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MINNEAPOLIS
COMMODORES

OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF THE MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA, CHAPTER
**** A CHAPTER WITH AN ENVIABLE PAST - AN UNBOUNDED FUTURE ****

10,000 LAKES DIVISION - LAND O' LAKES DISTRICT

AUGUST 2014 - VOL.70 - NO. 7

An Opportunity to Improve

By Dan Williams, President

Back in 2004, I was approached by **Joe Houser** wondering if I would be interested in joining a group he was forming—the *Sounds of Renown* [nee *Joe's Boys*]. As those of you who knew Joe can attest, Joe really didn't ask, he just expected one's participation. The idea was to form a small VLQ with two or three guys per part and bring a coach in to work on vocal techniques. The main focus was to become better singers. It's hard to believe we are about to complete our tenth year of singing together!

Here are a few facts you may find of interest. The *Sounds of Renown* have performed in each of the last ten annual shows and often at chorus events where quartets/VLQ's were included in the performance packages. We have had 23 different Commodores (at different times) participate in one or more public performances. We are also one of the most requested entertainment groups at *Maynard's Restaurant's* various fundraising events throughout the years.

With **Brent Graham** as our coach, we've worked on techniques to improve breathing, placement, matching vowel and word sounds, maintaining pitch and tonal center, shaping phrases, synchronization... well, I could go on. What really amazes me, we would go over a new technique or discuss one of the items listed above and invariably, darn near every night, **Paul [Wigley]** would work the chorus on the same technique! **Gordy Aumann** and I would look at each other and smile. Now being relatively new at this Barbershop singing thing, I believe I was for-

tunate to learn these techniques early on and not develop bad habits.

While this group started with the idea of improving singing, we have turned a new corner in the past few years—CHOREOGRAPHY. I'm pretty sure Brent would agree that choreo is not necessarily his expertise and agree we're breaking "new" ground by adding a choreo package to our show tunes. You must admit the entertainment level of *Hernando's Hideaway* in this year's annual was greatly enhanced with our choreo package!



Dan Williams

There are two new concepts that we've discussed regarding choreo moves—the *Unification Move* and the *Precision Move*. A unification move is done by everyone, at the same time, but not exactly in the same way by each member. For example, pretending to play some type of instrument (in *A Little Help from My Friends*), everyone is doing something similar, but not exactly the same nor are

the same instruments being played. The precision move is done in exactly the same way by everyone at the same time. For example, a step-touch to the right or left, or a 57-spread. Everyone should be doing the exact move at the same time. Think about the choreo we have currently. Which moves are unification and which are precision? Does one provide more visual impact to the audience over the other and is the move important to expressing the mood or feeling of a phrase or word?

I know the VLQ experience has enhanced my Barbershop *Go to Improve, Page 2, Column 2*

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Land O'Lakes District, BHS**
Meetings every Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.
House of Prayer Lutheran Church
7625 Chicago Avenue South
Richfield, MN 55423
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President Dan Williams 952/974-0026
Past Pres. Dan Cole 612/376-0779
Exec. VP Gordy Aumann 952/935-8869
Co-Marketing/PR V P Russ Born 406/670-2098
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BOARD HIGHLIGHTS



Chapter members are always welcome to attend the Board meetings.

By Bill Warp, Secretary

From the meeting of July 17

• **Treasurer's Report:** Groupanizer renewal fee approved; Form 990EZ to be sent to Nashville on July 20.



Bill Warp

• **Membership Report:** Riser Buddy system is in place; seven current visitors are

quite interested in joining.

• **Music Report:** Christmas show will be at Bloomington - Kennedy High School on December 7; with four new charts to be learned.

• **Denny Maas** was commended for his efforts with the KARE 11 Blood Drive.

• **Jerry Koch** will replace **Ken Jones** on the Board.

• **Dan Cole** and **Dan Williams** are planning a *Youth in Harmony* program for next year.

• Discussion held pertaining to a trailer as a replacement for the truck.

• Next meeting August 21 at Wooddale Lutheran.

Improve from Page 1

singing ability. I believe all those that have been a part of the Sounds of Renown have benefited from the extra work and coaching. I encourage every Commodore to utilize the opportunity to work with James. He is providing a great service to each of us and we all should take advantage of his knowledge and willingness to improve the Commodores singing ability!

