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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

FEBRUARY 2018- VOL. 74- NO. 2

'T WAS ST. CROIX CROSSING IN COSTA MESA!

Poise ... Polish ... Perseverance

The Scene: The *Segerstrom Center for the Arts Concert Hall* in Costa Mesa, California. **The Event:** The Barbershop Harmony Society's 2018 *International Seniors Quartet Contest*. **The**

Time: Late morning of Saturday, January 20. The third quartet to perform, *Easy Street*, had led off with *A Chocolate Sundae On a Saturday Night*, concluding with *Always*, both beautifully rendered in classic Barbershop style. Obviously the contest bar had then been set at a lofty height.

St. Croix Crossing had drawn the 21st slot (out of 25) and had to cool their pipes for three hours or so before taking the stage. We LOLers in the audience, I felt sure, were all apprehensive and a little anxious, a few having attended one or more of the past contests in which SCC had won four previous medals (two 2nd, a 4th, and a 5th).

But rookies no longer—now seasoned veterans—they at last took the stage and were taken aback by the enthusiastic reaction of the audience. (They had been surprised earlier by the numbers of total strangers at the airports and at the hotels and other venues who had approached them with kind words of encouragement.)

Eschewing the time-worn format of one up-tune and one

ballad, the boys elected to go with two ballads, *Smilin' Through* and *Auld Land Syne* ... and did they perform! The audience responded with a rousing ovation, many standing to do so.



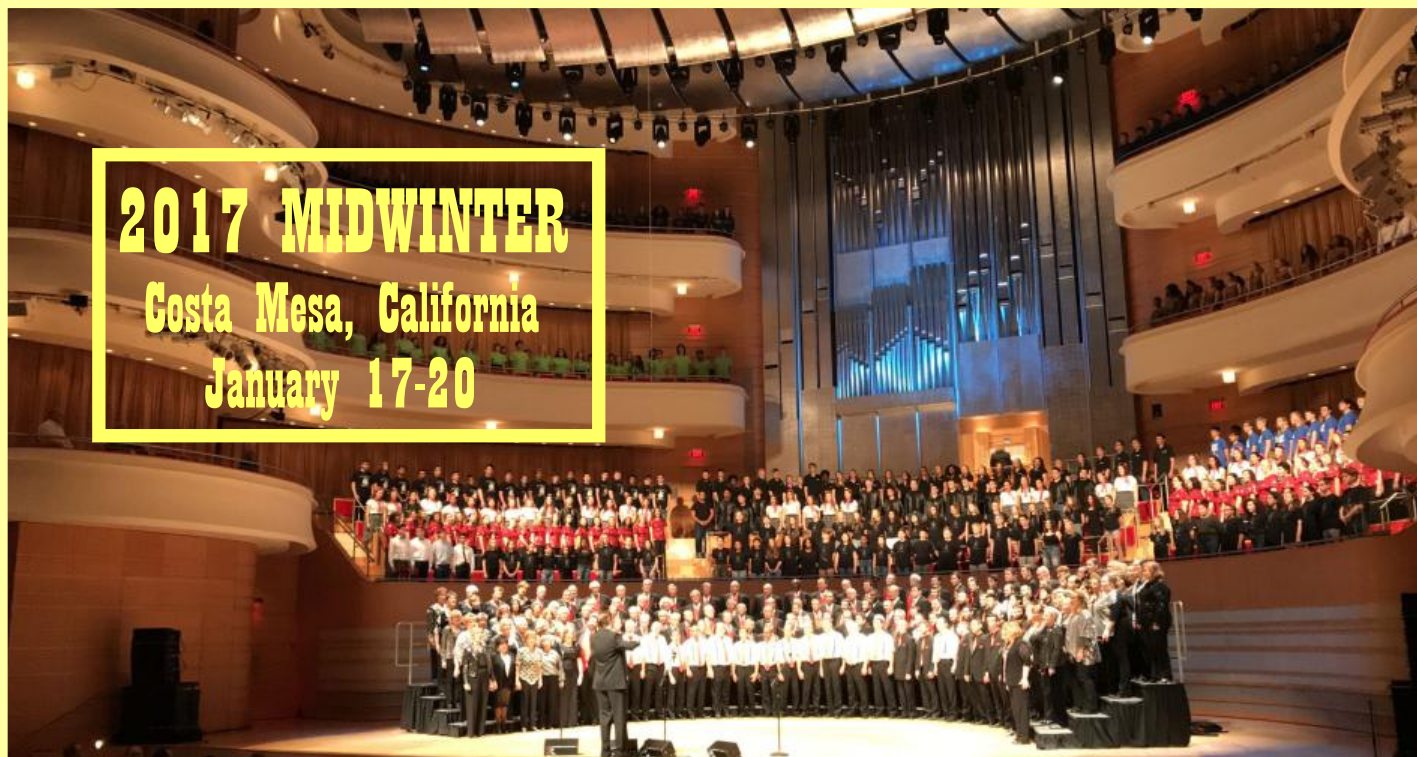
Four most happy fellas, *St. Croix Crossing*, from left: Tenor Randy Lieble, Lead Dan Heike, Bass Jared Hoke, and Baritone Steve Hardy. Staff Photo

