

River Ramblings

Editor - Jeffrey Grimmer

Mankato "Riverblender's" 2011 Show

Show Chairman - 2011

A Night At The Auditions.....Wow, what a fantastic experience this has been. As I said at the party on Tuesday, after I had taken over the reigns from Stan a year ago, I really wondered what I had said yes to. First of all we had a date conflict, then I misunderstood the proper "chain of command" to get things cleared with the society. Next we went back and forth for a while with who and what to incorporate for "outside talent"....!

I didn't actually make a doll in the image of Stan and stick pins in it, but mentally I might have gotten very close to that. As I said on Tuesday, I really don't "do meetings" very well, but at the end of the day, all the "Show Plan Document" details, the almost unbelievable talent in the "Riverblenders" and the undying loyalty from our members, brought it all together. After seeing the glowing report in the "Standing Ovation", I wish I could take full credit, but in reality, very little of it goes to me. Thom and Tim, Mr Big, Stan, Derek, Jeff, etc.... the list of chorus superstars is endless. I really and truly mean that from the bottom of my heart.

My only disappointment is not being able to do the song that "Riverbend" had planned to send Matt on his way. The song was: *"How can I miss you, if you won't go away"*. We really planned to ham-it-up, as only Matt can appreciate. My thanks to all the members of "Riverbend" for enduring all the delayed rehearsals, due to Show meetings of one kind or another. Next year, Next year! Ryan: Welcome to "Riverbend", you're doing great!

I join everyone else in the Chorus in keeping Charles and Janet in our prayers.

Also, the show will be presented again, later this year, at a times and places yet to be determined.

Thanks again to all of you and a special thanks to Stan for encouraging me to take the project on. It's been a really great honor!



Ron Meyer - 2011 Show Chairman



What a talented group of men we have to put on such a great show!!

Photo - GL Photo

Our 2011 Annual Show - Special Guests



Emcee - Thom Schubbe
Photo - GL Photo



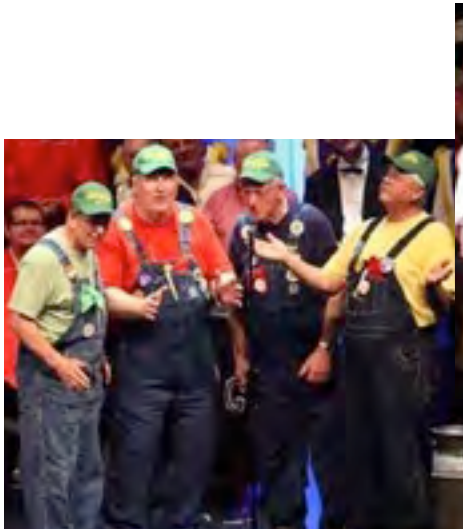
Mr. Big - Chuck Brooks
Photo - GL Photo



The Band
Photo - GL Photo



Magic
Photo - GL Photo



Rural Free Delivery (RFD)
Photo - GL Photo



Riverbend
Photo - GL Photo



Soul Purpose
Photo - GL Photo



Pre-Glow Vallee De Croix Photo - j grimmer



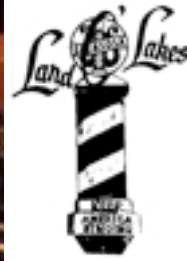
Combined Choruses Photo - GL Photo



Pre-Glow Riverblenders Photo - j grimmer



"Riverblenders" Chorus Photo - GL Photo



Vallee De Croix Chorus Photo - GL Photo

Show Tidbits

After many hours of commitment, learning, memorizing, and sweat, Mankato chapter successfully puts on another great production!!! Congratulations! I need to personally thanks all the guys who help put this show together; script guys, set builders, costume people, any and all behind the scenes people and of course our families for their support and letting us share this hobby and bring joy to other with our music and shows! I heard numerous comments from many people, "best show yet" and "It was so fun!" The Gals from the Vallee de Croix chorus are still

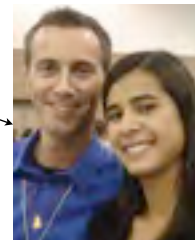
talking about how kind all of the guys from Mankato are. Thank you! Many ladies commented on our singing, they said the contest tunes were super! Guys, for all the work we do, don't you think we deserve to sell out our tickets? They will not sell themselves, we need to do it. I must say, this year's show was bitter sweet. I had both of my barbershop families together, all at one time - what else could I ask for??? Oh, yeah, singing together - we did that too! Thank you for everything guys.