I'm proud to be a Commodore!

Happy Birthday

- 08/10 Pete Jarnberg
- 08/13 Rob Hartert
- 08/15 Kirk Douglas
- 08/17 Denny Rolloff
- 08/18 Mike Hojan
- 08/21 Kathy Williams
- 08/23 Lynnay Wanggaard
- 08/24 Dave Speidel (60)
- 08/26 John Lloyd
- 08/28 Allison Richards
- 08/29 Dave Wall
- 09/02 Jane Rolloff
- 09/03 Fred Von Fischer
- 09/05 Catherine Wall
- 09/07 BreAnn Rumsch
- 09/08 Dick Hartmann
- 09/08 Carl Pinard

Happy Anniversary

- 08/10 Guy & Terry Jean St. Martin
- 08/11 Bob & Pat Griffith
- 08/12 Lance & Janet Johnson (30)
- 08/14 Bob & Brenda Duncan
- 08/14 Rod & Doris Hall
- 08/16 David & Linda Speidel
- 08/20 Doug & Connie Miller
- 08/20 Dan & Karen True
- 08/22 Glenn & Shirley Retter
- 08/26 Gary & Marilyn Jacobson
- 09/05 LeRoy & DiAnn Zimmerman (50 years)
- 09/07 Andy & Nancy Cook (30)
- 09/09 Dick & Marge Riemenschneider



July Reenlistments

- Dick Riemenschneider 17 yrs.
- Hardin Olson 44 yrs.

SUNSHINE
HOTLINE



By Rich Ongna, Sunshine Chairman

Phone: 952-829-7009

Email: ddongna@usfamily.net



Rich Ongna

Good news gentlemen, **Dan Cole** reports that “the real **Sheila** is back“, her hydrocephalus having been relieved by the placement of an intracranial shunt. She also has a small benign audi-

tory-nerve tumor that for the present will continue to be watched.

So in the interest of keeping the rest of you healthy and in good spirits I’ll pass along this short story of how my son and I packed up our troubles in our old kit bags and smiled as we did a fly-in fishing trip to Ontario. We flew in with Kashabowie Outfitters, out of Atiko-

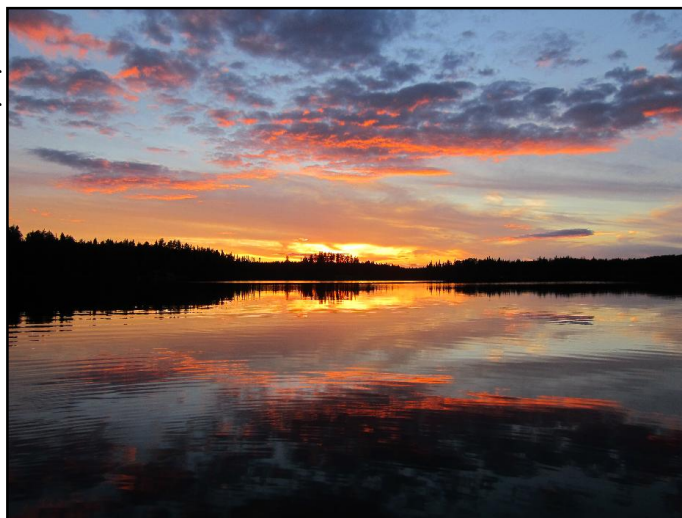
kan, ON for a one-week stay to celebrate my son’s 40th birthday.

On July 5th, a rainy morning, we took off from Eva Lake and 45 minutes later arrived on Grew Lake. We were the only people on the lake in a large 6-8 person cabin. Because there were only two of us going in they loaded the plane with as many other supplies as their weight tolerance allowed. We had 5-five gallon containers of gasoline and a 90 lb. cylinder of propane on board. We were a flying bomb.

I marvel at how much fly-in fishing has changed from when I did it many years ago with a group of friends. Then we tented on an island and lived fairly primitively. Now we had hot

and cold running water (pumped from the lake which they recommended we filter for drinking). We had a propane range, fridge and hot water heater as well as solar lights for night time along with comfortable beds to put our sleeping bags on. There was a propane grill on the covered front porch. WOW, all the comforts of home! Well, there was the outdoor privy and of course no radio, TV, newspapers, or magazines. However, we did have a satellite telephone to keep in touch with the Eva Lake base.

