

KEEPING THE
WHOLE WORLD SINGING

CHORD-INATOR

BARBERSHOP
HARMONY
SOCIETY



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

10,000 LAKES DIVISION - LAND O' LAKES

FEBRUARY 2019 - VOL. 75 - NO. 1



President's Corner



Blake Wanger

The Minneapolis Commodores have kicked off their 75th year as a chorus with some big, exciting changes. Near the end of last year, the Board of Directors approved the purchase of a new set of risers for regular rehearsal use. The new risers are an upgraded model from our previous set, sturdier and far easier to set up and tear down. Gone are the days of assembling and disassembling the cumbersome old risers piece by piece before and after every rehearsal. The new risers can be rolled into place by one person and unfolded in a matter of seconds, using only one hand. However, before the riser purchase was made, Mark Ortenburger who spearheaded the new riser project, did some math and deter-

mined that the new risers would take up significantly more storage space than the old ones, and our rehearsal home at House of Prayer Lutheran Church simply didn't have room. So in order to buy the new risers, the Commodores would have to move.

After about a month of searching, Andy Richards and Mark Ortenburger scheduled a visit to St. Peter's Catholic Church in Richfield, less than a mile and half from HOP. And, perhaps more importantly, more than half a mile closer to the Richfield Legion for afterglow. I joined Mark and Andy on that first meeting, and on a subsequent visit, we were also joined by Paul Wigley, Karl Pinard and few other members of the leadership team. It was clear early on that St. Peter's would be a great home for the Commodores. There was ample room for us, plenty of space to break out for sectionals, lots of parking, a place to park our trailer (now the permanent home of our old risers, which we will still use for performances at other locations). And in a stroke of sweet serendipity, St. Peter's Catholic Church is also celebrating their 75th year.

Now, just a few short months after this project was set in motion with the decision to purchase new risers, the contract with St. Peter has been signed, all of our music and other items have been moved in, the eight beautiful new risers were assembled by Rod Vink and a team of about 25 other members in record time on Saturday, January 26th. I and everyone else involved in this project were extremely excited to have our first rehearsal at our wonderful new home on Tuesday, Jan 29. And then... the polar vortex arrived.

My deepest gratitude to Mark Ortenburger, Andy Richards, Rod Vink, Dan Slattery, Kim Ward and everyone else who volunteered time, energy (and delicious sub sandwiches), to make this move possible. I also want to thank Mike McNeil, Patti DeMay and Tony Good at St. Peter's Catholic Church for their warm welcome and eagerness to accommodate us.

Now its time to put all this to good use! See you at our new home soon!

**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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2019 Brigade Rally

The Harmony Brigade rally is an invitational weekend for good quartet-level singers who are vocally capable, committed to learning challenging arrangements, and who are prepared to enjoy success in rally activities. The charts are of championship caliber, somewhat challenging, and would be beyond the ability of less experienced men.

Singing Valentines

Another year, another successful and fun day of providing Singing Valentines throughout the Twin Cities. As always, several quartets joined forces to provide a great surprise and memory to many special valentines, most often in front of surprised and happy co-workers.

The Brigade is not a chorus-oriented event. About four months before a Brigade rally, registered participants receive music and a part dominant learning CD for the songs to be used in the rally. Quartets are formed by random draw at the rally and each member is obligated to “hold” their own part without further rehearsal. About 100 guys attend each year.

As we go to press, this year’s event is just wrapping up—another huge success with our guest champion quartet **Hi Mark**. Next issue we will have a full spread of pictures. Meanwhile, take a look at the Facebook page (Northern Pines Harmony Brigade).

Additionally, free entertainment was provided at many senior and nursing centers, brightening many hearts who are in great need of such light. If you have not done so, I HIGHLY recommend you give it a try next year. Thanks to Silver Screen, Easy Listening and the other quartets (sorry, I lost the list!).



Standing on the Shoulders of Giants



Mark Ortenburger

You have all received some initial information about a program we have underway that is associated with the Minneapolis Commodores'

purchase of a new set of risers for our rehearsal hall. The "Riser Raiser" project is a fundraising effort but, at its core, is really an opportunity to help us remember both those individuals who helped nurture our love of music and those who helped create this wonderful organization that we are all a part of.