Chorus Director - Derek Glenna



The Riverblenders and several groups of members having a great time at North Links, one of the best afterglows ever!! Photos - e garcia

Derek



Emily



The Show

Marv Ostrom

How grand it is to stage a show!

Ours alone I want you to know.

A wondrous experience - will be remembered through the years

Ron Meyer's masterpiece - he turned the gears.

Everyone lent their talents - their shoulders to the wheel.

That's what it takes - oh what a deal!

The crew believes it's the best show yet,

Stand and observe the wonderful set.

Each one deserves a pat on the back,

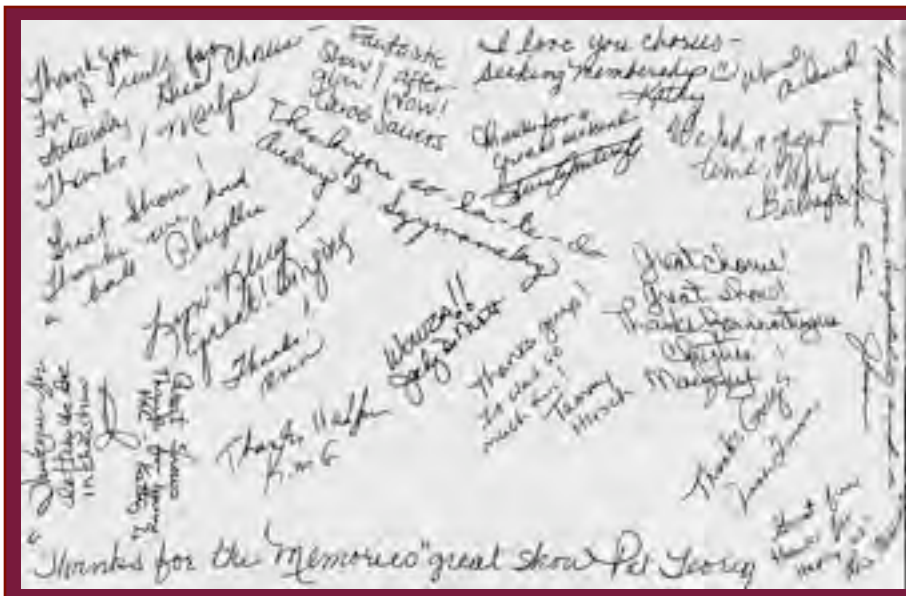
We've done it again, alas and alack!

Contest Commitment

I want to take a minute and let you all know how important it is that each and every one of you commit to being on the risers in October for the fall district contest. I want this to be like no other contest with me before, 40 or more guys, and commit to raising our scores in ALL areas. Yes, that means presentation too! Please guys, it means so much to me to represent ourselves and what the Mankato chapter stands for. Sing Well, Have Fun, but still

do well at contest!!! Mark your calendars, plan to stay all weekend and support all of the other choruses and competing quartets including none other than your own Grand Design!!! This is it men. It starts now. Commit. Rehearse. Be rewarded appropriately. It's that easy. It's not about the ending scores or how we place, but the journey getting to those six minutes on stage.

