

KEEPING THE  
WHOLE WORLD SINGING

# CHORD-INATOR

BARBERSHOP  
HARMONY  
SOCIETY



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 2016 - VOL.72 - NO. 8

## The capital "B" in Barbershop ... Why not?! Shouldn't PROBE be setting the example?

From **Capitalization** in the *PROBE Style Manual* ...

Barbershop -- One-word form is used in all cases related to our musical organization and singing style. The only exception is in the Society name when written in full. [The name, SPEBSQSA, in spite of the recent name change, for all legal purposes remains the official name of the Society.] The Laws & Regulations Committee has recommended that *the word be capitalized* [Italics mine] because it is a distinctive label for our organization, carrying almost the weight of a trademark or copyrighted name.

Barbershopper -- Always capitalize when used as a title before a proper name: Barbershopper Joe Dugan. *The Laws & Regulations Committee recommends it be capitalized in other instances as well.* [Italics mine]

For quite a while, I have been leading a thus-far-unsuccessful campaign in the *Chord-Inator* to promote the use of the capital "B" in all Society uses of the word "barbershop" when specifically referring to every aspect of our cherished Barbershop avocation. A cynic would suggest that no one reads our bulletin but the occasional comment, critical or otherwise, belies that fact. [See Page 2]

I, for one at least, take great pride in being a member of this unique organization and I have to assume that the members of the Laws & Regulations Committee felt the same when convening who knows how many years ago.

Critics say that the capital "B" in Barbershop is presumptuous and officious, that it is a trivial matter and unworthy of

such consideration. Some years ago I briefly entertained the subject with a staff member of the *Harmonizer*, the Society's bimonthly magazine. His view was the same, that "others" would consider the capital "B" supercilious, perhaps immodest, or at least unconventional.

But do we really care what "others" think? Would the overflow crowd that cheered the performance of seven Barbershop choruses at Como Park on July 19 feel that the singers were haughty, or condescending? I think not. They

were welcoming and appreciative of the art of Barbershop and the skill and effort of the singers who presented it and made it so enjoyable, so why not the capital "B" in Barbershop?

PROBE [Public Relations Officers Bulletin Editors] is a Society affiliate whose behind-the-scene administrative members work long and hard to promote the best interests of the Society. Virtually all chapter bulletin editors are members, working long hours to do their part in extolling the many virtues of Barbershop.

PROBE editors in their first-class quarterly bulletin, the *PROBEMoter*, are reasonably attentive to the capital "B" in Barber-

shop but could do better. Is it unreasonable to expect those editors to lead the capital "B" campaign? I think not and I hope they will take up the cause.

I have lit a number of candles in the past for other causes; I hope that this one will survive the storm.

Check out PROBE, google [probeweb.org](http://probeweb.org). (However, there has been some recent difficulty with the website.)

Let's put the  
capital  
"B"  
in Barbershop  
as the  
PROBE  
Style Manual  
recommends!

**Minneapolis, Minn. Chapter  
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 ..... Gordy Aumann 952/935-8869
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**Through 2016**

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- Lead Section Leader.....**Vacant**  
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Assistant - Matt Richards
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- 2016 Show Chairman.....Dave Speidel
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- Uniforms (Dress & Casual).....Dan Williams

**What a Month!!**

[Double exclamation points merited above ...] *By Paul Wigley, Director*



**Paul Wigley**

As the month of July, 2016, draws to an end, I look back and can say it was the most Barbershop intensive month of my life! But what a great month of Barbershop it was! It all started with another opportunity to judge the

International quartet and chorus contests in Nashville, which again were extremely close and exciting for everyone attending. You might think it would get a bit old sitting in the judging area of the International contest as this was the twelfth time I've been able to judge it. But it is always more exciting as the years go by. The competitors get better, the style of music expands, and the friendships grow stronger.