We caught a lot of northerns but nothing of significant size. The biggest was 33 inches. However, the walleye fishing was spectacular. Needless to say we had good eating.



Canadian Sunset *Ongna photo*

We found one particular hole that always seemed to give us good-sized walleyes. My son caught the biggest, a 30 incher but many were 24 to 27 inches. We were using Conservation licenses so we released almost everything we caught but had great fun in the process.

Saturday through Wednesday morning it was rainy and windy but we had come prepared with rain gear. Then on Wednesday afternoon it cleared up and went quiet. The day ended with a gorgeous sunset. We stayed on the lake until 9:45 PM doing a little fishing but mostly just enjoying the sunset and snapping a lot of pictures.

Oh, did I mention the mosquitoes and black flies? Whoee! The first day there we weren’t having much fishing success but we were determined to eat fish that evening so we stayed on the lake and finally brought in a nice northern. It was almost dark by the time we got to the cabin and the fish cleaning table was outside. My son cleaned the fish while I stood next to him and waved my arms in a futile attempt to keep the mosquitoes off of him. We were a sight to behold. Then we had to make a quick trip to an island in the lake to discard the fish cleanings. We were cautioned to do that so we wouldn’t attract bears. Both the seagulls and we appreciated our fish dinner.

It was a great week of fishing and spending time with my son.

Remember: Please keep me informed about who is ailing and don’t assume that I already know because generally I’m in the dark. Help me brighten the days of our ailing members. Just a short note of encouragement or a brief phone call can make the day of a person who’s not feeling well.



Rich and a lunker *Ongna photo*

Singing and Giving for Life

By Denny Maas, Altruistic Programs Chairman

Members of the *Minneapolis Commodore Barbershop Chorus* and the *Sweet Adelines' Twin Cities Show Chorus* sang at the KARE 11 Blood Drive on July 22 at the station's Golden Valley location. Their song and spirit brought fun and joy to those who shared their blood that day. In addition, four Commodores, **Bob Dillon**, **Larry Nelson**, **Bob Ostergaard**, and **Yours Truly**, gave their blood.

Our blood-pumping machine, **Jim Richards**, was on site handing out edible treats to the donors. Over the years he, himself, has donated 42 gallons of his life's blood, that's at least 356 separate contributions. Having recently donated, Jim signed up to give blood in September when he will once again be eligible.

The accompanying photo at right depicts the *Random Sample* quartet in full voice for KARE's *Health Fair 11* reporter, **Renee Tessman**, and certainly captures the spirit of the event.



Thanks to (from left) tenor, **Harlan Mellem**, lead, **Gary Jacobson** (subbing for regular, **Jerry Larson**), bass, **Jim Hedding**, and baritone, **Darrell Egertson**.

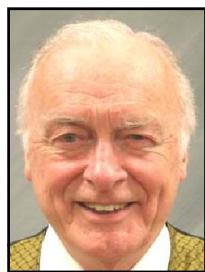
Three Nice Girls, a foursome from the TC Show Chorus comprised of tenor, **Dawn Bradshaw**, lead, **Wendy Hamilton**, bass, **Kathy Gray**, and baritone, **Monica Baker**, throughout the afternoon comple-

mented *Random Sample* as they "strolled" the KARE campus. The "Girls" were reinforced by a bevy of their TC Chorus mates.

If you have never given blood and think you may be eligible to donate, please consider doing so. It is safe, painless, and provides a priceless, life-saving gift needed by many. As there is no genuine money tree, there is no blood vine either, so DONATE!

Chord Candy #124

by Dr. Jim Richards, Der Tagmeister



Jim Richards

On Monday, August 11, The Friday Lunch Bunch That Meets On Thursday is holding its annual Barbershop Harmony Golf outing. The proceeds of this event will be contributed to the Harmony Foundation's support of the youth music festivals that are held at our Society's Mid-Winter Conventions. Fortunately this golfing event is to be a scramble that allows golfers of varying degrees of expertise to have fun together. This month's Chord Candy is dedicated to those of us in the "duffer" category in the hope that we can finish 18 holes before our supply of golf balls is exhausted. It is written in the key of C and that is the Lead's starting note. It's easy. Enjoy!

