

A LOT FOR CHRISTMAS

Clipper City Chordsmen – Manitowoc, WI

Written by: Bill Fricke

Final Version

Place: Avalanche Falls, think of a town on the Hallmark Channel meets Hee Haw. Midwest nice and simple. Time: a few years back. Dress: Jeans, bright flannel shirts, sweaters.

Cast:

Julie Jingle: Mary Hamachek

Jolly, Joe, and Johnny Jingle: Bill Fricke

Jebidiah Jingle: Tim Steffen

Jesse Jingle: Don Lewellen

Jonah Jingle: Al Boldt

Parent 1: TBA

Child 1: TBA

Child 2: TBA

Julian Jingle: Jim Rasmus

Jason Jingle: Bob Fricke

Jackpot Jingle: Anthony Schreiter

Jaden Jingle: Peter Lewellen

Jay Jingle: Randy Detjen

Mother Jingle: Ellen Peronto

Father Jingle: Bob Peronto

Chorus member wearing a tree sweater: Roger Gottschalk

MIC 1 – Mary Hamachek

MIC 2 – Bill Fricke

MIC 3 – On Stand

MIC 4 – QUARTET MICS (Front of stage)

CHORUS / OCTET / QUARTET PARTS LOOK LIKE THIS

Curtain is closed

Julie Jingle is the narrator. She is sitting in a Rocking Chair (made of tree branches). She has an Autoharp on her lap. As the lights come up she strums the last few measures of O Holy Night. She looks up and notices the audience. . . She will have a book with a cover that says the story of Jolly Jingle.

Julie: Well hi there. I was just strumming some Christmas songs for the concert at Silver Bell Acres later today. Where are you, you ask? Well Avalanche Falls, USA. Yep . . . I know it's a redundant name, but the city's fathers (and mother too) couldn't decide whether to name it after the beautiful water falls or the majestic snow filled mountain tops. Its quite possible the nicest place a person could call home. That last song brought back some wonderful memories of a few year's back. What is that? You're in the mood for a story? Well golly . . . sit back, make sure those pocket phone devices are turned off and take your hand and wave it over your face. Come on, everyone has to do it . . . now as the picture gets blurry, we go back to a few years (**CURTAIN OPENS – CHORUS IS IN THE TREE FARM**) where the local Barbershop Chorus has gathered . . . and boy oh boy, ITS BEGINNING TO LOOK A LOT LIKE CHRISTMAS!!!

CHORUS SINGS: ITS BEGINNING TO LOOK A LOT LIKE CHRISTMAS.

Julie: As Jolly Jingle welcomed his good friends to the family tree farm, Jesse Jingle and Jebidiah Jingle were heard saying . . .

Jesse: I just love coming here every year to pick out a Christmas Tree for our singout at the Nursing Home later today. It's a tradition for as long as I have known.

Jebidiah: Say Jesse, I think that tree over there is sick.

Jesse: What do you think it could be Jebidiah?

Jebidiah: I'm pretty sure its Tinselititis.

Everyone nods in agreement

Jesse: Well, none the less, it is definitely the Most Wonderful Time of the Year.

CHORUS SINGS: IT'S THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR

Jolly steps out and the Family members step out too by the mic.

Julie: Jolly Jingle, owner of the tree farm that has been in his family for many generations, meets with some customers. The children are mesmerized by all the trees . . .

Jolly: Welcome friends to the Jingle Tree Farm.

Parent 1: Thank you Jolly. Its always so fun picking out our Christmas Tree every year.

Child 1: Why are the trees different sizes?

Jolly: Well, that's because the trees are different ages. People have been using Christmas trees to decorate their homes for over 500 years.

Child 2: That tree over there looks really old.

Jolly: Oh my, that's not a Tree . . . um, that's Roger.

(Roger waves wearing his tree sweater)

Jonah Jingle: Young man/lady. Would you like to hear one of the original Christmas Tree Songs?

The children and family members nod in agreement

HARMONY TO GO SINGS: O CHRISTMAS TREE

Julie: As the families, with their trees picked out return to their homes (families exit stage right . . . sit in reserved seats behind sound table in audience) Julian Jingle approaches Jolly. Jolly seems a little distracted.

Julian: I see our cousin Jackson Jingle opened up a Taxidermy and Veterinarian shop down the road. Isn't that an unusual combination?

Jolly: Huh? What was that?

Julian: I said . . . I see our cousin Jackson Jingle opened up a Taxidermy and Veterinarian shop down the road. Isn't that an unusual combination?

Jolly: Well, he figures either way, you get your dog back.

Julian: Makes sense to me. Say Jolly, did you know that the Chorus has new assistant director?

Jolly: I heard . . . I heard that his first song has a gospel twang to it . . .

Julian: It sure does . . . how about we sing it for you?

Jolly: (DISTRACTED AGAIN) Huh? Oh yeah . . . I would love it.

CHORUS SINGS: GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

Julie: Jason Jingle approaches Jolly and boy is he excited.

Jason: Hey Jolly, boy, am I excited.

Jolly: I can see that!

Jason: Our quartet learned a new Christmas Song and we learned it in Latin.