Go to **Wigley**, Page 3, Column 1



**LETTERS**

... A personal comment on your July Coordinator Editorial comments:

I wholeheartedly agree that an invitation to an LOL Youth Chorus by Doug Carnes should be made to all LOL choruses, and, any invitation to sing with the GNU chorus at the District Convention should be made to all LOL Choruses.

But, in regards to the fact that GNU sang many venues in Nashville and this should have been assigned to the outgoing championship chorus, do you know how GNU got the nod from BHS in the first place? GNU asked BHS if there was any way they could help foster singing to the local people. *GNU asked BHS. BHS did not ask GNU.* [My italics] Every member of GNU paid his own way to go to and stay in Nashville for the week, even though the chorus was not competing. I would think this is very commendable of the GNU members. And maybe *Westminster* didn't ask or want to sing around Nashville.

I heard from some of the GNU members that they heard that some other choruses have now asked BHS if they can do the same thing next year. Maybe the Minneapolis Commodores should ask BHS if they might be considered to sing around Las Vegas next year. Suppose they could muster up 60-75 members to pay their way to Nevada, even though they, may not be competing?

Just sayin'.

[**Jim Foy**, *Happiness Emporium* Bass]

*Editor's Note: My apologies to GNU and the Society's leadership. ("Ready...Fire...Aim!")*

**A July surprise...**



Huge congratulations on your PROBE Hall of Fame [Honor] award. Well deserved! Be sure to bask in every minute of it. Somewhere behind it all, however, I suspect, is the distributor of mango Gummy Bears but that I will reveal to no one. (I buy 5 lbs. at a time for Doc.) We can talk about the contribution of the *Georgia Grind* and the exceptional skill of your proofreaders when I return.

Again, congrats.

Jim [Erickson]

*Wigley from Page 2*

My Nashville experience started with Society Contest and Judging Committee meetings, where a relatively small group gets a chance to decide rules, philosophies, etc., of the various contests that the BHS C&J Committee oversees. I basically detest all meetings (just sayin'), but a committee of only six people is efficient, and these guys also end up being very close friends of mine after my three years as Music Category Specialist.

After two days of meetings, the Wednesday quarter-final quartet contest began. What a treat to have the first quartet be our very own *Chord Smash!!* [... and here ...] They were fantastic, and you would have been quite proud to say you were friends of such terrific performers (and terrific guys!). The rest of that day included performances from 57 quartets (YES, a total of 114 songs!), that ended at about 9:30 that evening. And yes ... judges do get tired after a long day like that! Thursday was quartet semi-finals day and with only twenty quartets to judge, it seemed like a walk in the park.

Friday brought us to the chorus competition, and my day began quite early doing sound checks. Luckily, the "mic-tester" chorus just happened to be *Westminster*, last year's champion. Not a bad way to start the day! The chorus contest was again wonderful, but the rendition of *Something Good* (from *The Sound of Music*) by the *Ambassadors of Harmony* just completely blew me away and earned my very highest score of the contest. And the *Ambassadors* went on to win the gold in a surprisingly clear victory. (Past years have shown that the chorus contests can come down to fractions of a percent to win.)

Saturday of International started with my last hurrah as leader of the Music Category meetings. Becky and I then had a chance to have lunch with incoming Music Category Specialist, **Steve Armstrong** and his wife. Steve has been a close friend for decades, so it's fun to be able to pass the torch

to him! Saturday night featured the quartet finals. And it was such an incredibly close contest that not even the judges had any clue whatsoever as to which foursome might be the champions. So it was as exciting for us as for the entire crowd when the winner, *Forefront*, was announced. All top-five quartets had amazing sets during the week, and it was a true pleasure to have the middle seat in the very front row ... without a doubt the best seat in the arena!

