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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

SEPTEMBER 2024 - VOL. 80 - NO. 4



## *From the Prez.*

Has this ever happened to you?

The other day, during a Hall Pass rehearsal, I stopped singing in the middle of our song.

*Note 1: To all you cynics: Yes. Hall Pass was rehearsing!*

*Note 2: No. I didn't stop singing because I didn't know the words. I mean, the words and I are sometimes strangers ... but that isn't why I stopped singing this time.*

I stopped because we just got through the most difficult and rewarding section of our show song, and we nailed it. And it was electric. Overwhelming. Wonderful.

In a split second I looked around the room at 3 of the best friends I will ever have in this life. I real-



**Tony Mason**

ized just how lucky I am to know them and to share this incredible hobby. In that moment I thought of so many other great people (you!) who are in my life because I decided to take a chance and sing.

I also comprehended what this chorus and art form has done for my family. Barbershop morphed from a personal weekly escape for me into a family lifestyle. There are Masons in 2 Sweet Adeline choruses (**Debbie** even directs one). My son's in on the act now - he will make his Commodores stage debut during the annual show. And I hope my other kids will join in soon.

Profound gratitude and a little awe as I realized all of the good that has come into my life because I am a Commodore. Thank you to all of the good people who I've met and become close to and served with. Thank you to my quartets (Hot Commodity and Hall Pass) and to the members of the board and show committees. And most of all, thank you to all in this

great chorus and extended community. Some here, some gone too soon.

We are entering our busy time. Annual Show, Convention, Holiday singing. I hope that you can and will be with us during this season (and every season). This chorus deserves to prosper and grow. This group of people deserves to be heard! 80 years in and the Commodores are still changing lives one ringing cord at a time.

It's humbling and great to be a Commodore!

## **It's Great to be a Commodore!**

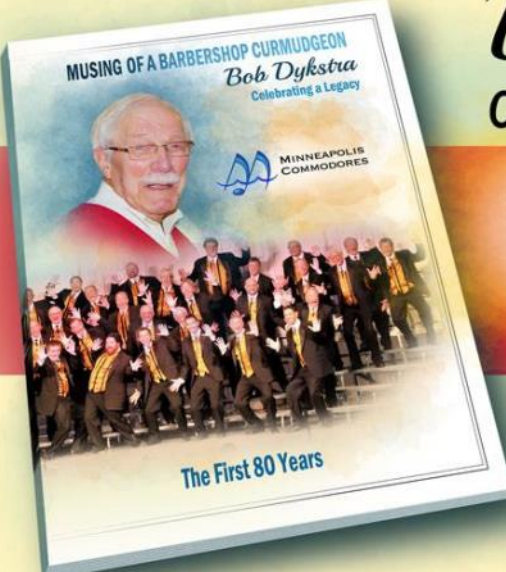
# Commodores Rock the House on 80th Anniversary Show!







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*Bob Dykstra*  
**Celebrating a Legacy**

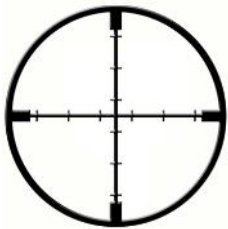
**A collection of Bob's articles originally published in the CHORDINATOR 2014-2024**

**75 pages of Barbershop history**

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**Hunter's Bullseye**



Shawn Hunter

What a fantastic show and after-glow! Tons of music, an appreciative audience, above all....FUN, FUN, FUN. Thanks to everyone who made this a great anniversary show. What made it extra special to me was to be on the stage with all my new Brothers in Harmony. Not only did they really enhance the sound, but all these new mem-

bers spawned several great new quartets. With **Tony Mason's** leadership over the last couple of years, this Chapter is really taking off. Congratulations to the entire chorus for a great show. Here's looking forward to many more in the future.

Switching subjects, now is the time for our annual nut sale. As most of you know, the sale is a major source of revenue for the chorus and really is key to keeping our finances in the black. The nuts do NOT sell themselves, however. We need each and every member to get out there and sell, sell, sell. We only have a month

to go. Please contact everyone you know and sell each one a few pounds of nuts. They freeze well and make great holiday gifts.

The order form can be found on the following page. **Dan Williams** is our new Nut Chairman and will also have forms at each practice. THANKS!

