

Here they go a-caroling: foreground, from left, Frank Foster, Robert Vasquez; front row, from left, Jeanne Kinsel, Carmelita Romero, Renee Willis, Maria Mariano, Peggie Blackiston, Norma Elston-Adams, Jess Godinez, back row; from left, Frank Sahlem, Robin Blair, Collins Kalu, Joan Wood, Wanda Knight, Brenda Stevenson. See list of [Metro Chorale](#) members



PHOTO BY LISA HUYNH

Carolers Bring Holiday Joy to MTA

By ADRIENNE S. BLYTHE

(Dec. 11, 2003) About nine years ago Carmelita Romero noticed that the holiday season at MTA was missing something: Christmas carolers. So she took it upon herself to change things.

Romero, a legal secretary, coordinates MTA's very own group of carolers who will be performing on every floor of the Gateway building – starting today – over the course of the next week.

"I am always trying to recruit people to sing with us," says Romero. "Once I get them to join, they don't want to leave."

There is only one requirement to join the group. "You just have to want to sing," says Romero.

"Christmas just isn't Christmas without carolers."

-- Metro Chorale coordinator Carmelita Romero. (pictured here at right).



PHOTO BY ADRIENNE BLYTHE

Romero enjoys entertaining people and making them smile. "Many people thank us for spreading holiday joy. A few years ago, one lady even says that we helped her get over her depression."

Besides helping others, Romero says that it also benefits those who sing. "It is very relaxing and almost therapeutic. When I hear all of the voices singing together it is very moving."

A group of about 15 carolers will gather by the elevators on each floor. They invite everyone to come listen and sing along with them.

"Christmas just isn't Christmas without carolers," says Romero.

Metro Chorale Members

* Robin Blair * Brenda Stevenson - soloist * Chip Hazen * Collins Kalu * Frank Foster - guitar player * Frank Sahlem - soloist * Gerald Price * Jess Godinez * Karin Hodin * Jeanne Kinsel * Letty Lawenko * Maria Mariano * Mary Lee * Monique Ramos * Norma Elston-Adams * Patricia Clark * Pamela Fairbanks * Peggie Blackiston * DonCosta Seawell - soloist * Thomas Traylor * Robert Vasquez - guitar player * Wanda Knight * Willie Atienza * Renee Willis - conductress * Joan Wood * Kathy Murrell (she no longer works for MTA but still plans to join the caroling on Fridays) * Sylvia Pantoja * George Parks *

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