Chorus Director - Derek Glenna



To the Riverblenders - from the Vallee De Croix Chorus

Calendar

May 31, 2011 - Tuesday

Loyola High School

Regular Rehearsal - 7 PM

June 7, 2011 - Tuesday

Christ The King Lutheran Church

Regular Rehearsal - 7 PM

June 12, 2011 - Sunday

Mankato Area Churches

June 13, 2011 - Monday

Inter-chapter - Faribault 7-9 PM

June 14, 2011 - Tuesday

Christ The King Lutheran Church

Board Meeting - 6 PM

Regular Rehearsal - 7 PM

June 18, 2011 - Saturday

Swedefest - Bernadotte

June 21, 2011 - Tuesday

Christ The King Lutheran Church

Regular Rehearsal - 7 PM

June 26, 2011 - Sunday

Mankato Area Churches

June 28, 2011 - Tuesday

Christ The King Lutheran Church

Regular Rehearsal - 7 PM

June 30, 2011 - Thursday

Episcopal Church - St. Peter

Performance - Evening

September 17, 2011 - Saturday

Wells High School - Wells

"A Night At The Auditions" - Evening

October 21, 22, 2011 - Fri/Sat

LO'L Contest - Rochester

Items of Interest

2012 Show Music - the "Disney" theme music has been chosen and is available for you on CD

Contact - Doug Peterson

NOTE:

If you know of items that the chapter should be aware of please e-mail me the information - Editor

QUARTET NEWS

**GRAND DESIGN**

GRAND DESIGN is pleased to announce that they will be representing the Mankato chapter & the LO'L District in the INTERNATIONAL CONTEST IN KANSAS CITY!!!!!!



"Riverbend Quartet" bids baritone Matt Strum their farewells and good luck as they welcome new baritone Ryan Kuisle to the quartet. Matt recently took a job in the Minneapolis area and has had to retire from the Quartet and the Riverblenders. We will truly miss him! The Quartet wants you to keep bass Charles Youngblom's wife "Janet" in your thoughts



RFD with substitute tenor Randy and Michele from Twin Rivers

This has been a busy month for the RFD Quartet. It all started with singing on the annual Riverblenders show, the Pre-glow, and After-glow. On the day of the show, RFD had to leave at noon to sing for a (90th) birthday party at the Pizza Ranch. On the 14th of May, a birthday party at Jakes Pizza. RFD was also one on the Riverblenders Roving Quartets doing some PR for the Chapter, about an hour of singing, at the Senior Expo held in the Mankato Civic Center. On the 18th of May, we had a trip to New Ulm to sing for a (49th) birthday girl, not far from Herman Heights. All of this, plus 4 Quartet practice sessions and a coaching session at the Loose Moose with Pete Benson, after which we sang a few songs at the After Show Celebration. A lot of fun barbershop singing for the four "Farmers" that call themselves "Rural Free Delivery".

Baritone - Chuck Schubbe



REMEMBER TO - Git er Done!



Riverblender members, guests and spouses at the "Loose Moose" after show Celebration

Photos - r meyer



After The Show - Celebration

On Tuesday evening, at the Loose Moose in downtown Mankato, we held our annual "After The Show Celebration". A great time was had by the group that partook in the celebration, eating pizza, drinking beverages, and having a song or 2 for dessert.

Emcee Jeff Grimmer, showed the contest DVD of the Chorus and the VLQ on a really big screen display. Many good comments were heard from the crowd and many were really impressed on how rapidly the song "Hello Mary Lou" can be sung.

A quartet from Albert Lea and Pete Benson joined in the celebration along with Magic, who included a couple of songs with former bari Don Miller. RFD sang a couple of songs and then Jeff Grimmer sang a tune with Soul Purpose.

Ron Meyer, Show Chairman, gave a short speech expressing how thankful he was for all of the help the chorus gave him and was thankful that it was

over. Our Director Derek Glenna, also gave a short speech thanking the chorus for their dedication and hard work. Derek also wanted us to know that he would indeed remain our fearless leader through the fall contest in Rochester. He really wants us to get 40 people on the stage, so get out your calendar and mark down the dates for the contest and plan on singing. The contest is on October 21-22 with the chorus contest being held on Saturday the 22nd. Stan Bruss is already on this one and is looking into booking hotel rooms for the chorus, and the Board has committed \$30 per member to help offset expenses.

