

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

DECEMBER 2023 - VOL. 79 - NO. 6



## From the Prez.

As we were gathering for this year's holiday concert, a good friend (whom I will not embarrass by naming him here) arrived discombobulated. He said it had been an intense, crazy day, and he looked tired. I told him I was glad he was there - and I am glad so many of us were there! - and we went inside.

We hit the risers, made some good music, had some fun, and performed a wonderful concert. It was energetic, fresh, and appreciated by our patrons, our families, our young friends from the Minnehaha Academy, and (hopefully) by all of us who were in attendance.

After the concert as we gathered in the foyer, I spoke to my friend again. He looked completely different. So much happier, so much less stressed. He said that singing with the chorus was what he need-



Tony Mason

ed to change the day.

In 2014, **Dr. Kate Hays** wrote a holiday article for Psychology Today, entitled "Twelve Reasons for Singing." My friend made me think of 2 of her reasons:

*"When you're singing, it's almost impossible to think about other things—the challenges of daily life, for example. You're focused specifically on what you are doing. Being fully in the present moment allows us welcome distraction from other thoughts, issues, or burdens. Singing brings respite and refocus."*

*"Unless you confine yourself to singing in the shower, singing means community and interpersonal connection. Choruses come together to work on a program; they have a sense of purpose that is larger than any one individual. Each different voice type and timbre is needed—the whole is greater than the sum of the parts. The sense of community is also strengthened through the rhythm of chatting with each other, catching up during break times."*

I'm excited that we continue to gather, to stretch and to grow as a chorus. I fully anticipate that 2024

will be one of the most important and enhancing years in our 80 year history. And I hope we will all recruit and embrace new members and welcome new opportunities like MCX with open arms.

But this holiday season, as I reflect upon the good things in my life, it's not growth and evolution that are top of mind. It's you! I am so grateful to be part of this good group of people. Thank you for letting me sing here. I feel profoundly and ridiculously blessed to be a Commodore.

Happy Holidays to each of you, and here's to an amazing future together.

Thanks,

TM

## It's Great to be a Commodore!

**Minneapolis, Minn. Chapter  
Land O'Lakes District, BHS  
Meetings every Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.**  
Benilde St Margaret's  
St. Louis Park

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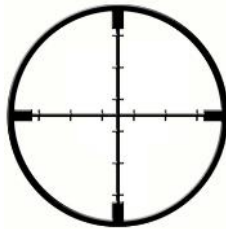
**Bomp!** Entertained the folks at the Fountains Senior Living in Lakeville this past Thursday for their Christmas party.

Harvey ran into one of the residents, Jim Johnson, who was a Commodores back in the 70's. He sang a couple of Pole Cats with us.



**Hunter's Bullseye**

and (especially) your sense of humor!



Shawn Hunter

It was nice to finally hear our new chorus, MCX, at the Christmas concert. Nicely done, boys. Looking forward to lots of great music from you.

Finally, I would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the CHORDinator staff. Thanks to all of you who contributed articles over the year. I look forward to starting my sixth year as Editor in 2024!

Twas a great year, my Brothers. I still cannot believe how many new and returning members are on the risers thanks to **Tony's** leadership and the tremendous efforts of all of you! **THANK YOU.** The chorus sounds great and is just getting better and better.

Thanks, **Jamye and Dave**, for a great year of music and performing. We would be nothing without your knowledge, leadership,

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



Mark Ortenburger

## Oh What A Night

BY Mark Ortenburger

*Oh what a night*

*Late September back in twenty-three*

*What a very special time for me  
As I remember what a night.*

An *EPIC* show in the fall, put us  
all through our paces,  
Chairman **Nate** at the helm, with  
a raft of new faces.

A day to remember, full of musical  
joy,  
The Commodores flourished, said  
the voice of Jim Foy.

### September 22

*'Twas the night* before show-time,  
and gmail all atwitter,  
A performance tomorrow, there  
was no time to dither.