Jolly: I love Latin. The seven years I took Latin from Miss Jane Jingle in school were some of the best marks I ever got.

Jason: But Jolly, they only offered Latin for 4 years in school.

Jolly: Well, it took me a while . . . none the less . . . what song are you going to sing?

Jason: O Come All Ye Faithful

Jolly: Ah – that country song . . .

Jason: Country Song?

Jolly: Yep – Austinee Fiddlers!!!!

Jason: Close . . .

LATE EXPECTATIONS SINGS ADESTE FIDELES

Julie: The Chorus was noticing that the Tree Farm wasn't as organized as usual . . . and Jolly seemed distracted. But the chorus picked out the tree. As the chorus treasurer, Jackpot Jingle, offered to pay Jolly for the tree, he refused payment as usual, as he and his family has for as long as everyone could remember. If anyone could use a little Christmas right now . . . It was definitely Jolly . . .

CHORUS SINGS WE NEED A LITTLE CHRISTMAS RIGHT NOW

Julie: As the chorus made its way to Silver Bells Acres . . . the place where they bring, and decorate a tree and entertain the residents for, well, for as many years as anyone could remember . . . Jebidiah Jingle had an announcement to make . . .

Jebidiah: Guys, I, uh forgot to bring the lights and decorations for the tree.

Jesse: Jebidiah, you have one job every year . . .

Jebidiah: Well, I got distracted.

Jesse: What could have distracted you this time?

Jebidiah: If your car could travel at the speed of light . . . would your headlights work?

Jesse: Well, I guess that is a good question. . . everyone nods in agreement

Julie: As Jesse, Jebidiah and the rest of the chorus contemplated the question at hand . . . they headed to Jingle Value – Your Hometown Hardware Store . . . because there's no place like home for the holidays

CHORUS SINGS THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Julie: As the Chorus entered Jingle Value, Jesse Jingle, along with his cousins Jaden, Jackpot and Jay Jingle gathered outside the front door. It was here that Jesse realized that they may not have enough money to pay Joe Jingle, Jingle Hardward - Your hometown Hardware Store owner, for the lights and decorations.

Jesse: Hey Jaden, you owe me \$20

Jaden: I only have \$10 –here - I owe you the rest.

Jackpot to Jesse: You owe me \$20

Jesse to Jackpot: Here's \$10, I owe you the rest.

Jay to Jackpot: You owe me \$20

Jackpot to Jay: Here's \$10 – I owe you the rest.

Jaden to Jay: You owe me \$20

Jay to Jaden: Here's \$10, I owe you the rest.

Jaden to Jesse: Here's the \$10 I owe you, were even.

Jesse to Jackpot: Here's the \$10 I owe you, were even.

Jackpot to Jay: Here's the \$10 I owe you, were even.

Jay to Jaden: Here's the \$10 I owe you, were even. (SAME \$10 BILL IS USED FOR ALL LINES)

Jesse: Well, I'm glad that's settled. We have \$80 – that should be enough to buy what we need.

BARBERPOP SINGS ALLELUIA

BARBERPOPS DOES A SHORT INTO TO THE SONG: BELIEVE

Julie: Joe Jingle, owner of Jingle Value, Your Hometown Hardware Store, understood the Chorus's dilemma and also understood Jebidiah's distraction – since he was a double cousinWAIT – What's a double cousin?

Joe: You see . . . (speaking fast) Jebidiah's father is actually married to my aunt's sister who was the child of Jebidiah's grandfather and my uncle on my grandmother's side. Yep . . . Double Cousins. . . . Happens all the time.

Julie: Oh, that makes sense. (Everyone nods in agreement) Joe agreed to give the supplies to the chorus if they would sing his favorite Christmas song. The Jingle Family is silly that way. . .

CHORUS SINGS: SILVER BELLS

Julie: When the Chorus arrived at the nursing home with the tree and ready to decorate, they noticed a woman in a wheel chair, being pushed by a gentleman. The instantly recognized that it was mother Jingle being pushed by Father Jingle, Jolly's parents. They now understood Jolly's distraction this year. Johnny Jingle, the director of Silver Bell Acres explained.

Johnny: Its been hard on Jolly this year. Not only did his mom and dad help him with the tree farm during the holidays, but he has been using any free time to visit his mom. I have one request for you. When Father Jingle was away serving his country, mother Jingle's favorite song was I'll be home for Christmas. It was and has forever been their song. Could you sing that for them?

CHORUS: You bet!!!!

CHORUS SINGS I'LL BE HOME FOR CHRISTMAS

*At the end of the song Mother Jingle looks up as if to recognize the tune, turns to her husband. He gives her a gentle kiss and the **CURTAIN CLOSES!***

Julie: As the Chorus was busy decorating the tree . . . various quartets roamed the hall entertaining the residents. . . . In the north Corridor was the quartet EnCore.

ENCORE ENTERS FROM BEHIND THE CURTAIN AND SINGS ITS FIRST SONG AND A SHORT INTRODUCTION TO ITS 2ND SONG. They exit through the Curtain.

