

Chordsmen Host Fundraiser for Music Education

On September 20, 2025, the Clipper City Chordsmen will hold their fall show "Teach the World to Sing" to raise money for music education in Manitowoc County. One year ago, they raised over \$7,000 and shared the entire amount with area schools by sending checks for \$650 to every high school music program in Manitowoc County. This year the Chordsmen want to surpass that total with a goal of \$10,000.

Supporting Music Education is a key mission of the Clipper City Chordsmen. According to a variety of experts, musical training has been shown to lead to improvements in a wide variety of different skills including memory and spacial learning as well as verbal memory, the ability to focus attention, and emotional control. Music in our schools is essential to the production of well-rounded students.

The fundraiser show will take place from 1-3 PM at the Franciscan Center for Music Education and Performance at 6751 Calumet Avenue in Manitowoc. Joining the Chordsmen on stage this year will be the Valders High School A Cappella Choir with their director Tami Witter and the Lutheran High School Lancer Singers under the direction of Joel Ungemach. Retired WBAY-TV News anchor Bill Jartz will be the MC for the program.

In addition to musical performances, there will also be a raffle of multiple gift baskets. Admission is free, but a donation to help support the music programs in our county is encouraged. Every dollar donated will go directly to area school music departments. All overhead for the program is already covered by donations. As an incentive to get the donations rolling, the Chordsmen have a challenge grant of \$2,500 already committed, so every dollar donated gets essentially doubled up to that amount.

Chapter quartets Lake Effect, Quandary, Barberpops, Late Expectations, Pass the Buck, and the Harmony To Go ensemble will also perform. To make this day even more special, the Chordsmen reached out to men in our community who were willing to learn three songs along with the Chordsmen and to sing with them on stage at the end of the show. Over a dozen volunteers attended the first special rehearsal as an indication of the level of community support for music.

Chordsmen member Peter Lewellen said "When I was a student at Lincoln High School, a barbershop quartet came in one time. It made a big impression on me to see that these men could stay active musically as adults and also supporting our community. Now that I'm part of the Chordsmen I'm really enjoying the opportunity to give back to the music programs of the county."

If you go:

Who: Clipper City Chordsmen with Valders A Cappella Choir and the Lancer Singers

What: A fundraiser and musical show to support music education in Manitowoc County

Where: Franciscan Center for Music Education and Performance, 6751 Calumet Ave in Manitowoc

When: Saturday September 20 from 1:00 to 3:00 in the afternoon

Cost: The show is free. However, donations to support music education are encouraged.

For more information or to make a tax-deductible contribution, go to www.clippercitchordsmen.org