

# Windom's song

Jim Austerman, who has lived in the area for about seven years, has written a tune called "The Christmas Bells of Windom."

• By RAHN LARSON •

*The Christmas bells of Windom ring each early frosty morning, The Windom bells will warm your heart when you hear their sweet singing.*

In case you're wondering, yes, the verse is talking about "that Windom" and they are "those Christmas bells."

Jim Austerman, 60, of Windom recently released an instrumental compact disc containing a host of traditional Christmas songs and one completely new and different Christmas tune called: "The Christmas Bells of Windom." The song runs a little over two minutes.

The music and lyrics to Windom's song were written and composed by Jim Austerman, who has lived in the community for seven years. Jim loves the Courthouse glockenspiel bells so much, he decided to write a song about them.

And while the lyrics are not part of the CD, they can be found at this web site: sandcastlemusic.com (Jim's recording label).

Jim is the guy one might find standing alone for several minutes in the Sunshine Foods parking lot. Those aren't moments of confusion, he says with a chuckle, he is merely standing there enjoying the sound of the bells.

"I write glockenspiel music because I love it," Jim said. "If I am away from home for a long period of time, I think about standing in that parking lot and listening to glockenspiel."

"We are so fortunate as a community to have a glockenspiel. There is something about the chimes that is so peaceful and calming. I don't think anyone could say, 'Oh, I hate that music.'"

Jim's music is actually polyphon music, which is much like the glockenspiel.

"The song is my gift to the fair city of Windom," Jim said.

## CD has 17 tunes

The CD contains 17 other songs, all instrumental traditional Christmas songs. Jim's favorite, other than the Windom song, is *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*.

"It was actually my wife who wanted me to do the CD," Jim said. "I got back after having been on the road and my wife said, 'I want you to write and play a Christmas CD using polyphon sounds.'"

It is now available online (sandcastlemusic.com) and at the Windom Hallmark store. The lyrics to the song can also be

found at sandcastlemusic.com.

## Family operation

Jim does the writing and provides the music and his wife, Veronica, handles the production. They have their own music studio in their home.

Jim and Veronica moved to Windom from Bloomington seven years ago. They fell in love with the community.

"We will never leave," Jim said. "We have the greatest neighbors and the community has everything we need—clothes, restaurants, everything."

"And, I have worked for two really great companies in my life—Fortune Transportation is one of them. It's an awesome place to work."

So, Jim is thankful for the opportunity to give something back to his community. He hopes to help people, in some small way, as they get used to being away from home.

"Someone said 'thanks for writing it,' because it reminds them of home," Jim recalled. "They love the glockenspiel, too."

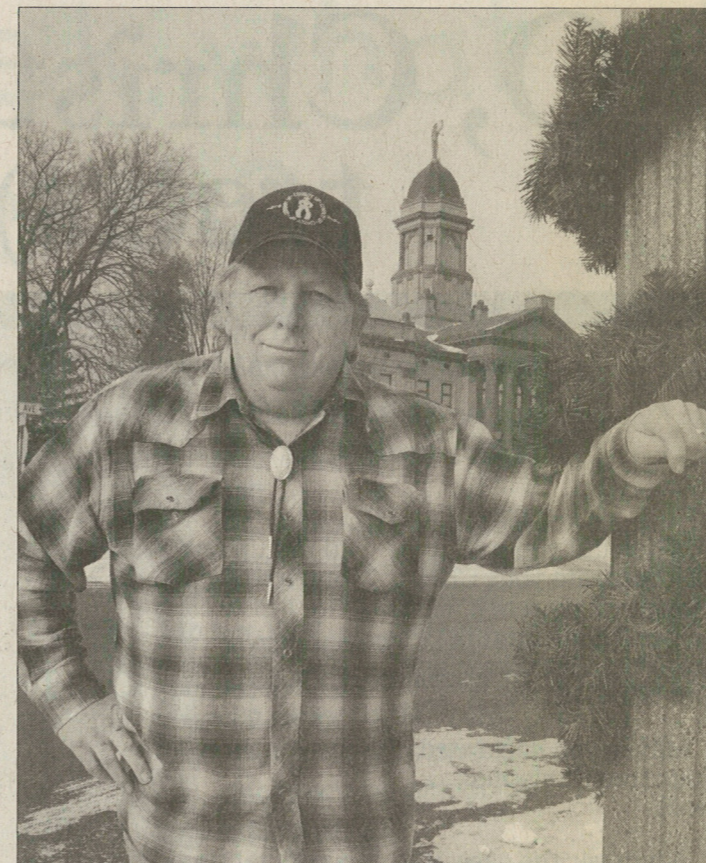
Another nice advantage of writing the CD is that Jim no longer has to imagine what it's like in Windom, on a cold morn-

ing on the open road. He can simply pop a CD into his truck's player and listen to *The Christmas Bells of Windom*.

"There is something about the sound of glockenspiel music that everyone loves," Jim said.

And in that sense, Jim considers the song and the CD a Christmas gift to himself as well.

To hear Austerman's song, *The Christmas Bells of Windom*, go to [www.windomnews.com](http://www.windomnews.com) and click on the "multimedia" link at the top of the left-hand column.



RAHN LARSON 12/19jim austerman014  
AMONG JIM AUSTERMAN'S favorite things about Windom are the Courthouse glockenspiel bells. When he's driving truck on the open road and missing home, Jim sometimes listens to his new song, *The Christmas Bells of Windom*, which is based on the local glockenspiel music.

## The Christmas Bells of Windom

Music & lyrics written/composed/performed by: Jim Austerman

The Christmas bells of Windom ring, each early frosty morning.  
The Windom bells, will warm your heart, when you hear their sweet singing.

(Glockenspiel Bells ringing two choruses)

They say that there's no place like home, when Christmas time is nearing,  
Be sure to go, down to the Square and hear these bells start ringing

(Glockenspiel Bells ringing two choruses)

When I'm away from my hometown and I get lonely feelings,  
My heart goes back in time when I would hear those sweet bells singing.

(Glockenspiel Bells ringing two choruses)

Merry Christmas everyone!