



The MVEer Monthly

November, 2013

Midwest Vocal Express Christmas Treasures

Saturday December 14th 2013
2:00 PM & 7:30 PM
Greendale HS Auditorium

Featuring:

The Midwest Vocal Express
Milwaukee Handbell Ensemble
EPIX - SAI Regional Champs
Highpoint
Nostra Vita
Nth Degree

And More!



Tickets available Now!

Web: www.MVE.org
Call: 888-240-4426

Tickets Available: Today is a good day to call to order some! Photo from La Crosse.



Interview with New Member Brian Plehn



MVEer asks: Brian, you are our newest member, but you certainly aren't a novice to music. We enjoyed seeing some of your vocal students at our send-off for district. Tell us about your musical background please.

Brian replies: I have a degree in Music Education: Choral emphasis from UW-Whitewater. I've taught for two years. One year in Nekoosa, a small town in central Wisconsin, where I taught 8-12 choir. I currently teach in Cudahy where I teach high school choir and K-6 general music. I've sung on a semi-professional basis with the Wisconsin Chamber choir in Madison and the Monteverdi Chorus in Stevens Point. I've been a barbershopper since high school. I've bounced around and sang with the Lake Geneva chorus and the Stevens Point chorus. In college I sang in a quartet, "**The Augmented Four**" a non-competitive just for fun quartet, where we sang in the community and earned 'beer money'.

MVEer asks: Clearly singing is a major interest for you, but what are some of your hobbies or interests outside of music?

Brian replies: Some of my hobbies outside of the music world include fishing and playing Xbox. I really enjoy being out on a lake, wrestling with the big boys that are in the local lakes. I also really like video games they are a great stress reliever.



MVEer asks: Tell us where you grew up and something about your family please.

Brian replies: I'm from Waukesha, born and raised there. My parents and my grandma still live there. I have a younger brother who is in the Marine Corps.

MVEer says: Welcome Brian and *Semper Fi*. Our chorus is made richer by your knowledge and skills. Great to have you as our newest member!



See:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ya1Q2f_tFM&feature=c4-overview&list=UU-Y_ZYFjxNy6QmQbX-5410w YouTube - **Madrigal Dinner** (1.5 hours) Directed by Brian.

Brian M. Plehn, Music Educator, Conductor
Free-lance Accompanist, Pianist, Organist
plehnbm06@gmail.com
262-347-6435
9132 W Morgan Ave
Milwaukee WI 53228

Interview with Scott Longden – new MVE member

MVEer asks: Scott, I know you were a member of the **Men of Song** with a former MVE director **Chris Peterson** when you were a student at UWM. But, tell us about your musical experience.



Scott answers: I have always loved singing, even before I joined my first organized choir in middle school. I expanded my musical experience throughout high school. As a member of the Concert Choir, one of my most memorable experiences was singing in Grace Cathedral during a choir trip to San Francisco. I also enjoyed auditioning for and being selected as a member of the Chamber Singers Ensemble. Throughout the Christmas season, this small group performed traditional four-part carols in full Dickensian costumes. After Christmas, we switched to Madrigal and Vocal Jazz repertoire for spring competition and concerts.

I also thoroughly enjoyed my choral experiences while I was a student at UWM. I sang in the Concert Chorale, Chamber Choir, and the Men of Song. Chris Peterson first introduced me to MVE when he invited me, along with a small group of students, to attend a Monday night rehearsal. Since my time at UWM, I have missed singing and that is why I am excited to be a new MVE member. Every week I am thrilled to be singing with this excellent group of men.

MVEer asks: Your Groupanizer roster lists **Amber** as a significant other. Tell us about her and your family in general. Where did you grow up?

Scott answers: I was born in Milwaukee and grew up in Grafton, WI with my parents and two brothers. While in high school, I sang with a girl that would eventually become my wife, **Amber**. Something that has always brought us together is our love of music and singing. Almost four years ago, Amber and I married. One of our favorite TV shows is the Sing Off. We are very happy (and still enjoy singing together often).

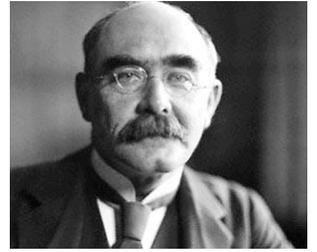


MVEer asks: Aside from barbershop singing, we'd like to know about what you do for a living and about some of your hobbies or interests.

Scott answers: About a year and a half ago, I began working for ARI Network Services, a software company in Milwaukee. Beyond work, I enjoy gardening, cooking, and watching a good mystery.

MVEer replies: Thank you, Scott. You are one of number of the alumni from the **Men of Song** that love the MVE, including Craig Schaefer, Brent Johnston, and Dick Marcus.

If is a poem that speaks of dealing with disappointments. Two of its most resounding lines are, '**If you can meet with triumph and disaster and treat those two imposters just the same**', stand above the players' entrance to the Center Court at Wimbledon. It is the poem that came to mind when being disappointed at our District score. I'll add one more resonant line from the poem, "**And never breathe a word about your loss.**" - Dick Marcus



If by Rudyard Kipling http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tK4HDCIr_E8

IF you can keep your head when all about you
Are losing theirs and blaming it on you,
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,
But make allowance for their doubting too;
If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,
Or being lied about, don't deal in lies,
Or being hated, don't give way to hating,
And yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise:

If you can dream - and not make dreams your master;
If you can think - and not make thoughts your aim;
If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster
And treat those two impostors just the same;
If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken
Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,
Or watch the things you gave your life to, broken,
And stoop and build 'em up with worn-out tools:

If you can make one heap of all your winnings
And risk it on one turn of pitch-and-toss,
And lose, and start again at your beginnings
And never breathe a word about your loss;
If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew
To serve your turn long after they are gone,
And so hold on when there is nothing in you
Except the Will which says to them: 'Hold on!'

If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,
Or walk with Kings - nor lose the common touch,
If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you,
If all men count with you, but none too much;
If you can fill the unforgiving minute
With sixty seconds' worth of distance run,
Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it,
And - which is more - you'll be a Man, my son!

November 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Fall Back 1 hour Sat night 
3	4 NO MVE PRACTICE! 	5	6	7	8	9
10	11 MVE Rehearsal 7PM	12 6:30PM Board Meeting	13	14	15	16
17	18 MVE Rehearsal 7PM	19	20	21	22	23
24	25 MVE Rehearsal 7PM	26	27	28 Thanksgiving 	29	30