



Interview with Member Aaron Davis

MVEer asks: Aaron, you were a Baritone when you were an MVE member back in High School. Now, you are a Bass, graduated from college, and working. As a member some years ago and now as a returning member, what changes do you notice?



Aaron replies: What feels the same is the raw energy and the sheer fun of singing together. We had it then and we have that now. But what feels different is that the sound is locked in more than it was. I love both **Bryan** and **Patrick's** passion.

Back in High School, I was in musicals, choirs, and quartets as well as the MVE. Now I have less musical outlets to keep me a lifelong singer. I live and work downtown. So it is great to be back in the MVE.

MVEer asks: I remember in college you majored in finance and also headed up the **TEDxUWM** talks on campus at UWM for several years. How does that experience relate to your current position?



Aaron replies: My work with **TED talks** led to other ways to reach out to be a social entrepreneur. I assist **BLK SHP** (Black Sheep Group, <http://www.blkshp.org/>) that is a group of entrepreneurs, writers, artists, and social entrepreneurs. It started in 2012. Our network of BLK SHP, includes donations, Giving Tuesdays, and every once in a while we make angel investment in companies with a social mission.



But my principle position is as a **Business Analyst** at **Dohmen Constellations**. Our mission is to invest in self-sustaining solutions that ensure all people have the

right to thrive. How do we do that? By using generations of business best practice to advance social good. **Dohmen Constellations** uses a unique model to accelerate what works. We seed and scale social businesses that can show measurable progress in closing the health equity gap. So my work at Dohmen Constellations in health initiatives seamlessly dovetails into the BLK SHP as well.



(<https://www.dohmenconstellations.com/meet-the-team>)



MVEer asks: What is ahead for you and Jacklyn? I think I see jewelry on her finger. Is she changing her last name any time soon to Davis?

Aaron replies: Yes, we are recently engaged. **Jackie** goes to Drexel University in Philadelphia and studies to be a dance-movement therapist. Our wedding is being planned for September 2019. For the time being, my roommate is **Matt**

Post, who is also an MVE member.

MVEer says: Aaron, I will use my editorial freedom to say I was privileged to be your teacher in the spring of 2014 in your Business Scholars class of Finance (photo below). Speaking for all the MVE heroes, we are very glad to have you back on the risers with us.

Aaron
Davis



Fall Festival in Muskego

Jim Franklin arranged a great performance and money-making venue for us Atonement Lutheran Church in Muskego. This is **Erik Anderson's** church.

We reprised some of our Spring Show beginning with the Star Spangled Banner and Comedy Tonight. We were in a huge tent on their property, with tables and chairs for eating. Because food was being purchased during the show in the tent, there was some talking and commotion, but talented performers that we are knew to ignore distractions.*



Fall Fest at Atonement
Sept. 15, 2018 | 3-9 p.m.

Join the Celebration!
570W16244 Martin Dr.
Muskego, WI 53150
(414) 422-0400
www.at-onechurch.org

Music & Entertainment!
3:00 p.m. Liederkranz German Chorus
4:00 p.m. Vern and the Originals
Tribute to Concertina Millie
5:00 p.m. Midwest Vocal Express
35 voice men's chorus
6:00 p.m. Marr'Lo

Great Food & Drink!
Leah's Italian Cuisine (until it runs out) + Brats | Burgers |
Beer & Wine | Soda | Snacks and more!



We were joined by **Midnight Croon** in the middle for four great songs. Ann Elizabeth Nagel took some great pictures of **Croon** and the chorus, as well as the jokesters during our **Soup Du Jour Comedy Hour**.



What a beautiful day to sing, entertain, and be the performers we know we can be. Thanks to **Brian Plehn** for directing us on Saturday, September 15 for our 5pm show.

* Steve Johnson reminds us that **P=p-i**, where **P** is Performance, **p** is Potential, and **i** is interference. We kept **i** (distractions) low. Footnotes in newsletters? Well, now you've seen everything.

National Anthem at the Brewers



Photo by Jason Boston

On Saturday, September 8, the Midwest Vocal Express gave a great rendition of the National Anthem at Miller Park. The video of the performance made by **Amanda Hailer** and appearing on **Jonathan Purvis'** facebook page has already had over 8,100 hits already, with lots of comments of praise. **Bryan Ziegler** directed us with an added dimension of dynamics not easy to achieve in a giant stadium.

We can say, **the MVE went viral!** If you've not checked it out, see and hear us at: <https://www.facebook.com/johnathon.purvis/videos/1021276644173222/>

Midnight Croon Headlines Real Men Sing! – Dick Marcus

"**Real Men Sing!**" is an outreach from the Department of Music at UWM to the High Schools and Middle Schools to encourage singing. **Dr. Chris Peterson** (a former MVE Director) started this program at UWM 17 years ago with just a few high schools participating. For a time it didn't occur after Chris moved to



California but it returned in 2015 with **Dr. Zack Durlam**. It has grown and blossomed to fill the entire Zelazo Performing Arts Center on the UWM Campus to 62 schools, including 775 high school boys, 308 middle school boys, and 62 directors, as well as 62 guys of the UWM Men's Choir.

Often barbershop groups appear at Real Men Sing!, including **OC Times**, the **Midwest Vocal Express**, and this year, the featured barbershop group was **Midnight Croon**. They gave two separate performances. In the Zelazo Center, where the High Schoolers were, they kicked off the program at 8AM in the morning demonstrating the ability of just four guys to produce ringing chords with their signature crooning style. They reprised their set for the Middle Schoolers across



the street in the huge ballroom of the UWM Student Union.