Julie: That was so wonderful. . . patrolling in the south corridors spreading Christmas Cheer was the quartet Lake Effect. Let's take a listen . . .

LAKE EFFECT ENTERS FROM BEHIND THE CURTAIN AND SINGS DIDDLY SQUAT AND DOES A SHORT INTRO TO MR. GRINCH. They exit through the curtain.

Julie: Isn't it too bad that there are Grinches out there . . . Christmas should be the happiest time of the year. Spreading Christmas Joy in West Corridor was the quartet Private Stock.

PRIVATE STOCK ENTERS FROM BEHIND THE CURTAIN AND SINGS ITS FIRST SONG AND A SHORT INTRODUCTION TO ITS 2ND SONG. They exit through the Curtain.

Julie: There's still much left to the story . . . but I drank a lot of coffee and so let's take a short, let's say, 10 minute break. And you all come back and we can see how this story ends . . .

INTERMISSION

Julie: Welcome back everyone. I just love a good Christmas Story. Before we continue, I would like Don and Peter Lewellen to come out for a special presentation.

HARMONY AWARD IS PRESENTED AT THE QUARTET MIC

Julie: My oh my, could this day get any better???? Yes it can . . . believe or not . . .

CURTAIN OPENS . . . THE CHORUS IS AT THE NURSING HOME. THE TREE IS DECORATED BUT NOT YET LIT.

Julie: The quartets were finished and the tree was trimmed. Now the exciting part . . . drum roll please. . . (Gary Neustadter rolls some sort of drum . . . lights go on and everyone claps)

Julie: The chorus is more than just singers, they are family . . . and anything is possible when there's love at home.

CHORUS SINGS: WHEN THERE'S LOVE AT HOME

Julie: The Chorus hurried (chorus walks) I said the chorus hurried (now they move faster) back to Jingle Value – Your Hometown Hardware Store to purchase supplies to help fix up and organize Jolly's Tree Farm while he was away. After the exchanging of \$10 bills and a little haggling with Joe Jingle – the Chorus had what they needed. And why did they do this you ask??? (Chorus looks at the audience with a why look) Well, of course – because this is the true Secret of Christmas (Everyone nods in agreement)

CHORUS SINGS: THE SECRET OF CHRISTMAS

CURTAIN CLOSES AS THE CHORUS IS SEEN GOING BACK TO THE TREE FARM.

Julie: While the Chorus was executing their Christmas magic and after my amazing performance with my autoharp, Silver Bell Acres was visited by a local high school group that also spread Christmas cheer for all to hear. Wave your hands in front of your face again . . . come on . . . it worked before . . . as we go back to hear the Manitowoc Lutheran High School Lancer Singers!

Lutheran Singers enter from Stage Right – exit Stage right and wait in the wings. – **Chorus HAS QUIETLY MOVE A FEW PROPS/STAGE ITEMS.**

CURTAIN OPENS – There are new items on the tree farm. Jolly enters – he is overjoyed.

Jolly: My goodness. I can't believe you did all of this for me . . . I am so grateful. Its been such a tough year.

Jesse: We know it has Jolly, but we wanted to pay you back for all the kindness you and your family have shown us through the years . . . as long as we can remember.

There is a pole that has a smudge on it

Jolly: It looks great, and again I can't thank you enough. But wait, why is there a smudge on that pole?

Jebidiah turns around, there is paint on his back side: turns back and says: Beats me.

Jolly: But Jebidiah – didn't you see the fresh paint?

Jebidiah: Well, I don't see so good.

Jolly: But Jebidiah – didn't you smell the fumes?

Jebidiah: Well, I don't smell so good either. . .

The Chorus nods in agreement

Jolly: none the less, let's finish up this story with two wonderful Christmas songs . . .

CHORUS SINGS: SILENT NIGHT/O HOLY NIGHT

NOTE: MIC THREE WILL NEED TO BE TURNED ON WHEN SOLO BEGINS FOR O HOLY NIGHT.

CURTAIN CLOSES

Julie: Wait the show isn't done yet . . . it says right here that a reprise was sung . . . did you forget about that?

From behind the curtain you hear Dave and the chorus say . . . **Oh yeah** . . . Dave pops his head out between the curtains and says . . . **sorry.**

Julie (as the curtain opens): Wonderful, Wonderful, Wonderful

CURTAIN OPENS

CHORUS SINGS: MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR (REPRISE)

Julie: That's better. The story is now complete. I want to thank you all for listening, and for the Clipper City Chordmen under the direction of Dave Buss for their help today. And for the help from Late Expectations, Harmony a Go, BarberPops, EnCore, Lake Effect, and Private Stock. Please welcome back Mother and Father Jingle. And of course, we welcome back to the stage the Manitowoc Lutheran High Lancer Singers. We would like to finish the day with our Director Emertus, Roger Gottchalk Leading us in Song. This is Julie Jingle saying if you want to be a Chordsmen and spread Christmas like cheer the entire year you don't need to wave your hand in front of your face. . . . join us on a Tuesday night at Grow it Forward on Marshall street we know you will enjoy it! Rogertake it away!!!!

EVERYONE SINGS WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS

FINE