Four more quartets and then the interminable waiting and finally the announcements, 5th Place, *Spotlight*, 4th Place, *Renaissance*, 3rd-Place, *Unfinished Business*, 2nd-place, *Easy Street* ...

[**Sidebar:** Earlier that morning Judy and I had attended the *Gold Medal Hour* with *Main Street* where **Tony DeRosa** reminisced about some of his

quartet's experiences including awaiting the results of the 2017 International Quartet Contest. They had placed third in the 2016 contest and were hoping to at least win 3rd-Place again. So, when 3rd-place was announced *sans* Main Street, Tony thought, "Oh, Oh, 6th-Place." And then when 2nd-Place was announced, and still no Main Street, he was almost sure it would be 6th-Place, but the Barbershop gods prevailed and Main Street garnered the gold. Needless to say, my fears about *St. Croix Crossing* finishing without a medal were, happily, groundless.]

Thus, all's well that ends well. *St. Croix Crossing* arrived home with the gold—along with loads of flashing smiles!



The Saturday night Grand Finale, 700 voices singing *Battle Hymn of the Republic* accompanied by the Great Organ.



The *Hurricane of Harmony Chorus* from Gaither High School in Tampa, Florida, directed by Debbie Cleveland, two-time Sweet Adeline Queen of Harmony. Her chorus won a Superior rating and the Audience Appreciation Award, and she, the Music Educator of the Year Award.



The *Grandview High School Supermen Chorus* from Aurora, Colorado, directed by Darin Drown, who also directed *The Superwomen* (Page 3) from the same school. Both choruses were rated Superior, the highest score possible. Director Drown is, not surprisingly, a long-time Barbershopper.



Prairie Chords from *Saskatchewan High Schools and Universities (LOL Dist.)*, directed by Justin La



Main Street on stage Saturday night.



2017 silver medalists *Signature* from left: Will Rodriguez, Daniel Cochrane, Matt Clancy, and Dan Walz. (Lead Daniel has a magnificent voice and a range to match.)



Well now, what do we do with this thing?



Society CEO Marty Monson at Saturday's Town Hall.



Harmony Foundation CEO Perry White and his wife Dalene. Perry spoke at the Saturday Town Hall.



*Main Street ... up close and personal at Saturday's Gold Medal Hour with Main Street: Mike McGee - baritone, Myron Whittlesey - bass, Tony DeRosa - lead, and Roger Ross - tenor. They concluded the hour performing Clay Hine's *Smile*, arranged specially for Main Street, and assuring the gold medals. To hear it without amplification from a dozen feet away was priceless. THANK YOU, MAIN STREET!*

All
photos
Pages
1-4
by
Staff



Vintage Mix in concert at our Afterglow. From left: Julia, Kelsey, Ian, and Anika (The Shoppach Quads.)



The Commodore contingent in Santa Rosa at their Saturday night *Afterglow*: Back row from the left Your editor, Hardin Olson, Dan Cole, Lance and Janet Johnson, Randy and Stephanie Klopffleisch, Bill and Marsha Shaw. Front row: Sheila Cole, Judy Olson, LOL District President Dan True, and Paul Swanson.

Two, among many, of the outstanding Midwinter performances, involved Tim Waurick, one when he gave the Keynote address on Thursday, and the other when he performed with his quartet, the 2006 Int'l Champions, *Vocal Spectrum* on Saturday. Tim's Barbershop odyssey with what he has endured, is nothing less than amazing.



