

# Minneapolis Commodores CHORD-INATOR

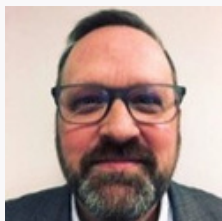


OFFICIAL CHAPTER BULLETIN

July, 2025

VOLUME 81, #3

“YOU BELONG HERE”



**TONY MASON**

## Mason's Musings

FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Yesterday I woke up and realized it was time to write my column for the CHORD-INATOR. It made me *Smile*, because *You Make Me Smile*. But for once I wasn't sure what to write.

It was a relatively *Lazy Day*, so I allowed myself to think about all of the incredible music we've sung lately, and also to *Daydream* a bit. Still no topics. Terrible feeling, writer's block. It was *Drivin' Me Crazy*. So I took a minute to meditate (Meditation is my *Good Luck Charm*) and to *Have A Little Talk With Myself*.

Anyhoo, apologies for the light cursing, but *HELLO MARY LOU* and *SWEET CAROLINE!*... That did the trick.

*Good News*. I decided to stick with my favorite topics: *Being With You* & being *Happy Together*. Writer's block is gone, and now *I'm Feeling Fine*. So *Don't Stop Me Now*.

We are so lucky to have this hobby and to have each other. When I think of those *Poor Unfortunate Souls* who don't have a community like this one it makes me sad. And it gives me a *Warm and Fuzzy* feeling to know that every time we come together we are in for *Something Good*.

Once in a while people still ask why I sing with this venerable group. What a crazy question! I'm like "*Do You Hear What I Hear?*" "*Do You Hear The People Sing?*"

For the record: I sing because I can't imagine not singing. Of *All The Things You Are*, you are my safe space. As *Long As I'm Singing* you are my friends and you can *Lean On Me*. *You've Got A Friend In Me*, and I in you. And I get by *With A Little Help From My Friends*.

I know it's *The Impossible Dream*, but how I wish I could have a full family and employment life and still be there every week. Dunno about you, but when I miss even a couple of rehearsals, *I Am A Man Of Constant Sorrow*.

But isn't it incredible to know that even if we have missed for a while for whatever reason (i.e. being *Home On The Range* due to illness, or being busy with work or family obligations, or living the snowbird life, or spending time *On The Road Again* - perhaps passing the local YMCA on the *Way Out West* down Route 66 - or saying

(Cont. on Page 2)

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(Cont. from Page 1 - Tony's Musings)

"Goodbye My Coney Island Baby" or maybe even watching an *Ebb Tide (On A Slow Boat To China)*, as soon as we get back on the risers we are home!

Together, we *Accentuate the Positive*. Together, we *Keep America Singing*. It's truly great to be a Commodore!

PS - Yes, I know I missed more than a few recent repertoire songs. I just wanted to quit while I was (sorta, almost) ahead. *Bye Bye, Love(s)*. See you soon.

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## Thanks for the Pictures In This Issue

*Jamye Casperson*

*Kaden Ofstad*

*Dick Riemenschneider*

*Mark Ortenburger*

*It's Great to be a Commodore!*



## Markin' Time



This July issue of the CHORD-INATOR includes a number of different special annual events that we like to commemorate. This focus doesn't intend in any way to sell our regular contributors short, who have once again stepped up to the plate and provided some first class articles full of interesting information.

First and foremost the story that headlines our issue is the Commodores naming our new Barbershopper of the Year for 2025 – **Jamye Casperson**. Congratulations are certainly in order. I'll let **Dick Riemenschneider's** article detailing this special night tell the story. Also, many thanks to **Kaden Ofstad** for the great pictures he took that accompany the article. Both these contributors provide us with a great record of a wonderful night and are much appreciated since your editor was off roaming the high seas.

As part of our BOTY/Family and Friends Appreciation Dinner we also had a very special treat for the attendees. The Happiness Emporium regaled us in song and stories. As you may know, the quartet is celebrating the 50th year of their gold medals as the 1975 International Quartet Champion for the Barbershop Harmony Society (nee SPEBSQSA). The Commodores presented a special Lifetime Achievement Award Proclamation to them (page 6) honoring their years of enriching lives everywhere with their finely crafted harmonies. As you read this, the Happiness Emporium will be on their way to Denver for the Barbershop Harmony Society's 2025 Annual Convention where they will be justly celebrated.