After a week back in Lakeville that was completely taken up by responding to competitors wanting e-mail evaluations of their Nashville performances, it was time to head back to ... Nashville! Category School, which is required every three years to be a certified judge, was looming. As Music Category Specialist, it was my particular job to lead the Music Judges' classes for the five-day school. I was very fortunate to have the help of an amazing Board of Review: Steve Armstrong, Kyle Kitzmiller, and Steve Tramack. These men all contributed incredible amounts of time to ensure that the school would be a success.

Category School was comprised of classes on scoring, setting scoring levels, musical unity and contrast, chords that are/are not part of the Barbershop vocabulary, advanced arranging, stylistically-controversial performances, harmonic-dictation exercises, live-quartet coaching/evaluating, and information about the new change from Presentation Category to Performance Category.

The school was most successful, and as exhausting as it was for me personally, it was also very fulfilling to hear positive feedback from the very best arrangers, coaches, and performers in the entire Barbershop Society. We are so lucky to have such a vast array of "men of good character" who are sharing their talents with all of us.

So, as you can see....July 2016 was a big, big Barbershop month for Paul Wigley!! [... and finally here.] But

probably the most unforgettable and rewarding month I will ever have in my Barbershop career. I came out of all of this with a renewed excitement for *The Minneapolis Commodores!* I want all of you to know the things we are doing are not only on the right track for improved performance, but also on the right track for being a Barbershop chapter that balances performance, camaraderie, and contributions (financially and culturally) to our local communities. Throughout all of these exciting July events, it became even clearer to me that it is GREAT to be a Commodore!

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## *From the Prez ...*

*By Gordy Aumann, President*

Our first two summer shows have been rousing successes. First we joined six other twin-cities Barbershop choruses for the annual Como Park Chorus Night in St. Paul on July 19. Next we had a Commodores-only show at the Centennial Lakes Amphitheater in Edina. We billed this show as a benefit to collect food for the Youth Link food shelf.

We have chosen the *YouthLink* organization as our charitable-giving destination this year, strongly supporting their mission of helping homeless teens and young adults in the Twin-Cities area. We were able to donate to them \$350 and a large tub of food at that performance. We also gave them a check for \$2500, as part of our annual-show receipts, to help them with their mission.

Our next shows are with the TC Show Chorus at Como on Sunday, Aug. 7, and Tuesday, Aug. 16, at the Minnetonka Civic Center Amphitheater at 6:30 p.m. for an ICA food shelf. Attendees are asked to bring a non-perishable food donation for ICA. Keep up the great singing guys. We can make a positive difference.



**Gordy Aumann**

# SUNSHINE HOTLINE



By Rich Ongna, Sunshine Chairman

Phone: 952-829-7009

Email: ddongna@usfamily.net

I apologize for missing the last issue of the Chord-Inator. As a result some of the following is old news but I felt I should print it for the benefit of those who haven't heard.



Rich Ongna

**Judith Smith, Kaleb's** mother had hip replacement surgery on July 7<sup>th</sup>. The surgery went well and she is at home recuperating.

**Neal Mortenson** tells me that former Commodore **Jack Briggs** had triple bypass surgery on June 27 and is doing well.

The Commodores extend their sympathies to the family of **Wes & Pat Hatlestad**. Pat passed away on June 26<sup>th</sup>. The late Wes Hatlestad sang in the Salty Dogs quartet, played guitar and trombone in our annual shows and was a Commodores BOTY.

The Commodores also extend their sympathies to **Larry & Kathy Nelson** in the sudden passing of Kathy's mother, Alice, at the age of 89.

The Commodores also extend their sympathies to the family of **Dave & Char Bayer**. Char passed away on June 19<sup>th</sup>. The late Dave Bayer was a past president of the Commodores as well as a BOTY.

**Glenn Aronson** has been diagnosed with colon cancer. He's having chemo treatments and is doing well according to Dave Wall. Glenn was a District Champion in 1984 with the quartet, *Special Edition*.

