



The MVEer Monthly

March, 2018

March Calendar

Monday, March 5	Rehearsal	St. Luke's at 7:15pm
Monday, March 12	Rehearsal	St. Luke's at 7:15pm
Monday, March 19	Rehearsal	St. Luke's at 7:15pm
Monday, March 26	Rehearsal	St. Luke's at 7:15pm
Tuesday, March 27	MVE Board Meeting - all welcome	St. Luke's at 7pm

Bryan Ziegler is MVE's New Director

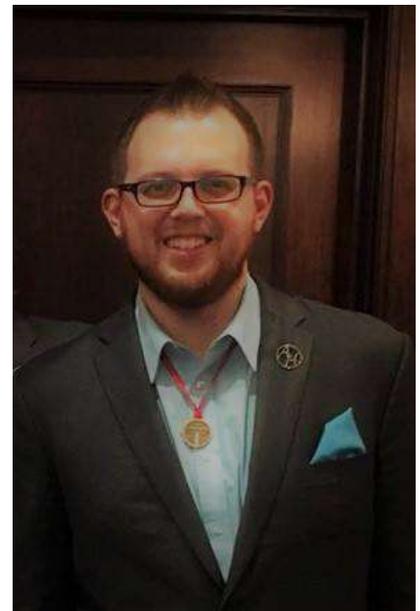
Chapter President **Derek Balke** got to say: "It is with great pleasure that we announce that **Bryan Ziegler** has accepted the position of Musical Director for the Midwest Vocal Express!"

Bryan brings a wealth of experience, as well as being a long time part of the MVE family. We look forward to Bryan stepping out in front and beginning the NEXT chapter of the MVE Story!

Bryan Ziegler is the reigning 3rd Place Bronze Medalist baritone of the Barbershop Harmony Society in the quartet **After Hours**.

He is a District Quartet champion and College Quartet Medalist.

In addition to earning his BA in Music, Bryan has studied music theory and composition at the graduate





level, studied to be a certified Music Judge, and has arranged contest pieces for his medalist quartet. He is certified to teach K-12 music.

He is an experienced BHS director. He has served as section leader, sung, and competed with multiple medalist choruses, including the **Midwest Vocal Express**. Indeed, Bryan passed the MVE audition when he was 9 years old. Later that same year, he sang with the MVE at International in Anaheim later (1999) after he turned 10.

MVE placed 9th that year, the chorus' first International.

Welcome Bryan!



First Night Stretching, Breathing, and Vocal Warm Ups





MVE Spring Show News – Tom Rogina

The 2018 Spring Show committee is excited to release some details about our initial plans for the upcoming performances:

MVE Presents: The **"Soup du Jour Comedy Hour"**..... join us for an evening featuring (delicious) **Dinner** / (upbeat harmonic) **Singing** / and (jovial) **Laughter**

Attention: MVE Chorus Members / Remember to set aside practice, rehearsal, and performance time the week of the show!

- Monday, May 14th (MVE Rehearsal)
- Thursday, May 17th (Show "Dress" Rehearsal)

- Friday, May 18th (Show Performance) - (doors open at 6:00 pm – dinner at 6:30 pm – show time at 7:30 pm)
- Sunday, May 20th (Show Performance) – (doors open at 3:30 pm – dinner at 4:00 pm – show time at 5:00 pm)

The Oak Creek Community Center (event site at *8580 S Howell Ave, Oak Creek, WI*) will be set up in tables of eight (8) with a limit of two hundred (200) patrons per show.

Tickets (dinner & show) are priced at \$25.00 each (no discounts available / beverages will be available for purchase from a cash bar)



All MVE members will be issued an initial ticket sales package of eight (8) tickets (four tickets to the May 18th performance and four tickets for the May 20th performance) and are expected to sell them to their personal patrons as support for the chorus and the event.

The show committee is looking for P-Team approved quartets to perform “light hearted” musical selections and individual MVE chorus members to volunteer their comedic expertise to deliver fun and silly jokes/comedy punch lines between singing performances of the show.