Happy reading and as always, keep those cards and letters coming in.



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## JAMYE CASPERSON NAMED COMMODORES 2025 BARBERSHOPPER OF THE YEAR

*By Dick Riemenschneider*

### *And What a Party It Was*

Sunday, June 8th was a special day for the Commodores as 82 members and partners and one party crasher enjoyed the Family and Friends Appreciation Night and BOTY Celebration.

The event started with a social hour. The party goers engaged in conversation and some tag or Polecat singing. The formal event started when 1975 International Quartet Champions Happiness Emporium took the stage and presented a song set for our entertainment. It was the general consensus from the crowd that, in the 50 years since their championship, their skills have not diminished in the least and they are still more than deserving of their first place medals. Each member of the Happiness Emporium was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Proclamation (see page 6) that was read by Commodore President, **Tony Mason**.

The event moved on to the dinner. The chorus members sang a rousing rendition of "Let Me Call You Sweetheart" to our partners and then dinner was served. All attending heaped lavish praise on the quality of the food at the venue, Mancini's Char House.

The program commenced a fashionable 5 minutes late with **Blake Wanger** as emcee. Blake thanked organizer **Dan Williams** for his efforts in putting the event together. Each significant other from the Happiness Emporium quartet was presented with a small token of appreciation for their tolerance over the years of the men's singing hobby.

Door prizes, gift certificates to Bachmans, were given away and the lucky winners were **Debbie Mason, Rosie Glover, and Karen Wentworth**.

Finally, the plaque for the 2025 Barbershopper of the Year was read, accompanied by the usual suspenseful speculation from the audience as the clues from the plaque started to unfold.

*(the article and the BOTY plaque continue on the following page)*



## *Congratulations Jamye on your well deserved BOTY!*

The evening ended with much congratulations to the newly named BOTY followed by some more tag and Polecat singing.

Oh, and that party crasher. It was none other than noted local musician **Dan Chouinard**, son of local barbershopper of note, **John Chouinard**. John was a long time barbershop singer and past Commodore member. His son Dan had not heard Happiness Emporium in a while and decided to crash our party to hear one of his favorite barbershop quartets. Dan said he was happy he came to listen and the guys in the quartet were happy to see him in attendance.



*"Keep The Whole World Singing!"*



MINNEAPOLIS  
COMMODORES



Our 2025 BOTY joined the Commodores during uncertain times for the chorus. Yet we all knew, **as soon as our BOTY came along, that skies would be bright again. We felt a great delight just being with our new BOTY.** Then, mere months later, the chorus faced the unexpected challenge of a year in which all rehearsals and performances had to be held online. **When the road looked rough ahead, and the chorus was miles and miles from our nice warm rehearsal hall, our BOTY went above and beyond to keep the Commodores not just together, but thriving through the adversity, something for which we will always be grateful beyond measure.**

The 2025 BOTY fills every Commodores gathering with joy, gratitude and humor. Anyone who attends a Commodores performance or rehearsal knows, when they **hear the people sing**, that the Commodores are truly blessed with the musical expertise, dedication, passion, and compassion that this year's BOTY has so generously shared with us over her years with the chorus.

Our new BOTY has committed extensive time and energy to learning and mastering the Barbershop style, and it shows when she directs the Commodores and MCX. She has also served the chorus as a member of the Music and Annual Show Committees and as editor of the weekly SWIPE. On top of all of that, she sings with a truly terrific quartet, while at the same time working passionately to **elevate our music** to amazing new heights.