The Grandview High School Superwomen Chorus from Aurora, Colorado with Director Darin Drown



The St. Louis Park Middle School Chorus from St. Louis Park, Minnesota, under the direction of Douglas Carnes. Although not an official representative of the Land O'Lakes District, the chorus, through the efforts of parents and friends, was able to raise the funds necessary to get the kids to California (and back). Doug Carnes, who also serves as the artistic director of the *Great Northern Union (Barbershop) Chorus*, also put out the call to Twin City-area Barbershop chapters who responded generously to the request. The 50 or so guys and gals pictured were having a memorable time that they won't soon forget and hopefully some of the Barbershop (a cappella?) seeds sewn on that stage will take root.

Raising the Bar

By Paul Wigley, Director

The past few weeks I have come home from chorus Tuesday evenings feeling absolutely fantastic! We have been working on style, musicality, nuance, contrast within songs, in addition to vocal production and technique. These are the elements that Tuesday night rehearsals are designed to enhance! To those of you in attendance, it is obvious that a lot of work has been done to get new music learned, and to get old music tidied up ... outside of Tuesday night. The extra work is letting me, as a director, get to the essence of music-making. Hence, my feelings of elation after these evenings.

It has also been noted during rehearsals that there is a much more consistent vocal quality developing among Commodore singers. That consistence in vocal technique has also manifested itself in more consistent, in-tune singing. Also, having the ability to adjust vocal color and vocal timbre allows us to create music that is interesting. I've always been frustrated by choral groups that seem to think they have *their sound* ... yet everything they sing sounds the same! Music has different styles and themes, and singers need to adjust their vocal



Paul Wigley

Pitch Pipe Perfect!

... the 2018 annual show

By Blake Wanger, President (& thespian)

Preparations for this year's annual show are in full swing and the excitement is building! The show, titled *Pitch Pipe Perfect*, will be the Commodores' homage to popular, reality-singing competitions like *Sing Off*, *The Voice* and *American Idol*, as well as the popular *Pitch Perfect* movie series. During the show the Commodores will perform in not one, but two choruses, competing in a series of musi-



Blake Wanger

production accordingly. We do NOT sing *The Way You Look Tonight* with the same style that we sing *Country Roads*. It doesn't take a genius to figure that out!

This ability to tweak style of vocal timbre is another reason I'm so excited about the upcoming annual show. The Show Committee (led by **Matt Richards**) has done a marvelous job of giving us music with a lot of variety. We have the vocal ability to clearly define that variety in a musical way, which really pumps me up!

These adjustments, phrasing differences, and vocal technique shifts are

cal challenges, incorporating over a half-dozen chapter quartets and small ensembles to settle the score and determine which chorus will be Pitch Pipe Perfect champions.

The show committee has been hard at work behind the scenes and the script is nearing its final form. Our members are mastering their music and marketing materials are being distributed. For a number of reasons this is going to be an extremely entertaining and exciting show.

The Songs: Over the course of the show, the Commodores will be performing a wide range of musical sources including old crooner classics, rock'n roll, country, Disney, Broadway, movies, spirituals, Barbershop classics and more. The show includes songs by *Queen*, *El Go to Perfect*, *Page 5*, *Column 3*

the things we are working on in rehearsals—not just pounding notes. For those of you that have been present, thank you for your terrific work. For those of you that have had conflicts, we get it. But Tuesday nights are providing some rewarding musical moments already. The joy of being a member of the Minneapolis Commodores is sharing those musical moments with a community that simply wants one thing—to make great music together. I thank you all for the great work you're doing.

It's going to be a great show and it's great to be a Commodore!

SUNSHINE HOTLINE



By, Mark Bloomquist, Sunshine
Chairman

Andy Cook is over two weeks post-surgery for his knee replacement. You can see his smiling face at rehearsals sitting to the side of the risers, joining us in song, but not yet into choreography. He is rehabbing steadily and hopefully will be on the risers soon.



Mark Bloomquist

Kaleb Smith has been experiencing abdominal pain and is going through diagnostics to determine the source. A CT-scan and other procedures have been done to determine the as yet unknown cause. An ultrasound study is pending. Kaleb and

his family would appreciate your thoughts and prayers.

On February 13, **Jeannie Bloomquist** ends her radiation therapy, which followed chemotherapy and a bilateral mastectomy. It has been a long, but successful journey as she no longer has any detectable cancer cells. Jeannie has appreciated all the support from the Commodores along the way.

