

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

APRIL 2024 - VOL. 80 - NO. 2



From the Prez.

Welcome Home!

As our chapter has worked through a tremendously complex series of unplanned and then-planned moves, I have been reminded of some of my favorite quotes:

**"Where thou art, that is home."
- Emily Dickinson**

The truth about this group? No matter where we sing, chords ring. And this isn't just because we have a group of people who go through the technical process of learning music. It's because we have a growing group of good people who understand that harmony isn't just a musical term.

**"Home is what you take with you, not what you leave behind."
- N.K. Jemisin**

It took (so much!) work to find a more permanent home, but it happened. And, at least for me, the second we heard **Judy's** quartet



Tony Mason

sing and then did our warmups, Oak Knoll felt like home. The months of planning, temporary moves, negotiating, and sweat equity by so many just felt... worth it! To all who couldn't be there Tuesday, please join us soon.

"One never reaches home, but wherever friendly paths intersect the whole world looks like home for a time." - Hermann Hesse

Oak Knoll is where our friendly paths will intersect for the foreseeable future. I hope that every sin-

gle one of us can approach this move with excitement. Please adjust your travel times and join as often as you can. This chorus needs you! And it isn't just because we sound better when we all practice and sing together. Home, simply, feels more like home when we're all there.

I am so grateful to the many who have planned, facilitated, and executed this transition from Mayflower-to-Benilde-to-Mayflower-to-Benilde-to-Oak Knoll. It is an honor to work with you, and an honor to serve this chapter and chorus.



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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From Fearless Leader 1



Jamy Casperson

The Minneapolis Commodores chorus is growing and we are so excited about our growth. I want to take this opportunity to say that I am just as excited about and grateful for the guys that come every week and have been part of the Commodores for years (and many, for decades). We have guys that volunteer their time and talents in so many different ways. We also have guys that don't volunteer to do "extra stuff," but they come every week and sing with all that they have. They smile and chat with other guys; they set aside 2 hours a week to come and be a part of our rehearsals; they spend time outside of re-

hearsals working on their music; they buy a bag or two of nuts to support our fundraiser; they ask a couple friends to come to our concerts; they come to our Zoom rehearsals; they do so many things to support their singing family. Your chorus leadership wants to continue to gather feedback from all our members so that we can continue to serve your needs to the best of our ability. We will soon be sending out a survey so that you can join the conversation! We'd love to hear from you about why you sing in our choir. Whether you're a seasoned member of the Commodores, a newcomer to our chorus, or someone considering joining the Commodores, we want to know what motivates you to raise your voice in song. Share your thoughts and experiences with us—Your insights are welcome and will help us keep it **Great to be a Commodore!** Let your voice be heard!



Singing Valentines!



Nice job to all those quartets who served the community on Feb. 14. Here are the Go-4's: **John Lloyd** (bari), **Ken Glover** (lead), **Don Bartels** (bass), and **Harvey Weiss** (tenor).



Paul Paddock

Jim Richards Memorial Chord Candy # 149

Here's a nice **Billy Joel** tag for the warming spring/summer days coming up to aid in the travel-lust that usually comes with. The song was written in 1977 and is widely regarded as one of his signature songs. It features a piano-driven melody and introspective lyrics that speak to the idea that life moves quickly and that youth and innocence are fleeting. Joel sings about the importance of appreciating life's beauty in simple moments, such as "waiting for the rain to fall." The song's title, "Vienna," is used as a metaphor for the elegance and sophistication one can find in the simpler things in life. It is becoming quite a sensation on social media platforms like TikTok, and its newfound popularity with the younger generation is attributed to various reasons. One factor is the song's catchy melody and nostalgic feel, making it appealing to a new generation of listeners. The melody gives off a nice 'bluesy' feel with the Cb-Bb smears on 'realize' and 'Vienna'. In the tune, this line usually uses a flat-6 on 'realize', a snazzy variation for the 2-5-1 chord progression. This tag sticks with a basic 2, or a Bb7 chord. The basses and baris share their moment at the end, a partial homage to the Heart of My Heart polecat because of course... why not? If you so desire, you might even input your favorite city or place or hometown you dream of, not just Vienna, i.e. When will you realize, Twin Cities waits for you?

Vienna Tag

Billy Joel
arr. Paul Paddock



Harvey Weiss

Ask Not What Your Community Can Do for You, but Rather, Ask What You Can Do For Your Community.

- Harvey Weiss, Past President

(This is the remaining portion of **Cerutti's** class from Leadership Academy session last January. Although opinions expressed are his, they certainly are worthy of a robust discussion at a minimum.)

1. 200,000 people are singing barbershop today that do not belong to a sanctioned barbershop chapter. (source: Hal Leonard Publishers, tracking sheet music sales.)
2. Membership drives and ticket sales are antiquated ways to sustain a chapter.
3. BHS hasn't done anything different for the last 30-40 years except maybe learning tracks.
4. Guest nights are antiquated ways of serving the public.
5. The Brigade weekends, with free concerts, would fit the Outreach concept, if it was more than once a year in any community.
6. Singing valentines should be free for anyone in your community.
7. Good marketing / PR is not necessarily considered Outreach as it has expectations of more income.

Benefits for Chapters from Outreach

1. Singing activities will create awareness by providing assistance to worthy causes in a community.
2. Develops a symbiotic connection with a cause or a community it serves.
3. Gets a chapter more directly connected to a particular cause.
4. Help with chorus retention with a diverse array of performance opportunities.
5. Six steps for a chapter to get started:
 - a. Identify our expectations and determine if we are ready for this
 - b. Access community opportunities
 - c. Initiate collaborations
 - d. Form long-lasting partnerships
 - e. Stay focused
 - f. Tell your story

Cerutti suggested a novel way for this to be implemented. First it would involve 3 rehearsals a week, and a fourth one doing a concert in the community. This could be followed by an afterglow with the members of that community event. One on one with them would really build a lasting trust.

We all know of opportunities to help out our neighbors. They are unlimited and all that is required is our commitment to offer our services to the people who have so many needs. All we have to do is just share our singing with them. What a gift, and a lot of fun.

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

Logo courtesy of Bob Clark

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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

- June 2 BOTY
- June 5 New Hope concert
- July 31 Lakeville concert
- Aug 20 Como concert
- Sept 5 Show tech rehearsal
- Sept 7 Annual Show, Minnehaha Academy
- Oct 11 Convention

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

**CHORD-INATOR
MINNEAPOLIS COMMODORES
Minneapolis Chapter of BHS
MEETING EVERY TUES -7:00 p.m.
LOCATION:
Oak Knoll Lutheran Church
600 Hopkins Crossroad
Minnetonka, MN 55305
GUESTS ALWAYS WELCOME**