Lyrics by Ben Hogan, inspired by the 23rd Psalm

Tag by JDR 5/14/14

(F# = Eb)

May your ball lie in green pastures and not in the still water.

Georgia Grind

By Jim Erickson, Bad Dog Baritone

These are the Dog Days of Summer!



Jim Erickson

The trees are still brown from last winter's harassing weather. The skies are green during some pretty rough storms. The water, too, is green from a glorious algae bloom and even though you don't have to ask, "How high's the water, Momma?" anymore, levels are just starting to recede from record highs.

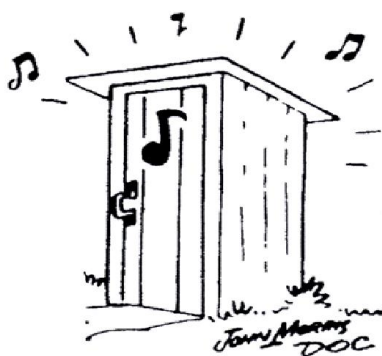
Here in Minnesota we are adding another zero to our state slogan, so it now reads, "Land of 100,000 lakes" (and some puddles you wouldn't believe). And with a couple of unusually colder days recently, autumn is already faintly beckoning in the headlights, even though down the road a bit. Man, I'm not ready for this. Not at all!

Now, as a dedicated Barbershopper, you know that it is time to start to get ready for the fall event in which we participate...the upcoming contest. Oh, I know it's a couple of months or so away, but the honing begins. Cement the right notes, get dynamic where called for, work on those tuning difficulties and our directors will be glad to add to the list just in case you are performance-challenged. Something they occasionally have too little time to work in, though, is a healthy mental state. On that contest stage, will you be an energetic, excited singer with the adrenaline flowing positively, or will you be less than at a high level because you are anxious and on the edge of freezing up?

I have been singing in quartets and the Commodores for something over 25 years. Too lazy to get out the info and be definite. And the last three years, I have sung in the Harmony Brigade events where you are asked to memorize and be able to sing sev-

eral songs at a pretty high level so that you don't let your other Brigadiers down when you perform at the event. I must modestly say, over the months before, I probably sing each of the ten assigned songs well over a thousand times, maybe two thousand?

Obviously, I don't keep count, but I do know that the repetitions are mind-boggling. Some are just on the difficult or tricky parts where I need to lock in the notes or words. Others are just for the fun of it. By the time of the Brigade weekend I feel I am pretty well set and have enjoyed the musical journey.



Reading the *Georgia Grind*

Well, at last year's event, the quartet I became a part of was pretty good. Not the top, but "middlin'" anyway. And for the second night, we were assigned one of the more difficult songs, but not impossible by any means. I liked the song, liked to sing it, and had learned it well. But, in the last rehearsal before the performance, my mind just turned to mush. Just mush! I could not sing the song. Didn't know where I was, where to come in, etc.

As a baritone, I stand next to the bass in the quartet and even though I had sung this song in quartet practice many times and along with "practice-taped" versions, my training had turned to a muddy hodge-podge of jumbled messiness. I was in panic mode and then some. Not to blame anyone, but this particular bass singing in my ear seemed to discombobulate me. As a last resort, I switched to

stand between the tenor and lead. This seemed to help just a little, but I was still in swampland.

Now if I were a horse someone gave to you, I would be one you would certainly want to look it in the mouth, even though a gift! For you younger singers, the horse used to be the main means of transportation decades ago. And if someone were going to sell you a horse back then, you would have wanted to look it in the mouth to see how much the teeth were worn down.

That would tell you the estimated age and maybe health of the proffered horse. You wouldn't pay top price for a horse with a limited future. A present day example is the number of miles on the odometer on the BMW you *sooooo* desire. If it had 500,000 miles on it, it might be a money-pit of repairs regardless of that car's reputation, and not a good buy. But if it was a gift (and still running OK), you would ignore the over-the-hill odometer reading.