Al Matchinsky is undergoing some cardiac tests, including an angiogram that will take place on Tuesday Feb. 13. Let's keep Al in our thoughts and prayers.

Our hearts go out to the family of **Lois Wiley Beierman** who passed away earlier this month. She was a 42-year Sweet Adeline, survived by her husband Wayne Beierman. Lois was formerly married to our own Alan Matchinsky and is mother to Tom Matchinsky. They, and their families, welcome our prayers.

Doc's Bag



By Dr. Hardin Olson, Editor

The *Wanger Administration* seems to be firing on all cylinders. **Eric Nelson** is warming to the Program VP position and **Jim Norman** is picking up on the finer points of the Membership VP office. It's going to be a good year.

On Thursday, February 8, I had a long phone conversation with **Gary Rogness**. His last three scans have shown continued regression of his tumors and the one in his lung is no longer visible. His doctors have been quite pleased with the results of his particular regimen of chemotherapy.

However, due to the problem of extremely low magnesium levels in his system, Gary has been switched to a different regimen which hopefully will continue the positive response.

Reach Gary at: 507/990-2000
glrogness@yahoo.com or
4119 7th Place NW
Rochester, MN 55901

Dinner after the show with *Instant Classic!*

Join us for the Afterglow, immediately following *Pitch Pipe Perfect* on April 14. We're back at Grumpy's this year, just a couple miles from Bethel, south on Snelling.

Dinner will be served this year (it will be dinner time, after all), and our guest quartet, 2015 International Champions **Instant Classic**, will be sure to please.

The cost remains \$20.00, which includes a full taco bar, with beef, chicken, fajita veg mix, and all the fixings. There will also be a cash bar. (A full bar, including domestic and premium beer.)

Call me for tickets.

Thanks.

Andy Richards
richards.andy@comcast.net
651-500-2737

Jim Bagby, in his letter to me on Page 8 is responding to a request I made for anecdotes about the Rural Route 4 about which I said, "Your recollections would add some *much needed class* to the Chord-Inator." Happily, he survived the shock and submitted a most welcome piece.

Perfect from Page 4

ton John, John Denver, George M. Cohen, the Beach Boys, Steve Allen and so many more popular artists.

The Singers: Of course our show features the wonderful *Minneapolis Commodore Chorus*, as well as many of our chapter quartets and small ensembles and our special guest quartet, the 2015 International Quartet Champions, the phenomenal *Instant Classic!*

Featured groups from within the Commodores include quartets *Easy Listenin'*, *SWYPE*, *Hall Pass*, *Just One More*, *Bomp*, and new quartet, *Silver Screen*. Also performing are ensembles *Under the Hill* and Commodore members of the *Northern Pines Harmony Brigade*. In addition to the great vocal music, instrumental offerings will once again be provided by *The Rockin' Dore's*, a collection of chapter members who were first seen performing at last year's annual show.

The Story: What could be more exciting than two electrifying *a cappella* ensembles (both played by the Commodores) and a bevy of quartets and small groups engaging in a musical competition positively overloaded with energy. Which chorus will be crowned Pitch Pipe Perfect Champions? The only way to find out is to get your ticket to join our live studio audience.

The Surprises: The show is going to be full of twists and turns and surprises including ... of course we aren't actually going to tell you what the surprises are, but trust us, there are some big ones. The only way to find out what the surprises are is to get a ticket to join our "live studio audience" at Benson Great Hall at Bethel University on April 14, 2018 at 3pm. For tickets, visit www.minneapoliscommodores.com or you may contact **Diana Pinard** at pinardbbs@q.com or 612/927-9363.

Hope to see you on April 14th!

Wanted: Co-editor to assist with the Chord-Inator and prepare to assume the Editorship later this year. Salary negotiable. Inquire:

olson118@umn.edu

**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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Past Pres.Denny Maas 952/447-8012
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VP Music /Perform.... Carl Pinard 612/927-9363
VP Membership.....Jim Norman 612/242-9330
Program VP.....Eric Nelson 612/47-2380
Secretary.....Bill Warp 763/531-2290
TreasurerJohn Carlotto 952/925-0886

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Through 2018/19

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Kim Ward (Community Rep.).....763/413-9273

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Assistant Directors: Gary Jacobson (on leave),
Davie Speidel, Dave Bechard