It appeared that the songs were all  
learned put to bed,  
And each character's lines softly  
danced in their heads.

We would sing with our hearts,  
perhaps move once or twice,  
*Something Good* we could sense,  
that would *really* be nice.

Nate's script so creative, and  
great charts guaranteed,  
Our patrons would cry, "*Just One  
More,*" yes indeed.

*Elevator Music* and *BOMP*,  
worked at honing their craft,  
*One Night Only* took a *Hall Pass*,  
focused on downing some drafts.

Directors **Jamye** and **Dave**, la-  
bored into the night,  
With singing and acting, getting  
each part just right.

For good measure they knew, to  
be chorally strong,  
Mouth the words here and there,  
we'd remember the song.

Tomorrow would reveal, what has  
often been true,  
*Twin* leaders bring magic, you can  
ask **Rod Carew**.

Like having two **Santas**, or roof  
reindeer with *paws*?  
So what could be better, than a  
*pair-enthetical-Claus*.

And why mention Saint Nick,  
since the weather said fall,  
There were rumors afoot, 'bout a  
box-office call.

It came in long distance, a smart  
phone far away,  
And the caller did ask, about buy-  
ing some hay.

Now perhaps I'm mistaken, jump-  
ing to a conclusion,  
Isn't it this time of year, Santa's  
supposed to be snoozin'?

### September 23

The day of the show, it dawned  
bright and clear,  
Excitement was brimming, our  
patrons were here.

The chorus sang with abandon,  
not the least little bit shy,  
Eliciting from **Judy**, a final heart-  
felt "*oh my!*"

The dialogue delivered with snap-  
py *savoir-faire*,  
Each quartet hit the mark, with  
harmonious flair.

And **Vinnie** our hero, he should-  
ered the load,  
Quite happy he wasn't turned into  
a toad.

### That Evening

And of course Santa stopped by,  
an Afterglow to remember,  
A surprise showing indeed, for it  
was just September.

The deer fed on some hay, and  
heard songs to their liking,  
For Santa spiked eggnog, and  
some cookies with icing.

At the end of the evening, Ru-  
dolph's team almost spent,  
After clapping their hooves off, it  
was past time they went.

*And laying his finger aside of his  
nose,  
And giving a nod up the chimney  
he rose.*

"But we heard Santa exclaim ere  
he drove out of sight,  
*"I just might be back soon, you  
rehearse Tuesdays right?"*

*Barbershop music, makes my  
spirits bright,  
As glorious chords, soar into the  
night.*

*I feel love all around, one and all  
it embraces,  
Strong feelings of welcome,  
you're all in good graces.*

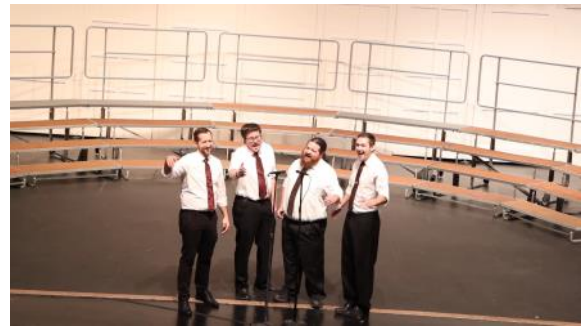
*Yes I think I'll be back, for the  
world needs to know,  
That a song from the heart, can  
erase the word NO.*

Now **Grady**, now **Wanger**, now  
**Glover**, and **Johnson**,

On **Mason**, on **Paxson**, on  
**Hunter**, and **Swanson**.

*To the top of the porch, to the top  
of Dave's Wall,  
What a night in September, and  
good-night one and all."*

# Merry Christmas from The Commodores!





Harvey Weiss

**IT WAS A  
VERY GOOD  
YEAR  
FOR...(fill in  
your favorite)**

You might recall these song lyrics from a popular **Frank Sinatra** tune, telling his life story through song.