**Remember:** Please keep me informed about who is ailing and don't assume that I already know because

## Happy Birthday

- 08/10 Pete Jarnberg
- 08/13 Rob Hartert
- 08/15 Kirk Douglas
- 08/17 Denny Rolloff
- 08/18 Mike Hojan
- 08/20 Chuck Guthrie
- 08/21 Kathy Williams
- 08/23 Lynnay Wanggaard
- 08/24 Dave Speidel
- 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

## Happy Anniversary

- 08/10 Guy & Terry Jean St. Martin
- 08/11 Bob & Pat Griffith
- 08/12 Lance & Janet Johnson
- 08/14 Bob & Brenda Duncan
- 08/14 Rod & Doris Hall
- 08/16 Dave & Linda Speidel
- 08/20 Doug & Connie Miller
- 08/20 Dan & Karen True
- 08/22 Glenn & Shirley Retter
- 08/24 Bob & Nancy Dillon
- 08/26 Gary & Marilyn Jacobson
- 09/05 LeRoy & DiAnn Zimmerman
- 09/07 Andy & Nancy Cook
- 09/09 Richard & Marge Riemenschneider

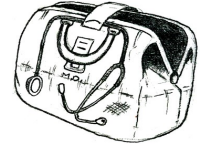


### July Reenlistments

- Matt Richards.....3 yrs.
- Andy Cook.....4 yrs.
- Don Bartals.....6 yrs.

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.

## Doc's Bag



By Dr. Hardin Olson, Editor

As I watched the Annette Kisser video of the Commodores' performance at Como on July 19, I can't tell you how proud I was of our chorus. They were having fun and singing quite well. It is amazing how good they sound when your Editor is not on stage with them (Should that be telling me something?).



Hardin Olson

And how fortunate it is that the Commodores and other Twin City-area Barbershop Society and Sweet Adelines chapters have another willing and able videographer. Annette's work at Como was quite well received and much appreciated.

\*\*\*\*\*

I was surprised and might I say shocked, when I heard that I had been named to the PROBE *Hall of Honor*. PROBE tends to be a rather behind-the-scenes affiliate of the Barbershop Harmony Society and to be so honored is virtually beyond belief.

Its *Hall of Honor* has just over 50 names on its rolls, most unfamiliar to the average Barbershopper but occasionally a name like **Grady Kerr**, the hard-working Society Historian, can be found. **Dick Teeters**, longtime St Paul Barbershopper and former International Bulletin Contest winner, is a member.

I have a sneaking suspicion that it was Dick who initially offered my name for induction into the Hall and if so I owe him my heartfelt thanks. If not so, I must say that it is an honor to have become one of his more recent peers.

\*\*\*\*\*

My friend and yours, **Mark Orten-**  
Go to **Bag**, Page 5, Column 1

*Bag from Page 4*

**burger**, has suggested the following hanger for my membership badge to memorialize my entry into the PROBE Hall of Honor. I really appreciate Mark's yeoman effort, the long hours to come up with the appropriate sentiment, and the obvious pride with which he undertook the effort in the first place.

It is just routine but I have sent the file to my three nit-picking proofreaders for their perusal before sending it to the badge maker. I want it to be perfect in every way. (That is why my proofreaders get the big bucks.)

Thank you, Mark, for your support. I shall forever be in your debt.

\*\*\*\*\*

Recall that in last month's issue I said that some of Jim Richards' data files were not yet available to us. Jim's birthday and anniversary files were kept up to date and each month he supplied me with the appropriate birth and anniversary dates for the Chord-Inator.

I have last year's files but members joining in the last year or so are not on those lists. Therefore if you are a newer member please be sure that I have your birth & anniversary dates.

