

KEEPING THE
WHOLE WORLD SINGING

CHORD-INATOR

BARBERSHOP
HARMONY
SOCIETY



MINNEAPOLIS
COMMODORES

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

10,000 LAKES DIVISION - LAND O' LAKES

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From the Prez.

I loved singing in Elementary school. But at some point a kid made fun of me for being too loud (a trait I still have not been able to completely control, as you poor men who have to stand by me on the risers may attest), and I thought that meant I was really bad at it. So I stopped singing.

...for years...

The summer before junior year I was DEEP into theater. And my best friend at the time was a singer. He and I were sitting in a room before a show, and he started singing, and I started harmonizing. It felt natural, and right, and I thought we sounded pretty good together. But... The director of the show heard us, bolted into the room and asked my friend Dale, "Who is that singing with you?" Dale pointed at me. The director shook his head and said "I had no idea!" And he left the room with



Tony Mason

no further comment.

I went home that night determined to never sing again. I thought it was so bad that the director of our show had to take time out to find out who was creating caustic cacophony. It was a sleepless night.

The next day I was hesitant to even go to the theater. And I was purposefully avoiding our director, until he called me over between call time and curtain. Dale was there with him. The director sat at the piano. He had Dale sing a melody line to a song. He turned to me and said, "Now just sing what sounds good to you."

Imagine my absolute surprise and delight when I started woodshedding harmony (also a practice I have not been able to completely control, as you probably know) and the director actually smiled. And Dale smiled. And then I smiled. And we sat there and sang for about 30 minutes until it was almost showtime. It was my life-changing moment.

That fall I quit high school baseball, joined choir, and fell deep into our hobby. Several musicals, a college choir where I met my

beloved wife Debbie, 5 kids and years of singing at home, a dad rock band, some church choir-ing, and almost 11 Commodores years later, the rest is joyful history.

I am convinced there are many men like me out there. Men who just don't yet know how good this hobby is for the heart and soul. Men who stopped singing because of a bad day or a stray comment or just from lack of time or energy. Men who need to share the moments of pure joy when chords ring and the air buzzes and goosebumps appear and someone yells, "Barbershop!"

Let's find them, please. There is room for many more on the risers - and if we ever run out of room we will just add more.

It's an honor to know you and sing with you. It's great to be a Commodore.

Thanks,

TM

***IT'S GREAT TO BE A
COMMODORE!***

Eden Prairie Summer Concert



Georgia Grind

By Jim Erickson, BeachChair
Baritone



Jim Erickson

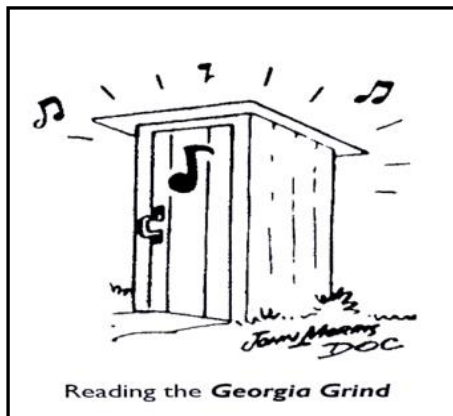
Summer can be a mishmash of schedules. I can't count the number of times we have carefully planned future events and timing only to have to leapfrog appointments, outings, commitments and such, just to have them tossed into the time blender and poured out into a smoothy of a whole different flavor. Still with me?

The week before the Staring outdoor Commodore concert, relatives arrival from out east, an unexpected funeral for a dear friend, a couple of necessary meetings, flipped everything around once again and allowed an opening in our Friday evening agenda. And that opening gave us a chance to hear the Commodores in one of their community outdoor summer concerts. So, that's what my wife, **Mary**, and I did.

Arriving to see a nice-sized crowd in the grassy amphitheater seated on blankets, beach chairs, picnic tables and, well you can imagine all the other means of sitting there to listen to the music, we took a place a bit distant at the top of the hill. Surrounded by all sorts of appreciative listeners who enthusiastically applauded at every turn in the program, we just sat and took in the exceptionally pleasant evening weather, the bug-less location, the fading sun and nothing more we could have hoped for.

Blake Wagner, in his usual fine way of leading the audience in what they were about to hear, future Commodore events, and the like, seemed inspired by it all and

the audience loved it. Being quite a way back, the sound was still very good for all to hear. And, OK, there were a couple minor, but irritating, flecks in the evening. Nothing to do with the program or performance, but the car security, "someone is touching my car" constant beeping which after several minutes was shut off, only to begin again later in the evening. I thought they outlawed those non-stop honkings. Really? You need it turned on at a very public, packed parking with large groups of people present? Maybe, but be able to shut off the honks after two or three and go check if you are concerned. Or drive your old beater to concerts! Mindlessly letting it go on and on is irresponsible to say the least. But I forgive



them if they just happened to have a pack of Juicy Fruit gum in their pocket that set off the "Find Me" honking and it pushed that button on the wireless key fob when swatting at a giant mosquito or ?

