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Touchmark Choir to perform on Broadway May 5 ***Choir will celebrate classic Broadway show tunes***

FARGO, N.D. – The Touchmark Choir will celebrate the classic sounds of Broadway show tunes in its spring concert on Thursday, May 5.

The audience can expect a fun and energetic show that will take listeners on a musical tour of Broadway. There is no charge for the performance, which starts at 7 p.m. at the Fargo Theatre on Fargo's Broadway Avenue. The public is invited to attend. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

The Touchmark Choir is a lively group of approximately 35 Touchmark residents and staff. They began singing together in fall 2010 and are directed by volunteers Dawn Papenfuss and Suzanne Schultz, two local music directors. Since the choir formed, it has performed in area schools, other retirement communities and for a local Kiwanis Club.

“Everyone will enjoy this year’s show,” said choir member and former state senator John Andrist, who joined the choir a year ago, shortly after moving to Touchmark. “The audience gets a sense that we’re really having fun on stage, and that feeds people’s emotions.”

The song list for the show incorporates instantly recognizable music from well-known Broadway shows, with classic songs such as “Singin’ in the Rain,” “Oklahoma,” “There’s No Business Like Show Business,” and “White Christmas.”

“I’ve always loved music, and I’ve been in choirs all my life,” Andrist said. “I had a brain stem stroke, and that impaired my voice. Reluctantly, I gave up singing. When I came to Touchmark, everyone encouraged me to join the choir. I started singing again, and I found I still have fun doing it.”

The Touchmark Choir performs two main shows per year, one in the spring and one in the fall. The members rehearse once a week, and have been practicing for the upcoming spring show since early this year. Choir members range in age from their late 20s to one performer who is 100.

“I sang in a choir when I was a teenager, but I haven’t done it since then,” said choir

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member Helen Shirley. “Wherever there’s music, I like to be around it.”

For Shirley, the May 5 show will be her first big performance with the group. Shirley joined the choir at her granddaughter’s urging shortly after recently moving to Touchmark.

“I enjoy all of it, the singing, the music, everything,” Shirley said. “We’re singing songs that we all know, and we have a great time performing them. There are also some comedic moments, and it’s a really great show.”

A full-service retirement community, Touchmark at Harwood Groves offers people 55-plus years a full life. There is a wide range of homes and lifestyle options as well as an on-site health and fitness club, which is open to anyone over 40. For more information, visit Touchmark.com.

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