**Hadden Olson**  
**2016 Orner**  
**PROBE Hall of Honor**  
**An affiliate of the BHS**  
**(beerbershop Harmony Society)**

**Barbershop!**  
**"B"**  
**Forever**

**It's not too late!**  
**9th Annual BHS Open Monday, August 8, 2016**  
**SCRAMBLE FORMAT to benefit Harmony Foundation**  
**Elk River Country Club**  
**Register NOW at [bhsopen.com](http://bhsopen.com)**



Combined Area Chorus at Como—July 19, 2016

Diana Pinard Photo



Commodores on stage at Como - July 19

Annette Kisser Video Screen Shot

**"Holiday Sleigh Ride"**  
**Minneapolis Commodores & Twin Cities Show Chorus**  
**December 4, 2016**  
**Bloomington Jefferson High School - 3:00 p.m.**



## Centennial Lakes - July 25



**UNDER 35 (with ringer far right)**



All Centennial photos thanks to  
Diana Pinard.



Gordy Aumann presents a check for \$2500 to YouthLink's Frances Roan. Another \$350 came from freewill donations.



**CHORD SMASH**



**SWYPE**



**HOT COMMODITY**



**BOMP**



"How the heck do we get out of here?"



"First, let's unhook the trailer!"

# Smile, say cheese..

If you haven't seen the YouTube clips of the Como Park Barbershop concert on July 19 you will have missed a terrific video of the entire performance by, **Annette Kissler**, a City of Lakes Sweet Adeline.



Annette

This lady is a photographer extraordinaire (especially with the video camera) who particularly enjoys recording Barbershop performances be they Society or Sweet Adeline. (See below)

If your chapter could use her expertise, Annette's e-mail is :

[annette@grandmannette.com](mailto:annette@grandmannette.com)

To quote from her response to my request for the above photograph:

I would be honored to have something published because if someone is looking for a YouTube clip from earlier years folks would have one more place to check for it.

I am a true believer in preserving in pictures and videos the happenings of the day. I cherish data I have, just wish I had more from my early life, specifically of my father. He was one who ran from the camera so there are few pics of him.

And here is Annette's play list for *Barbershop at Como—July 19, 2016*.

All are for public viewing:

Intro to Barbershop at Como  
<https://youtu.be/M01omop7VeA>

A - NORTHSTAR CHORUS

<https://youtu.be/t3T3jJtFGs>

B - MINNETONKA CLIPPERS

<https://youtu.be/giNJXiADsjo>

C - LAKELANDERS CHORUS

[https://youtu.be/LoE05lj\\_jF8](https://youtu.be/LoE05lj_jF8)

D - SINGING SAINTS

[https://youtu.be/\\_Us3sBQ9dqE](https://youtu.be/_Us3sBQ9dqE)

E - CROIX CHORDSMEN

<https://youtu.be/4GHa5XZ15w8>

F - MINNEAPOLIS COMMODORES

<https://youtu.be/JePKpR1cXiU>

G - GT. NORTH'N UNION CHORUS

<https://youtu.be/mr2dn0fTIM0>

H - ALL CHORUS MASS SING

<https://youtu.be/2zILO29q3f0>

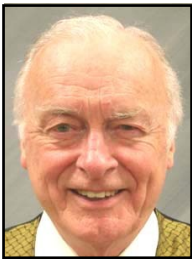


THE MINNEAPOLIS COMMODORES

From Annette Kissler Videos

## Jim Richards Memorial Chord Candy #3

Submitted by Gary Jacobson



Dr. Jim Richards

Doc Hardin asked me to provide a tag for the *Chord-Inator*. I cannot do the job Jim Richards did as *Der Tagmeister* ... but here is my attempt. This is one of Earl Moon's tags, "the popular version." Baritones are the stars on this tag which makes sense since Earl was a baritone himself. I can't analyze or spell the chords as Jim did, but I can encourage you to grab three other guys and sing it. Jim, we miss you!