The world of Barbershop music that we enjoy today has changed quite significantly from its nascent origins in the later part of the 19th century. Its evolution has come about because many caring and extraordinarily talented individuals (those giants upon whose shoulders we stand) have devoted huge amounts of time and expertise to insure that our particular art form will grow and thrive. To each of them, including the ones that continue to lead us today, we owe a great deal.

Our fundraising project gives you a chance to say thanks and help us, and those who will be coming along to join us in future years, remember the contributions of these individuals and groups. All you have to do is donate \$100 and decide who (a Barbershop legend, quartet, chorus, director, mentor, school teacher, family member, yourself, etc.) you would like to have be a part of this special commemoration. That individual/group that you name will be honored with a sign that will be placed on a specific riser step.

If you're interested please get in touch with me and I'll be happy to help you make this come together.

Switching Gears....

Star Tribune interview with iconic Minnesota basketball star, Lindsey Whalen. She wanted to use the opportunity to thank a number of people who helped her with her career. This particular part recounts a conversation she had with Coach Cheryl Reeves who, in Lindsey's view, might have had the greatest impact in helping her achieve the success she had in the WNBA. "I always felt so much pride in being an underdog, and underrated. Those feelings carried me and my teams a long way, but never to the top. So, it went something like this; she (coach Reeves) asked me what I averaged during the 2008 season when I was first team All-WNBA. And then she asked me to average that stat line in practice. Practice?

We're talking about practice. Yes, in practice. So my goal was to average 15 points, six assists and five rebounds in practice. This was when I truly started to realize as a player that how you practice is how you play. Those habits you create every day in practice determine how you perform. I'd always practiced hard. But now it was so much more focused. Every day I had a mission, a goal. I was already driven, but now it had to go to another level for our team to be successful."

What a concept! Here's someone who attributes her success to how she practices. We've frequently heard this very same message before and it was most certainly reinforced on Saturday by Kevin Keller.

Our chorus is extremely privileged in that every Tuesday (our practice) we have an opportunity to learn from some of the most talented di-

rectors you could ever ask for. They can only take us so far, the rest is up to each of us. The good news is that getting better is just plain fun.

**Commodore
Spotlight**



**DAN
SMITH...**

Rich Ongna, baritone, and **Tom Dahlen**, bass. They were quite active representing our chapter at funerals and other less solemn celebrations.

About two years ago Dan and Carol decided to make a permanent move to their summer home in Amery, Wisconsin. Not wanting to lose his Barbershop edge, Dan researched and summarily joined the Polk County, Wisconsin, Chapter where he has been serving as VP/Music & Performance, *all the well maintaining a dual membership with the Commodores!* Dan still works our learning tracks but has given up the schlepping.

is that dedicated Commodore who for many years has been preparing our learning tracks as well as schlepping a sound system to many of our off-site performances.

In his spare time Dan sang lead in an LOL District Senior-Champion (Commodore) Quartet, **FOUR SEASONS**, joining with **Rollie Neve**, tenor,

Take time, let Dan (and Carol) know how much they are appreciated.

Jim Richards Memorial



Paul Paddock

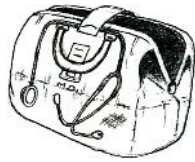
When I started experimenting with different part-arranging, I plunked out some takes for the favorite tune, Georgia. One of them came out sounding something pretty close to barbershop, as elucidated here, well before joining a barbershop group. Recorded in 1930 with **Bix Beiderbecke** and sung by Georgia native himself, **Ray Charles**, in 1960, this tune was adopted as the state's official song in 1979. The melody is handed off from bass to tenor (improvised with inverted barbershop-7th chords related to the V of the progression (Eb & Db distantly). The bass has the option to drop the octave on the later part of 'song' for a chasm-ic effect. Take this piece as your own and have some freedom with it, tempo-wise and emphasis-wise. It doesn't need to be fast. It's another good ol' piece with longing and will make you feel like a heartfelt Southerner just singing it! You might even get a feel for those famously nutrient-rich deep red soils and flavorful peaches Georgia is known for in these chords. Y'all enjoy!

GEORGIA ON MY MIND CARMICHAEL, GORRELL
ARR. PADDOCK

OLD SWEET SONG ———— KEEPS GEOR - GIA ON MY MIND

JUST AN OLD SWEET SONG (p.)

