

RECOMMENDED

events

BY ANNA CARLSON



★ editor's pick

31 **First Night Evanston**
December 31 | Downtown Evanston | firstnightevanston.org
It's back! The grand finale to Evanston's 30th birthday celebration, this annual event returns for an afternoon and evening of family-friendly activities on New Year's Eve. Seven different indoor venues will host 40 musical and theatrical acts throughout the event, including Howard Levy, Corey Slegel and Showtime's The Ballroom Ma's. There's something for everyone!

5 **One of a Kind Show and Sale**
December 5-8 | Merchandise Mart, Chicago | oneofakindshowandsale.com
More than 600 artists take over the Mart this month, offering up some of the best gifts to check out—and something for everyone on your list. We promise, presents purchased here are never regifted.

7 **8th Annual Rompagez Craft Fair Winter Market**
December 2-3 | Fullback Field, Oakbrook, 1079 W. Blackhawk St., Chicago | rompagez.com
Stacy and Ila Day hosted all the best-day craft fair—some of the top designers cram into every nook and cranny of the festhouse (read: Sid's house), the crowds will keep you plenty warm with crafts of all kinds.

7 **Chicago Gay Men's Chorus**
December 7 | North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 1920 Maple Blvd., Skokie | chicago.gaymenchorus.org
The Chicago Gay Men's Chorus closes out their 30th season with a spectacular show in Skokie, reprising a few old favorites, premiering new tunes and covering some holiday classics, too. Good times!

7 **Chicago Symphony Orchestra: Handel's Messiah**
December 7 | 201 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago | csyo.org
A quintessential holiday experience—don't pass on a trip to the symphony this season, as the Apollo Chorus takes the stage for one night only.

7 **Jonathan Groff**
December 7 | Ravinia Festival's Bennett Gordon Hall, Highland Park
Groffology
Glee fans, listen up—one of the show's favorite bad boys is headed to Highland Park for his Ravinia debut. Two shows, one evening—don't miss it.

8 **76th Annual Holiday Concert**
December 8 | J. Paul Morgan Center, 1111 N. Halsted St., Evanston
No need to leave the North Shore for some of the finest holiday music in the country.

Northwestern University's Symphony Orchestra and Chorus perform in Rompagez, Salve Regina and Night Mass.

14 **Randolph Street Holiday Market**
December 14-15 | 1545 N. Dearborn St., Chicago | randolphstreetmarket.com
Just days away from Mr. Ho Ho Ho and you're still shopping? You can't miss here—from the elegant to the eclectic, you'll find something for everyone from Aunt Edna to your office Secret Santa.

19 **Judith Owen and Harry Shearer's Holiday Sing-A-Long**
December 19 | SPACE, 610 N. Chicago Ave., Evanston | evanston.space.com
You never know who is going to step in on this holiday party. But traditional, part-not, it's fun for everyone at SPACE this holiday season.

