



The MVEer Monthly

August 2019



Our Salt Lake City Experiences Recounted – Dick Marcus

What a marvelous set of experiences and thoughts come together in our adventures in Salt Lake City. Each one who went can add more vignettes, but I will reminisce on some highlights such as a marriage proposal, scooters everywhere, and singing in a giant performance hall.

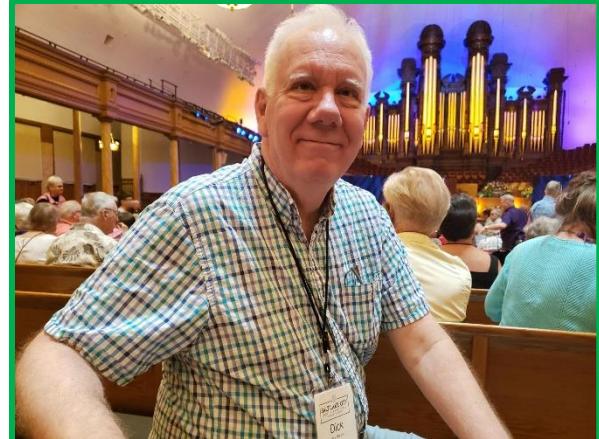
On Wednesday, July 3, we met at *The Hilton* for our first practice at 4pm.



The Quartet Quarterfinals (all 57 of them plus Quartet Champion mic testers) were on Tuesday, July 2 and Wednesday, July 3 in three sessions. They were held in **The Tabernacle** on LDS Church grounds. It is a large domed structure that seats 3,500 after a 2007 major renovation.



The interior is beautiful, and even though the acoustics are said to be so perfect that you can hear a pin drop, in some parts of the auditorium some said they had problems making out all the words being sung. The green-shirted dude in this picture is enjoying a session of the Quartet Quarterfinals, with the well-recognized organ backdrop in the room.



The Tabernacle is right next door to **The Temple** (*pictured in the right bottom*). Non-LDS members were not permitted in there. The whole church grounds is a lovely garden park with statues and benches and places to take photos.



Salt Lake City had a free trolley that many took up and down from **Little America** (our Headquarters) to the venue. But the most striking mode of transport to most of us were **electric scooters** that you could rent. They were everywhere!

Even our front row guys in capes were seen flying around town. The first such sighting was **Johnathon Purvis** and **Amanda Hailer**, but **After Hours** went zooming around too, as did **Brian Lynch**, **Jeff Reifsynder**, **Josh Umhoefer**, **Tim Zielke**, and many others.



See **Bryan Ziegler** struggle with his scooter and **After Hours** sing & zoom around at this well-loved video going around involving scooters:

<https://www.facebook.com/aicgold/videos/2372895616066718/>

Cruisin' around are Jeff Reifsynder,
Josh Umhoefer, and Tim Zielke

Posing for their caped-crusader photos are (L-R)
Jim Ansay, **Dylan Keegan**, **Aaron Davis**, and
Matt Post in front of the LDS Conference Center.



Early morning at 6:30am in The Hilton, our Front Row practiced their caped swirls on Thursday, July 4th in the hallway, with Bryan leading them.



That morning practice included the never-to-be forgotten event, *The Proposal!*

Johnathon Purvis gave a speech to chorus that he secretly segued into a beautiful proposal on bended knee to **Amanda Hailer**.

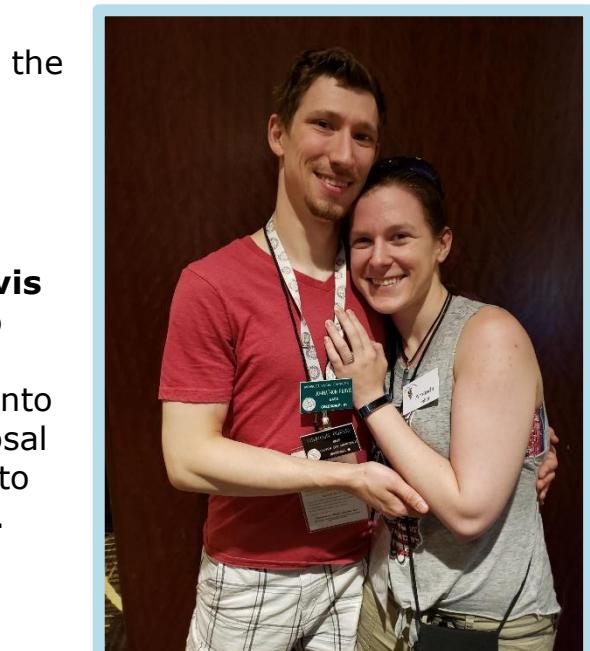
For a video of the proposal, go to:

<https://www.facebook.com/johnathon.purvis/videos/10214712075811858/>

July 4th was also the Top 20, the Quartet Quarter Semifinals. This time, the venue shifted to the LDS Conference Center.