Doc's Bag



by Dr. Hardin Olson, Editor Emeritus

With the publication of the December 2018 issue of Vol. 74 of the Chord-Inator, newly-confirmed Editor, Shawn Hunter, has assured us that the “*Sturm und Drang*” of the kowtowing, groveling, salaaming of the last 16 years (Vols. 59 through AUG/SEPT 74 will end! (Sorry, fellows.)

Shawn, with the adoption of his bi-monthly publication plan, starting Vol. 75 2019 with JAN/FEB, and establishing a constant deadline date at the end of each first month, should relieve virtually all anxiety about when contributors’ pieces are due. Promulgation of the plan will make it easier for the casual contributor to plan his (her) submission. An added benefit will be maintaining the appearance of a modicum of month-to-month continuity.

AND, please don’t hesitate to thank Shawn profusely for stepping up to take the Editor’s job!

On the morning of January 15, my bedside phone rang to the resplendent, whimsically-modulated tones of my favorite bass, Gary Rogness. Finally, the ball was in the other court and Gary had an opportunity to call and commiserate about *my* recent fall and subsequent concussion—just another reminder how important friends are to those afflicted.

The day before, Gary had a cataract removed uneventfully from his left eye and was calling to let me know all went well. However, the next week, that of the 21st, Gary began another round of every-three-week chemotherapy with drugs that can rarely be outdone making a patient feel the sickest ever. Only the toughest and most determined refuse to give up. All he has, Gary says, is his indomitable will and his ever-faithful friends. He will never waver in his fight, so please, do not forsake your friendship for this remarkable man!

Call Gary at 507/990-2000, e-mail at glrogness@yahoo.com or write at 4119 7th Place NW, Rochester, MN 55901.

At this time I want to show you who I had to put up with during my rehab at Hillcrest of Wayzata the past few weeks. Please understand I will have to continue to do so during outpatient PT in the next month or so.



Katelin (left) and **Lei Lani** (rt) are absolutely relentless and seem to get sadistic pleasure in pushing and prodding me through my rheumatic paces. (I am almost sure that I must be a closet masochist to put up with their torture but—I *will* survive.)



- 02/12 Peter C & Judi Jarnberg
 - 02/15 Terry & Linda McClellan (50)
 - 02/19 James & Karen McCarville
 - 02/27 Walter & Laura Jane Dawson
- No March Anniversaries*

Waking up in North Memorial after my accident six weeks ago and contemplating my post-concussion future, I had all kinds of questions, will I have to adapt to a cane, a walker or even a wheel chair? Will I be able to drive?

Then, as the hours passed, the e-mails and phone calls started and soon the cards and visitors began to arrive. **Jim Foy** popped in, lighting up the room with an overload of his special brand of Hibernian blarney. **Mark Ortenburger** with **Dale Lynch** in tow, rolled in one day and **Joel Kleschold** appeared, to while away some time with me. Rollie Neve dropped by one motning with a ray of sunshine and the latest chapter news.

And making his rounds one morning, Sunshine Chairman **Mark Bloomquist** checked in on me. (Mark cares and has faithfully and unobtrusively stepped into the Sunshine job after **Rich** and **Dianne Ongna** moved to Wisconsin.)

Thanks all, for your much welcomed, stress-relieving thoughts and prayers. *It's great to be a Commodore!*



- 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 Dennis T Maas
- 03/06/ Mark Bloomquist
- 03/07 Catherine Lloyd
- 03/08 Jeni Born
- 03/14 Nancy Cook
- 03/17 Ken Jones
- 03/17 Dan Kregelberg
- 03/17 Tony Mason
- 03/17 Carol Smith
- 03/18 Judy Johannsen
- 03/22 Bob Griffith
- 03/23 Dean Lambert
- 03/24 Bill Shaw
- 03/26 Tony Lapakko
- 03/27 Matt Richards
- 03/30 Rod Vink

Georgia Grind

by Jim Erickson, Brrrrrr Baritone

Good Grief! As I sit on our four-season porch with the heat turned up, the fur of my down-filled parka with the luxurious fur-trimmed hood keeps getting in my mouth as I utter oaths disparaging the cold weather and even colder weather to come.



