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Holiday Celebration *Away in a Manger* to Benefit Lenox Food & Beverage Servers!

(Lenox, MA) – Local film-maker and producer Mark Farrell has teamed up with Church on the Hill's Liz Goodman to support downtown Lenox restaurant food & beverage servers with a special sing-along Holiday Benefit – *Away in a Manger*. This Christmas eve, the local community, along with stars from near and far, will be featured in a unique online celebration!

PLEASE VISIT: www.lenoxucc.org for full details, lyrics for the songs, how to donate, and the Eventbrite link to watch the Benefit! The Link below will be live Thursday, December 24 and viewing and donations will be available until Thursday, December 31.

EVENT BRITE BENEFIT LINK: Please reserve your space today!

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/a-christmas-sing-along-benefiting-the-food-servers-of-downtown-lenox-ma-tickets-133251331319>

Farrell says he got the idea to bring the community together in this unique holiday fashion a few months ago when he became Administrator for Church on the Hill. "A lot of things are happening in our worlds right now because of Covid. Two of the things that come close to us are the need to stay safe, but also the desire to gather together to enjoy the holidays. Another sad reality of this pandemic is that restaurants that provide food and comfort to us are either greatly reduced, or closed altogether. The establishments that are still open have greatly reduced staffs and smaller revenues, and the workers who interface directly with the public are risking their own wellbeing every day to take care of us. So, we here at Church on the Hill had an idea.

What if we created a one-hour Holiday Sing-along for the community to share over Christmas? And what if we made it a benefit gathering, where people would have the chance to donate to the food & beverage servers in downtown Lenox?"

Well, that's exactly what Church on the Hill is doing – virtually of course! The evening, filmed in advance, will be co-hosted by *Billy Keane* from the very popular local band *Whiskey Treaty Road Show* and *Wanda Houston*, another local music icon. There will be guest performances by music legend John Popper of *Blue's Traveler*, other local talent including the Cantelina Chamber Choir led by Andrea Goodman, musician Tyler Fairbank and audience favorite actor/singer David Joseph along with inspiring words from restaurant owners and community leaders from State Representative Smitty Pignatelli, to Artistic Director of Shakespeare & Company Allyn Burrows, and iconic Berkshire based artists, and a few surprise guests for good measure!

“Community participation is key to the success of the Benefit,” adds Goodman, “Anyone can join in and sing along and we heartily encourage it! We are so touched by all the artists and people behind-the-scenes who are donating their time and talent to make this Benefit a reality. Mark’s ideas for a sing-along via iPhones by the kids of the community to The Drifter’s version of *White Christmas* was just so fun and fit the spirit of the Benefit perfectly. The family sing-along to *Silent Night* was the icing on the cake...or the star on top of the Christmas tree in this case! We are honored to be able to help the Lenox restaurant staff in this way and look forward to sharing this wonderful event.”

JOIN US AND SING-ALONG

Children from ages 0 to 17 are invited to sing along to The Drifter’s *White Christmas* into their iPhone -- individually or in a safe group. All they have to do is sing the melody, or be the back-up singers, or just dance along. Farrell encourages the kids to ham it up and/or costume it up, but having fun is the goal! **Families and friends** are also invited to sing *Silent Night* as a family or a “bubble.” Farrell says, “Liz Goodman and her family recorded their version of *Silent Night* ahead of time, and what you have to do is use two iPhones – just play the Goodman’s singing *Silent Night* on one phone, into someone’s earbud, and sing along with the Goodman’s with the second phone as you record! Please shoot your videos horizontally. **SEND VIDEOS TO: mark@risingmoonprods.com by December 24th 4pm.**

Donations are appreciated anything from \$1 on up – every penny counts! Farrell is working with the local restaurants to identify each and every server in downtown Lenox who will receive a little special holiday bonus! We hope you will join us in Celebrating the Holiday season in this heartfelt way!

PLEASE VISIT: www.lenoxucc.org for full details, lyrics for the songs, how to donate, and the [Eventbrite link to watch the Benefit!](#) **The Link below will be live Thursday, December 24 from 8:00pm –9:30pm for viewing and donations and each night afterwards at the same time until Thursday, December 31 (8:00pm-9:30pm)**

EVENT BRITE BENEFIT LINK to REGISTER & DONATE:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/a-christmas-sing-along-benefiting-the-food-servers-of-downtown-lenox-ma-tickets-133251331319>

Artists include, Wanda Houston, Billy Keane, Robert Kelly, Jeff Stevens, Jay Bradley, and featuring Johnny Irion, Tyler Fairbank and David Joseph. Produced by Elizabeth Aspenlieder, the Benefit also includes community players donating their time and services include: Boema, Brava, The Old Heritage, Café Lucia, Frankies, Prime, and Zinc. Special thanks to State Representative Smitty Pignatelli, Berkshire Co-op Market, Classical Tents & Party Goods, Clifford Oil, Pignatelli Electric, Shakespeare & Company, Scott Pignatelli, Sue McNinch, John & Jackie McNinch, Whitney Asher, Elizabeth Aspenlieder, Allyn Burrows, Sadie Burrows, Gerry Gallo, Mollie & David Joseph, Jim Lucie, Jason Macioge, Kat Lockeridge, Robert Pelliciotti, Jeff & Samantha Clifford as well as cinematographer Shaun Laframboise, sound engineer Daniel O’Connell, and lighting designer/cinematographer Rick Sands, and many others!