*Editor's Note: Any of our readers who wish to submit a tag for this column are invited to do so. A Finalé, or similar rendition, or even a clearly handwritten score on a pre-printed system are acceptable. Written introductions, as above, are also encouraged.*



Gary Jacobson

Musical score for "In a ging-ham gown, she stole my heart a-way, a-way." The score is in 2/4 time with a tempo of 60. It features a treble and bass staff with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "In a ging-ham gown, she stole my heart a-way, a-way. she stole my heart a-way,"

*Editor's Note: Jim Erickson is no doubt best known for his whimsical and some would say his unique style of reportorial prose. Some readers may disregard it totally but most often there is leit motif of thoughtful and meaningful discourse. The following piece is a prime example so I would encourage you to take off your prejudgmental hat, sit back and read his latest work. You will appreciate it.*

## Georgia Grind

By Jim Erickson, Beer Taster Bari,

As I said last article, next I will write from **Leinie Lodge**, home of the once-



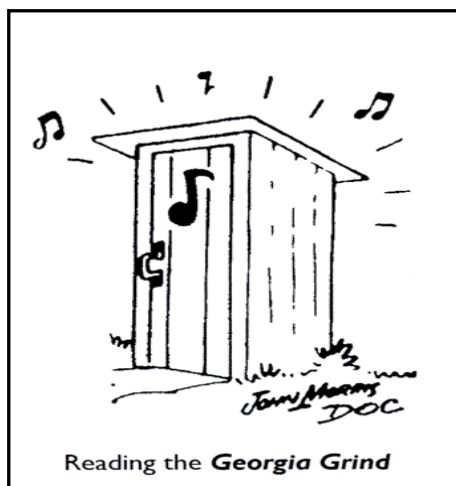
Jim Erickson

local, now nationally, famous **Leinenkugel's Beer**. And so I am doing just that. Sitting with my laptop on my lap in one of the overstuffed, huge leather chairs facing the magnificent, four-sided, stone fireplace that reaches high into the barn-volume resemblance of an old time resort lodge. Timbers everywhere, **Duncan Creek** running rapidly by, glimpses of the actual location and buildings of the original brewery just across the creek, and stuffed with historical pictures and artifacts of much earlier brewing days. For a moderate charge you receive a small glass with which to sample some of the various Leinenkugel beers. And then keep the sampling glass!

With the aroma of the amber ambrosia wafting into my nostrils, it is difficult to think about the serious business of fulfilling my duty to award-winning, hall of famer, (but cranky and demanding) **Doc Hardin Olson**. Perhaps I could spend some time as a diversion touching all the merchandise like the Leinies biking shirts, hoodies, jackets, cribbage sets, glassware, caps and, you know, all the kinds of Leinie-related things tourists snap up in big bunches. Maybe that would allow me to focus on pushing

some words around. Or maybe scan the neon Leinies signs or flags. Or. Wait, there's an attractive woman over there modeling for her friends some Leinies leotardy, bottoms. I'm not sure I approve such a display of a comely figure but my approval will depend upon some extended observation before my judgment is rendered. Oh man! I can't write under these conditions. Distraction! Distraction!

Distraction! OK, I am now in a nicely appointed, somewhat secluded Leinies-Lodge nook. Fairly quiet, with the occasional rush of water, but almost no other distractions. Just one flush away from further inter-



Reading the *Georgia Grind*

ruption, but maybe I can make this work. Now let's see. Where to start?

Time to switch gears a bit here. To talk about something just a bit more serious. That is, about *dementia*. Although many would affirm that I have some form of dementia, the more common type is not to what they are referring.

That more common type is what I am referencing from an article in *The Costco Connection* magazine, June 2016, by Steve Fisher. In it he talks about the dementia that destroys memories. That destroys one's abilities and undermines the human experience. If you have been spared having an acquaintance, friend, co-worker, or just plain family, suffer from dementia, you have been lucky. But, I would venture you are still painfully aware of the conse-

quences of dementia.

