



The MVEer Monthly



August, 2015



The Midwest Vocal Express
2015 - BHS International Competition
15th Place in the World



Pittsburgh Memories

Everyone on stage and all of our entourage of family and friends have highlights to share. Some come with words and some come in pictures.

Here, **Derek Balke** and **Scott Haugen** are getting their make-up done by two lovely ladies, **Sarah Nagel** and **DeAnne Haugen**. (**Randy Will's** photo with **Polly Weber** looking on.)



Others think of **The Mighty MVE** on stage singing My Romance with **Josh Umhoefer**, our director facing the audience as another singer on stage, *à la Russ Foris*, but without a mustache, as seen in the chorus photo near the top of the first page.



Some remember being back stage in the huge **Consol Energy Center** (Home of the NHL **Pittsburgh Penguins**) hearing the group from Sheffield, England before us singing "our" song, My Romance. ☺ But, we called it just a distraction that would not and did not phase us, and sang our hearts out, beating the Hallmark of Harmony chorus.



For the BHS Official Scoring Summary, click:

http://www.barbershop.org/files/pittsburgh/INTL20150630_CF.OSS1.pdf

Others recall watching other choruses. For a short recap of the top five choruses, including our friends from **Central Standard**, click this YouTube video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9W_y8fbFmL8&feature=youtu.be

The costumes we wore were to show that each of our romances were unique, with hints of grey and black and blue. This photo of **Matt Nagel** is from our "send off" show. Eventually, we settled on all of us wearing a blue tie, and skipping hats altogether, giving a commonality along with our unique storytelling style.



Randy Will, Bruce Vitale, Matt Nagel,
Jim Franklin, Cody Whitlock, Gary Pratt,
and Jim Ansay

Matt Nagel recalls eating out in Pittsburgh on July 2. They sang at a wonderful restaurant for their server, Katie, on **Randy Will's 60th birthday**.

The guys also sang "Stars and Stripes" for a young Marine veteran at the same place.



Matt also recalled, "After Pittsburgh's spectacular fireworks, we found the two missing parts and went back to sing for Emily at a restaurant on the Market Square. She had lamented that she had heard guys singing at various places but that nobody had yet sung for them. She seemed truly thrilled and we were happy to oblige her!" **Darius Sanders** and **Jim Franklin** joined **Matt Nagel** and **Randy Will**.

Jim Franklin, Randy Will and Matt Nagel recall travelling 43 miles southeast of Pittsburgh on Saturday after the chorus contest to see Frank Lloyd Wright's famous **Fallingwater** house. Matt says, "We got to sing with other barbershoppers at this beautiful spot as well as the visitor center to the property. What a blast!"



Many remember singing again with our **Best of Both Worlds Tour** buddies, **Central Standard** and **Sound of Illinois** at the **Afterglow**, along with our favorite young quartet, **Vintage Mix**, singing with **Saturday Evening Post** on July 2, 2015, in the photo on the bottom of the page.



Next Day was July 4th so we sang
Stars and Stripes Forever



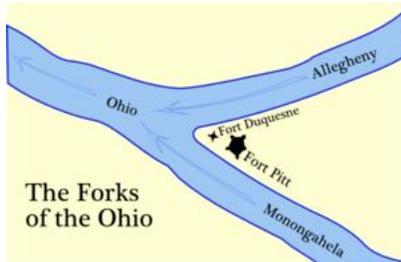
*The Afterglow
featured a celebration
for Central
Standard's 3rd Place
medals. The medals
were handed out by
Rob Mance. They are
wearing their medals
in the photo above.*

How Pittsburgh Got its Name - Dick Marcus

Right outside our Hotel (Wyndham Grand Hotel) was "the Point," or confluence where the **Monongahela** (from upstate New York) and the **Allegheny** (from the mountains of West Virginia) merge to create the start to the **Ohio River** as it flows into the **Mississippi River**.



With waterways being of great strategic importance in the western march of people into Indian territories, the French were first to build a fort at the point in 1754, called **Fort Duquesne**, as part of the French and Indian War. Indeed, right near the **Consol Energy Center** was parts of **Duquesne University**. That Fort was mostly wooden pikes and earthen walls. In 1758, the British destroyed that old fort and began



building a small **Fort Mercer** and soon began to build the larger **Fort Pitt**.

Fort Pitt was substantial in design, with five points, known as a **star fort**. Star forts were state-of-the-art as good defense against cannonballs. The problem, however, is that periodically the whole area floods. Fort Pitt flooded repeatedly. The only remaining structure at "the Point" is the *Block House*. It was outside the fort with narrow slits in the walls to fire guns. It is two stories high, with markers on the walls where past floods had even reached the roof.



The Block House

Fort Pitt withstood a two-month Indian siege (June-July 1763). The name "Pitt" was selected by British General John Forbes to honor **William Pitt**, 1st



Earl of Chatham, and Prime Minister in England (1766-68). With Fort Pitt being the most prominent structure in the town, it began to be named Pittsburgh.

