

# Entertainment

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## First Night rings in 1992 with musical fun

By Stewart Francke  
special writer

**F**IRST NIGHT/Birmingham promises to be wonderfully self-referential: a new beginning, a reckoning, a chance to celebrate the relocation of enduring human values. And who better to perform than The Chenille Sisters, a trio of sparkling singers known for spiritual energy, quirky humor and frolicking multipart harmonies.

Prism Quartet, Jimmy "Spoon Man" Krews will headline the celebration on Tuesday, Dec. 31.

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*Formed in Boston in the late '70s as a means of deepening cultural interest in the performing arts in a no-alcohol, non-profit setting, First Night was introduced to Birmingham last year.*

Night was introduced to Birmingham last year. Funded by businesses, organizations and municipalities, performances can be enjoyed in accessible locations from mid-afternoon to midnight for \$5.

First Night/Birmingham will take place in Birmingham's downtown

area. Shain Park will be the central location with satellite sites being the Community House, City Hall, Baldwin Library, Village Players Theater and St. James Church. Entrance to all First Night performances, including a New Year's celebration in Shain Park, are accessed with a First Night button.

LAST YEAR'S event offered 37 Michigan artists in 114 performances before a crowd of 6,000. First Night is proving to be both a life-affirming way to ring in the new year and a venue for artistic expression in a year that has seen vicious budget cuts decimate Michigan's varied arts.

The Chenille Sisters have released several records nationally, winning audiences throughout the country; a career highlight would also include a performance on Garrison Keillor's Prairie Home Companion radio broadcast.

Their musical emphasis is on folk craftsmanship as much as it is on artistry, but the focus eventually narrows to one of old time, yet not anachronistic, entertainment. In short, a great time made to look easy. The group will be performing in the Auditorium of Seaholm High School, 2436 W. Lincoln at 8:30 p.m., 9:30 p.m. and 10:30 p.m.

THE PRISM Quartet is an avant garde chamber group; they use saxophones and electronic pitch controllers to update classical arrangements for contemporary audiences. Prism is comparable to the better known



The Chenille Sisters, Connie Huber (left), Seaholm High School as part of the First Night Cheryl Dawdy and Grace Morand, a nationally celebration at 8:30, 9:30 and 10:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 31.

Kronos Quartet, a West Coast chamber ensemble that is just as inclined to interpret a Jimi Hendrix song as Barok.

Spoon Man Krews uses comedy and traditional music to create a captivating performance. Prism Quartet will be performing at St. James Episcopal Church, 355 W. Maple, at 9 p.m., 10 p.m. and 11 p.m. The Chenille Sisters and Prism

Quartet are just the headlines. Dance, mini musicals and playlets will also be part of the festivities. Musical performances will embrace nearly every style: jazz, blues, bluegrass, gospel, folk and country.

Shuttle buses are provided on routes between The Community House, Seaholm High School, City Hall and the YMCA. There will be free parking in city-owned garages

from 3:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.

Buttons are on sale now for \$5 at The Community House in Birmingham, Birmingham and Bloomfield Kroger stores, Birmingham locations of Fidelity Bank and Michigan National Bank, Crowley's Tavern on 13, Dell Unique and Morels, both on Telegraph Road. Buttons are \$7 if purchased New Year's Eve. For more information, call 540-6688.



Prism Quartet performs at St. James Episcopal Church at 9, 10 and 11 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 31, during the First Night celebration in Birmingham.

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SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY

### New Year's Eve Dining

For those who prefer a more intimate celebration, reservations are available in the Rugby Grille and Gallery at 5:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. Martin Scott Karsins will play for your dancing and listening pleasure from 9:00 p.m. Midnight champagne toast and party favors.

Call: 642-7900

A limited number of tables are still available.

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