



The MVEer Monthly

December, 2014

12th Annual MVE Christmas Show – Saturday, December 13, 2014. For tickets, call **414-367-7097** today.

Hear the new songs of the season by the **Midwest Vocal Express**, winner of the Land O' Lakes District Chorus Champions in 2014.

Enjoy cool jazz from the **Vocal Jazz Ensemble** from UW Whitewater.

Groove to the perfection of **Vintage Mix**, four talented 13 year old stars.

Tap your toes to our excellent MVE quartets: **Drastic Measures**, **Brew City Buzz**, **Highpoint**, and District Champion Quartet **Midnight Croon**.

And celebrate the joy of the season at **Greendale High School**.



12th Annual Christmas Show

Saturday December 13th
2:00 PM and 7:30 PM
Greendale High School

— With Special Guests —

UW Whitewater Vocal Jazz Ensemble	Vintage Mix Youth Quartet
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A portion of all ticket sales go to support Ronald McDonald House Charities.

Annual Banquet and Installation of Officers – Jim Schmidt

Our annual banquet and installation of officers will take place on Friday, **January 23, 2015**. It will be at **Klemmers Banquet Center** at **10401 W Oklahoma Ave** in West Allis. (It is located just 1.5 blocks west of the I-894 bypass, on Oklahoma Ave.)

Cocktails are from 6 - 7PM with Dinner at 7 PM, and our program to follow. The cost per person is \$26 and the meal choices are Filet Mignon, Chicken *a la* Klemmer, or Salmon filet.



See the form below for all the information. I will have extra forms at rehearsal starting tonight for your use. We would like everyone sign up and pay (check or cash) before we take our holiday break if at all possible. **The drop dead date to sign up is Monday, January 12th.**

This is a chance for all of us to review the past year and look forward to what's in store for 2015 and to see your new board officially installed. This is also where we present the chapter awards for the year. The *Do It Award*, the *President's Award*, the *Director's Award* and the top award for our chapter, the *Bow Tie or Barbershopper of the Year*.

I would love to see all of you there to help celebrate our accomplishments this year including winning the District Chorus Championship.

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ANNUAL BANQUET & INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

FRIDAY JANUARY 23, 2015

KLEMMERS BANQUET CENTER 10401 W OKLAHOMA AVE

WEST ALLIS, WI 53227

COCKTAILS: 6 - 7PM DINNER 7PM

Cost \$26.00 per person Dinners include garden salad, baked potato, green bean almandine, rolls & butter, coffee, tea or milk

Cherries Jubilee for desert

Member: _____ **Guest:** _____

DINNER CHOICES

Filet Mignon 8 oz. **Member** _____ **Guest** _____

A house specialty, which is served with fresh sautéed mushrooms.

Chicken Ala Klemmer **Member** _____ **Guest** _____

Boneless breast of chicken topped with a mushroom cream sauce sprinkled with shrimp, served over asparagus instead of the vegetable choice.

Salmon Filet **Member** _____ **Guest** _____

Moist Norwegian salmon topped with a traditional Béarnaise sauce.



The Context of *I Saw Three Ships* & *The Holly and the Ivy*

By Dick Marcus

Our Christmas songs range from traditional religious melodies such as *O Holy Night* to more secular holiday tunes such as **Jim Franklin's** mash up of *Jingle Bells and Over the River*. Most are easily understood, but we have two songs this year that seem oddly unconnected to traditional Christmas stories that seem to have hidden metaphors built into them. That makes them intriguing to consider.

In, "**I Saw Three Ships**," the question is what ships? I don't recall ships in the stories of the birth of Jesus, do you? Is it a metaphor for Jesus, Mary, and Joseph? Do they somehow represent to the doctrine of the trinity? Maybe they suggest the three wise men?



