



Guest Night August 19th

We had guests, cupcakes, and fun. Some adjectives describing the night were smooth and fabulous. **Matt Post** brought Nolan, who is in the *Kettle Moraine Performing Arts High School*. **Bryan Ziegler** said we can use the idea of bringing people to any practice to watch and perhaps practice with us, and to tell them you'll get them a ticket to our next show. One guy at *Ambassadors of Harmony* brought 20 guys into his chorus this way. Four guests came. All were personally invited. We can make every practice a guest night. Invite someone to our practice.





Calendar for September

Monday, September 2	<u>No Rehearsal</u> as it is Labor Day	
Monday, September 9	Rehearsal	St. Luke's at 7pm
Monday, September 16	Rehearsal	St. Luke's at 7pm
Monday, September 23	Rehearsal	St. Luke's at 7pm
Tuesday, September 24	Board of Directors Meeting at St. Luke's at 7pm	
Monday, September 30	Rehearsal	St. Luke's at 7pm

Meet & Greet for Jeremy Ganswindt

Scott and Ilana Ganswindt held a Meet & Greet for their son **Jeremy**, who now lives and works in Seattle on Saturday, July 20, at their home. Many chorus members came to say hi to Jeremy, who grew up as a member of the MVE and the tenor in the 2009 LO'L District Champion **Expedition Quartet**.



Expedition Quartet was composed of **Jeremy Ganswindt** (tenor), **Jay Fahl** (lead), **Bryan Ziegler** (baritone), and **Jake Umhoefer** (bass). The quartet collage says it all for us to Jeremy:

Jeremy's Email is:
mlredknights22@sbcglobal.net



“Thank you for...

...the great music...

...the lasting memories...

...and continuing friendship.



Christmas is Coming

Start marking your calendars for Saturday, December 14th and work on new songs for our show.

Excellent songs and tracks are already up on our Member Site at: <https://www.mve.org/>. Now is a chance to talk about one of the new songs.

Welcome Christmas – Dick Marcus

The title doesn't tell you much, but once we begin to sing it, we recognize it from "*How the Grinch Stole Christmas*," with lyrics by Dr. Seuss, music by Albert Hague, and our great arrangement from 2010 by David Wright.

The December 18, 1966 CBS TV color cartoon special, narrated by **Boris Karloff**, has gone on to be a beloved, annual Christmas must-see. But, most of us are now more used to seeing the movie-length 2000 live-action version,



featuring **Jim Carrey** as the Grinch, rather than Boris Karloff. The comedic Mr. Carrey gives us a somewhat friendlier, though still grouchy, Mr. Grinch.

The MVE has previously sung a different song from this same special, "*You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch*," that was popular with our audiences. This one, "*Welcome Christmas*," is sung as the people of *Who-ville* cut down a lovely spruce, install it lovingly in the center of town, and together decorate their town's Christmas tree. No doubt this song will work very if we sing it as we light Oak Creek's Christmas tree again this year.

The Seussian lyric's first line is: "*Fah who for-aze! Dah who dor-aze! Welcome Christmas, Come this way!*" It would seem at first to be nonsensical. But then, many Christmas songs include non-words like, "*Fa La La La La, La La La La.*" Joy can be transmitted by notes into sounds that cheer the heart without being easily found in your *Funk and Wagnall's Dictionary*.

David Wright uses several styles of music in our **Welcome Christmas** arrangement. One of them is a variation of a madrigal. Madrigals were typically unaccompanied polyphonic secular songs with 2 to 8 voices. As an *a cappella* group of four parts, we fit in perfectly to this style. Especially in sections of the music, such as in measure 35, when the parts diverge into polyphonic eighth notes. This is where we become the most madrigal in style.



When you think about it, what a perfect song to sing! We can sing a madrigal as if we were English Christmas carolers at your door; we can sing about putting up our Christmas tree; we will pull on the heart-strings of our audiences with this song from their childhood. Bravo, *Performance team (Pteam)*, as we indeed, "*Welcome Christmas.*"



Reflections by First-timers to International

Jim Franklin suggested interviews of those who went to the International Contest at Salt Lake City for their first BHS Chorus Contest.

There were several who were asked. Here are their comments.



Dylan Keegan said, "The amazing thing was seeing barbershoppers everywhere. You'd see groups walking down the street with name tags, in hotels and restaurants, even on the street singing tags. I recall going to the

afterglow until 5AM at the convention hotel. Can't wait to do it again.

Of course, what also sticks in my head are scooters zooming on the street with our *Old Black Magic* capes flowing."



Matt Post said, "Being a guy who has been following barbershop for almost 10 years, but only recently joining as a member it was so cool for me to go to international for the first time. Getting to be a part of this competition with people coming from all over the world was pretty special.

And it was cool to see the "barbershop celebrities" that I had looked up to over the years, but had only been able to watch on *Youtube*. So the **AIC** (*The Association of International Champions*) show sticks out in my mind, to finally see these quartets singing live. On Saturday night I got to sing a tag with **Cory Hunt** (bass of **OC Times**), the quartet that inspired me to continue barbershop when they sang on the MVE show with me back in 2010.



But honestly, my favorite part of the whole week was singing and hanging out with my brothers in the MVE. From the super early morning rehearsals to the international stage, I felt we did some really special singing together and that's something I'll never forget. And it was so much fun

just hanging out (until 5 am) with some great new friends that I've made since joining MVE."