**It's Great to be a Commodore!**

### Minneapolis Commodores 2024 Nut Order Form

Customer: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Customer Info: \_\_\_\_\_

Description	Quantity (pounds)	Price/Lb.	+	Foil Gift Bag (Add \$2.00 per bag)	=	Total Amount
Deluxe Mixed Nuts (no peanuts) same price as last year	_____	@ \$13.50	+	_____	=	_____
Cashews, Medium same price as last year	_____	@ \$13.50	+	_____	=	_____
Honey Roasted Peanuts	_____	@ \$6.00	+	_____	=	_____
Butter Toasted Peanuts	_____	@ \$6.50	+	_____	=	_____
Almonds (natural whole raw) same price as last year	_____	@ \$11.50	+	_____	=	_____
Almonds (salted and roasted - whole) same price as last year	_____	@ \$12.00	+	_____	=	_____
Pistachios , White same price as last year	_____	@ \$13.50	+	_____	=	_____
Trail Mix - Deluxe same price as last year	_____	@ \$8.00	+	_____	=	_____
Pecans, Mammoth same price as last year	_____	@ \$15.50	+	_____	=	_____
Walnuts , Chopped same price as last year	_____	@ \$13.50	+	_____	=	_____
<b>TOTAL</b>	_____			_____	=	_____

All orders must be prepaid

Absolute deadline for orders: Tuesday, October 15

Please make checks payable to: **Minneapolis Commodores**

Orders available Tuesday, November 19

Sales Person: \_\_\_\_\_

## From Fearless Leader 1



Jamye Casperson

### To Quartet or Not Quartet, That is the Question!

Singing in a barbershop quartet is a unique and enriching experience that offers numerous benefits, both musically and personally. Whether you're a seasoned chorus member or new to the world of barbershop, joining or forming a quartet can provide valuable opportunities for growth, connection, and enjoyment. Here's why singing in a quartet is so valuable.

In a quartet, each voice part (tenor, lead, baritone, and bass) is essential. Singers must develop a heightened sense of tuning, timing, and blend. The intimate setting of a quartet pushes each member to refine their pitch accuracy, dynamic control, and phrasing, leading to significant musical growth.

Quartet singing requires a strong sense of part independence. Unlike in a chorus where many singers share the same part, quartet members must confidently hold their own line while remaining fully aware of how it interacts with the other three parts.

Singing in a quartet fosters deep, personal connections between members. The shared experience of working closely together, solving musical challenges, and performing as a cohesive unit builds strong bonds of trust and friendship.

Quartet singing is the ultimate ex-

ercise in teamwork. Each member plays a vital role in achieving the group's success, and collaboration is key. The experience of working together toward a common musical goal can be incredibly rewarding.

With only four voices, each member's contribution is crucial. This responsibility can boost your confidence as a singer, as you become more comfortable with being in the spotlight and delivering a polished performance.

Quartet performances offer opportunities to develop and refine stage presence. The smaller group size allows for more direct interaction with the audience and among members, leading to more engaging and dynamic performances.

Quartets often have the freedom to choose their own repertoire, which can be tailored to the group's strengths and interests. This autonomy allows for greater artistic expression and the opportunity to explore a wider range of music.

Some quartet members may take an interest in arranging or even composing music for their group. This creative outlet adds another layer of fulfillment to the quartet experience.

Singing in a quartet is a deeply rewarding experience that offers musical, personal, and social benefits. It challenges you to grow as a musician, fosters close relationships, and provides a platform for creative expression and performance. Whether you're seeking to improve your skills, build lasting friendships, or simply enjoy the beauty of harmony, quartet singing is an invaluable part of the barbershop tradition.

Now to highlight four of the quar-

tets that are part of the Minneapolis Commodores chapter. I asked a member or two of each quartet to give me some background on their quartet and to give me some thoughts or advice for guys that might be thinking about quartetting.