The Minneapolis Commodores, in sincere appreciation for her many contributions and dedication to our Chapter, are very pleased to proclaim,

## **Jamye Casperson**

2025 Barbershopper of the Year

Presented in Saint Paul, Minnesota on the eighth day of June, 2025

# *Lifetime Achievement Award*



## *A PROCLAMATION*

**Inasmuch As,** *The Minneapolis Commodores have a special responsibility to recognize and honor meritorious service;*

**And Whereas,** ***The Happiness Emporium Quartet** is celebrating a very special year in 2025 - The 50th Anniversary of their being crowned International Quartet Champions of the Barbershop Harmony Society (nee SPEBSQSA) in 1975;*

**And Forsooth,** ***Happiness Emporium** has achieved truly legendary status throughout the Society as generous, energetic ambassadors of Barbershop harmony, emblemizing the undeniable truth that ringing chords is, and always will be, the greatest game in town;*

**And Notfornaught,** *Our heroes decided that happiness and fun were a well matched pair that led them to follow their fashion muse down the yellow-brick road. And in a most unabashed and uncowardly way, created yellow and white checked suits and an eye-popping smiley-face ensemble that made them the envy of fashionistas everywhere;*

**And Verily,** *The foursome decided that they could broaden their reach even further by creating the Good News Gospel Quartet, and in the process became a beloved, soul-lifting gospel music group that performed far and wide to appreciative audiences who always left Feelin' Fine;*

**Be It Hereby Resolved,** *The Minneapolis Commodores are extremely proud to present this Lifetime Achievement Award to our Brothers in Song, the **Happiness Emporium.***

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*Presented on This Day*

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*Tony Mason, President*



## To the Commodores,

*Thank you, thank you for the great hospitality we felt at the BOTY party last night. What a nice touch to provide a gift card to our ladies... and one that they get to spend as they wish. And, of course we don't often take them out enough to a classy dinner place like Mancini's!*

*I re-read the proclamation certificate/plaque last night (after getting back home to Lake City), the one you gave to each of the HE members. It was so perfect! I read it with some laughter and some tears. My own Commodores BOTY award dated back to 1985. It is so hard to believe it was 40 years ago! The creator of my plaque was the doer of all things Commodores for many years. On the back of the custom made plaque was one word in small print, "Churchill." We all stand on the shoulders of the very few "Churchills" in our world. The mold was thrown away with his passing.*

*Thanks again! We appreciated the good humor and the support we've enjoyed over the years from the Commodores! As the new song we tried to sing before learning it says,  
Enjoy Yourself, it's later than you think!*

*Friends for life,*  
**Rod Johnson, for the Happiness Emporium**



*Editor's Note: Rod's 1985 BOTY plaque. They just don't make 'em like the used to.*





*Past (and present) BOTY honorees*



*A very proud Dave Casperson welcomes a new BOTY to the family*



*Tony Mason reads the Proclamation for Happiness Emporium*



*Dan Williams presents the BOTY*



*Our talented emcee Blake Wanger*



*Just how many guys are in your quartet?*

*Special thanks to Kaden Ofstad for all the great pictures from the event.*





## Director's Corner With Jamye Casperson



### **Harmony in Leadership: The Many Faces of Leadership in the Commodores**

By Jamye Casperson

The Minneapolis Commodores has a strong group of visible leaders in our chorus. These include the directors, president, VP of (fill in the blank...technology, music/performance, marketing, etc.), section leaders and our board members.

However, not every leader has a title. Here's a look at some of the ways I see people being a leader in the Commodores every single rehearsal.

#### **The Encourager: The Heartbeat**

Some lead by lifting others up—a word of encouragement to a nervous newcomer, a shared laugh during a break, or a thoughtful message after a performance. These informal leaders are the glue that keeps the choir family strong and welcoming.

#### **The Quartet: The Courageous**

It takes guts to step forward and sing alone, and guys that sing in quartets embody bravery and trust. Their willingness to sing their part alone inspires others to stretch their own comfort zones. They lead by example, showing what's possible when we take a risk.

#### **The Newcomer: The Fresh Perspective**

Even brand-new members can lead in their own way. With their fresh eyes and ears, they bring energy, ask important questions, and often remind the group of the joy of singing together. Their enthusiasm is contagious and vital to keeping the choir vibrant.

#### **The Listener Leader**

These members may not always speak up first, but they lead by example through careful listening—both musically and interpersonally.