Same with horses' teeth. Young teeth, good buy. Old teeth, goodbye. Free horse, gift? Forget about the teeth! You can always eat the horse. Well, maybe in Europe. (Is there a point to this meandering, Erickson?) Even for a baritone, my teeth are getting a bit worn. And this means that it takes me noticeably longer to memorize a song, remember the dynamics, get the choreo down pat (heaven forbid) and all the rest. (Can't immediately remember what the rest is) But, I had this song down cold and with a baritone showy high note at the end, I really had fun with it. But this time?

A recent article by Harvey Mackay listed some things that may help with such a mind-freeze or choking. And as you get ready to appear on stage, you might keep some of these in mind. They might have helped me!

Paraphrasing Mr. Mackay: Choking can be triggered by thinking too much or caring too much. Individuals may really want to do well but in-

Go to *Grind*, Page 6, Column 1

Grind from Page 5

stead of getting excited by performing well, they fret over possible failure. In wanting to do really well, they get unraveled by the pressure of the moment. The performance pleasure has vanished. The fear of performing poorly remains. That attitude is completely counterproductive. Fear of failure is paralyzing and it prevents you from taking the risks necessary to succeed spectacularly.

When you perform, if you choke or start shaking, blushing or having shortness of breath when you're on stage, (or your mind turns to mush beforehand like mine did!) the following may help control your anxiety.

- Practice performing through the inevitable slips. It's a performance. If you mess up, the world won't end.
- Practice in front of smaller groups first.
- Relax your muscles.
- Adopt a ritual. Lucky charm? Lucky shoes? Whatever works.
- Don't be a perfectionist, but visualize yourself performing your best.

Mackay's Moral is: Don't let choking suck the life out of your [performing].

So, how did I do at the Harmony Brigade performance? I was determined to perform regardless of the outcome. As I marched up to the pre-stage position, my mind was still a blank except for my concentrating on the first words and notes. I could at least do that! We got on stage, started well and then things began to fall into place. From somewhere all I had learned and practiced for so many times fell into place culminating in my nailing the showy, high baritone note. Tons of relief came over me as we exited the stage.

I don't think what I experienced was really a choking in the more usual sense, but whatever it was, the temporary lobotomy was very distressing. What I knew was somewhere in my brain, but I couldn't access it, try as I might. Maybe the message is that if

Quartet Quaffs

Four Seasons

It's summer time, and the living is



Rollie Neve

easy, as that famous song in Gershwin's Porgy and Bess proclaims. Many might argue that summer is no guarantee that the living will be easier. But

with the warm weather one could conclude that it's not quite so hard. And there are things you can do outside in the summer that you couldn't do in the winter – like live concerts in the great outdoors by the Commodores.

The Four Seasons were delighted to be a part of these concerts, and enjoyed the thrill of spreading harmony to outer space in the waning

**Let's put the
capital
"B"
in Barbershop**

you know your stuff, take a chance, get up there and perform. If you look foolish for failing, use it to write an article to pass on the experience like I just did.

Yeah, and you thought I was going to reveal more about the origins of the Georgia Grind like I promised in my last article. Too late! I am out of cruel Editor Doc Hardin's allotted number of words. (And he counts them, including the commas) As he yells at me over his antique cell phone, "Deal with it!" And so, that's my sage advice to you...

MAKE THAT BARBERSHOP BUCKET LIST, help Rollie Neve learn the real gift of knowing a baritone without looking one in the mouth, keep on recruiting, and hold fast to that which is good!

hours of daylight accompanied by a setting sun. Come to think of it, that should be the title of a Barbershop Song. Maybe there is one already written. I wonder if I googled "Singing in the Setting Sun" if something would come up. (That would qualify as a baritone project, Mr. [Jim] Erickson.)

Our first performance was in Coon Rapids, where we got a close-up view of the swollen Mississippi River. The audience was spread out before us in lawn chairs on the grass with a backdrop of well-placed and groomed trees. Between performances of chorus, VLQ, and quartets, dancers appeared and attempted to dance to our Barbershop music. They didn't seem to realize that Barbershop and dancing don't mix. They got themselves disqualified in the stage-presence category. When a brief rain shower added moisture to the event it looked like we lost our audience. Not to worry, however, they gathered in the shelters behind us. They heard us singing backwards for the rest of the evening.

