako Miyata** on violin, and **Genevieve Tabby** 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. Philadelphia native **Genevieve Tabby** first picked up the cello after being inspired by her twin sister's violin lessons at the age of eight, and they continue to enjoy performing alongside each other professionally in the ATLYS String Quartet. Studying with Hans Jensen, Genevieve has performed across the country from Aspen to Lincoln Center. Currently, Ms. Tabby teaches a private studio, freelances, and records cello tracks for commercial media. She was recently featured on the major Hollywood motion picture, "Heart of Champions," released in 2021, and multi-award winning documentary "Buried: The 1982 Alpine Meadows Avalanche," released in 2022. **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 Dinklage, 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!



South Shore Brass Quintet

Since 2004, South Shore Brass has set out to establish a unique musical experience, featuring classical arrangements, fun jazz standards, and the best of original brass repertoire. The South Shore Brass Quintet is one of the smaller ensembles of the South Shore Brass Band. The group is entering its 21st year as a performing and educational ensemble. The group has attracted some of the finest musicians from around the south shore of Lake Michigan and south Chicago region to provide the highest quality musical performances. Each of the members of this group are music educators. The South Shore Brass Quintet is presented by the South Shore Performing Arts Co., an Indiana non-profit corporation. You can find us at southshorebrassband.com or on Facebook.

Members

- David Allie and Daniel Cummins—Trumpet
- James Deal—French Horn
- Kristen Engelbert—Trombone
- Wayne Coil—Tuba



Thank You 2025 Donors

We thank the following individuals and organizations who donated to
The West Towns Chorus during 2025:

FRIEND (\$100-\$249)

Mark Betczynski, Jim & Kathy Brown, Ed Childs, Delores Cramer, Neil DeVore, Jack & Sharon Fagan, Trenton and Judy Ferro, Earl Fuhrman estate, Frank Glas, David Hollander, Craig Lancaster, Ryan Lesniak, Carrie Marcotte, Dan Murphy, Bob Nicodem, Sid Peterson, Gerry Riva, Joe Tomecek, Tony Tumea, Kevin Westburg.

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- Tony Tumea
- Jacob Cynamon Murphy employer match

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!

2026 Chicago Harmony Sweepstakes



Saturday, March 14, 2026 at Wentz Concert Hall

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