

Song History

"White Christmas" was written by Irving Berlin in 1940 sitting poolside at a resort in Phoenix, Arizona. Bing Crosby introduced the song in the 1942 musical "Holiday Inn". The first public performance of the song was also by Crosby, on his top-rated NBC radio show. At first, Crosby did not see anything special about the song. The song initially performed poorly, but by the end of October, "White Christmas" topped the charts and remained in that position until well into the new year. This lovely song resonated especially strongly with listeners during World War II and the Armed Forces Network was flooded with requests for it. It won the Academy Award for Best Original Song in 1942. It was again #1 again during the holiday seasons of 1945 and 1946. The song was also the title theme for the 1954 musical "White Christmas". Crosby's single of this song is the best-selling single in any music category.

"Winter Wonderland" is a pop standard written in 1934 by Felix Bernard (composer) and Richard B. Smith (lyricist). It has been recorded many different times by such artists as Frank Sinatra, Dolly Parton, Perry Como among others. Smith, a native of Pennsylvania was reportedly inspired to write the song after seeing Honesdale's Central Park in Pennsylvania covered in snow. Due to its seasonal theme, "Winter Wonderland" is often regarded as a Christmas song, although the holiday itself is never mentioned in the lyrics.

"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" is a poem and Christmas carol written by Edmund Sears, pastor of the Unitarian Church in Weston, Massachusetts. It first appeared in December 29, 1849 in the Christian Register in Boston. It is said that Sears wrote these words at the request of his friend, W. P. Lunt, a minister in Quincy, Massachusetts. In 1850 Richard Storrs Willis, a composer who trained under Felix Mendelssohn, wrote the melody called "Carol". "Carol" is the most widely-known tune to the song in the USA

"Silent Night" was originally written in German by Josef Mohr, an Austrian priest. The tune was composed by Franz X. Gruber, an organist and school teacher. This Christmas carol was first performed at a church on Christmas day 1818. In 1995 a manuscript written by hand by Josef Mohr was discovered. The said manuscript is believed to date back to 1820 and it reveals that the lyrics were written in 1816 by Mohr but the music was composed two years later by Gruber.

"Jingle Bells" was originally titled, "One Horse Open Sleigh". James Lord Pierpont wrote the song in 1857. The song was meant for a Thanksgiving program at a church in Savannah, Georgia where Pierpont was organist. The song was so well accepted that it was again sung on Christmas day and since then became one of the most popular Christmas carols.



HOLIDAY HARMONY

Show Chairman
Linda Agner

Scrip Committee
Ann Layton, Sheila Conary,
Michelle Niebla, Merrilee Leggitt, Kira Wagner

Sound
Bob Carr

The Harmony Showcase Chorus chartered in February 1960 and is part of Sweet Adeline International with over 30,000 members worldwide.

Our membership is made up of team-spirited, goal oriented women of all ages and backgrounds. So, if you enjoy singing, challenges and new experiences, and want to broaden your perspectives and make new friends while doing it, we'd like you to consider membership in the Harmony Showcase Chorus. Call 661-269-8818 or 661-273-0995, or check out our web site at www.harmonyshowcase.com for more information.

Rehearsals resume Tuesday January 6 at 7:00p.m. at Angel Hall, 2101 E. Palmdale Blvd.

To have the chorus entertain at a party or function, please call 661-272-3746

Harmony Showcase Members

Kira Wagner: Director
Linda Agner
Nicki Agner
Elizabeth Antony
Ginny Bretz
Jennifer Carr
Sheila Conary
Susan Hamilton
Marvilee Higgins
Frankie Johnson
Ann Kolacinski
Ann Layton
Merrilee Leggitt
Linda Marlow
Brandi McLroy
Diane McLemore
Lola Negaard
Michelle Niebla
Linda Ninekirk
Missy Pearce
Susan Sirex
Betty Spears
Marion Volk
Karen Weil-Morrison

Makin' Mischief

These four ladies have been a part of the Harmony Showcase Chorus for many years and have become great friends. After shopping, dining, and playing together for so many years, they decided ten years ago that they would form a quartet and sing together as well. They have performed at various events and parties here and in the surrounding areas. Please meet Nicki, Missy, Jenny and Linda.

S'Possible

Back in the late 90's, a quartet was formed from the ranks of the Harmony Showcase Chorus. It consisted of Sheila, lead; Merrilee, baritone; Ann, bass; and Michelle, tenor. They called themselves "S'Possible". They sang together around town for several years and even competed in Regional Novice Quartet competition. Sheila took some time away from the chorus but is back and singing once again. S'Possible happily reformed with the same members and is here today to help celebrate this Christmas season.