As I'm sure you know, many in nursing homes experience varying degrees of dementia. Slowly they slip into their own shrinking world becoming harder to reach in any manner. My wife, **Mary**, used to play the piano weekly for the residents of the nursing home where my mother was living. Some would request a favorite song, hum along and just enjoy the many songs. But there were a few who would be wheeled near the piano and would just sit without any visible recognition of anything going on. That is, until Mary would start to play. In moments, they would lift their head ever so slightly, and express the tiniest flash of presence. Then it would grow a bit and soon a finger or toe would begin to tap in time to the music. The more lively the song, maybe a **Sousa March**, the more animated the motion. Now please understand that I am not saying they stood up and marched around the room or any such thing. But they did display that a basic connection of recognition had been made and that connection, my friends, was music.

Steve Fisher wrote that the search for a cure, of course, goes on, but that in the meantime, people look for ways to ease the anxiety and lifelessness dementia causes. One way was by the use of individualized music for dementia patients. With the help of volunteers, musical tastes of those with dementia are investigated through interviews with the patient's friends and family. Plus, recorded music is played to a patient to see what might spark a reaction. Then a personalized list is assembled and loaded onto an iPod for the patient's listening.

**Dan Cohen**, a social worker by training, has started **Music & Memory** ([musicandmemory.org](http://musicandmemory.org)) to "bring personalized music into lives of the elderly or infirm through digital music technology, vastly improving quality of life." It promotes the use of such individualized music delivery in nursing homes, assisted-care facilities, and private homes.

Go to *Grind*, Page 9, Column 1



**Grind from Page 8**

“It’s not just that the music helps people feel better,” explains Cohen. “It helps people communicate more because music and our ability to speak are integral.” Patients exposed to personalized music can articulate better.” It comforts and relaxes them, even hours after the music has ended. And swallowing, for advanced dementia patients, seems to go easier, too, with the presence of music. Cohen thinks the music works for about three-fourths of the time and wonders if for the other fourth, the music a particular person loves, has just not been figured out.

So what does this have to do with Barbershoppers? Well, with the constantly changing songs we hear, learn, memorize, practice and the like, we will have a treasure trove of

music to choose from if we ever fall into the grasp of dementia. And as a sideline, perhaps the music we sing will go someday to soothe some dementia patients and kindle a spark of connection with their circumstance. And even for those aging who are not facing dementia but like to have familiar music in their everyday life, our offerings may be just the variety they need.

Something else, for you (and me) as Barbershoppers, may be the stimulation and challenge the brain welcomes when we learn new songs, techniques, form of expression, memorization, and enjoy the efforts and exhilaration of performance, perhaps even forestalling the onset of dementia.

It may be, however, some time before the facts are in on whether

crossword puzzles, brain games, exercise, singing, and all of the other methods of possible brain exertion have a meaningful effect on combating the problem. But in the meantime, just the pleasure and enjoyment of creating music and listening to it, is, to me, worth every note.

So, finally the finale! Sing! Bring some needed balance to your life! Sing with a lively group of Barbershoppers. Men like the Minneapolis Commodores. And if you are a Commodore, make, and act on, that Barbershopper Bucket List. Hold fast to that which is good, too, and know that the research on the origins of the **Georgia Grind** continues apace.



**EarthLink News**

*Editor’s Note: The following is a response to a letter from the Minneapolis Chapter’s Altruistic Programs Chairman, Denny Maas. The takeaway remains that although YouthLink will undertake a limited campaign to stimulate interest in our activities, be they ticketed shows or pro bono performances, it behooves every Commodore to promote our Barbershop genre by actively soliciting new patrons and supporting the Commodores outreach activities. We cannot allow Barbershop to remain the “world’s best-kept secret.”*



In regard to promoting the show, I always believe there are opportunities for improvement, and also want to make sure that the Commodores understand what may be limiting about YouthLink’s social media and print platforms.

The majority of our social media followers are young professionals, ages 23-40, living in the Minneapolis area who are most responsive to our events with food trucks, brewing companies, or activities happening in and around the downtown area when posted on social media. Donors and community members who receive our print newsletter are a more varied group with an average age of about 55 years.