#### **The Confident Performer**

These are the people who light up in front of an audience. Their stage presence and vocal confidence inspire others to project more boldly. They're often the ones others watch for cues when uncertain, simply because of their enthusiasm in delivery.

#### **The Empath**

These choir members have a sixth sense for how others are feeling. They know when someone's having a rough day, offer a supportive word, and foster an emotionally safe environment. They create a sense of belonging and care in the group.

*(continued on page 10))*

**The Knowledge Sharer**

Maybe they've sung in choirs for years or have a strong barbershop background—they're generous with tips, pronunciation help, or explanations of musical terms. They lead through mentorship, always happy to help others grow without making anyone feel small.

**The Morale Booster**

Some people just lift the room. They bring the laughs and/or organize post-rehearsal hangouts. These members lead through positivity and connection, making the choir a place people genuinely love to come to week after week.

**The Problem Solver**

These members have a knack for finding solutions. They're often practical thinkers who lead in quiet, effective ways that keep things moving forward.

**The Reliable Rock**

Always prepared, always present, always steady—this type of leader may not be flashy, but their dependability is reassuring. They anchor the group with consistency and dedication, setting a high standard just by being themselves.

**The Bridge Builder**

Sometimes choirs have natural cliques—section-based or social—and it takes someone with strong interpersonal instincts to connect the dots. These members make sure no one feels left out which strengthens the whole ensemble.

In the Commodores, **leadership is often informal but incredibly powerful.**

It shows up in kindness, encouragement and lending a helping hand whenever needed. I encourage each and every one of you to find the best way for you to be a leader in our group. Everyone brings something unique to the group—and that diversity of strengths is what makes Commodores a truly special singing community. Let's celebrate the many leaders among us and keep making great music together!

**It's GREAT to be a Commadore!**







## Dick Riemenschneider's Commodore Chronicles Volume 2



- From the November, 1976 CHORD-INATOR: The Minneapolis Chapter has indeed been fortunate to have had an interest in the last “SIX DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIP QUARTETS IN A ROW”.
  - 1971 Red Barons Minneapolis
  - 1972 Roadrunners Minneapolis
  - 1973 Happiness Emporium Minneapolis – St. Paul
  - 1974 Corporate Image Minneapolis – St. Paul
  - 1975 Harmony Galore Four Minneapolis – Minnetonka
  - 1976 Talk of the Town Minneapolis – St Croix

*ED - I wonder if this is all-time record? Anyone?*
- From the March 1977 CHORD-INATOR: Had an announcement for annual auditions. The auditions on March 22 to be held at Southdale Center. A short program with the chorus and quartets to be presented to the public in the Garden Court with auditions to follow. The announcement goes on to say that each member is expected to have at least two new prospects to attend the show and then be auditioned. (The April issue stated that 22 men would become new Commodores after the audition.)
- From the May, 1977 Chordinator: Thirteen new members were welcomed into the Commodores in the last month, eleven from the auditions in March. Some names familiar to older members are:
  - **Chuck Dostal** – 1995 BOTY
  - **Vern Halverson** – Two of his sons eventually joined the Commodores. Jim was the Commodore’s director for a little less than two years. Both Larry and Jim would be in District Champion Quartets, both in the Land O’ Lakes District and in the Far West District after they moved out of state.
  - **Fritz Hering** – In later years his claim to fame would be getting into the Minneapolis newspaper (complete with picture) for trying to deliver a singing telegram to a Minneapolis City Hall staff person in a cowboy outfit complete with toy pistols. The metal detectors did not like his pistols. (Some suspected that Fritz tipped the paper of an attempted breach of security)
  - **Rudy Stenson** – stood on the risers for entire meetings while he was well into his 90’s.
  - **Greg Volk** Was a junior at Hopkins High School when he joined making him the youngest Commodore. He played bass (both string and electric), guitar, piano, banjo, and harmonica. Later became the baritone with the Excalibur Quartet, seven-time international top ten quartet finalist. Many of the songs Excalibur sang were arranged by him.