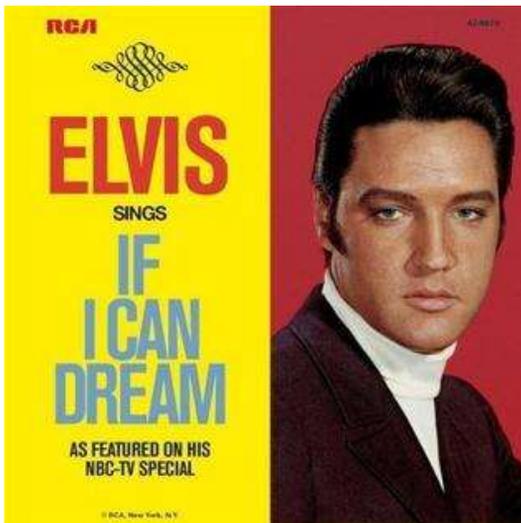
A “Prize Basket” raffle and drawing will be part of the evening’s festivities! Patrons will be able to purchase individually numbered tickets that can be deposited in receptacles next to each “Prize Basket”. Following intermission, the winner of each prize basket will be determined by a blind drawing selected from the tickets deposited in the individual receptacle for each basket. The more tickets you add, the better your chances of winning are!



Let’s all get “fired up” this Spring to publicize **The Soup du Jour Comedy Hour** event to our family and patrons.....then, volunteer to perform, sell tickets, and put on two memorable performances!

Music History Corner: If I Can Dream – Dick Marcus

Our new song, "If I Can Dream," has an interesting history. The famous speech given by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in Washington D.C. is the basis of the song. **I Have a Dream** speech by Dr. King was given during the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom on August 28, 1963, in which he called for an end to racism in the United States and called for civil and economic rights. It was delivered to over 250,000 civil rights supporters from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. His speech was a defining moment of the civil rights movement.



When Dr. King was tragically assassinated on April 4, 1968 in Memphis, a song was written by Walter Earl Brown and the song is notable for a number of direct quotations of Martin Luther King, Jr.

The song was published by Elvis Presley's music publishing company Gladys Music, Inc. It was recorded by Presley in June 1968, two months after King's assassination. **Elvis Presley** came out with, "If I Can Dream." A video of a skinny Elvis singing it is available by clicking: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iwqbuus8QPU>

The trade-mark white suit was used in his 1968 NBC special in honor of those who so recently died, both Robert F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King Jr. Some tend to say that the red tie was to honor those that were dying in Vietnam. So the song can both be viewed as *hoping for a time of no war and a time of racial harmony*. Both can be true at the same time.

The version we have has a long 23-bar lyrical introduction, "*We live in a time when hearts are so misguided, when thoughts are so one sided, a change is overdue. Yet, if we can dream of all the darkness lifting and attitudes all shifting, our world will shine on through. If the day should ever come when the world would be as one, it must start with me. And with you.*" All of this is added to the Presley song as a preface or intro. As far as I can find out, this long introduction was added by the director of the Toronto Northern Lights (**Steven Armstrong**) for quartets such as Quorum and then revised for his own chorus. For more on Mr. Armstrong, see: <https://www.northernlightschorus.com/directors>

For a version close to our version, see **Quorum's** 2016 performance, but it emphasizes racial harmony over no more war:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8LCAfzZQ4b0>

Toronto Northern Lights' 2013 BHS Chorus Champion performance of the vegetable set with some clever word changes for a "bunch of silly plants, can change their circumstance," see: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VUdjE_7htio

Winners of Chorus Awards from our Installation Banquet – Dick Marcus

Photos have previously been accessible on a Flickr account sent out by email (<https://www.flickr.com/photos/139497473@N05/albums/72157689677779972>), but let us review some of our award winners in January 2018 in a selection of a few photos.

Barbershopper of the Year (2017) Derek Balke and past BOTY Winners ↓



BOTYs know how to celebrate!



