

Croix Chordsmen Christmas Hour (2025)

Script – Draft 2025.10.31

House lights go up as the Chordsmen come onto the stage.

MC: Good afternoon! Today we're going to take you back to the golden days of radio. Picture your Grandparents, your mom and dad, and the entire family sitting around the radio listening to your favorite program – The Shadow, Lux Theater, Gunsmoke, Jack Benny, The Whistler, Charlie McCarthy and Edgar Bergen, Fibber McGee and Molly, and many more. Today, we are re-imagining an old-style live radio broadcast, called the Croix Chordsmen Christmas Hour, and you are our studio audience! So please play along and enjoy yourselves!

Our actors are getting ready, and our sound effects wizard is all set up. You can see the stars of our show entering the stage behind me. The Croix Chordsmen are a chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society or as it was better known back during the radio days, "The Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America", or SPEBSQSA. Did you know that SPEBSQSA started because some guys really enjoyed hearing their favorite singing groups on the radio, groups like the Peerless Quartet and the Hayden Quartet, and they just wanted a club where they could gather with their friends and sing like that?

Speaking of SPEBSQSA, the Croix Chordsmen will be celebrating their 75th Anniversary as a chapter next April 11th. Imagine, 75 years! That means they've been around since radio was still king, way back in 1950. Please mark your calendar, because you won't want to miss that show!

I see our stars are in place, and it's time to go live with our broadcast, in 10, 9, 8, 7, 6...

silent count

5, 4, 3, 2, 1!

"on air" light flickers on. House lights down. Stage lights up.

Hello, Hello, Hello, Hello, well Hello

MC: Good evening everyone, and welcome to the Croix Chordsmen Christmas Hour, hosted by your favorite barbershop chorus, here on your home for Croix Chordmen Barbership ...

KCCB Jingle

This afternoon's live coast-to-coast broadcast will feature performances by our special guests, the White Bear Lake Mariners, as well as by our chapter quartets, and, of course, you'll hear from our hosts, the Croix Chordsmen Chorus under the direction of Jay Althof, with assistance by Lee Wyland and John Roeber.

We've got a wonderful show today, we hope that you will thoroughly enjoy yourself!

But first, let's quickly check in with Weatherman Bob, who has a special report on something unusual that he is tracking. Weatherman Bob, what is the latest?

Weatherman Bob: Hello, hello! Yes, we have detected a strange object in the night sky! It appears to be a sleigh with eight tiny reindeer [*Sound Effect: jingle the sleigh bells*], and it is moving fast our way! I know this is exciting news for our younger listeners, so we'll keep an eye on it while you enjoy the show. Back to you!

MC: Thanks, Bob! Santa's sleigh! That is exciting news, kids! But it is that time of year, and if you just look around, you will see the signs everywhere.

It's Beginning to Look Alot Like Christmas

MC: Thank you Chordsmen! With the hustle and bustle of shopping and the buying of Christmas presents, it is easy to overlook the quiet moments that take your breath away and make this time of year so special. Here to say more about that is one of our wonderful quartets, the Hometown Gang.

Hometown Gang: The Christmas Song

MC: Thank you guys! Holiday traditions vary so much from town to town and even from family to family. Depending on where your ancestors came from, you may celebrate Christmas very differently than your neighbor. Maybe you've never smelled chestnuts roasting over an open fire. Maybe you've never tasted honey-baked ham with hot-buttered biscuits and a generous helping of sweet potato casserole. Maybe you've never waited in anticipation as a golden, juicy slice of perfectly cooked turkey rolls away from the knife and onto your plate as it is sliced right in front of your eyes. Maybe there is a different tradition that you celebrate. Our next chapter quartet has something to say on the subject. Please enjoy this performance by Just4Fun!

Just4Fun: O' Lutefisk

MC: Yum! Dried cod! Those Norwegians sure have an effective marketing team!

This reminds me. We want to thank our sponsors who make today's show possible. Their generous contributions allow us to enjoy live performances – like this one – of the music that we all love. Let's hear now from one of those sponsors, Shifty's Auto Sales.

Shifty: Hello friends, Shifty here. Boy have we got deals for you, so come down and buy your next car [*Sound Effect: toot horn twice*] from us. We cater to the barbershop music lover with a line of models that feature our unique four-channel [*Sound Effect: four note scale*] audio system. You heard that right folks! Each channel carries a single barbershop part – tenor, lead, baritone and bass – and you can tune and balance your speakers to emphasize the part that you want to hear most! If you love to sing along with the melody [*Sound Effect: "la"*], then tune the speakers to put the lead front and center. But maybe you prefer the sweet high notes of the tenor [*Sound Effect: "tee"*] or the deep voice of the bass [*Sound Effect: "doe"*], well you can put them front and center instead. For those of you who prefer to hear the baritone part [*Sound Effect: off-pitch "meh"*], we sell a model just for you with the steering wheel on the other side because you folks like everything a bit different. So come on down and we'll make a hot deal on your next ride! [*Sound Effect: toot horn twice*]

MC: Boy, those cars really strike a chord with me! [*Sound Effect: uh-wooh-ga horn*] Speaking of rides, let's climb aboard with Director Jay Althof and the Croix Chordsmen Chorus! It's a swell day to be outside!

Sleigh Ride

MC: Thank you Croix Chordsmen!

