

# MCREST hosts holiday show

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If you're looking to help make someone's Christmas (and winter, for that matter) a little merrier and brighter, consider attending a benefit concert for MCREST (Macomb County Rotating Emergency Shelter Team).

The Dec. 3 show features contemporary singer-songwriters Don White and Matt Watroba, who'll perform their own sets and team for a bit of impromptu song styling at the WCS Performing Arts Center in Sterling Heights. The show will help area homeless through MCREST programs.



White and Watroba, well known in folk circles in the Detroit metro area, are musicians, although Boston-based White also has a background in standup comedy, which influences his concerts. He's been heard a lot on WCSX's "Over Easy" program on Sunday mornings.

Watroba now lives in Ohio producing and hosting Kent State University's (WKSU) [FolkAlley.com](http://FolkAlley.com) program. Before that he hosted the "Folks Like Us" show for more than 20 years on WDET-FM.

Watroba is more than willing to return to Michigan for the night to help a good cause. He said he had always promoted the benefit on his radio show, and sang as a guest for the first time last year.

Now he's headlining with White. He'll bring his knowledge of music and his guitar-playing expertise to the stage, and says "Don will be the funny portion." While they'll be playing predominantly folk music, nothing's set in stone. Each audience is different, he said, so that will help shape the evening.

While White likes to bring the laughs, he's serious about the cause. That "people are sleeping in cars at this time of year in subzero temperatures" bothers him deeply. It's important to help, and people can do so that night, having fun at the same time.

He said he's "really lucky to have had a significant amount of airplay in Detroit," crediting support from Watroba and others, and likes returning the favor by helping MCREST. He's excited, too, that Watroba will have a bigger role on stage. "I expect (the evening) to be really interesting." Plus, they've been friends for more than a decade so that will add spark to the show.

Watroba jokes that his years for National Public Radio will serve him well this evening. "I've gotten good at begging for money," referring to the pledge drives. "And it's for a great cause ... (and) the perfect getaway, blending music and charity.

"When Don and I get together," Watroba added, "there's always a good time."

Don White and Matt Watroba will perform at 8 p.m. Saturday at the WCS Performing Arts Center, 12901 15 Mile Road, Sterling Heights. Reserved seating is available, at \$20 and \$30, by visiting [www.mcrest.org](http://www.mcrest.org) or calling (586) 415-5101.