←The Do-It Award Winner is **Tom Rogina**, shown with his Oil Can Award Trophy.

Harry Hanson was the winner of the Russell A Foris Award given by Interim Director **Brian Plehn**. ↓



2017 Chapter President **Steve Johnson** gave the President's Award to **Tom Weber**. ↘

Rookie of the Year **James Pruszka** already appeared in the February **MVEer Monthly** (<https://people.uwm.edu/marcus/files/2018/02/MVE-February18-ri4nhg.pdf>)



Hoops Mania -- There is still time to win with Hoops mania.

See Scott Ganswindt for tickets. (Phone: 414-329-1854 or scott.ganswindt@mve.org) March Madness is coming!! Be a winner.



Upcoming MVE Events – Jim Franklin, VP of Marketing and PR

Division (and Prelim) contest: *We are hosts, and the MVE must sing at the contest in order to be able to compete at District this year!*
Place: Franklin H.S. - Saber Center. May 4-5th.

MVE Spring Show: May 18th and 20th. See Tom Rogina's article on pages 3 and 4 for info on our ***Soup du Jour Comedy Hour.***

Acapocalypse – Friday, April, 6, 2018

Acapocalypse is a national *A Cappella Festival* held every other year, hosted by **Port Washington High School**. The MVE were invited to appear on their inaugural Friday show in 2016 and were greeted with cheers and ovations, sometimes in the middle of a song, by several hundred excited *a cappella* fans. They have invited us back, so don't miss performing on Friday evening, April 6, 2018.

Movement to Google from Groupanizer – Bob Fichtner

The MVE now uses **Google for Non-Profits** to store and share information in the chorus. We have made it easy for you to access this information by creating a "**Members Only**" page on the main web site of the MVE - <https://www.mve.org>.

Go to the web site and on the lower right of the MVE.org home page there is a link for "**Members Only.**" Click on that link and enter the password, which we will provide to you separately. After entering the password, you will see a page with a calendar and buttons to access different MVE resources.

The calendar contains all public MVE events. You can review this calendar on this page, but you can also subscribe to this calendar and sync it to your personal calendars and your smartphone, should you choose. On the bottom right, there is a button the Google name and a "plus" sign - click on the plus sign and follow the instructions to subscribe to the calendar and sync it to your various devices.

You will also see the following buttons on the Members Only page, which should all be self-explanatory:

- MVE Board Minutes
- MVE Roster
- MVEer Monthly Newsletter
- MVE Documents
- MVE Music
- MVE Official Email Accounts

Click the desired button and it will take you to the Google drive folder with that content. Each folder likely has sub-folders - e.g. for Music, there will be a sub-folder for each song in the current rep, and those folders will then have the PDF of the music and the learning tracks. You can DL those tracks or listen to them directly from the Google drive.

As for chorus emails, we have eliminated all person email accounts - i.e. no more bob.fichtner@mve.org or harry.hanson@mve.org. We have retained all of the email address used for MVE business such a president@mve.org, everyone@mve.org, family@mve.org, etc. A complete list of those emails can be found in the MVE Documents folder.

I will bring my laptop to rehearsals for the next several weeks in case anyone needs help learning how to access this information.

Why did we switch from Groupanizer? By using Google for Non-Profits instead of Groupanizer, plus consolidating our email servers, website registrations, etc. we are saving close to \$750 a year in fees and subscriptions.

A Barbershop Quiz Anyone?

Quiz:

If one were to stand up in the Saturday-night audience of the next International Contest and shout "you're flat," would that dude be:

- (a) subject to protection under the first amendment (free speech)?
- (b) subject to prosecution under the fifth amendment (conspiring to riot)?
- (c) appointed as Chairman of Judges at the next International Contest?
- (d) or all of the above?

Answer:

Likely (d) as *all of the above* and *none of the above* are often the correct answers on multiple choice exams. But my vote goes with not yelling "you're flat," at all, even if it is true.

T-Shirt Chorus Humor