Even for YouthLink specific events – like our Executive Sleep Out – we don’t spend a great deal of time advertising on social media or newsletters because either the audience isn’t a match or the format isn’t a match. We often end up spending marketing dollars to advertise in the Business

Journals, the Chamber newsletters, and others to get the word out about events depending on our specific audience.

Perhaps what is best to do in regard to future shows is to learn more about your typical ticket purchasers, and see if we might have some connections outside YouthLink that could be helpful to drive ticket sales and also help introduce new people to YouthLink. Danae Hudson, copied above, could work with you to schedule a call to discuss further if you are interested.

Warmly,

Frances D. Roen

Director of Development and Communications



Thank you, Denny, for sending this wonderful letter in support of young people! We are so grateful for your passion, and thoughtfulness on this issue!

I have copied our Communications Coordinator, Danae Hudson, on this e-mail and we will keep our eye out to see if it is published. Please let us know if and when you see it.

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**1st CLASS  
POSTAGE  
HERE**

All copy and photos herein without a byline, as well as those opinions and commentaries under his by-line, are the sole responsibility of the *Chord-Inator* Editor and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Minneapolis Chapter Board or its officers.

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

*Logo courtesy of Bob Clark*

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**Chapter Quartets**

- BOMP
- Dan Cole.....612/940-4554
- CHORD SMASH
- James Estes.....612/237-3234
- EASY LISTENIN'
- Dan Slattery.....651/747-6384
- HOT COMMODITY
- Dave Speidel.....612/437-4325
- RING IT ON
- Andy Richards.....651/639-9313
- RIVER CITY QUARTET
- John Chouinard.....651/343-4145
- MINNESOTA GO-4's
- Harvey Weiss.....763/439-4447
- RANDOM SAMPLE
- Darrell Egertson.....952/943-8737
- SWYPE
- Mark Bloomquist.....952/541-0232
- SOUNDS of RENOWN (VLQ)
- Mark Ortenburger.....952/942-8382

**To:**

**LOOKING AHEAD**

- August 7, Sunday, **Lake Como with TC Show Chorus**
- August 16, Tuesday, **Minnetonka 6:30**
- November 13, Sunday, **Messiah Methodist Church, Plymouth, for IOCP Foodshelf**
- December 4, Sunday - **Christmas Show with Twin City Show Chorus**
- April 1, 2017 - **Annual Show with special guests, Main Street**
- March 9, 2017, Thursday, **Coon Rapids Dessert/Coffee performance, 7:00 p.m./**

**2015 Barbershopper Of The Year**  
***Rich Ongna***

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

- Gordy Aumann
- Jim Erickson
- Jim Foy
- Gary Jacobson
- Hardin Olson
- Rich Ongna
- Frances Roan\*
- Bill Warp
- Paul Wigley

**District Level**

- October 21-22, 2016 - **2016 Fall LOL District Convention**

**International Level**

- January 17-22, 2017, **Midwinter Convention, San Antonio, Texas**
- July 2-8, 2017, **International Convention, Las Vegas, Nevada**

**CHORD-INATOR**  
*1st Place*  
**2013 PROBE HARD-COPY INTERNATIONAL BULLETIN CONTEST**

**PROBE Hall of Honor**  
**Dr. Hardin Olson**  
**2016**



The *Chord-Inator* is available on the Minneapolis Chapter's website [minneapoliscommodores.org](http://minneapoliscommodores.org) beginning with the January 2006 issue.

**CHORD-INATOR**  
**MINNEAPOLIS COMMODORES**  
**Minneapolis Chapter of SPEBSQSA**  
**MEETING EVERY TUES -7:00 p.m.**  
**House of Prayer Lutheran Church**  
**7625 Chicago Ave. S.**  
**Richfield, MN 55423**  
**GUESTS ALWAYS WELCOME**