

River Ramblings

Editor - Jeffrey Grimmer

Mankato "Riverblender's" Heading to Rochester

Mark your calendars!!! - Since we won our Division Contest we are eligible to participate in the LO'L Fall District Contest and Convention to be held in Rochester, Minnesota. Please mark your calendars for October 21-22, 2011, for being in Rochester to compete. Also try to manage your vacations and schedules so you can be a part of the intense rehearsals prior to the contest.

I will be asking for commitments to this contest after the show in May. We need to send our registrations and reserve hotel rooms well in advance. The Board will act on how much of our registration will be paid based on the \$ success level of our show in May. Sell those tickets and ads!!

As you may know, Derek has indicated he (and Emily) will be moving to the metro area for her employment after she finishes school in December. Rochester will be the "Riverblenders" last competition with Derek as our director - let's shoot for the highest scores ever.

Also plan to attend the quartet competitions to support Leonard and Derek in "Grand Design" - that usually happens Friday evening (prelims) and finishes Saturday. There will be lots of fun things to do, see, and hear. So start planning NOW!

Thank you in advance for your commitment.

INVENTORY:

As house manager, I am asking anyone who has "Riverblender" property at home or in storage to

make a list, and/or take pictures. My goal is to compile an inventory of what we have and where it's at. I'm certain there are things that have accumulated and should be saved for the museum value - or discarded. My goal is to compile a list of inventory/pictures and let the Board decide the outcome. We can then develop a strategy to store what is deemed important and organize that space.

Feel free to email me at: stanbruss@charter.net

SOUND SYSTEM:

I would also like to make a list of who is knowledgeable on setting up and running our sound system. Should any group wish to rent the system, the Board has designed a contract form and it requires a trained person to set up/operate the equipment. We would also like to "train" some new people to be a part of our tech crew. Rocket science or electrical engineering is not a prerequisite. Please consider this opportunity to be of service to the Riverblenders organization.

E-mail or call me if you are familiar with the system set-up process or wish to become a part of the team.

Thanks!!



Stan Bruss - House Manager



2011 Southwest Division Chorus Champions



Riverblenders Annual Show



THE MANKATO RIVERBLENDEERS
PROUDLY PRESENT
A Night at the Auditions
SATURDAY MAY 7, 2011 TIMES. 2.00 & 7.00
AT CROSSVEIW COVENANT CHURCH
2000 HOWARD DRIVE, NORTH MANKATO
More info @ www.singmankato.com

Just 1 week to go!

Thanks to everyone
that sold ads!!
We exceeded last years
total sales!

Now, one last item to
make this show a hugh
success - sell those
tickets!

Tim and Thom have
put together a very
creative script for us,
and its going to be a lot
of fun performing!

Riverblenders Summer Performances

The summer church singout dates are as follows:

June 12 - (Mankato Churches?)

June 26 - (Mankato Churches?)

July 10 - Lake Crystal & N. Mankato (We may not have a director for this one ! YIKES!!)

July 24 - To Be Determined

August 7 - St. Peter Churches

August 21 - Mapleton Churches

There may be an additional one on Aug. 28 - more to follow on that.

Our goal is to have at least 20 men for each performance & 1 director !

PLEASE sign the signup sheet if you can make every date except 1!!!

So far we have 12 names, 8 more to go!!



Wayne Hughes
Music Vice President

Charter cable channel 13

Hickory Tech cable channel 7

(Show Advertising)

Sunday at 12:30 pm

Monday at 5:30 pm

Tuesday at 3:30 pm

Wednesday at 9:30 am

Thursday at 5:30 pm

Friday at 8:30 pm

Saturday at 8:00 am



The Riverblenders
Chorus of MANKATO

Mankato, MN Chapter of the
Barbershop Harmony Society

Thanks To Greg Rosevold & Soul Purpose

Benefits of Membership



Benefit Summary

This 501(c)(3) non-profit organization was founded in 1938 and is the hub that links 16 districts, over 800 chapters, thousands of quartets and nearly 30,000 individuals throughout North America. Membership in the world's largest all-male singing society provides many benefits: A dynamic website, bi-monthly magazine, weekly and monthly electronic newsletters, how-to publications, and electronic messaging keep members abreast of news and current developments. Society and district conventions, district schools, chapter officer training programs, and the highly successful Harmony College and Directors College provide opportunities for leadership, musical, membership and performance development and a forum for the exchange of new ideas. Encouraging vocal music in our schools and committees is a fundamental ideal of the Society and keeps music and the arts more relevant in these times of diminished focus and funding. Musical directors, administrators, arrangers, composers, music educators, singers, and fans of barbershop harmony can stay current with the latest news and information in this field through the benefits of membership.

