

SILENT NIGHT WITH TEARS

The Grove City Chorus out of Spruce Grove, Alberta (a suburb of Edmonton) has sung at two regional hospitals each December for many years.

We usually have about 20 guys or more and split up into two groups going floor to floor and ward to ward. We often go into the rooms too after we have asked and the patients agree. We sing to the staff, and the response over the years has been very heart-warming.

We always have Silent Night in our repertoire and it is common to sing a verse or two in another language. For example, this year we will include one verse in French and another in German, with one member doing the singing and the rest of us humming.

For several years we had a member, Tommy, who could also sing the verse in Polish. His group worked its way through the hospital until they reached the maternity ward. They met a young couple, newly arrived in Canada from Poland, who just had their first baby. The mother's parents were here from Poland as well and when Silent Night was sung, and Tommy did his verse in Polish, there was not a dry eye in the place. We have since joked that they needed to mop the tears off the floor — there were so many.

It was a special memory for all of us.

Jim Cochrane
Grove City Chorus
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