## Jim Richards Memorial Chord Candy # 151

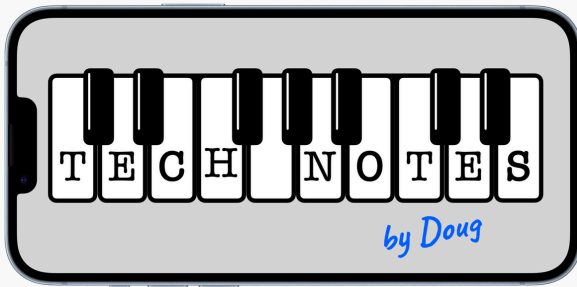


**It Had to Be You**  
Shortened Tag Isham Jones arr. Paddock

Swing! ♩ = ♩<sup>3</sup>♩

"The American classic tune of 'It Had To Be You' is a mainstay among vocalists, and it's definitely a favorite of mine. It was originally arranged by Isham Jones with lyrics penned by frequent collaborator Gus Kahn in 1924. Around that time, the pair were known for popular dance hits, like 'Swingin' Down the Lane,' 'Spain,' 'I'll See You In My Dreams,' and 'The One I Love (Belongs to Somebody Else)'. One of the tune's first recordings featured jazz vocalist Marion Harris. A couple of months after its release, the song became a No. 1 hit, featured in innumerable films, including *Casablanca*, *Annie Hall*, and *When Harry Met Sally*. To this day, it has yet to waltz out of our hearts. But for right now, it's become this tag! Feel free to put your swingin' shoes on, but take it real easy; it's not meant to be fast in any way. This should be a very comfortable range for all the parts, especially nice and warm for the basses. It follows a classic ii-V-I progression with a 'swoon-worthy' diddly trio over a bass hanger at the end. The 'had-to-be' unison part needs to be blended, not blasted--think: less is more! Tagmeister Richards could probably have told you the physics of why that works better for unison phrases, especially in chorus settings, and it sets up nicely for the final couple measures. Each 'you' chord goes in succession from a juicy C-minor-6, to a tasteful F7, then home to Bb. Enjoy!"





# Youtube

by Doug Johnson



Did you know that YouTube uploads over 500,000 hours of new videos every single day? That's over 59 years of everything from trash to treasure! And guess what? That's not even the whole story. Every year, there are well over twenty thousand years of new videos on YouTube! Can you imagine?

It all started on February 14, 2005, when three former PayPal employees, Steve Chen, Chad Hurley, and Jawed Karim, decided to create a platform where people could share their videos. Jawed Karim took the first step by uploading the first video, titled "Meet Me At The Zoo," on April 23, 2005. And on December 15, 2005, YouTube officially launched its beta phase, making it available to everyone.

Fast forward to 20 years later, and YouTube has become a global phenomenon. It's like a treasure trove of music and entertainment, with over five billion hours of video available. And the best part? It's constantly growing, with new videos being uploaded every minute.

So, how can this all help you become a better singer and ensemble member? Well, it's all about exposure. By watching a wide variety of videos, you'll learn from different styles, techniques, and performances. You'll also discover new artists and gain inspiration for your own music.

And let's not forget about the power of social media. YouTube is a social platform, and it's a great way to connect with other musicians, share your own music, and get feedback from others.

So, what are you waiting for? Dive into the world of YouTube and start exploring the vast array of musical content available. Who knows, you might just discover your new favorite artist or find a hidden gem that inspires you to create your own amazing music.

**To truly make YouTube your go-to platform, you need to create an account and log in. It might seem a bit daunting at first, but trust me, it's a breeze. As long as you have a Gmail address, you're all set!**

## **Playlists, The Secret Sauce**

Have you ever found yourself scrolling through YouTube for hours, trying to find that one video of a song we're doing in chorus? Or maybe you want to look at certain videos, but they're scattered all over the place? Well, buckle up, because YouTube playlists are here to save the day! They're like your own personal radio station, curated just for you. And the best part? They're super easy to create and use. Plus, there's some sneaky keyboard shortcuts to make navigating videos a breeze!