In 1975, I spent the summer in Cologne (Köln), Germany. According to the local lore, the mumified bodies (or some others say just the *skulls*) of the the **Three Wise Men** were found in the Holy Lands and brought to Constantinople, by Constantine's mother Helena in the 300's. Much later they were taken to Milan, Italy, which still holds huge celebrations on **Epiphany** (also called *Twelfth Night*, or January 6th). But we do know that in 1164, the Holy Roman Emperor Frederick brought the reliquary holding what is said to be the remains from Milan to Cologne, Germany. Ships sailed up the Rhine River bringing the relics to Cologne.



So, when I sing this song, I think of the Three Wise Men, not so much their skulls coming to Cologne, but sailing in on their magnificent camels to present their gifts.



In the "**The Holly and the Ivy**," (earliest version found in 1710) perhaps you have puzzled over why the carol pairs two seemingly unrelated evergreen plants that is almost entirely about the holly and not much at all about the ivy.

At rehearsal recently, we were told of a tradition of the **ivy** stands for the feminine and the **holly** for the masculine. This is correct and it comes from a much older song called: "**The Contest of the Holly and the Ivy**" (1561). This tune discusses the rivalry between men and women, thinly disguised as a contest. To 21st century people, that contest song is thoroughly sexist as the holly is strong in attracting many birds, whereas the ivy is seen as sickly. Also, "The Contest" has nothing to do with Christmas at all. Holly was conceived of as being masculine in

the plant symbology of the time, probably because it is more rigid and prickly, whereas the softer ivy is associated with the feminine in this tradition.

REFRAIN: Nay, Ivy, nay, it shall not be, I *wis*, (wis = assuredly)
Let Holly have the mastery as the manner is.

1. Holly standeth in the hall fair to behold,
Ivy stands without the door; she is full sore a cold. REFRAIN

2. Holly and his merry men, they dancen and they sing;
Ivy and her maidens, they weepen and they wring. REFRAIN

For all seven verses, click

http://www.hymnsandcarolsofchristmas.com/Hymns_and_Carols/contest_of_the_ivy_and_the_h.htm

With the symbols of holly and ivy already well known in England, it is not surprising that they become "borrowed" for religious purposes. Holly's white flowers, red berries, prickly nature, and bitter taste are mentioned. Holly's attributes hardly need exegesis. Holly's "white as lily" flower is an allusion to purity. The association is made between the red color of holly's berry and Christ's blood. The holly's thorny "prickle" refers to the "crown of thorns." The bitter taste of holly's bark is an allusion to the drink offered Christ as he hung on the cross. The song concentrates almost entirely on the holly. Indeed, King Henry VIII wrote a love song **Green Groweth the Holly** which talks about holly and ivy resisting winter blasts and not changing their green hue, but only holly gets top billing in the title.

Our version of the song became quite popular due to the 1952 black and white melodrama movie from Britain starring Ralph Richardson, **The Holly and the Ivy** (If you wish, click <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sJbWG32SRXE> for a YouTube of the first 10 minutes of the movie.)

Performance at Ronald McDonald House Charities by Jake Umhoefer

On the calendars for several months we have had an appearance planned at **Ronald McDonald House Charities**. This was a part of the negotiations with helping them monetarily based on ticket sales as well. Since this was purposely planned on a Monday night so that none of you would have to spend time away from family other than your normal rehearsal night.



RONALD McDONALD
HOUSE CHARITIES

Please watch for communications from Randy or me with details like call time, parking instructions, where to meet, what to wear, etc. All that will be handled soon. For now, save this address so you know where to go for the event: **8948 Watertown Plank Rd - Wauwatosa, Wisconsin 53226.**

Final Restaurant Updates for 2014 by Jake Umhoefer

Monday, December 15 after our appearance at Ronald McDonald House Charities we go to TGI Fridays. Since it is our normal rehearsal night I hope attendance at our final official restaurant dining night of the year will be a big one.

Invite your families, friends, and anyone else to join us for our gathering. This final one will be the BIGGEST potential kickback ever with 25% of BOTH food AND drink sales.