We had no setting sun at our performance at the Lake Harriet Pavilion because it started at 2 p.m. on a beautiful Sunday afternoon. This was special because it was a joint performance with the Sweet Adeline *Twin Cities Show Chorus* and the Commodores. The girls started the show with their set of songs, the Commodores did their set and the big finale filled the stage with both choruses singing together. Here we had the boys and girls lifting their voices in the song, *Harmony*.

The afternoon concluded with both choruses and audience singing "God Bless America." The estimated crowd of about 200 was treated to a musical blessing, enjoyed the humor of Bob Dykstra, and found out that there are no orange kangaroos in Denmark.

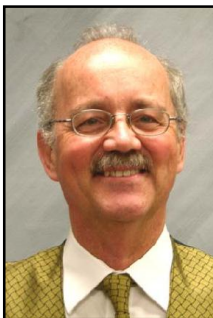
The Commodores filled out the July calendar with an evening sun-setting performance at the St. Louis Park Community Center. Once again an

Go to *Quaffs*, Page 7, Column 3

Smile, darn ya, smile!

By Paul Wigley, Director

I am just grinning from ear to ear every time I think about the Commodores lately! The new singers we are adding have created a new energy and new sound that is incredibly exciting! I strongly encourage every man, new or long-timer, to meet and greet someone new every Tuesday night. There are plenty of new faces and voices to get to know! The Commodores are still the best representation of what I truly believe Barbershop harmony is all about; making great music while singing together, and becoming part of an organization of men of great character. Celebrate this foundation by introducing yourself to someone every single week.



Paul Wigley

We are also beginning a fun and exciting new activity during our rehearsal nights. We are splitting the chorus into three (randomly selected!) smaller choruses! These smaller groups will enable all of you to get to know more people a little bit better than when being buried in the big group, will enable you to hear the sounds of the songs and chords much better, and will give all of you a better opportunity to truly see how important YOUR individual voice is when contributing to an ensemble; you won't be able to hide, you'll be integral to the success! These groups will also enable us to have a little friendly competition among each other, and to better utilize the incredible skills of **James, Gary, and Dave**. Its all designed to be fun, to give us some variety, and to give you the opportunity to sing in a smaller, more intimate, vocal ensemble.

I mentioned a few weeks ago the book, *Imperfect Harmony*, and the wonderful stories as written by a singer who is a member of a non-professional choir in New York. This book simply shares the joy of singing,



Commodores performing July 16 at the Summer Concert Series in St. Louis Park.

Harvey Weiss photo

BHS OPEN
 August 11, 2014
Elk River Golf Club
 Tee time 12:00 noon
 Register at
bhsopen.com
 Benefits
 Harmony Foundation

and also how singing can get a person through extremely difficult and stressful times. The author tells a brief story about a mining disaster in Pennsylvania, that involved mostly men of Welsh descent. After the disaster in which many men were killed and maimed, these men did one thing - singing. One leader said, I think the reason I have never cared for drink is this; the ease from mental pain that other men have sought in alcohol, I always found in song. The whole land of Wales echoes with the folk songs of a people who sing because they must.

My fervent hope is that every member of the Commodores feels the same way. *You sing because you must.* It is great to be a member of the Minneapolis Commodores.

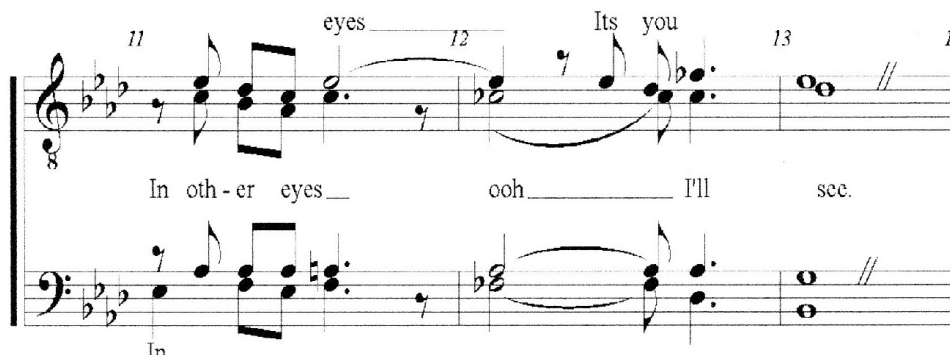
Quaffs from Page 6

appreciative crowd was treated to a soul-warming evening of Barbershop chords. Harmony is contagious, and leaves everyone with happy thought and wonderful tunes tiptoeing through their heads.