Watching these great singers were **Dale** and **Carolee Heinen**, celebrating their 54th anniversary in SLC.

One young quartet, **Midtown**, surprised the audience with *Spider Man*. Here is a video that they made in June 2019, not at the venue: https://youtu.be/_NzJGSYa4rc.





This video they did themselves on their Apple phone using a “cartoon” filter. Well done, **Midtown**. Amazing Spider Man.

Bob Fichtner got this classic picture of **Bryan Ziegler** doing his famous, “*Why would you do it any other way,*” pose.



And now, it is a cute logo, shown below. I think I like the real Bryan better. But if you see this logo in future newsletters, you'll know what it says.



Thursday night, July 4 was the **Association of International Champions Show** (AIC Show). With **After Hours** being the reigning BHS Quartet Winners, we had a wonderful night of songs and commentary as they became new members of this famed AIC society. Looking mighty good, guys.



The number of restaurants, bars, and places to go in Salt Lake City has exploded since 2005, when the chorus was last there. Back then, you had to “*become a member of social club*,” to get some fermented liquid refreshment. No longer is that the case! Here are a few photos of groups around town sampling various beverages and good eats.



Do I see James Estes at this table?



Friday, July 5th Contest and Afterglow at the BeerHive

Again at 7am, we met at *The Hilton* all dressed up for our approximately 10:35am performance. We put on stage make up – thank you to **Sarah Balke** and her great team of helpers.



Hannah Fichtner makes **Brian Lynch** glow. **Carol Lietke** creates an even more dashing **John Konicek**. **Sarah Balke** gives **Aaron Davis** a big smile. And **Polly Weber** adds even more *pizazz* to **Bryan Ziegler**'s face.

Sarah said that **Derek Balke** had a huge amount of makeup and brushes in his luggage, and she worried what the airport security teams thought about it!

The guys are very ready and eager to sing on stage. We warm up at the Hilton.



Words of encouragement from our Chapter President, **Derek Balke**.



Dale & Carolee Heinen, Linda & Steve Johnson, and Carol Lietke are ready for the show!

Now, we are off to the buses to go to the **LDS Conference Center**.





←The “Madison Four” are ready: **Jeff Meyer, Patrick McAlexander, Matt Record, and Zach Rolfs.**



←Guys were trying out a last minute idea of a “kick-line” for the set. Who knew?





After the performances and medal announcements, our Afterglow was at **The BeerHive Pub** with families, and everyone from **The Sound of Illinois**. More on the winning chorus, **Westminster**, later in the newsletter.

Beehive symbolism was everywhere in Salt Lake City, from our pub to traffic signs, to beehives impressed into the sidewalks. The book of Exodus 3:8 talks of the Israelites going to the “land of milk and honey.” Furthermore, beehives represent industry, harmony, order and frugality of the people, and of the sweet results of their toil. The

Mormons who travelled from St. Louis to Salt Lake City brought with them bees. They also could trade honey for various things with Native Americans.





←Liquor rules were stricter in 2005 when we last went to SLC. You had to buy a membership in a *social club*. Vestiges of those times were still present in at many pubs, including the **BeerHive Pup**. Look for the sign “Social Clubs” above the entrance.



Westminster Chorus Wins – Here is a 7 minute video of an amazing medley of “From Now On” and “Come Alive,” from The Greatest Showman. It includes launching one guy 15 feet into the air at about 5 minutes in at: <https://youtu.be/RwUkjPUqVyM>. This is why the first picture in our newsletter has **Brian Lynch** launched 15 feet into the air on a scooter. Although the **Ambassadors of Harmony** had a spectacular black & white set of old Hollywood including Charlie Chaplin and the little tramp, the strength of the Westminster performance led to a record-setting score of 97.9. Well done, Westminster.