Now about this time some of our teenage listeners may be thinking ... [*Sound Effect: "Hey this all sounds a bit square! Put the oldsters to bed! I just wanna bebop and dance to my favorite Christmas tunes!"*] Well here at KCCB, we're hip to your jive! Let's hear another one from our coolest quartet, Just4Fun!

Just4Fun: Jingle Bell Rock

MC: That rocked, guys!

Do you ever have the desire to wander over to your neighbor's house late at night with a few of your friends and stand outside the front door and sing some favorite songs? Any other time of the year and he might open his door with ... [*Sound Effect: "Hey, off my porch!"*] but if it's Christmastime, maybe he'll greet you with a steaming cup of cocoa and a warm smile. [*Sound Effect: sighing "Aaaah!"*] The Croix Chordsmen know all about how to coax warm smiles with a song!

Caroling, Caroling

MC: Hey, it's time for another one of our wonderful chapter quartets. Despite the over-commercialization of the holiday, we all cherish the Christmas spirit when it comes our way. These guys know what I mean. Let's hear from Charlie's Crooners!

Charlie's Crooners: We Need a Little Christmas

MC: Great job, guys! You can hear them downtown every Tuesday night from about 9:30 until close.

Speaking of time, it is 30 minutes after the hour, and you are listening to a live broadcast of the Croix Chordsmen Christmas Hour here at the home of Croix Chordsmen Barbershop...

KCCB Jingle

MC: Do you have a favorite song at Christmas? Is there one song that conjurs up Christmas for you every time? When you hear it, do you imagine riding over snowy country roads with your sweetheart bundled up next to you and nothing but the sound of the horse's hooves [*Sound Effect: clip-clops*] and jangling harness bells [*Sound Effect: uh-wooh-ga horn*] ... and jangling harness bells [*Sound Effect: jangle sleigh bells*] ... to break the silence? I see that assisting director Lee Wyland and the Chordsmen have just the song in mind.

Jingle Bells

MC: That's the song for me! Kids, let's check in Weatherman Bob again. Weatherman Bob, is Santa's sleigh almost here?

Weatherman Bob: Practically here! I can almost see the red of Rudolph's nose. It's time for the wee little ones to get to bed! You don't want to be awake when Santa visits your house! If Santa sees a single light on, he might not stop! He might just fly right by my house and ... (catches his breath, then hurriedly continues) Oh my! I've got to get home! Goodbye, goodbye! Back to you!

MC: Thanks for your report, Weatherman Bob! While he hurries home, let's enjoy a musical treat from our special guests, the White Bear Lake Mariners, under the direction of Wendy Souja. *More detail TBD.*

Mariner secular set

MC: Thank you, Mariners! That was lovely.

You know, when I think about the excitement a child feels when looking up and seeing Santa's sleigh streaking across the night sky, I imagine what it must have been like so long ago for the shepherds who first looked up and saw the star in the East. They would have felt excited too, and perhaps a bit scared. The Croix Chordsmen are back to sing, and I see Director Jay Alhof is at the podium. Gentlemen, what say ye?

God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen

MC: Thank you Chordsmen! The Christmas story took place in Bethlehem, and months before, an angel visited Mary and foretold what would happen! Chordsmen, would you tell us again, what was it that the angel said to Mary?

Gabriel's Message

MC: So when the shepherds saw the star in the east, they knew what they must do. Once again, let's hear from the Chordsmen. Assisting director John Roeber is at the podium, and he also arranged this song.

Rise Up Shepherd

MC: When the shepherds finally reached Bethlehem, they found Joseph and Mary with their baby. God had taken the form of man, and they could hold Him in their hands. Let's hear again from the Hometown Gang.

Hometown Gang: What Child is This?

MC: We rejoice in these holy events. Director Jay Alhof will now lead the Chordsmen in a celebration of Jesus's birth and all that it means.

Hallelujah

MC: Thank you!

Though the Christmas story began so long ago, it continues to this day. We are asked to hear the message, and like the shepherds, to rise up and follow, and then spread the good news far and wide.

Go Tell It on the Mountain

MC: Thank you Chordsmen! We can share the good news by sharing our music with others. Please welcome again our special guests, the White Bear Lake Mariners under direction of the Wendy Souja.

Mariners sacred set

MC: Thank you again, Mariners!

MC: Well, our time is up and the Croix Chordsmen Christmas Hour has come to the end. We thank our special guests, the White Bear Lake Mariners under the direction of Wendy Souja! Many folks made this show possible. We would like to again thank our sponsors, and our producers, Walt Ogburn and Don Paulson, and our engineers, ZZZ. Once again we thank our chapter quartets, Hometown Gang, Just4Fun, and Charlie's Crooners, our fabulous actors, ZZZ, and our sound effects wizard, Lara Nichols [*Sound Effect: uh-wooh-ga horn*]. We thank our assisting musical directors, Lee Wyland and John Roeber, and of course we thank our hosts for this broadcast, the Croix Chordsmen Chorus under the direction of Jay Althof. Most of all we want to thank you, our listeners at home and our live studio audience [*Sound Effect: toot horn twice*], for your support for this music and for this station, which is your home for Croix Chordsmen Barbershop...

KCCB Jingle

MC: Thank you again everyone. We'll sign off our live broadcast with one more wish!

We Wish You A Merry Christmas

Fade.