With the excellence of all those performances, however, something was missing. It was that foundational baritone, gentleman Jim Erickson. The solid sounds produced by the baritone section can only be explained by the fact that they kicked it up a notch to make up for his absence. It has to be a tribute to Jim's Baritonian-like charisma that lingers within the section even when he's gone. Which begs the question, what was he doing with all this spare time? It was suggested in the last issue of this Quaffs that he was trying to remember things about me that he should have long ago forgotten. This drove me to research this anomaly. I looked for an AP on Jim's brain, but it came back scrambled. A google search on Jim's memory told me to contact him directly in Wisconsin, but that turned out to as full of holes as a Swiss cheese. I guess the bottom line is that I must continue my research, somewhat similar to the continuing research effort that goes on in getting copy for the Georgia Grind. So tune in to the next quaffs issue for updates of this continuing saga. In the meantime keep on pitch.

Rollie for Dan, Rich, and Tom

LETTERS



*Editor's Note: The following interchange between current Society Music Category Specialist, **Paul Wigley**, and former Society "Sound" Category Specialist (circa 1978 - ? before electricity), **Jim Richards**, references the score segment, pictured above, from **If I Love Again** and offers an engrossing tutorial to would-be Barbershop arrangers and all others who relish dabbling in the pursuit of tonsorial (with a capital "B") harmonic perfection. Go to it, guys!*

Hello, Paul.

I have been looking at Measures 11 through 13 to see what this "delicious evil" chord might be that gets you so excited about "If I Love Again." In the process I have come to appreciate even more the genius of **Katie Farrell** in her choosing that particular sequence of five chords for that part of the song. The lyric at this point in the song is the first place where the singer of the song is looking into the eyes of girl #2 while emotionally seeing the eyes of lost girl #1. This is a wrenching moment where the pleasant warmth of an Fb Barbershop 7th chord suddenly on the becomes a "painful" FbMaj7 chord when the lower three parts drop a semitone on the word. "ooh".

In doing so, Katie cleverly exposes the tenor on the Major 7 without moving the tenor there. (There was a time in the past that Major 7ths were forbidden except for times when the melody called for it. This should not be a problem with today's more tolerant philosophy. It could be argued that the tenor actually has the melody at this point in the song, making the Major 7 even less of a liability.) On the next chord the tenor eases the pain slightly by lowering his note a whole tone to change the chord to a brief FbMajor6 chord that becomes a Dbmin 7 on the next chord by swapping the tenor and bass notes.

The end of the phrase (and that thought) comes to rest on an Eb Chinese 7th. Nice! I don't see any of these chords as being vulnerable to criticism. Of the five chords involved between Measure 11 and Measure 13, two were prominently-displayed dominant 7ths, the major 7th was tastefully crated by moving all parts except for the Major 7, and occasional use of 6th and minor 7ths have never been a problem. Am I missing anything?

Let's just sing those chords with impeccable precision and intonation and let the tears fall where they may.

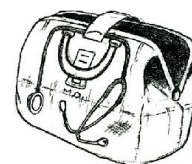
Jim

Great analysis, Jim! Yes, the way she sneaks into the Major 7th chord is brilliant! And there is nothing that's inherently illegal, just flirting with a little tenor melody, a little harmonic Major 7th, etc.

Your analysis is so great, I would suggest you submit it to the Chord-Inator for a short article. Many of our guys would actually understand what you're talking about! [Maybe even editors?]

Paul

Doc's Bag



By Dr. Hardin Olson, Editor



Hardin Olson

There comes a time in virtually every man's life when he is faced with a difficult decision. So has it come to **Peter Benson**, premier director of the Great Northern Union Chorus.

Since his arrival in Minneapolis 12 years ago he has guided the Hilltoppers to numerous International chorus competitions, virtually always finishing in the top ten, with several in the top five, including two silver medals; one missing the gold by a miniscule whisker. Add the remarkable outreach to collegiate choral programs throughout the Upper Midwest and you can imagine the time and effort required to maintain such a frenetic pace.

