

BUFFALO RISING

Caroling Lawyers: Singing in the Season



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Four years ago, Annie Deck-Miller contacted local attorney/musician Theresa Quinn about starting a lawyers' caroling group. "I knew she was great, just the person for it--she was my music teacher in high school. I also knew that there were many talented lawyer-musicians here," Deck-Miller says.

"We didn't know what kind of interest we'd get, but the concept took off right away. We had (among others) Ginger Schröder, a well-known labor lawyer; Willie Schoellkopf, who's a seasoned session musician and performer; and even a judge, Hon. Erin Peradotto. We've added a few members over the years--we're now up to 11 or so--and we all have two things in common: we work in some aspect of the legal field and we love to sing, Deck-Miller, one of the two non-lawyers in the group explains.

She says the caroling schedule is pretty full this year, "but we would absolutely consider additional requests. I'm always amazed at how open everyone is to adding performances--I know how busy everyone is, but they all fit these appearances into their schedules because it's so fun for us."

So far, the group hasn't expanded outside of holiday music, but Quinn (who is one of the busiest musicians in town, through gigging, theater productions and directing the choir of Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church) did come up with an a cappella arrangement of The Star-Spangled Banner. "Maybe we'll start doing the national anthem at hockey games and stuff like that," Deck-Miller says. "That could be really fun!"

The Caroling Counselors invite you to join them for the following public performances:

Monday, Dec. 14, 2009

One HSBC Center lobby, Washington St. at Seneca St. -- noon to 12:30 pm

Lafayette Court lobby, 465 Main St. -- 12:45 pm to 1:15 pm

Thursday, Dec. 17

M&T Bank, One M&T Plaza, 345 Main St. -- noon to 12:45 pm

Friday, Dec. 18

Lafayette Presbyterian Church (Living Nativity), 875 Elmwood Ave. -- 7 pm to 7:30 pm

Monday, Dec. 21, (tentative)

Erie County Hall, 92 Franklin St. -- 11:45 am to 12:15 pm

Directed by Theresa Quinn, the singers are as follows:

Annie Deck-Miller, Buffalo Law Journal

Beth-Anne Diodato, Harvest Precision Components

Cheryl Smith Fisher, Magavern Magavern Grimm

Kelley Omel, Erie County District Attorney's Office

Hon Erin Peradotto, Supreme Court, Appellate Div.

Theresa Quinn, Magavern Magavern Grimm

Jeffrey Santoro, Jeffrey Santoro PC

Ginger Schröder, Schröder Joseph & Associates

Willie Schoellkopf, U.S. District Court, WDNY

Christina Tello, Neighborhood Legal Services

Cynthia Thompson, Phillips Lytle

Photo credit Mark Webster, courtesy of Business First: Willie Schoellkopf, Theresa Quinn, Annie Deck-Miller, Cynthia Thompson, Ginger Schröder, Kelley Omel, Cheryl Smith Fisher.

Call Annie deck-Miller at 716.541.1651 with questions or a booking request.