Jim Erickson

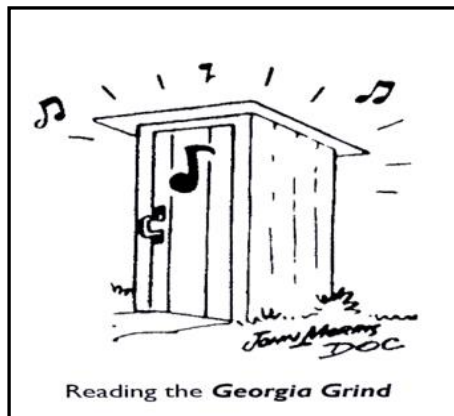
Already beginning, the weather guys say the bottom will drop out from North Dakota through Minnesota to Chicago and on all the way to the east coast. A Polar Vortex they say. (Sounds like some high-tech, slimming long underwear.)

Last time I recall hearing Polar Vortex being tossed around, I was attending the Harmony Brigade here in Minneapolis a few years ago. Back then, there was a huge snowstorm as I recall followed by the PV. Those arriving from everywhere else, including many warm weather states, experienced the deep snow, snow-packed freeways and subsequent extreme cold. You could easily tell who the warm climes ones were. Wide-eyed, camera around their neck for snow photo ops, and talking in a stunned amazement language of some kind that was barely decipherable. Hey! We were indoors. Suck it up! It's not a hurricane, tornado, typhoon, pythons, alligators and all of those other terrible problems of the warmer inclined regions.

Although the Harmony Brigade weekend is pretty much all indoors, some of those with suntan state origins carefully ventured outside so they would be able to brag to the hometown folks, that they braved the arctic cold and survived. Too bad we didn't have the foresight to make up and sell

T-shirts proclaiming "I survived the Polar Vortex of Harmony Brigade 20XX." (If I have the time and inclination, I'll look up the actual year.)

Enough of that. It is now time to announce the winner of Rhyming Slogans of the year, 2019, as described in the last Chord-Inator. It is with mediocre enthusiasm that I do so. This is not an analysis of the poetic capabilities of the hundreds who submitted entries to overcome the seemingly untouchable word contortions of the master, **Mark Ortenburger**. But it is recognition of his fertile mind. And, as any good farmer (or even bad farmer for that matter) can easily tell you, good fertilizer yields many sprouts.



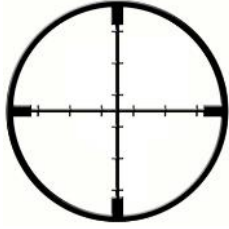
So, I am pleased to present Mark with all the winner's swag for his fine achievement. His winning slogan was, "**Twenty Nineteen – Makes Music Supreme.**" Although the slogan is commendable, its sole inconsistency is that "teen" only somewhat rhymes with "preme." And another sole critique is that it lacks a personal guidance for the year. Maybe something like, "In Twenty Nineteen I will strive to make my music supreme" would be more personally inspirational. But, these are nits and I am surrendering to moving on with my life. Congrats, Mark.

As long as I am honoring Mark for his slogan, I will commend him further for his organizational skills in overseeing the recent move into the new rehearsal quarters at St. Peter's Church. This included arranging for members to fill a box of sheet music, documents, etc., take it home, and return it to the new quarters. Many other tasks of this sort, too. Then, in advance of the first rehearsal there, the newly purchased risers had to be obtained, moved, and, with a crew of about twenty-five singers, assembled. So many of you helped with the whole move, I don't have enough room to mention each. But, thanks a million to all of you. Oh, I will mention and thank **Kim Ward** who took care of feeding the assembly crew. Just what we needed at the end of the morning.

Although it looked a bit like some parts factory had exploded scattering black frames, rollers, nuts and bolts of various sizes and more, all over the assembly floor, the crew quickly took to the many complicated tasks and in something like three hours, had the risers together and stored in their new home. I don't recall having seen so many macho guys armed with battery operated electric drills and hand wrenches manipulating in one area at a time. No robots here.

When the riser assembly was complete, the final report was one nut and one bolt missing. Apparently, the manufacturer decided to rely on the skills of those who could tell the difference between the treble and the bass clef, to do a perfect job right down to the last nut and bolt. Well, maybe minus one. Or else one team ran out of them but decided, "Aw, if it collapses, it collapses It ain't that high." Again, thanks to all who helped in so many ways. We can now look to some great singing experiences for some time to come.