### Cinematix: bio by Steve Grady

Cinematix was first registered as a quartet by **Steve Grady** in 1993 to perform the Songs of the Movies. But it took 30 years to become a reality! **Scott Zoellner** met Steve Grady at the NPHB in 2019. The quartet experience of the Brigade fueled Scott's interest in singing in a quartet. At that time, Steve was involved with the Silver Screen quartet with **Shawn Hunter** and **Andy Richards**, and our friendship continued through the pandemic years. Scott casually contacted Steve in early 2023, and discovered he was interested in forming a quartet together as Cinematix. Steve recruited Andy and Shawn. Turns out all of us had previous Brigade experience. We have been rehearsing, performing and competing for 2 years and loving every moment of the experience.

#### Thoughts from the Quartet:

My favorite thing about being in a quartet is the experience I get being responsible for my part, and listening to how it blends with the other voices. Friendship and camaraderie have followed quickly. I look forward to every opportunity to sing with these guys. We have become great friends!

**(To Quartet.....cont'd)**

My favorite things about being in a quartet is you can really hear the blend and ringing and the camaraderie of four guys ringing chords together. Quartetting lessons are 1. Match vowels. 2. Sing THROUGH phrases. 3. Sing confidently.

Can't decide whether quartetting is for you? 1. Sing polecats at break with a quartet. 2. Do a Brigade. 3. Listen to quartets at convention and YouTube and get inspired!

For me the purest expression of Barbershop is singing as a quartet – it's joyful and uplifting. The ultimate barbershop physics of sound can only be produced with 4 men's voices. Success is measured by the size and sound of audience goosebumps...

My advice: Start out quarteting with chorus songs, pole cat songs, or just tags. Every time you quartet you will build confidence.

Sing with many different guys and you may find a combination that works as a quartet. Go for it!

**Four Norsemen: contributions from Dave Day, Steve Selin and Mark Anderson**

Our quartet had our very first rehearsal on May 10th. **Lance** had heard about **Mark**, a visitor to the Commodores who was invited by **Ken**. Lance heard he was the lead singer in the local band Fairchild decades ago. He also heard he was taking piano lessons and he thought, "hey, this guy can sing and he's musically inclined!" On April 30th during our break at the Commodores rehearsal, Lance got brave and went to talk to Mark during break to ask him if he wanted to sing lead in our quartet.

None of us had heard him sing yet!

**Steve Selin** says: Being in a quartet is so fun, it's even better than I imagined. The excitement of working on and then singing a song with just the four of us is an amazing thrill. You get to know the other people on another whole level, and it teaches you to understand other people and see things from their point of view. It can be challenging and frustrating but when you realize we all just want to do it right and feel that thrill of singing it's so worth it. Everyone should get over the hesitation to singing by yourself for other people and allow yourself to experience this type of thrill. You all should go for it and just have fun!

**Dave Day** says Quarteting has taught me that the journey of singing with three other guys and ringing those great barbershop chords is incomparable to any other singing. We are fortunate to have great chemistry together, both musically and personally. I echo what Steve said about quartet singing — it is SO fun and very rewarding! Even a brand new guy with no barbershop experience can do it and do it well! I strongly encourage others to explore singing in a quartet.

**Mark Anderson** says: As far as my story of how the quartet was formed, I was brought to a Commodore's rehearsal by **Ken Wentworth** less than 4 months ago. On the second rehearsal that I attended a big guy with a deep voice came up to me and asked if I would join their quartet. Being rather new and not sure if I could get back to singing I turned him down. The next week he came up and asked again if I would come and join. I relented and the rest is history.

**SWYPE: contribution by Ken Wentworth**

*"SWIPE: A technique used in Barbershop Harmony where one or more parts of a song change pitch while the other parts remain the same"*

SWYPE, (with a "Y" for artistic reasons) started in 2013 with original members **Conrad Ward, Bill Ward, Mark Bloomquist and Ken Wentworth**. SWYPE won the Land O' Lakes District NOVICE Quartet Championship in 2014. SWYPE sang traditional Barbershop music for retirement communities and charitable organizations and of course singing Valentines. In 2017 we lost Bill Ward, our Bass, to Cancer. **Andy Richards** stepped in to fill the position as our new Bass. Since this time, we have expanded our repertoire to include DooWop and Jazz tunes. SWYPE continues to sing throughout the community to spread the unique sound of Barbershop Harmony.