That in addition to home schooling his children, and more recently, marveling at the phenomenal acceptance of the *Benson Family Singers* as they entertain all over the Upper Midwest and beyond; under those circumstances I'll wager that their decision was not a terribly difficult one to make.



Pete Benson

Pete has set the bar extremely high, as a director, as a coach, as an educator and above all a treasured friend. Witness the mutual love and respect so evident when Pete and Paul Wigley work together in front of the Commodore chorus. They are complementary in every way and friends for life.

The Commodores wish the best for the wonderfully blessed Benson family. God's love & grace be with them.

A Cappella Rocks the Holidays

With

The Minneapolis Commodores and
The Twin Cities Show Chorus

Kennedy High School, Bloomington, MN

December 7, 2014
3:00 pm

Come join two of the premiere choruses in the Twin Cities for a winter wonderland of soaring four-part and eight-part a cappella harmonies. If that's not enough to lift your holiday spirits, you'll also be entertained by a variety of quartets performing family-friendly holiday music for this special time of year. Our program will include:

I Saw Three Ships
Believe *Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree*
Baby It's Cold Outside *Joy to the World*
You're a Mean One Mr. Grinch

For Ticket Information contact:
Diana Pinard pinardbbs@q.com 612.927.9363
Monica Baker Bakersmon8325@yahoo.com 952.884.88
tshowchorus.org / minneapoliscommodores.org

Who knew?

All Commodores are aware of **Wes Hatlestad's** prowess on the guitar but few knew he was a sought-after teacher. He is shown here in an archive photo pointing out the intricacies of the instrument to an early wanna-be student guitarist, **Reuben Ristrom**.

Reuben apparently learned well because he has become a famed teacher in his own right, mentoring such famous personalities as, among others, **Dan Howard**, guitar-strumming baritone of the beloved *Hut Four* quartet.

It might be said that Wes was in no small way responsible for the musical accomplishments of both Reuben and Dan. *Yes! Yes! Who knew?*



Dr. Hardin Olson, Bulletin Editor
3020 St. Albans Mill Road #109
Minnetonka, MN 55305
952/229-4525
olson118@umn.edu

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**1st CLASS
 POSTAGE
 HERE**

Neither shared with the Girl Scouts nor dumped by the Sweet Adelines.

Logo courtesy of Bob Clark

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Chapter Quartets

- EASY LISTENIN'
 Dan Slattery..... 651/747-6384
- FOUR SEASONS
 Rollie Neve.....952/470-2129
- HOT COMMODITY
 Dave Speidel.....612-437-4325
- MINNESOTA GO-4'S
 Harvey Weiss.....763/439-4447
- NOTESWORTHY
 Harvey Weiss.....763/439-4447
- SKYPE
 Mark Bloomquist.....952/541-0232
- SOUNDS of RENOWN.....VLQ
 Mark Ortenburger.....952/942-8382
- TRIPLE Q.....VLQ
 Dave Speidel.....952/941-7153
- TURNING POINT
 Judd Orff.....651/439-3108

To:

LOOKING AHEAD

Chapter Level

- August 11, Monday, **BHS Open, Elk River Golf Club**
- August 12, Tuesday, **Como Park**
- November 2, **Lakeville**
- December 7, Sunday, **Christmas Show with TCSC**
- December 9, **LDS Food Shelf Performance, Lakeville**

District Level

- October 24-25, **Fall Convention, Rochester**

International Level

**2014 Barbershopper Of The Year
 Rod Vink**

**Commodores and others *
 contributing to this issue.**

- Bob Dykstra
- Jim Erickson
- Gary Jacobson
- Denny Maas
- Rollie Neve
- Hardin Olson
- Rich Ongna
- Jim Richards
- Bill Warp
- Dan Williams
- Paul Wigley



CHORD-INATOR

1st Place
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The *Chord-Inator* is available on the Minneapolis Chapter's website **minneapoliscommodores.org** beginning with the January 2006 issue.

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 Minneapolis Chapter of SPEBSQSA
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 House of Prayer Lutheran Church
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GUESTS ALWAYS WELCOME**