

Photo Triptych by Johnathon Purvis of Bryan Ziegler during Vocal Warm Ups

## **Rules to Remember from Cy Wood’s Coaching** – Dick Marcus

Cy Wood is a teacher and he began our coaching session guiding us into understanding how to show believability and honesty in our performance using the **Six Rules of Prosody**, a term usually taught in a linguistics or poetry class.

In linguistics, **prosody** is the set of **speech variables**, including rhythm, speed, pitch, and relative emphasis, that distinguish vocal patterns.

If **prosody** is new to you, don’t feel alone. He illustrated the idea by reading the first line of our song, That Old Black Magic Called Love,

*“Incantations and spells, bewitchment I can’t  
repel, I feel hypnosis looking in your eyes, and*



*though it is bound to be my demise, I can't escape. I'm hooked. And that I can't disguise!"*

When we speak the line, we instinctively emphasize some words and change our spoken pitch on words like *bewitchment* or *hypnosis* naturally. But there is a way in which singing these words can lose the special intonation of key words.

**Mike Lietke** has often had us use *emphasis* or "**head-phasis**" to stress particular words or phrases. Prosody looks at the words, the lyrics, and tries to find what needs particular attention.

In English and most languages, there is always an importance on the verbs and nouns, but Cy Wood's six rules look at other words in our singing and performance.



1. **Adjectives and Adverbs** - Our song title itself: "old black magic" has two **adjectives** in a row. They are important. He had us emphasize OLD the first time it appears and then BLACK the second time. This is looking at the verse and deciding what to stress. **Adverbs** modify verbs in intensity, such as a *burning* desire. These adjectives and adverbs convey meaning in spoken and especially lyrically in our performance. Cy reminded us that we are performers on a stage. We should know what we are saying and what we want to convey.
2. **Conjunctions** - "and, but, yet" are all conjunctions that are extremely important to telling the story. We are either continuing a thought as with "incantations AND spells" or we are changing direction as with "I should stay, BUT what can I do?" Clearly, the BUT is important here. Our body position, face, and tone are used to show change in direction and feel.
3. **Time words** - Whether in the past, present, or the future, the time of the event is critical to understand the story. Watch for time words like *now* or *then* or even *when*. In That Old Black Magic, we say, "For you're the lover I have waited for," which states that this is a long-anticipated happening. Time is clearly involved, so how can we make that clear?
4. **Repeated words or phrases** - We've heard this before, but **Cy Wood** reminds us that if we say something twice, each time it should be said

differently. An example in our song, “round and round I go, in a spin, spin I’m in...” There are lots of such examples of repeated words and phrases to make each one different.

5. **Endearments** – When we say “*DARLING*, down and down I go,” wouldn’t the use of the *darling* term have its own special feeling in who we says endearing words? The answer is a big affirmative!
6. **Pivotal words** – The key to telling a great story is knowing when a big reveal occurs or when a giant plot twist happens. What words are pivotal in *That Old Black Magic*? Our performance plan already helps to identify some of them. Early on is a small pivotal phrase as we show that we “*feel hypnosis looking in your eyes*,” but we break free visually and in our singing tone at a snap. Another minor one is when “*that elevator starts its ride*.” This phrase moves us as a chorus in our rise to the next step. It is pivotal as we were spirally downward until this moment. If you wanted a third pivotal word, it would have to be *kiss* in “only your **kiss** can put out the fire.”



Likely there are other words or phrases that we could add to Cy’s Six Rules of Prosody, but clearly he has us on the right road for studying and knowing what we are saying and to sing them as expressively as possible.

One major takeaway for me from this marvelous Saturday with **Cy Wood**, **Mike Lietke**, and **Bryan Ziegler** was to know our intention. We need to know what we want our message to be. Is our message to enchant? Is it that we are enchanted by her? When we zero in on our message and our intent, we can really tell the complete story and thereby change lives.



NIKO & SAMMIE  
 ENGLEBERT, &  
 BARELY ONE MONTH  
 OLD IRIS AT CY  
 WOOD'S COACHING  
 SESSION.  
 SAY IT...AWWHHH!

**Calendar for April**

Monday, April 1	Rehearsal	St. Luke's at 7pm
Monday, April 8	Rehearsal	St. Luke's at 7pm
Monday, April 15	Rehearsal	St. Luke's at 7pm
Monday, April 22	Rehearsal	St. Luke's at 7pm
<b>Tuesday, April 23</b>	<b>Board of Directors Meeting</b>	<b>St. Luke's at 7pm</b>
Monday, April 30	Rehearsal	St. Luke's at 7pm



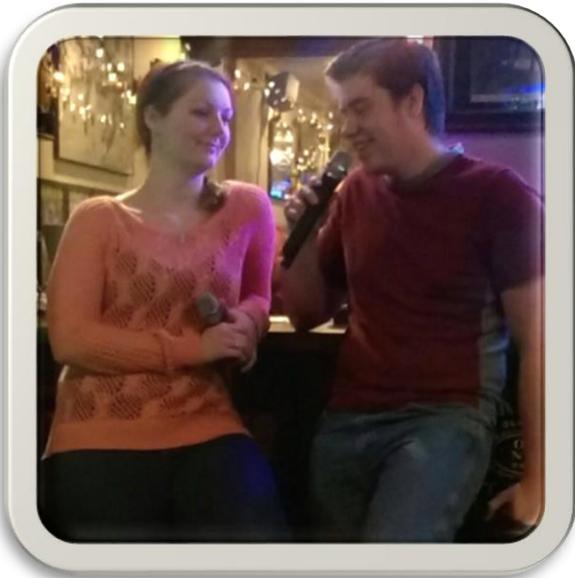
## Interview with New Member Niko Englebert

**MVEer asks:** Niko, we know you are a great singer in our lead section, but how did you get started in singing and music?