## **Why You Need Playlists in Your Life**

Think of playlists as your digital mixtape. They're perfect for:

(Cont. on Pages 14 & 15)

- **Motivation:** Get pumped up with your practice videos all in one place.
- **Relaxing:** Unwind after a long day with a curated collection of your favorite quartet performances or tags.
- **Learning Something New:** Gather all the tutorials or special warm-up videos into a single, easy-to-access list.
- **Sharing with Friends:** Create playlists of your favorite music or funny videos to share with your buddies.
- **Saving for Later:** Found a video you want to watch but don't have time right now? Add it to a "Watch Later" playlist.

### Creating Your First Playlist (It's Easier Than You Think!)

Now, let's get started on creating your first playlist. It's easier than you might think! Just follow these simple steps:

1. **Find Your Video:** Go to the YouTube video you want to add to your playlist.
2. **Click the "Save" Button:** You'll find this button just below the video player.
3. **Choose a Playlist (or Create a New One):** If you already have playlists, you can select one. If not, click "+ Create new playlist."
4. **Name Your Playlist:** Give your playlist a catchy name (e.g., "Workout Jams," "Relaxing Piano," "Learn to Code").
5. **Set the Privacy:** You can choose to make your playlist Public (anyone can see it), Unlisted (only people with the link can see it), or Private (only you can see it).
6. **Click "Create":** And voila! You've made your first playlist!

**That's it! You've now created your first YouTube playlist. Enjoy your newfound organizational bliss!**

### Adding More Videos to Your Playlist

Once you've created a playlist, adding more videos is a snap:

1. **Find the Video:** Go to the video you want to add.
2. **Click "Save":** Again, you'll find this button below the video player.
3. **Choose Your Playlist:** Select the playlist you want to add the video to. It's that easy

### Managing Your Playlists Like a Pro

- **Editing:** You can easily change the name, description, and privacy settings of your playlist.
  - **Rearranging:** Drag and drop videos within your playlist to change their order.
  - **Removing:** Click the three dots next to a video in your playlist and select "Remove from playlist."
  - **Deleting:** If you want to get rid of a whole playlist, you can delete it from your library.
-

After organizing your videos into playlists, now let's ...|

### Become a YouTube Ninja with Keyboard Shortcuts!

Want to navigate videos like a pro? These keyboard shortcuts will change your YouTube life:

- **Spacebar:** Pause/Play
- **Arrow Keys (Left/Right):** Move forward or backward 5 seconds.
- **J/L:** Move backward or forward 10 seconds.
- **K:** Pause/Play (same as spacebar)
- **F:** Enter/Exit fullscreen mode.
- **M:** Mute/Unmute
- **Up/Down Arrow Keys:** Adjust volume.
- **0 (zero):** Jump to the beginning of the video.
- **End:** Jump to the end of the video.
- **Number Keys (1-9):** Jump to a specific percentage of the video (e.g., 5 jumps to 50%).

**Pro Tip:** Check out the “Library” tab on your YouTube channel to see all your playlists in one place.

So, what are you waiting for? Start making your own unique YouTube playlists today! You'll be amazed at how much more fun and efficient your YouTube experience becomes. Happy listening (and watching)!







## Around Town

A number of Commodores made the trip to Faribault, Minnesota to sing at a National Quartet Day event. Great fun was had by all.



Elevator Music



The Commodores had a Crazy Hat Night at our regular Tuesday rehearsal. Proud winner, that's Bill Dahl on the left, narrowly beat out Jamye Casperson and Dave Bechard. Thanks to Bill Albrecht, wearing a vintage 1980's Harmony College beanie, for the fun event.



Ad Hoc Quartet – Hall Doctors?

BOMP Quartet had a chance to participate in Sheila Cole's wonderful testimonial she gave about her husband and former member, Dan Cole. Dan was a donor to the Minnesota Lion's Vision Foundation. This wonderful organization operates through the University of Minnesota Ophthalmology & Visual Neurosciences Department.