Purpose

- Perpetuates and celebrates harmony in the barbershop style
- Promotes fellowship and friendship among men of good will
- Provides the opportunity to experience the joy of four-part a cappella singing
- Introduces and sustains music in the lives of people everywhere

Values

- The joy of singing and ringing chords in four-part barbershop harmony
- Fellowship and friendship
- Service to others through our music

Publications

Subscription to *The Harmonizer Magazine* – The Barbershop Harmony Society's bi-monthly magazine, *The Harmonizer*, features interviews and profiles; chapter, chorus, quartet and affiliate organizational news and activities; opinion and commentary; coverage of the International and Midwinter Conventions; leadership strategies; marketing, membership, performance development and meeting programming techniques; advice on artistic issues; and free music in the form of a new "tag" in each issue.

Subscription to *Livewire* – The Barbershop Harmony Society's weekly electronic newsletter, with timely news; links to important sources of information; training program updates; and tools you can put to immediate use.

Subscription to *Directly Involved* – The Barbershop Harmony Society's electronic newsletter, published quarterly, with timely news; links to important sources of information; training program updates; and tools to help chorus directors improve their skills and the enjoyment of their singers.

-This is the first of four pages of Barbershop Harmony Society Benefits to chorus members-



-SUPPORT OUR QUARTETS-

If you know of someone needing entertainment and cannot use the whole chorus - please use the following information and pass it on to potential clients.

GRAND DESIGN
Barbershop Quartet

Contact: Matt Hall
Phone: 715-410-8818
matthewjhall08@yahoo.com

Tenor - Leonard Huls
Lead - Don Hettinga
Bass - Matt Hall
Baritone - Derek Glenna

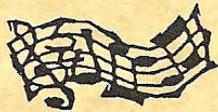
“RIVERBEND

Barbershop Quartet.

Ron Meyer - **Lead** Ryan Kuisle - **Baritone**
Jim Mongeau - **Tenor** Chuck Youngblom - **Bass**

Contact: Ron Meyer at **(507) 381-9978**

Wayne Hughes, Tenor Bruce Gray, Lead



MAGIC

Barbershop Harmony & Sleight of Hand

507-934-2372
bgray@gustavus.edu



Doug Peterson, Baritone

Frank Selvey, Bass

Greg Rosevold - Tenor

Arv Zenk - Lead

Soul Purpose



Spirited Entertainment - Barbershop Style
507-388-7509 soulpurpose@hickorytech.net

..... Byron Norall - Baritone Sandy Allen - Bass



Rural Free Delivery
• A BARBERSHOP QUARTET •

Contact Chuck Schubbe at **(507) 869-3756**

Lead: Jeff Grimmer **Baritone:** Chuck Schubbe
Tenor: Gene Horning **Bass:** Chuck Brooks

Please Note :

When you goto court, you are putting yourself in the hands of 12 people that weren't smart enough to get out of jury duty.

QUARTET NEWS

RURAL FREE DELIVERY - RFD continues to receive accolades from their recent performances at the ITEEA International Conference, which was held in Minneapolis on March 26, at the Minneapolis Convention Center.

They sang for a packed house at the opening of the Second General Session singing a welcoming song that they wrote the words to. They have received several items concerning the performance. An email from the Editor-In-Chief, Katie de a Paz at ITEEA, telling them that it was a wonderful performance. Also a card from the Executive Director of ITEEA thanking them for coming and singing at the conference, stating that we were a big part of a great conference. The current May/June 2011 issues of ITEEA's magazine "Teaching and Engineering Teacher" features a picture of the quartet on the inside of of the back cover.



Senior Expo - On May 17th, Magic and RFD will be performing at the Senior Expo, being held at the Mankato Civic Center Annex. Ron Meyer will also be helping out by handing out information about the Riverblenders and local Quartets at the Twin Rivers Booth.

RIVERBEND - has been working on their songs for the show May 7th. As the chapter's newest Quartet, Riverbend is getting their "musical bearings", while dealing with the individual member's schedules. Their Baritone Matt has moved to Rogers, Minnesota. Ryan Kuisle is learning

the Baritone part to take Matt's place. Jim, Charles, and Ron are the other parts of the Quartet, Tenor, Bass and Lead respectively. Life's events make rehearsal schedules a challenge. Riverbend will be ready for the show and eagerly anticipate the time that they will be as busy singing for the public, as they now are trying to build a repertoire.