Ah nuts, I'll get the other thing off my chest while I'm at it. I used to think that little kids could be forgiven if they talked in a movie theater. After all, they grew up with TV's in the living room where they could watch a program all the while chatting away at the dog, cat, parents, and friends without any regard to someone else nearby being unable to enjoy the presentation because of the chatter. But when some seventy-year-olds, I'm guessing the age, sit at a

picnic table surrounded by an audience there to hear the performers, and loudly talk while being completely oblivious to others, including the performers, there is no excuse for the lack of manners or awareness of where they are. Maybe they had mental problems. Maybe hard of hearing. In this case, I doubt it, but come on people, be present. Only after many turned heads and a hushing finger to the lips to a younger person, possibly a daughter who joined the group, did the talkers talk in softer tones, but not stopping. Just rude! There, I feel much better. How about you, now that I have unloaded and you have taken on a new burden. Let me help! The concert was otherwise fun, inspiring, enthusiastic, weather-pleasant and I thought the two-plane flyover streaming puffy, long bands of smoke was possibly beyond any outdoor presentation I can recall by the Commodores. Did **Mark Ortenburger** and **John Carlotto** sneak out without our notice to pilot those planes? I have little doubt. They are baritones after all.

A concert that was nicely done and very appreciated by the listeners! Good job, guys (**Jamye** included as one of the guys).

Hold fast to that which is good, protect the truth, grow the chorus, work on that Barbershopper Bucket List, bring a big smile to show you are really having fun, and have a good remainder of the summer.

(Never fear, the search for the origin of the *Georgia Grind* continues.)

It's Great to be a Commodore!

**Minneapolis, Minn. Chapter
Land O'Lakes District, BHS
Meetings every Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.**
Mayflower Congregational Church
106 Diamond Lake Rd E
Minneapolis, MN 55419

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From Fearless Leader 1



Jamy Casperson

What’s in a rehearsal? That’s a loaded question. Let’s start here: how long has it been since you have taken some time to watch really great barbershop choruses? Take a few minutes to watch some amazing performances! For example, the Westminster Chorus’ performance of From Now On. <https://youtu.be/bLwblLkxQDw> Check out the quartet After Hours and their performance of “Rosie” from Bye Bye Birdie. [\(1\) After Hours - Rosie \[from Bye Bye Birdie\] - YouTube](#)

Two totally different performances, but they have things in common. First, the attention to every little detail by EVERY person in the group. It takes a huge commitment to get to that level! It takes rehearsal and attention to so much more than notes and words. There is nuance, personality (not dynamics, thanks **Kevin Keller!**), emotion, musicality, matching timbres and harmonic integrity (thanks **Paul Wigley**) in every single note, phrase, verse and song. Go back and watch one of those videos again. Notice the little things. Watch how they interact with each other. They work on that in REHEARSAL.

Make a commitment to come to rehearsal and practice the nuances; the musicality; work to match timbres between voices; learn to portray the emotion and tell the

story. The people that lead our rehearsals have over 50 years of music teaching experience between them and Paul is a barber-shop directing, judging, performing, coaching encyclopedia of knowledge and experience. Rehearsal is a chance to tap into all of that experience and enthusiasm and improve as a chorus. You improve as an individual at home with tracks, etc. **We improve as a chorus on Tuesday nights.** Simple as that!

When you can’t come to rehearsal, your music team is going to start providing a resource to help you stay engaged with us and to continue your individual progress at home. **MC University** will be found on Groupanizer. What is MC University? Well, it is a place you can find audio and video recordings of our rehearsals so you can listen and watch and learn when you absolutely have to miss rehearsal. Or you can watch and listen and reinforce what we did in rehearsal on your own time before the next rehearsal. We will add material for you to use to improve your skills in this “thinking man’s hobby” we call BARBERSHOP (did you just think of Bechard? Then you have been at rehearsal!)

See you Tuesdays!

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Logo courtesy of Bob Clark

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To:

- BOMP
- Mark Ortenberger.....952-250-0968
- EASY LISTENIN'
- Dick Riemenschneider.....651-487-9993
- JUST ONE MORE
- Nate Weimer.....316/204-8756
- SWYPE
- Mark Bloomquist.....952/541-0232
- CINEMATIX
- Steve Grady.....952/334-7500
- HALL PASS
- Dave Casperson.....651/247-6319

LOOKING AHEAD

- Aug 20 TWINS
- Aug 28 Maple Grove
- Sept. 23 Annual Show
- Oct 13 Convention

The *Chord-Inator* is available on the Minneapolis Chapter's website minneapoliscommodores.org

**CHORD-INATOR
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MEETING EVERY TUES -7:00
p.m.
LOCATION TBD
GUESTS ALWAYS WELCOME**