## The Commodores Perform at Benilde Saint Margaret

by Dick Riemenschneider

On a rainy morning on May 20, twenty-one Commodores entertained the student body at Benilde Saint Margaret's (BSM) High School. The occasion was the end of school year awards program for the junior and senior high school students. The Commodores performed at BSM once before and that performance was well received and as a result the student body has a soft spot in their collective hearts for the Commodores. **Mike Jeremiah**, our very gracious host and the campus minister, was very thankful that the Commodores performed at their event. The chorus sang three songs and each was received enthusiastically by the audience of students, faculty, and staff. The performance resulted in a standing ovation by the audience at the conclusion of the set.

As an aside, our host, Mike Jeremiah, is celebrating his 50th year as an educator at Benilde Saint Margarets. He teaches theology and leads student retreats and trips. He says he teaches many of his former students' children. He also states "if he starts to get former students' grandchildren in his class, he may have to consider retiring." Quote credit WCCO TV.



The Commodores



One half of the crowd and our esteemed director



## The 2025 Northern Pines Harmony Brigade

The Minneapolis Commodores, as usual, were very well represented at this year's Harmony Brigade. Entertainment for the gala Saturday night show was provided by the Brigade Chorus, our own Just One More, and, as rumor has it, a certain quartet (Kordal Kombat) who will be the Commodores headliner at our Annual Show in September.



The Commodore participants



Just One More



The Winning Quartet. See any familiar faces?