Yes, there is a final “h” in Pittsburgh. Etymologists say that **burgh** is Scottish English similar to **borough**, which has been used in place names to describe a location as being defensible, such as Fort Pitt.



Looking at Pittsburgh from “The Point,” with our Hotel in the middle.

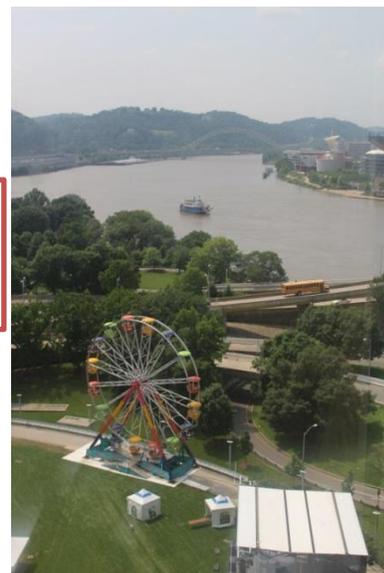


July 4th in Pittsburgh



Fountain at the “The Point.”

View out of hotel window. →
Ferris wheel for the
Regatta Days near the Point.



Eight Money-Making Ways to Help the MVE – Dick Marcus with added points by Josh Umhoefer

1. Sell more tickets to our shows.
2. Designate 30% of your Ambassador of Song or President's Council donations to go to the MVE:
(<https://www.harmonyfoundation.org/song.shtml> and <https://www.harmonyfoundation.org/council.shtml>).
3. Join in the fundraising approximately monthly eat-out events
4. Eat at Chili's Grill and Bar in July, August, and September.
5. Sell Charity Mania raffle tickets (see more about that below).
6. Participate in the shop with scrip program (<http://shopwithscrip.com>)
7. Shop on <http://smile.amazon.com> whenever you purchase something on Amazon. Choose "Midwest Vocal Express" as the recipient of the fund raising. MVE will get a percentage of the purchase. You must use smile.amazon.com every time you purchase in order for the MVE to be given the funds. Can read more about Smile at http://smile.amazon.com/about/ref=smi_ge_rl_lm_raas
8. Participate in the 50:50 Monday night raffles.

Charity Mania by Jake Umhoefer



I announced at one of our last rehearsals before Pittsburgh was a new version of our Calendar Raffle. This version is through a national company that does raffles based on sporting events called **Charity Mania**.

To save myself, and you all, a lot of time typing/reading, click on this YouTube link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ha-B3QAwJPO>

Here are some things to consider about this fundraiser compared to the one we did last time...

1. We don't have a minimum number of tickets to sell to make money. We only pay based on number of tickets sold.
2. Being connected with Football generates a lot of excitement and engagement with the program.
3. This will require less effort for us administratively, but opens up the ability to make a lot more money.

An additional reason is that we can also sell these tickets online. You can create your own online registration to email blast your friends and family instead of having to pick up the phone, or post to any social media outlet. Additionally, you can track your results and will also have access to



promotional materials like the YouTube video I provided and a PDF of a poster you can print and hang in your office or something.

Start by going to this link:

<http://www.charitymania.com/register/A50F1>

It will ask for your name, email, and a password to use.

A confirmation email will be sent to your email. Open it and click the link to confirm address.

Login with the password you created.

You can personalize the photo area, or keep the MVE logo provided.

There is a link to use for email blasts, social media, etc.

I would like to encourage and challenge each and every one of you to get excited about this change in the raffle. Please be open to trying new things as we go through our transitional period and try to get back on our feet financially as a chorus.

If any of you would like physical tickets to sell, I do have them available. I am happy to drop some in the mail or meet you somewhere to get them to you. Our optimum timeline is to have as many sold in the next 8-12 weeks as possible before Football Season begins.

Let's rise to the challenge and help each other out!

Chili's for Fundraising – Scott Ganswindt



Similar to the last three months of 2014, beginning in July and ongoing through August and September, are set up with several local **Chili's Grill & Bar** locations for fundraising. This means if you want to go on a random Friday for lunch, or Sunday afternoon, or Saturday night -- go for it! They will all qualify. During this whole time, we will get a **15% kickback** on all food and alcohol sales when we amass enough purchases. We will also have an official gathering at the West Milwaukee location south of Miller Park in August, date to be provided later.

National Anthem at the Brewers - Scott Ganswindt

Sunday, September 20th at 1:10pm is the **Brewers vs. the Reds** at Miller Park. More info on call times and ticket purchases will come, but this is approximately our 14th year in a row of singing the National Anthem at a home game.



August 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
July 26	July 27	July 28	July 29	July 30	July 31	1
	7PM Practice & discuss contest					
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	7PM Practice					
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Greendale Village Days Parade , if we have all the parts covered, approx. 10- 2pm.	7PM Practice		6:45PM MVE Board Meeting			
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	7PM Practice					
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	7PM Practice					
30	31	<i>Quartet Humor</i>				
	7PM Practice	Q: How do you tell when your lead singer is at the door? A: He can't find the key and doesn't know when to come in. Q: What is the missing link between the bass and the ape? A: The baritone.				