**Niko replies:** I've always been the type to sing in the car, and have done so since I was a young kid according to my parents. When I met my wife **Sam**, we often went to karaoke together which is where I started to understand that I have a talent for



singing. Since then, I also started singing in our choir at church which is where I met **Matt Nagel** who introduced me to the MVE!



**MVEer asks:** We got to see your beautiful baby **Iris** and your wife **Sam** (Sammie) during our coaching session with **Cy Wood**. Tell us a bit about how you and Sammie met and your marriage and such, please.

**Niko replies:** **Sam** and I met in 2014 on my birthday through a mutual friend of ours out at a

Halloween celebration at a bar that was having karaoke as well. Best birthday present I've ever gotten by far! From there, we hit it off and enjoyed each other's company until I proposed to her in July of 2016 during a 4th of July trip visiting my mom in Oregon. We were married on Feb 9<sup>th</sup> 2018, and since then have bought our condo in Greenfield, and welcomed our daughter into the world.



**MVEer asks:** Where did you grow up? Have you brothers or sisters?

**Niko replies:** I grew up in the Milwaukee area. In high school, we moved with my mom to Mequon. After high school, I went and lived with my dad in Addison, which is out near West Bend. I have one older brother named Tony.

**MVEer asks:** What are you doing for a living, Niko?



**Niko replies:** I work in IT for Northwestern Mutual, in their Technology Service Center which services their home office and all field offices around the country and helps with any computer/IT related issues and questions.

**MVEer asks:** Aside from your love of singing, have you other hobbies you like to do?

**Niko replies:** I absolutely love rock climbing, and before **Sam** got pregnant with **Iris**, we were members at the Adventure Rock climbing gym. Hopefully in the future we will get to start that up again!



**MVEer says:** We are very glad to have your enthusiasm and love of singing in the MVE. Welcome **Niko** and welcome to your lovely rock-climbing, rock-star family.

## Our Saturday, June 22 Show

"**A Street Corner Serenade**" is on Saturday, June 22 at 7pm. *The Wilson Theater at Vogel Hall* at the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts: 929 North Water Street.



The Venue: *The Wilson Theater at Vogel Hall* is a complicated name. The reason is that it was that the former **Vogel Hall** was refurbished thanks to a generous naming gift from Don and Kate Wilson, so it is now **The Wilson Theater at Vogel Hall**. The theater has been completely refurbished in 2014 with new seats, flooring, lighting and more. It is a classic jewel-box theater, which

retains its red palette and all of the charm that audiences have loved in Vogel Hall, but it is now much more comfortable for audiences. The capacity is 475 seats. Let's be sure that we *fill this joint up* with our rocking **Street Corner Serenade**.

Parking: Ample parking is available in the parking structure, which is connected to the facility by a skywalk. There is a \$10.00 fee for event parking.

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**Humor Corner:** Singing Valentines as the Chippendale Barbershoppers?



A long-time quartet, the **Brazos Knights** from Waco, Texas, discussed the joys of

**Singing Valentines:** "One of his favorite Singing Valentine memories was singing to Baylor women's basketball coach Kim Mulkey. She was giving a speech to more than 500 people on that particular Valentine's Day.

"Somebody called and asked if we would sing to her, and we really didn't have time in our schedule that day, but we skipped lunch to do it," he recalled. "Her speech was lasting a while and we had another gig to get to, so we had to take the stage and interrupt her." His quartet walked right up onto the stage and took the microphone out of her hand.

"She turned and looked at me like she was gonna knock me on my bum, and said, 'Who are you?'" The quick-witted, tuxedo-wearing barbershopper was prepared with a one-liner response: **"We're the Chippendale dancers — senior division, ma'am,"** he said with a chuckle. They proceeded to sit her down and sang to her "When we finished, we gave her the mic and she went right back to her speech without missing a beat," he said. "I guess she's used to dealing with interruptions like that." [https://www.wacotrib.com/waco\\_today\\_magazine/waco-barbershop-quartet-celebrates-years-of-harmony-and-humor/article\\_a6d92a7b-f582-51cf-ba7a-832bedfd9e8e.html](https://www.wacotrib.com/waco_today_magazine/waco-barbershop-quartet-celebrates-years-of-harmony-and-humor/article_a6d92a7b-f582-51cf-ba7a-832bedfd9e8e.html)

**THE BARBERSHOP QUARTET POEM** by Kim Rodriguez  
([https://www.poetrysoup.com/poem/the\\_barbershop\\_quartet\\_1016888](https://www.poetrysoup.com/poem/the_barbershop_quartet_1016888) )

The barbershop quartet, mustache brushes in hand.  
*A Capella* joviality, with torqueing wrists, snapping fingers.  
Bristles foaming, silky white and smooth, voices grand.

Dapper in their pinstripe suits, hats — Delmonico brand.  
*Sweet Adeline*, drawn out. *My Adeline* — peaks, lingers.  
The barbershop quartet, mustache brushes in hand.

Choreography matchless with their sugar-cane wands.  
One by one they tap and score with lighthearted zingers.  
Bristles foaming, silky white and smooth, voices grand.

Bass, lead, baritone and tenor glitz altogether stand,  
Impressing the country stage — these polished singers.  
The barbershop quartet, mustache brushes in hand.

Differences overlooked, blend of ringing chords command.  
Friendship in angelic voice, grooming of youthful wingers.  
Bristles foaming, silky white and smooth, voices grand.

Brothers in harmony, gathering precious social sand.  
Through time, the dusty chair spins and memories linger.  
The barbershop quartet, mustache brushes in hand —  
Bristles foaming, silky white and smooth, voices grand. 4/25/2018