This wasn't their only exposure to barbershop. Both the HS and Middle School groups practiced and learned the barbershop song, **Hello, My Baby**. When the

Middle Schoolers were returning to join the High Schooler in the Zelazo Center, I asked several of them what their favorite song was, and I am pleased to say that their favorite was **Hello, My Baby**, the barbershop song.

Dr. Zachary Durlam, the UWM Music Director who oversaw the excellent event, told the Middle Schoolers who are about to go to High School to join the HS choir to have an extended family of singers. He then told the High School guys, some who will soon leave for college, to join their college choir wherever they go. While college can be challenging, it is great to have a place to express yourself in song and be a part of a choir family. The participation of **Midnight Croon** shows how even after college we can continue our singing together. Thank you *Midnight Croon* in your excellent work in your outreach to young singers.



MVE Picnic in Greendale on Sunday, September 23

On a beautiful fall afternoon in a lovely Pavilion just off 76th Street in Greendale, the MVE had a lovely picnic. Thanks go out to **Sarah Nagel** as chief chef on the grill and **Mark Trevor Ranum** for organizing. We played *Golf Ladder*, or by other names: *Redneck Golf*, *Rodeo Golf*, *Polish Horseshoes*, *Hillbilly Horseshoes*, *Hang-Em Golf*, *Bolo-ball* and *Monkey Bar*.

A special treat was that a quartet from Illinois, **Interlude**, came up to regale the party goers with their set for their District Contest in Bloomington, IL in a few weeks. One song, *Learning the Blues*, was arranged by **Patrick McAlexander**. Patrick was there to confer with them.

(https://www.gigsalad.com/interlude_barbershop_quartet_chicago)

Interlude Quartet - Tenor: Ben Mills; Lead: Mark Servos; Baritone: Nathan Gross; Bass: Benjamin Light





Ilana Ganswindt was the surprise superstar at Golf Ladder



Interlude traveled over 100 miles to sing some songs and to eat some real Wisconsin brats!

Thank you, Interlude.

October Calendar Highlights



Sunday, Sept 30	Visual Installment	St. Luke's at 4-6 pm
Monday, Oct 1	Rehearsal	St. Luke's at 7:00 pm
Monday, Oct 8	Rehearsal	St. Luke's at 7:00 pm
Monday, Oct 15	Rehearsal	St. Luke's at 7:00 pm
Monday, Oct 22	Rehearsal	St. Luke's at 7:00 pm
Tuesday, Oct 23	MVE Board Meeting – all welcome 7pm @ St. Luke's	
Fri/Sat, Oct 26/27	LO'L District	Rochester, Minnesota
Monday, Oct 29	Rehearsal	St. Luke's at 7:00 pm

Cy Wood and Visual Installation – Sun. Sept 30 at 4 to 6pm!

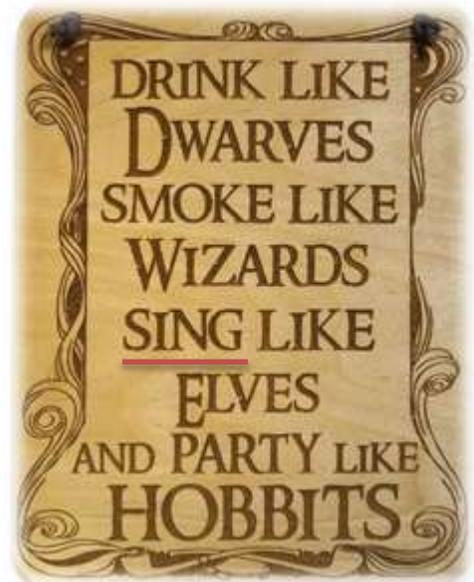
Three fun videos of our coach **Cy Wood** with **Mike Lietke** on Sunday.



1. **Barbershop, You Bet!** With Mr. Cy Wood (Cool Promo) – 1 minute
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8dFTL0iPyog>
2. Harmony University 2017 on **Physical Warm-ups**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8E1MprKjKDE> – 9 minutes
3. **Spend My Life With You** (Instant Classic) – interpreted by Cy Wood – 1 minute
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C-I7MQ4kJ0I>

JRR Tolkien Lovers Say:

Coach Cy Wood



District Convention & Competition

Brand New Dr. Charles Mayo Presentation Hall Photo

- **Schedule of Events:**
<http://loldistrict.org/events/2018FallConvention/pdf/2018ScheduleOfEvents.pdf>
- **26 Quartets: (5:30pm - 9:30PM Friday)**
<http://loldistrict.org/events/2018FallConvention/pdf/ProgramFriNightQuartet.pdf>
- **17 Choruses: (10:30am - 2:30pm Sat.)**
<http://loldistrict.org/events/2018FallConvention/pdf/2018FallChorusDraw090818.pdf>
- **The City of Rochester Info:** <https://www.rochestermn.gov/home>
- **Our Hotel:** https://www.thekahlerhotel.com/?utm_expid=.IgrGse-3TSqq5ztNO7a7xA.0&utm_referrer=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.google.com%2F



All District Chorus

News! If you are one of over 70 who have signed up to sing in the All District Chorus remember: The first time we meet as a group is Friday at **3 pm**. A two hour rehearsal is scheduled. Saturday from **6 to 7 pm** will be our second and final rehearsal. Following the Quartet Finals but before the announcements, we will perform on the main stage. Wear your chorus (we are representing our Choruses!) shirt with black slacks for the performance. We are singing **Feelin' Mighty Fine** and **Cheek to Cheek**. *Editor's Note: They are really fun to learn and sing.*