Section Leaders

Tenor Section LeaderRollie Neve
Lead Section Leader.**Vacant**
Assistant - Dan Smith

Bari Section LeadersDave Speidel
Assistant - Matt Richards

Bass Section Leaders.....Dave Casperson

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Audio/Visual Mgr.....Kirk Douglas
2016 Show Chairman.....Dave Speidel
2017 Show Chairman.....Dan Cole
2018 Show Chairman.....Matt Richards
Afterglow Chairman.....Andy Richards
Attendance/Sgt.-at-Arms.....**Vacant**
BOTY Party Chairman.....Mark Ortenburger
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Chorus Manager.....Dan Slattery

Assistant - Neal Mortenson

Chorus Performance Managers.....John Lloyd
.. Bob Ostergaard
Harvey Weiss

Grants Research.....**Vacant**

Group Organizer Administrator.....Matt Richards

Harmony Foundation.....**Vacant**

Historian.....**Vacant**

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Librarian.....Carl Pinard

Name TagsDan Slattery

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Northern Pines Brigade President.....Dave Speidel

Performance Mgr.....Paul Swanson

Presentation Chairman.....Dan True

Quartet Promotion.....Gary Jacobson

Riser Boss(temp).....Dan Cole

Roster (pending)Andy Richards

Singing Valentines.....Neal Mortenson

Sunshine.....Mark Bloomquist

Swipe EditorBill Warp

Tickets/A-Commodore President.....Diana Pinard

Transportation Mgr.....Dick Hartmann

Uniform Committee Chairman.....**Vacant**



January Reenlistments

Anthony Lapakko.....4 yrs.
Kaleb Smith.....8 yrs.
Eric Traband.....12 yrs.
Mike Hoyan.....13 yrs.
Bryan Langren.....13 yrs.
Bob Duncan.....14 yrs.
Bill Warp.....15 yrs.
Steve Daniel.....18 yrs.
Dan Cole.....19 yrs.
Dale Lynch.....20 yrs.
Travis Wuttke.....20 yrs.
Kevin Huyck.....21 yrs.

Terry McClellan.....21 yrs.
Dan Krekelberg.....23 yrs.
Chuck McKown.....31 yrs.
Dan True.....32 yrs.
Denny Rolloff.....36 yrs.
Carl Pinard.....37 yrs.
Paul Wigley.....40 yrs.
Ray Ensrud.....42 yrs.
Jim Jorgensen.....46 yrs.
Roger Meyer.....46 yrs.
Jim Foy.....49 yrs.
Dan Slattery.....49 yrs.
Lawrence Smalley*.....50 yrs.
Gary Jacobson.....53 yrs.
Bill Shaw, Jr.55 yrs.
Randy Klopffleisch.....58 yrs.
Thurm Slack.....60 yrs.

* Commodore South



BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

Chapter members are always welcome to attend the Board meetings.

From the meeting of February 8

By Bill Warp, Secretary

• **Membership:** How to attract new visitors and encourage their returning was discussed at length. How to reduce "riser shock" and the angst produced when encountering the current repertoire, being the major considerations, commensurate with how to enhance the social aspects of our chapter meetings.



Bill Warp

• **Music and Performance:** Our 2018 competition vehicles remain *This Could be the Start of Something Big* and *The Way You Look Tonight* with directors **David Speidel** and **David Beshard** respectively.

Two pre-fall-contest retreats are in the works, the first being on Saturday, August 18.

A food-shelf performance has been scheduled for Sunday, March 4 at Faith Presbyterian Church in Minnetonka.

Happy Birthday

02/10 Kristen Lambert
02/14 Harlan Mellem (86)
02/15 Dan Cole
02/15 Jerry Koch
02/21 Terry McClellan
02/26 Bob Dykstra
02/27 Dan Williams
03/01 Kaleb Smith
03/02 Rosie Glover
03/02 Dick Riemenschneider
03/05 Bonnie Black Gribble
03/05 Denny Maas
03/06 Mark Bloomquist
03/07 Catherine Lloyd
03/08 Jeni Born

Happy Anniversary

02/12 Pete & Judi Jarnberg
02/15 Terry & Linda McClellan
02/19 Jim & Karen McCarville
01/27 Walter & Laura Dawson

The Commodores will sing *Country Roads*, *Crazy Little Thing Called Love* and *Yes, Indeed* at the all-area-chapter summer concert at Como.