1. My favorite thing about our Quartet is that we have been together long enough and have developed our own sound. We know each other's voices and know what our strengths and weaknesses are, allowing us to choose songs that fit that personality.
2. Quartet singing has taught me just how hard this hobby is! Between the singing and performing, there are so many skill sets that need to be developed to be a great quartet.
3. My recommendation for anyone thinking of quartetting, is to try it. When you lock a chord with three other guys, it is extremely addicting. Start with Tags and Polecats.



*(To Quartet.....cont'd)*

**BOMP: Mark Ortenburger, Harvey Weiss, Dave Wall, Bill Walkowski**

BOMP was started by **Dan Cole** in 2015. Dan loved Barbershop but he also loved rock, pop, Broadway, jazz, you name it. He also had a particular affinity for his "Golden Age" of music - the 50's and 60's. A big part of that era was the infectious joy of Doo Wop. Dan had an itch that needed to be scratched and, after finding 3 other like-minded aficionados who loved the oldies, BOMP was born.

Singing Barbershop in a chorus is a wonderful experience, however doing it in a quartet takes that experience and ratchets it up several notches. Listening, blending, and balancing, are both easier to do ("hey I can actually hear myself") and then harder to do well.

The friends you make in a quartet may not be new friends but they will become special friends on another level as you get to share the bond of 4-part a cappella harmony. And as an added bonus, performance opportunities come along that let you share this musical bond with members of the community. It is an absolute joy to sing for groups that appreciate music, sung from the heart, from an era that brings back all kinds of wonderful memories for them as well.

**It's Great to be a Commodore!**

Thanks guys for all of your insight!! Our next Chordinator will feature **Four of a Kind, Hall Pass and Just One More! Will there be another new chapter quartet to feature???**



**Paul Paddock**

***Jim Richards Memorial Chord Candy # 150***

Alas, a tenor hanger post! I wrote this for my girlfriend-at-the-time when I was in college; she was particularly fond of the bass or low-alto range (who wouldn't be, right?), having played those instruments in marching bands and jazz bands prior. Baritones, please watch the G on 'all'. It's higher than you think! If that chord locks in just right, it could be a favorite with that juicy lead 6 in there! The 'give you' chords provide some nice tension leading to the middle 'all my love' sequence. Have the first 'love' take a pause before the final 'my love' chords. Sing this with tenderness of feeling, sultry as the ending of **Mark Hale's** arrangement of 'The Way You Look Tonight' or **Katie Ferrill's** arrangement of 'If I Love Again', and if you have a nice robust bass sound for the final notes, even better! If those notes are too low, have no fear; you can always use the version in G. Enjoy!

**ALL MY LOVE (VERSION IN G)** PAUL PADDOCK

Minneapolis, Minn. Chapter  
Land O'Lakes District, BHS  
Meetings every Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.

Oak Knoll Lutheran Church  
600 Hopkins Crossroad  
Minnetonka, MN 55305

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# Ailing Brothers

Jim Erickson reports that he is generally feeling well as he proceeds with a new round of treatment for his non-Hodgkins lymphoma. To be cautious, he is staying away from large groups of

people, so it may be a little while yet 'til we see him at a rehearsal. He appreciates all the well wishes from the Commodores and returns the sentiment.

# Stunning 80th Anniversary Graphic

Kaden Ofstad put his talents to work this summer and produced this stunning work of art graphic. Using a beautiful and apropos design, the poster lists all of the members of the Commodores

from the last 80 years of its history. What a great addition to our show! The poster was handed out to the grateful audience members attending the Annual Show. Thank you, Kaden!





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*This logo is neither shared with the Girl Scouts nor dumped by the Sweet Adelines.*

*Logo courtesy of Bob Clark*

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**Chapter Quartets**

**To:**

- BOMP
- Mark Ortenberger.....952-250-0968
- JUST ONE MORE
- Nate Weimer.....316-204-8756
- SWYPE
- Mark Bloomquist.....612-325-9349
- CINEMATIX
- Steve Grady.....952-334-7500
- HALL PASS
- Dave Casperson.....651-247-6319

***LOOKING AHEAD***

**2024**

- Oct 11            Convention
- Dec 7            Christmas Show

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**CHORD-INATOR  
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Minneapolis Chapter of BHS  
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600 Hopkins Crossroad  
Minnetonka, MN 55305  
GUESTS ALWAYS WELCOME**