MAGIC - is thirty years old this month and has had a great run. We have sung in England and Wales, singing five shows. Choruses have flown us into Bismarck, North Dakota and Thunder Bay, Canada and we have traveled all of Iowa, Wisconsin, and Minnesota. We are a little bit like the Gay Nineties, that is we have used our same "stuff" for thirty years, have never won a contest, but have never lost a show! Frank Selvey, a great bass, is singing his last show with us on May 7th. He is one of those retired folks that thinks he needs to be in Florida. Stan Bruss has taken Frank's place and has sung with us since Valentine's day. In May we have four shows plus singing at a funeral and on June 1st another show. Stan likes that. He did his first show a month ago and while I was in front introducing Stan as a retired undertaker he was measuring me from the back side with a tape measure. The crowd broke up laughing. I could not see that an introduction could be that funny. Wayne Hughes is loosening up and we look forward to the time he goes into the audience and gives some gal a big kiss! Doug Peterson has become a great magician and makes our former magician look like a novice! Quarteting has been a way of life for MAGIC and we are pleased to represent the Riverblenders. A busy quartet is a happy quartet.

Calendar

May 6, 2011 - Friday

Crossview Covenant Church

Dress Rehearsal: 6:30 PM

May 7, 2011 - Saturday

Crossview Covenant Church

Annual Shows:

2:00 & 7:00 PM

Preglow :

Best Western

Afterglow :

North Links Golf Course

May 10, 2011 - Tuesday

Loyola High School

Board Meeting - 6 PM

Rehearsal & Pizza

May 17, 2011 - Tuesday

Rehearsal

Loyola High School - 7 PM

May 24, 2011 - Tuesday

Rehearsal

Loyola High School - 7 PM

May 31, 2011 - Tuesday

Rehearsal

Loyola High School - 7 PM

Items of Interest

Herman Schutter

Former member, residing at Laurels Edge. Herman's wife recently passed away, she was 90 years young.

Chuck Youngblom

His wife Janet was recently diagnosed with leukemia. -

Please keep her in your thoughts.

Ron Meyer

His wife Ruth recently under went surgery and is home.

Please keep her in your thoughts.

Jim Mongeau

Jim's dad recently passed away.

Please keep him in your thoughts

2012 Show Music

The "Disney" theme music has been chosen and is available for you on CD

Contact - Doug Peterson

SOUL PURPOSE - Soul Purpose recorded a seven minute advertisement for Mankato Public Access CCTV. The spot includes two songs by the quartet, along with a promotional shot of the spring show poster, accompanied by announcement providing ticket information for the show. The spot was recorded April 20th, and can be seen throughout the day (see page 2). The basic show information is also included in the rolling calendar of events that continues throughout the day.

.....
Ed Wirtz

Barbershopper for 61 Years

Long time “Riverblender” member and former Associate Director, “Ed Wirtz” was recently presented with his “61st” Official Membership card as an on going member of the Barbershop Harmony Society (SPEBSQSA). For the newer members of the chorus, that may not have heard of “Little” Eddy, it is due to the fact that Ed has not been an active member of the “Riverblenders” for quite some time. He moved to Wabasha, Minnesota many years ago.

Ed started in Barbershop in New Ulm in 1951 at age 13 while a student at Holy Trinity High School. Guy DeLeo was his high school chorus director and also directed the local barbershop chapter. His high school quartet was called Pen Points and after singing with them he was hooked.

From there he went on to Direct the Waseca Chorus from 1971 to 1973. In 1973 he joined the Mankato Chapter and just missed being a charter member by 1 week. He told Phil Knautz, long ago, that as long as he is able and as long as there's a Riverblenders in Mankato he will continue to be a member regardless of where he lives. He used to hope that if he had a bad day at work, it would occur on a Tuesday or Thursday because those nights he would be singing and all would be better.

“Can't think of anything else except to say it's been one hell of a trip. Good luck to you all!” - Ed Wirtz
Over these many years, Ed has proudly represented the chorus, on shows and contests all over the USA. Singing with many quartets-

“Odd Squad”

1974 - Division Contest

“Saturday Review”

1976 - International Competition

1977 - Div. Champs & Inter. Comp.

“Ring Of Gold”

1978 - Div. Champs

1979 - Div. & Dist. Champs, Inter. Comp.

1981 - International Competition

“Downstate Express”

1982 - Div. & Dist. Champs

1983 - International Competition

1984 - International Competition

1985 - International Competition

1996 - International Competition

2004 - International Senior Champs

2009 - LO'L District Hall Of Fame



The Odd Squad

Bari-Dick VanKrevelan - Bass-Gordy Smith
Lead-Jeff Grimmer - Tenor-Ed Wirtz