• **Annual Show:** The preparations for *Pitch Pipe Perfect* are falling into place. A mailer has been posted and posters are about finished. Tickets will be available by month's end.

The ad campaign is underway with prices the same as last year. **SELL!**

Next meeting March 15 at Wooddale Lutheran.

**Capital "B" in
Barbershop?
Why not?**

Georgia Grind

By Jim Erickson, Bathing Baritone

"Eureka! Eureka! I have found it." That was supposed to be what **Archimedes** cried as he



Jim Erickson

jumped in the nude from his bath and ran in the streets excited by his discovery about the displacement of water to determine the purity of a golden crown. Hey! It

worked for him, so I decided to give it a try. As I sat naked in my tub, I looked around and only discovered something private of which there was little ado about next to nothing. Maybe if I took a run down my driveway. Oh man, it was Super Bowlish cold. Perhaps I should have worn slippers.

Luckily, mostly for them, only the mailman and some guy walking his dog were witnesses. I'm sure they could see my breath, but that's probably not what they were looking at in disbelief. Maybe they thought I was some Finlander who had just emerged from his sauna and was looking for just the right snowbank in which to roll.

From whatever they thought, I was actually exclaiming about something I found in the February issue of **Fortune Magazine**. Tagged onto the end of a book review under "Book Value" was a heading, *Cocktail Party Fodder*. Yes, I have attended a cocktail party or two, but usually I have ended up not having enough to keep a sparkling conversation going. After talking all about me, I kind of run out of things to say [rather quickly]. Nonetheless, this caught my eye.

Here's the fodder. "**Singing in time with a group is arguably as good for you as exercise.**" That's what it said. No footnotes or references to scientific or medical articles. Just a bald statement. Now I believe in the scientific method—empirical studies and all the rest. Oh, myths are fun and often have a grain of wisdom upon which to cogitate. But I have decided to eschew the need for science in this

case and just adopt it as sound (no pun intended?), logical, and, darn it, just a lot more fun.

So, what am I going to do? I am preparing to sell my bike, treadmill, Thigh Master, weights, trampoline, stretchy bands and all the other (like new) exercise equipment I have gathered over the years. I will do that, that is, if I can find some kind of group that sings in time. Ideas?

While digesting that, think about this. At the January 23rd rehearsal, **Dave Speidel**—assistant director and escapee from Wisconsin, talked to us about "multi-modality." As I looked around the chorus, I saw not



an eye blinking. Stupefied, it seemed. Trying to figure what multi-modality has to do with *The Way You Look Tonight*. What did Dave mean? And how did he intend to have it teach us something?

Ready for enlightenment to help you overcome staring stupidly? Ponder this ... Modality is the type of behavior, expression, or way of life that belongs to a particular person or group of people. An example of modality is the type of behavior a doctor uses to treat a very ill patient. Modality may be any of the various types of sensation, such as vision or hearing. Or, if you like, modality is the way or mode in which something exists or is done.

Got that? Well, it gets worse. If I interpret Dave correctly, he tried to relate that what the chorus was doing, or could improve upon, could be enhanced by embracing a multi-

modality approach. And what is multi-modality approach? Well, multi-modality is the term used to describe the different modes of human communication (visual, verbal, gestures, etc.) In many web-based texts, meaning is communicated through a subtle interplay between expressive modes. (Jumpin' Juniper, that sounds like a description of my writing!)

So maybe Dave was suggesting some interplay between our singing, movement, breathing, interpretation and whatever else. If not, ask Dave for his explanation. Could be they use such obfuscatory words like that in Wisconsin, but further west, we don't cotton to that kind of talkin'. Now Dave may be offended, or at least perplexed, by this article, but I can only confess that **Paul Wigley** made me write it. Actually demanding it as we stood next to each other during rehearsal right after Dave said, "multi-modality." And you know just how scary Paul can be.

What is even degrees scarier is what I have turned up in my research on the origins on what is the *Georgia Grind*. Out of article space is what I am right now, but I promise more on this next time. The list of possible inductees into the *Order of the Georgia Grind Outhouse* grows exponentially, but if you have any suggestions, I welcome them. And you know that you are called to be guardians of the truth. Despite the attraction of your electronic devices, start to make a practice of being present to those around you. Lastly, as I always say, hold fast to that which is good. And very lastly, "Beware the Ides of March Multi-modality."