Calendar for August

Monday, July 29	Rehearsal	St. Luke's at 7pm
Monday, August 5	Rehearsal	St. Luke's at 7pm
Monday, August 12	Rehearsal	St. Luke's at 7pm
Monday, August 19	Rehearsal & GUEST NIGHT	St. Luke's at 7pm
Tuesday, August 20	MVE Board Meeting	St. Luke's at 7pm
Monday, August 26	Rehearsal	St. Luke's at 7pm

Sunday, July 7 was the Music & Spoken Word Broadcast

Many went to see **The Vocal Majority** sing with the **Mormon Tabernacle Choir** at the LDS Convention Center on Sunday morning. It wasn't a church service, but it did feature great religious songs such as *All Creatures of our God and King* and *How Great Thou Art*. The spoken part was about the fellowship we feel in barbershop. *Please read it, which is reprinted below:*

In Harmony with Others by Lloyd D. Newell, July 7, 2019

There are many things in life that can be done alone. You can play a piano alone—or a violin, a guitar, or any other musical instrument. You can sing a solo, give a speech, or recite a poem alone. But then there are other things—some of the most beautiful—that simply can't be done alone. For example, you can't sing barbershop

alone. Barbershop singing, by definition, involves joining with others in vocal harmony. It's about music, but it's also about community—about working together to create a thing of beauty.

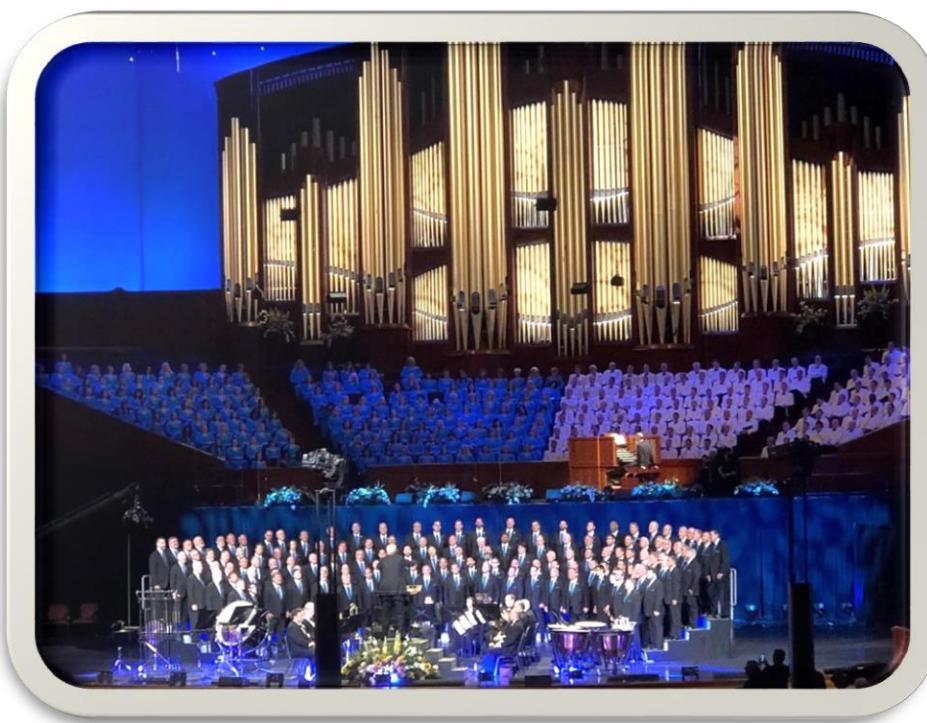
Many historians trace the history of barbershop singing to the 1880s and '90s when African American musicians started adding multipart harmonies to popular contemporary songs. Over several generations, a unique style emerged, and the unmistakable sound we know as barbershop began to take shape.

How do you describe that sound? It isn't easy. Some would say you have to experience it. As one barbershop singer said, "When you're singing, the sound around you is incredible. You feel like you're being carried away with it. It's absolutely inspiring. . . . The chords ring and you feel like you're being swallowed up by the music itself."

For many barbershop singers, the music is only part of the experience.

Relationships, to them, are inseparable from the sound. It is friendship as much as music that keeps them singing. One expert has written that "barbershoppers feel a strong fellowship—a wave of warmth and

friendliness—when they sing together. An important facet of the fun and personal enrichment gained from barbershop singing . . . is its camaraderie."