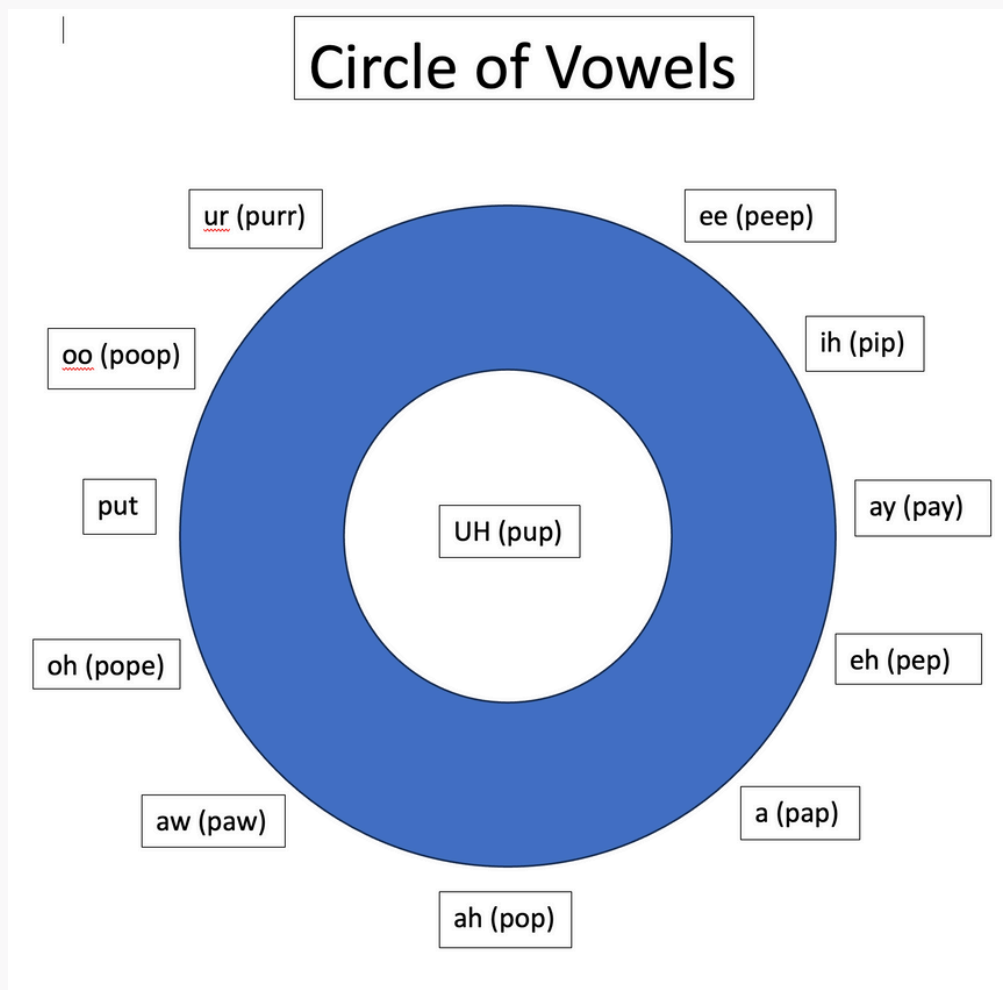
Kordal Kombat



Randy Rogers leads the Brigade chorus

## Bill Albrecht's Craft Corner

Bill Albrecht, an accomplished Barbershop director, has graciously started to share some of his knowledge during our Tuesday rehearsals. Shown below is a Circle of Vowels that can be used to practice using the correct vowel sound.



\*Start with "ee" and go clockwise around the outside of the circle.

\*Minimize your jaw movement.

\*Notice the jaw is lowest at "ah."

\*Generally, keep the tip of your tongue against the lower gum ridge.

\*Generally, keep your "blades up." The sides of your tongue should touch the bottom of your back upper molars. You can accomplish this by saying the word "yay."



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# Barbershop “This or That” With the Commodores Baritone Section

## Jamye Casperson



Get ready to learn more about the Commodores baritone section in a fun and quirky way! We asked them to choose between some tough options in a classic 'this or that' game."

**Tags or Polecats?**

**Tags:** TJ, Wigley, Harly

**Polecats:** Rick A, Carlotto, Bloomquist (once we learn them correctly)

**Quartet or chorus singing?**

**Quartet:** TJ, Harly, Rick, Bloomquist, Carlotto

**Chorus:**

**“BOTH”:** Wigley

**Outfits: Matching or individual style?**

**Matching:** TJ, Harly, Rick, Wigley, Carlotto, Bloomquist

**Individual Style:**

**Classic Tag or Unexpected Twist:**

**Classic:** Wigley, Rick, Carlotto

**Unexpected:** TJ, Harly, Bloomquist

**Key change—love it or leave it?**

**Love it:** TJ, Rick, Harly, Bloomquist, Carlotto, Wigley

**Leave it:**

**Ballads or Uptunes?**

**Ballads:**

**Uptunes:** Wigley, Rick, Carlotto, TJ, Bloomquist

**“Uptunes at first, ballads once you nail it”** Harly

**Classic barbershop or contemporary arrangements?**

**Classic:** Rick

**Contemporary:** TJ, Harly, Bloomquist, Wigley (He’s evolving)

**“Barbershop arrangements of contemporary songs”:** Carlotto

(cont. on Page 21)

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(This or That cont. from Page 20)

**Learning by ear or sheet music:**

**By ear:**

**Sheet Music: TJ, Carlotto, Wigley**

**“That’s a tough one. If I were on a deserted island and I could only choose one, I’d say learning by ear. If I have a quartet on that island to sing with me, I’d want sheet music. Realistically, I would want both because using all your senses makes more sense”: Rick A**

**“ It’s very helpful for me to hear the music, but I think the sheet music is very important for the technicalities (timing, etc.)”: Carlotto**

**“That is a hard one. Varies depending on the song. I will say sheet music because it is the ultimate necessary crutch”: Bloomquist**

**Stay tuned...next issue Barbershop This or That with the Basses (anything can happen!)**

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

July 15 Minnetonka Summer Concert

July 16. Lakeville Summer Concert

July 31 Roseville Summer Concert

Aug 11 Maple Grove Summer Concert

Aug 12 Como Summer Concert

Sept 11 Tech Rehearsal, Minnehaha A.

Sept 13 ANNUAL SHOW

Oct 10-11 LOL Convention, Mpls

Dec 13 Holiday Show, Minnehaha A.



**The Commodores meet  
every Tuesday at 7 pm:  
Oak Knoll Lutheran Church  
600 Hopkins Crossroad, Minnetonka 55305**

**Guests are welcome but please contact us  
in advance so we can meet you at the door  
(Neal Mortenson [nmortenson@usfamily.net](mailto:nmortenson@usfamily.net))**

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