June

Evelyn

Richards

Feb. 6,

2018



Proud parents: Matthew & Allison Richards. Proud Grandparents: Karen & Andy Richards. Proud Great-grandmother: Ebie Richards. Baby June & all doing well!

Letters

Bob [Dykstra],

Enjoyed your musings, as always, in the latest *Chord-inator*—so glad your esteemed editor keeps me on the mailing list!

The *days of yore* recollection brought back vivid memories of the Rural Route 4 visit to the Pasadena show, probably in '87. I knew a little of the history of the chapter and recalled the *Harmonizer* cover in the '60s that had 2 or 3 gold medal quartets on it and a half-dozen other foursomes plus the chorus. (Our Kansas City chapter called its shows "Parade of Quartets" for many years, and I know the choruses only made minimal appearances in those days).

When we did Pasadena, **Art Baker** had passed on, but **Reedy Wright** was in full command of the show. If you remember Reedy, you know that meant he was in charge! We were headliners but the lineup was still the same: quartets as far as the ear could hear. We went on stage just shy of 10 p.m., which caused us no little concern -- especially a *buncha* farm boys used to finishing shows about that time. I asked Reedy if he wanted us to cut our act, "Hell, no!" he roared backstage, "our audiences are used to three-hour shows!"

Well, either they no longer were, or they [either] didn't *wanna* stick around for a buncha farm boys or the mighty Pasadena chapter no longer was selling out. When the lights went up for final curtain calls, I bet the house was less than two-thirds full. Made me think of *Uncle* Lloyd's dictum: The human body can only stand as much entertainment as the bottom can endure.

Delighted that you're still lending your curmudgeonly wisdom to the

Commodores, one of my all-time favorite groups. I'm sure the spirit of **Jim Richards** lingers over you, just as **Dan Henry's** does here.

Best wishes to **Brother Wigley** et al.

JB [Jim Bagby]

Hardin,

++You have a great sense of humor: hardly anyone ever used "class" and Rural Route 4 in the same sentence! But very gracious of you to ask for vignettes, *altho* don't *bleev* we ever grew those on the farm. However, will be *gladda remuhniss* a little—we did have a great run, and I'm sure we were maybe the luckiest quartet ever to come along.



The 1986 International Quartet Champions, *The Rural Route 4* (left to rt.): Jim Bagby - bari, Willard Yoder - bass, Calvin Yoder - lead, and Don Kahl - tenor.

BHS Photo

The original foursome, three farmers and a carpenter (also from a farm family), were from the Cass County Chapter, about 45 miles southeast of here and sponsored by our Kansas City Chapter. The members were tenor, **Everett Roth**, lead, **Calvin Yoder**, baritone **Rufus Kenagy**, and bass, **Willard Yoder** — all members of the *Sycamore Grove Mennonite Church*. That was in 1971, about the same time I moved to Kansas City from the Southwestern District. We met when the RR4 came to the Heart of America Chorus' annual Bush League Quartet Contest. They returned, before long, to my home for some coaching.

In late 1976, not long after the RR4

had won the Central States District Championship, Rufus dropped out and the guys asked me to sing baritone. We went to **Oz Newgard**, who was coaching the quartet in sound; he was then a Senior Sound judge and also was helping Heart of America toward its first CSD chorus title. He agreed that I might fit the bill. Despite the Yoder brothers' twice-a-day milking commitment and other farming chores, we managed enough practices to make the Top-10 in International the next three years—even though we never had six songs ready. After that we laid out a couple of years, continued to work around the dairy-farm schedule (the Yoders had no hired hands), vocal problems partly caused by Ev's smoking habit, and were very fortunate to find a great coach in **Harriett Gall** after Oz died of a sudden heart attack.

Then came 1983, when Ev said he was ready to retire, and the quartet figured maybe it was time for us to do the same. We'd had a lot of fun, Willard and I were in another CSD championship quartet at the time and it seemed RR4 had achieved more than we'd ever thought possible. In fact, Cal's earliest goal was to make the Socie-

ty's Top-10 album—and he achieved that his second time out. But fate dealt a hand when a district champ quartet in our own chapter broke up at that same time, making tenor **Don Kahl** available. We called and asked "How'd you like to quit smoking?" "How do you think you'd look in overalls?" He gave the right answers immediately.