Well, my fill-in version would be, “**IT WAS A VERY GOOD YEAR FOR**”... *The Minneapolis Commodores* in many ways. But the most notable “way” for us, has been the generous influx of new vibrant singers both young and um... You know, seasoned singers.

Through the diligent work of our Membership VP, **Neal Mortenson**, and all those who sponsored these new voices, we have added 18 new active members, plus 4 new members who currently inac-

tive, one who has moved, plus 4 renewable memberships. In reality, 18 new singers have taken their places on the risers. *This is just plain amazing.* We must work hard at retaining them and challenging us all to become, as **Steve Grady** has said, “Make the Best Better.” Amen to that! Their bio’s will appear as quickly as we can get the assembled. (names are listed below)

A brand new addition to our alternatives as an organization, is the **MCX, Minneapolis Commodores Xtrem**, a group of Commodores who want to do a bit more in the **competition** world of barbershop. Many of the new members mentioned that this was a final convincing element to decide to join us. President **Tony Mason** has led this concept with the Board, to hopefully continue to build our ranks to even higher levels next year.

**New Active Members; Steve Selin**, bari; **Mark Johnson**, bass;

**Thomas Mondry**, bari; **Sten Wall**, lead; **Seth Bobrow**, bari, candidate; **Vinnie Trainer**, bass; **Tim Trainer**, bass; **Morgan Baumbach**, bass; **Mark Smaby**, bass; **Oliver Nicholson**, lead; **T.J. Striblen**, Bari; **Harley Lentz**, bari; **Stephen Bloomquist**, bass; **David Day**, tenor; **Hal Huggins**, lead;

**New members, currently inactive; Michael Colon**, tenor, moved; **Alistar Hunter**, tenor; **Kevin White**.

**Former members, renewed; Kris Vance**, lead, active; **Bill Warp**, bass, active; **Jeff Culp**, bari, active; **Peter Jarnberg**, bass, inactive.

Join me in welcoming (and welcoming back) our great new singers!

**Harvey Weiss**

- Immediate Past President

## New Members

### Dave Day

I have been singing since I was eight years old. I have sung in church choirs, school choirs, my college choir, the Minneapolis Commodores in 1985 and 1986, the Minnesota Chorale, the **Dale Warland** Symphonic Singers, and The Elizabethan Syngers, a madrigal group at the Renaissance Festival.

I was also a part-time professional church musician from 1993 to 2020. I played piano, organ, and keyboards. I was also the accompanist for The Note-able Singers, a ladies show choir based in Bloomington, from 2004 to 2016. I also played keys with **Ray Covington**, a local eight-piece R&B band in 2005 to 2006.

I am thrilled to be back with the Commodores, singing and ringing those sweet barbershop chords! THANKS!



## More New Members

### TJ Striblen

I am very excited to join the Minneapolis Commodores. I moved to Minnesota about 4 months ago after graduating from the University of Michigan this Spring (GBlue!). I haven't sung in the barbershop style before, but I do have some experience in singing. I've been in school choir since the fourth grade and have also sung in some a cappella and vocal jazz groups over the years. I moved out to Minneapolis for work and although I'm still new to the Twin Cities, I'm originally from the Chicago area, so I think I know how to handle the upcoming, and frightening, Minnesota winter. The commodores have been an extremely welcoming and friendly group and I cannot wait to share so many more memories with them as we create some wonderful music. As they say... it's GREAT to be a commodore.

**(Editors's Note):** Although we had tried to keep up, with all the new and returning members I know that we have missed a few in the CHORDinator. If you are a new or returning member and have not seen your picture and/or bio in the newsletter, please send both to the Editor at [shawn.h.hunter@gmail.com](mailto:shawn.h.hunter@gmail.com). THANKS!

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

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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
- 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***

**2024**

- Feb Singing valentines
- Summer Summer concert series
- Oct Convention
- Dec Christmas Show

The *Chord-Inator* is available on the Minneapolis Chapter's website  
[minneapoliscommadores.org](http://minneapoliscommadores.org)

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