Our efforts at Chili's so far have not been in vain.

After my Sunday night email I received a response that a large family recently dined this weekend and our current Chili's status is just shy of \$300 so far.

This still means we have about \$200 to go – so please do not relax just yet! I encourage all of you to try to go once more in the month of December to help make our requirement of \$500. Remember, if the \$500 is not met we will not gain any monetary value for our efforts.

MVE Calendar Raffle by Jake Umhoefer

HOW DOES IT WORK?

- During the Months of February and March 2015, each Monday and Friday, a numbered ticket will be drawn and the holder of that ticket will be sent a \$250 check. Winning entry will be returned to pulling drum for re-entry.
- We pull the winning tickets in accordance with Wisconsin State Raffle Rules at Fredrick's Hallmark, Ruby Isle – 2205 N. Calhoun Rd. in Brookfield.
- We will post the winning ticket numbers on our website.
- If 500 tickets have not been sold by December 31, 2014 the raffle will be cancelled and the money returned to the purchasers according to the addresses provided.

SECOND CHANCE DRAWINGS!

- Each ticket purchaser is eligible for a special drawing on the day of our Spring Show, April 25, 2015. The 17 winners will each get 10 extra entries into the pot along with all other purchasers.

- If, during each show, the winner whose name was drawn is present, he or she gets another \$500 check. If the person is not there, we will draw another name and continue until someone is in attendance who bought a Calendar Raffle ticket.
- Each drawn name gets thrown back into the respective hats after the first show in case they attend one show but not the other.
- A ticket is not transferable – the name on the ticket pulled must be in the audience and not a stand in for that person.

Members – remember that if you sell 20 Raffle tickets, you will get 3 entries into our very own Members-Only drawing for a prize of \$500. Every 10 Raffle tickets sold after your initial 20 will earn you 1 more. Do the math – your odds are extremely good!

SAMPLE MIDWEST VOCAL EXPRESS 2015 CALENDAR RAFFLE **MVE** **\$15.00** **SAMPLE**

February 2015 March 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	\$250				\$250		1	\$250				\$250	
8	\$250				\$250		8	\$250				\$250	
15	\$250				\$250		15	\$250				\$250	
22	\$250				\$250		22	\$250				\$250	
29	\$250						29	\$250					

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
TELEPHONE _____
E-MAIL _____

REFERRED BY _____

COME SEE THE SHOW!!

Daily Winners will receive an additional 10 Entries for a Special Drawing at Each of our Upcoming Apr 25, 2015 Spring Shows "Must be Present to Qualify"

Visit www.MVE.org for details or call 414-367-7097

BONUS DRAWING!! \$500

APRIL 25

PRIZES DRAWN MON AND FRI AT 1 PM
2205 N Calhoun Rd
Brookfield, WI 53005

DOENSPH P030314C11991

So far hundreds of raffles have been given out and are in your hands. However, please remember that 500 tickets need to be **sold** - meaning money and stub

turned in – by December 31st or this will all go away.

The 2015 MVE Board of Directors were elected unanimously. They are:

Thank you!

Jim Schmidt, President
Mike Lietke, Immediate Past-President
Jim Franklin, VP Music & Performance
Jake Umhoefer, VP Marketing
Derek Balke, VP Membership
Bob Bartkowiak, Treasurer
Gerry Feldman, Secretary
John Biltz, Board Member at Large
Craig Schaefer, Board Member at Large
Justin Ferminich, Board Member at Large

December 2014						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Nov 30	1 7pm Rehearsal	2	3 6:30 Board Meeting	4	5	6
7	8 7pm Rehearsal	9	10	11	12	13 2 Shows at Greendale HS
14	15 Ronald McDonald Performance & TGI Fridays	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	Q: How do you know if <u>a lead section</u> is at your front door? A: No one knows when to come in, and they can't find the key.		