We were 11th in St. Louis in 1984 and 5th in MINNEAPOLIS in 1985 (after **Lou Perry's** Harmony College keynote address the previous summer carried the message "sound is not force.") **Paul Wigley** will remember that. And to the amazement of the Barbershop world in *Go to Bagby, Page 9, Column 1*

Bagby from Page 8

general, and ourselves especially, we won the gold in Salt Lake City in 1986.

We retired in 1994, having done shows in 38 states, Canada, London and on several Caribbean cruises. Don left the quartet in 1990 and Calvin's son, **Wesley**, born the year the quartet formed, sang tenor with us the last four years. The RR4 almost never did two-night shows, and frequently chartered, so we could get home late Saturday night or early Sunday morning in time for the Yoders to make it to the milk barn.

We have sung for the weddings of virtually all our children. *We've been drawn out of retirement for a number of special shows, but our final performance was the 25th anniversary of our gold medals, at the 2011 Society Convention – happily enough in Kansas City.*

Two quick final thoughts – one of our most enjoyable outings was the Commodore show in the late '80s (I ble-

Congratulations to the Wentworths

This is a follow-up announcement to let all of our readers know that **Ken and Karen Wentworth** were announced last month as the *2017 Business Persons of the Year* by the *Lakeville Area Chamber of Commerce!* We all know how active Ken and Karen are on so many levels of community service, Barbershop activities, and business success. It is always a thrill to see wonderful people that we know get rewarded for

their incredible commitment to not only their businesses but for their vast involvement in the whole greater-Lakeville area community. The Wentworth's sense of volunteerism and community/business ethics is inspiring for all of us.



So, please congratulate Ken and Karen Wentworth for their well-deserved recognition.

Paul Wigley

Jim Richards Memorial Chord Candy # 15

Although You're Not Mine ... by Earl Moon per Chuck Lower



Jim Richards

In his e-mail of January 17 regarding last month's *Chord Candy*, Chuck Lower stated, "Nice tag this month, but it is not a **Burt Szebo** original. As shown in *Classic Tags*, it was written by **Lou Perry**. I am attaching a great tag that I learned from **Earl Moon** at Harmony College in the early '80s. Like **Jim Richards**, Earl was an endless source of tags and always fun to sing with. Thanks for a great news letter ..."

Chuck is a 57-year Barbershopper, 38 years as a chorus director (four choruses), 11 years as a Singing Judge, and a *long-time* friend of Jim Richards whom he blames for introducing him to the *Chord-Inator*. In 2016 he retired as director of the Bucks County Chapter [Penn.] but was succeeded by his daughter, Stephanie. In his spare time he earned a Middle-Atlantic District Quartet championship with *Free Trade Agreement* and qualification as a *Tagmeister of Note* among Jim Richards *et al.*



Chuck Lower

Al - though you're not mine for now and all time I'll take care I'll take
cares of your cares. care of your cares. of your cares.

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

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

JUST ONE MORE

Nate Weimer.....316/204-8756

RING IT ON

Andy Richards..... .651/639-9312

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

THE SHOES

Andy Richards.....651/639-9312

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 minneapoliscommodore.org starting with the January 2006 issue.



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

Logo courtesy of Bob Clark

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

To:

LOOKING AHEAD

- March 4, Sunday, ICA Food Shelf performance, Faith Presbyterian Church, Minnetonka
- March 24, Saturday, 10,000 Lakes Division Contest, Stillwater
- April 12, Thursday, Tech Rehearsal, Bethel University
- April 14, Annual Show, Bethel University
- June 24, Sunday, Arboretum Performance
- July 10, Tuesday, Area Chapter Singout, Como Park
- August 5, Sunday, Sing at Como Park with the TC Show Chorus.
- August 18, Saturday, Retreat - TBD

District Level

- May 4-5, Fri/Sat, LOL District Spring Convention and Internat'l Prelims, Franklin, Wisc.
- October 26-27, Fri/Sat, LOL District Fall Convention, Rochester, Minn.

International Level

- July 1-8, 2018 International Convention, Orlando, Fla.

**1st CLASS
 POSTAGE
 HERE**

2017 Barbershopper Of The Year **Dan True**

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

Jim Bagby*
 Mark Bloomquist
 Jim Erickson
 Chuck Lower*
 Hardin Olson
 Andy Richards
 Blake Wanger
 Bill Warp
 Paul Wigley



**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**