



Broadview Heights Spotlights Costumed Carolers from left, Zachary Siler, Audrey Sopko, Annette Phelps and David Schneck performed at the train.

COURIER COMMUNIQUE

Spotlight gets a little brighter for community theater singers

A group of carolers is now famous across the country after taking part in a special event organized by Disney to drum up buzz for its new rendition of Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol."



Mike Kezdi

By merely using the words Dickens and carolers in the same sentence, readers will likely realize that the group, of which I write, is the Broadview Heights Spotlights Community Theater Costumed Carolers.

According to **Annette Phelps**, herself a caroler as well as the group's manager, she found out about the train stop that took place downtown Sept. 16 and 17 last year when an agent called. Apparently the agent searched for costumed carolers in Cleveland in the old Google and the Spotlights appeared.

"It was very exciting," Phelps said of the event.

In all, seven members of the group donned their attire and performed at the event. Performing were **Zachary Siler**, a Baldwin Wallace Conservatory student and Costumed Carolers conductor; **Audrey Sopko** and **Jaclyn Phelps** of Broadview Heights of Strongsville and **David Schneck** of Montrose. Annette also performed.

The groups split into two quartets, with Siler singing in both 12-hour sessions. One of those quartets — Sopko, Annette Phelps, Siler and Schneck — got their few seconds of fame when "Good Morning America" did a piece on the train and the movie live from Cleveland. The carolers were in the shot. However, according to Annette, the second group had a much longer session on an Internet news program.

"People were taking our picture as if we were Mickey Mouse himself," said Jaclyn

Phelps said in a release about the event. "We'll be on a lot of Christmas Cards."

The Broadview Heights Spotlights Costumed Carolers entertain throughout the Cleveland area

for a donation to the theater. For information about joining or booking the group, visit broadview-heights-spotlights.org or call (440) 227-1984.