Something magical happens anytime people come together with a shared passion. Whenever they have a sincere interest in doing something meaningful and a heartfelt willingness to cooperate rather than compete, they accomplish things that would not be possible if they were working alone.

No, you can't do barbershop alone, and you can't do life alone either. We need each other. We need friendship and fellowship. We all do better, we all live happier and more peaceful lives, when we are in harmony with others.

(Permission to republish this essay spoken at the July 7 Music & the Spoken Word broadcast at the LDS Conference Center has been requested from Intellectual Reserve and also appears on the BHS FB page)

Some Fun Facts

1. The chorus from Sweden, **Zero8**, is named for the area code for Stockholm, which is 08. We'd be the Four14 or 414, if we used this approach. I know that I prefer **The Mighty MVE**, instead.
2. **The Music City Chorus** did a Noah's Ark themed show. What animal do you think **Patrick McAlexander** should be cast as? You are correct. A giraffe.
3. Who would the MVE type-cast as a 2nd giraffe if we had done the Noah's Ark set? Could it be tall **Tom Rogina**?



4. The **After Hours** quartet has 3 members who are also chorus directors who each led choruses that competed in Salt Lake City this year. **Bryan Ziegler** (MVE), **Dan Wesler** (New Tradition), and **Tim Beutel** (Sound of Illinois). Which **After Hours** director edged out the other members of their quartet with the highest total points this year? You guessed it or knew it already → **Bryan Ziegler**.

OMG: Here is **Bryan Ziegler** singing with **The Vocal Majority**.

5. Did you know that **Wauwatosa** is a Potawatomi word meaning **firefly**? 

Utah Museum of Contemporary Art – Dick Marcus

As you walked up from the Hilton past the Marriott City Creek, you may have noticed either the UMOCA building or certainly the cacophony of antithetical signs, such as "Lost Found" or "Inside Outside."



showing the pointlessness of it or the fun of just jumping (you chose). Or a room with kaleidoscopic stairs forming a moving *E.C. Esher* painting.

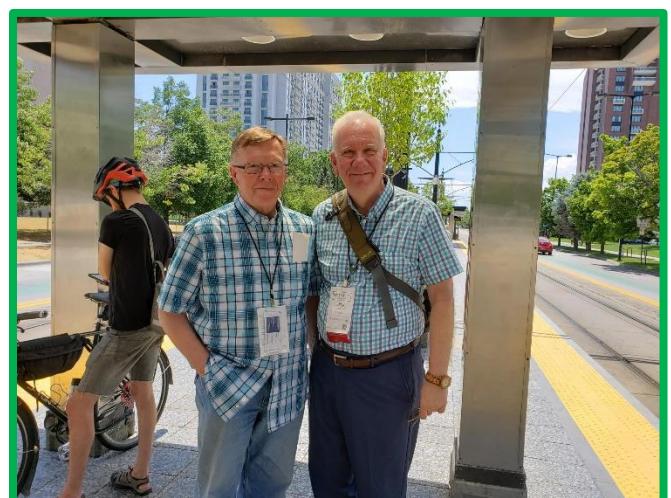
But for Wisconsinites we have to tell you about a giant piece of **bejeweled cheese**, which is about 4 feet by 6 feet. Eric recalled the giant can of *Campbell's Tomato Soup* by Andy Warhol.



The cheese artist (Cara Krebs) said, "Uncanny, often bodily objects and materials move a person into locations both alien and sweetly familiar." We mostly laughed.



Eric Anderson and I toured the modern art museum that was primarily on 2 levels. It included videos of a guy jumping back and forth across some house roofs either



For Downloading Photos: Go to

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/139497473@N05/albums/72157709580804652>

SLC Competitor Shirts

SLC competitor shirts oddly forgot to include the Mighty MVE on the shirt. Your Board is requesting that the BHS make some more shirts that are correct! We'll see if they accommodate us.

Mike Lietke has designed an alternative shirt in the photo. Not sure they'll use his suggested design or not. He asked a dude with the incorrect shirt to pose for a photo, which he happily did. Thanks, Mike and the unnamed model.

More Wedding News

Our former MVE member and friend Stephen (**PH**) Vandenberg will marry **Ysabel Johnston** on July 27. **PH** now sings with the great **Ambassadors of Harmony**. He came to our SLC practice to say hi and we went to see his practice. Here he is in and out of makeup. Best wishes **Ysabel & PH!** Best wishes to PH's dad, former MVE member **Jim Vandenberg**, as well.