Our Director – Kira Wagner

Kira started directing in church at the age of eight and took that love for music to the youth as an independent contractor for the Napa Valley School District. She worked with K-12 students for 20 years and during that time, began singing with Sweet Adelines. The combination of directing and teaching choral music led to directing both women and men's barbershop in Northern California from 1993 to 1999 when she relocated to Texas. Moving to So. Cal. In 2003, she began directing Harmony Showcase Chorus in January of 2007. With a background that includes serving as a US Marine in the field of electronics, public access television, public speaking, internet marketing, being an author and Life Coach, she brings a wide variety of experience to rehearsals each week. It is her love of people, the harmonies found in the music and the joy of singing that allows her to be a creative force within this dynamic group of women.

Meet our Harmony Star Contestants

Sandra Rangel, a 7th grader here in the Antelope Valley loves to sing, dance, run and do vocal impressions. Her choice to sing every day demonstrates her love for singing. With a great personality, she loves to laugh as well as make her friends laugh. Her aspirations as an adult are still open and include the possibilities of being a singer, model, actress, lawyer or doctor since these are all professions she holds in highest regard.

Sandra is singing *Beautiful* as sung by Christina Aguilera

Every day is so wonderful
And suddenly, it's hard to breathe
Now and then, I get insecure
From all the fame, I'm so ashamed

I am beautiful no matter what they say
Words can't bring me down
I am beautiful in every single way
Yes, words can't bring me down
So don't you bring me down today

To all your friends, you're delirious
So consumed in all your doom
Trying hard to fill the emptiness
The piece is gone and the puzzle undone
That's the way it is

You are beautiful no matter what they say
Words won't bring you down
You are beautiful in every single way
Yes, words won't bring you down
Don't you bring me down today.

No matter what we do
No matter what they say
When the sun is shining through
Then the clouds won't stay

And everywhere we go
The sun won't always shine
But tomorrow will find a way
All the other times

We are beautiful no matter what they say
Yes, words won't bring us down
We are beautiful no matter what they say
Yes, words can't bring us down
Don't you bring me down today
Don't you bring me down today
Don't you bring me down today

Charity Blanton is a 17 year old Senior honor student at Quartz Hill High School. With two main passions in life, soccer, and singing, who uses both to help further her education opportunities. She began singing at the age of 5, but did not begin publicly performing until her freshman year in high school where she has been singing in Acapella choir. After High School Charity plans to attend the Air Force Academy, play soccer, sing, and become a pilot.

Charity is singing *I Surrender* as sung by Celine Dion

There's so much life I've left to live
And this fire's burning still
When I watch you look at me
I think I could find the will
To stand for every dream
And forsake the solid ground
And give up this fear within
Of what would happen if they ever knew
I'm in love with you

CHORUS:

Cause I'd surrender everything
To feel the chance to live again
I reach to you
I know you can feel it too
We'd make it through
A thousand dreams I still believe
I'd make you give them all to me
I'd hold you in my arms and never let go
I surrender

I know I can't survive
Another night away from you
You're the reason I go on
And now I need to live the truth
Right now, there's no better time
From this fear I will break free
And I'll live again with love
And no that they can't take that away from me
And they will see...

Chorus

Every night's getting longer
And this fire is getting stronger, babe
I'll swallow my pride and I'll be alive
Did you hear my call
I surrender all

Chorus

Right here, right now
I give my life to live again
I'll break free, take me
My everything I surrender all to you

Right here, right now
I give my life to live again
I break free, take me
My everything I surrender all to you

Answers to quiz

- 1) *Jingle Bells*
- 2) *Winter Wonderland (We're Walkin' in a)*
- 3) *Santa Claus is Coming to Town*
- 4) *Joy To The World*
- 5) *Rudolph*
- 6) *Oh, Come All Ye Faithful*
- 7) *White Christmas (I'm Dreaming of a)*
- 8) *Oh Christmas Tree*
- 9) *What Child Is This?*
- 10) *We Three Kings*
- 11) *Deck the Halls*
- 12) *I Saw Three Ships Asailing*
- 13) *Holy Night*
- 14) *Noel*
- 15) *Away in a Manger*
- 16) *The 12 Days of Christmas*
- 17) *I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus*
- 18) *All I Want for Christmas is My Two
Front Teeth*
- 19) *The Christmas Song (Chestnuts
Roasting...)*
- 20) *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*
- 21) *Let It Snow, Let It Snow, Let It Snow*
- 22) *Silent Night*
- 23) *Oh Little Town of Bethlehem*
- 24) *Silver Bells*