All Chapter Chorus – Steve Zorn zorn.stephen@gmail.com

Registration for the All Chapter Chorus is now open. Click [here](#) to register! We will sing Ride the Chariot and Between You and the Birds and the Bees and Cupid on Saturday night of the District Convention after the end of the quartet contest and before the final results are announced. Two practices will be held. Friday from 3 to 5 PM, Saturday from 6 to 7 PM. You are encouraged to attend both practices but it is not mandatory. You will voluntarily give \$10 (cash or check payable to LOL District) to me during the Contest weekend to cover your cost for two charts and top notch learning tracks.

If you are one of the thirty plus guys who attended the 2019 Brigade weekend you have already purchased your music and should not pay again.

Please recruit more guys from more Chapters! Let's make 2019 All Chapter Chorus the best of all!

My Testimonial to the All Chapter Chorus – Dick Marcus

You get to learn two new, non-Christmas songs for Saturday, October 26 that your quartets might end up loving and singing. Between You and the Birds and the

Bees and Cupid– is an upbeat, pretty easy love song that becomes ultra-barbershop in the hands of **Aaron Dale**, with a fun tag.

If you don't know it, click the *Youtube* from **Throwback** (our current International silver medalist in 2019), but this is from 2016

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Httc6PT9rc> so it is contestable.

The other song, Ride the Chariot is a bit more call and response by the guys from the **Yale SOBs (Yale Society of Orpheus and Bacchus)**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LkZUL4sPXos>, which isn't contestable, but it is mighty fun to sing. Join me lots of others from all choruses to sing two more songs.

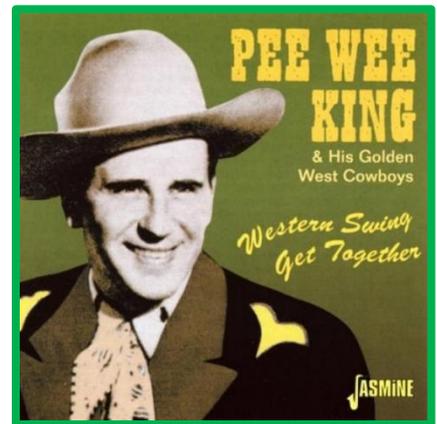
Here are some of the driving, swing lyrics to Between You and the Birds and the Bees (1951, by Pee Wee King).

Between you and the birds and the bees and



Cupid, you made me change my ways. Oh, I'm not the same as I used to be; I'm walking around in a daze. I get up with a

smile on my face in the mornin' whistin' a love refrain. Between you and the birds and the bees and Cupid, my life just ain't the same.



Now the folks just smile and shake their heads; while mine seems funny and light. Nothin' ever seems to go wrong; ev'ry thing turns out just right. There's just one good explanation beneath the dog-gone moon above. Between you and the birds and the bees and Cupid, you made me fall in love.

Don't you want to sing this with me and 80 other guys on stage in Rochester? I do. Sign up now.

The Choral Impact Study: Singing for a Lifetime

Periodically, **Chorus America** does extensive surveys on singing groups in America. The last one was in 2008, and the 2019 survey results from June 27, 2019 are in.

It is an amazingly upbeat report of 31 pages available at:

https://www.chorusamerica.org/sites/default/files/resources/ChorusImpactStudy_SingingforaLifetime.pdf

What is says in brief: Fifty-four million are singing in groups. The number is up from 14% of the population in 2008 to 17% today. Adults who sing in choruses report personal benefits, including feeling less lonely and more connected to others. They feel more optimistic, mindful, resilient, with greater feelings of being in community with others.



Choral singers are remarkably strong contributors to their community, contribute more both in time and money, and are active in volunteer work. Choristers are more likely that others to entertain friends at the home or meet informally. They show a greater effort to know others. Choral singers believe that their tolerance and respect for diversity is due to their singing. Older chorus members report a better quality of life and better overall health than the general public.

Editorial Note: Singing is good for you and good for society. But as a social scientist, I must note that ***we cannot prove*** that singing makes us happier, more open to diversity, and healthier, because the type of people who seek out being in choirs are often religious, want to help others, and want to be part of a group activity. The issue is called "***selection bias,***" as singers are already different from non-singers.

Nevertheless, the evidence is startling. An overwhelming 82% of singers say, "*I feel a sense of purpose in my life,*" whereas only 66% of non-singers have this sort of optimism. If the question is reversed, 22% of non-singers say, "*If something can go wrong for me, it will*"; whereas a mere 4% of choral singers are this pessimistic.

Hurrah for the *MVE!* Hurrah that we sing in harmony!



Voice Placement Humor: An owl, a duck, a gorilla, and a wildebeest came to be voice-placed on the risers.

Harry Hanson looked at the **Mallard duck** and said, "You're a mighty handsome fellow indeed, we'll put you up

front in the lead section in our best-looking group." He then turned to

the owl and said, "I see you are **Screech Owl**. We need you for your highest

screechy notes in the tenor section." Then to the **Blue Wildebeest** he said, "You

dash pall-mall, madly, back and forth all over the place. You should be with the

crazy baritones." Then to the huge **Mountain Gorilla** he said, "Please stand on

the top risers with the basses. You will fit right in. No one will notice you there."