Hunter's Bullseye



Howdy once again. Hope you are all staying warm and **PRACTICING**. Nothing warms a soul up more than warbling to a learning track....or so I have heard!



Shawn Hunter

This month I am finding myself reflecting on our motto: **“Its great to be a**

Commodore!”. How absolutely true that is. Not only is the singing and camaraderie great, but there are SO many opportunities.

Join a quartet! What a great way to practice our favorite hobby in the true God-given way it was meant to be....in tight harmony with 4 brothers.

Our annual singing valentines are a perfect example. This is a low-key (pun intended) affair in which you perform simple polecats for a great cause. I highly recommend it.

If you are a little ambitious, please consider the Harmony Brigade. Even though the songs can be daunting at first, if you keep working at them a little each day, you will soon know a bunch of great songs and be in a position to sing these great charts with dozens of pick-up quartets. Again, I highly recommend it.

Switching gears, here are a few tips I came across for keeping our game in top form....

Hydration is a necessity for maintaining a healthy body, and the average adult should be drinking between 8-10 glasses of water per day. Please note that, while drinking water *while* singing can be comforting, hydration of the body does not happen instantaneously. It can take 48-72 hours for your water intake to fully absorb, so make sure you keep drinking water in the days before a big performance or audition. Keeping hydrated also aids in getting a good night's sleep.

Your body requires **sleep** to recuperate and recover after your long day. The more time you give it to do this, the faster and more efficiently you can fight off any infections threatening your body. And, much like hydration, it can take a few days to kick in, so try to get a good night's rest for a few days before any big singing event.

Much like a hydrated body, an **exercised**, active body can circulate necessary items (such as white blood cells and nutrients) to cells that need them quicker and more effectively. Additionally, the rise in your body temperature may prevent the growth of bacteria. Even small amounts of activity can provide much needed stress relief in our hectic world. Stress can lead to illness, so consider walking those few extra blocks rather than take the subway, or take a relaxing and strengthening yoga class at your local fitness center. Not only will you look better, you (and your voice) will feel better too!

Your body needs a **balanced diet** with varied array of vitamins, and monitoring what foods you eat controls whether or not you get the required amounts of nutrients. A body that lacks certain vita-

mins may be more susceptible to illness, so in the winter months, you may consider taking a daily vitamin with one meal. There are other home remedies that can prevent the onslaught of infection, such as Echinacea.

In general, foods to be avoided immediately prior to singing include milk and other dairy products, chocolate, caffeine and extremely spicy foods. These can all lead to increased phlegm, acid reflux, and other problems for the singing voice.

While no magical **tea** concoction can immediately cure your cold, it can have helpful benefits on your road to recovery. Not only do warm liquids help to soothe a sore throat, but they also help to cut through any mucous build up.

To maintain a healthy amount of moisture, the simple process of **steaming** can work wonders. Steaming can be done with a bowl of boiled water and a towel, in the shower, or through the use of a personal steamer.

Just as a body needs sleep to recover, **your voice needs rest** when it has been used too much or used during an illness. I recommend taking at least one day a week off from singing (even vocalizing or practicing). There are plenty of things to work on that do not require full-out singing (translations, dramatic interpretation, memorization), that ensure singers are never at a loss for work!

I hope some of these tips help you.

Here's looking forward to a great 2019 and our 75th anniversary!

Shawn Hunter, Bulletin Editor
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**1st CLASS
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Logo courtesy of Bob Clark

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- Dan Slattery..... 651/747-6384
- HOT COMMODITY
- Dave Speidel.....612/437-4325
- JUST ONE MORE
- Nate Weimer.....316/204-8756
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- Andy Richards..... .651/639-9312
- RIVER CITY QUARTET
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- Steve Grady.....952/334-7500

LOOKING AHEAD

- February 22-23, Northern Pines Harmony Brigade, **Plymouth.**
- April 6, 2019, , **Benson Great Hall, Bethel—3:00 p.m.**
- July 18 - **Shakopee**
- August 14 - **Maple Grove**

District Level

The *Chord-Inator* is available on the Minneapolis Chapter's website minneapoliscommodore.org starting with the January 2006 issue.

**CHORD-INATOR
MINNEAPOLIS COMMODORES
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MEETING EVERY TUES -7:00 p.m.
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Richfield MN 55423
GUESTS ALWAYS WELCOME**