A small crowd hung around after we ended the festivities, and for another hour or so they visited and sang a few more songs and tags.

We would like to thank the staff of the "Loose Moose" and Mike Maes for their excellent service, great food, and excellent prices. We will be back!



Gordy Lundin Photo

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GL Photo
Gallery Page:

http://glphoto.us/client_galleries.php

7x5 reprints \$10.00

10x8 reprints \$15.00

15x8 reprints \$25.00

Log onto GL Photo's website & scroll down to find pictures - Quartets - Contests - Riverblenders

Benefits of Membership, Continued

Subscription to *On the QT* – The Barbershop Harmony Society’s electronic newsletter, published quarterly, brings quartet singers great ideas on performance, singing skills and programs of the Barbershop Harmony Society.

Online Resources

Members-Only Website

Member Information – The new members only Ebiz site makes it easy for you to manage your records, renew your membership, register a quartet, subscribe and unsubscribe to mailing lists, access FAQs and more.

Chapter Information – Access chapter rosters and supplemental information, ASCAP reports, register your show, list chapter officers, view chapter member dues information, view suspended members, report chapter officers, view dues for chapters and view chapters with milestone anniversaries.

District Information – Access membership summaries, list all chapter officers / district directory data, district quartet list, chapter officer email finder, district-wide suspended member list, member lookup by occupation code.

Society Information and Services – Find another member, find a quartet, find a chapter, Society & District officer rosters, and access to media lists to help promote chapter events and programs are some of the more popular resources available.

Contest and Judging Information – Access contest entry and judging availability forms, judge’s roster, quartet details, contest registration logs, contest scores and the Contest Administrators handbook.

Conferences

Annual International Summer Convention and Contest – A week-long International Convention held in attractive locations throughout North America, designed to bring barbershop harmony enthusiasts from around the world together in one place and to witness 2,000 competitors in the top choruses and quartets compete, participate in educational workshops, seminars, attend concerts, group meetings, a meeting of the Society Board of Directors and enjoy countless networking opportunities with 10,000 Barbershoppers from around the world.

Annual International Midwinter Convention and Contest – A week-long convention held in attractive locations throughout North America, designed to bring barbershop harmony enthusiasts from around the world together in one place to attend concerts featuring the current top five medalist quartets, contests featuring the top seniors quartet competitors and the new International Youth Chorus Festival and Contest. Attendees can also participate in educational workshops, seminars, group meetings, a meeting of the Society Board of Directors and enjoy countless networking opportunities with 1,200 Barbershoppers.

District Conventions – Each of our 16 Districts host a weekend convention each spring and fall. Competitions are held to determine Quartet and Chorus Champions as well as International Contest representatives. These weekends also offer the opportunity for group meetings and meetings of the district leadership teams.

Professional Development and Educational Offerings

Society-Level

Harmony University – With a faculty of 60, Harmony University is an intensive week-long educational offering with the aim of helping members enjoy their hobby more, share that joy with others, and continually experience growth. This program includes Harmony College, Quartet College and Directors College. General Studies – classic educational offerings, including vocal production, arranging and songwriting, performance, history, tag singing and more.

Quartet College – A week of intensive coaching for quartets. Curriculum varies from year to year but often includes classes like: The Quartet Experience; Sight Singing For Beginners; Intermediate Sight Singing; Woodshedding At Its Best; Fundamentals Of Music; Emcee/Spokesman For Quartets; Creative Interpretation; How To Be A Great Tenor; Lead Baritone and Bass; Vocal Techniques; Seniors Quartet Experience; Insights into Comedy; Effective Quartet Warm-ups; Rehearsal Techniques For Quartets; Choosing Music For Quartets; and Marketing For Quartets and Chapters.

Next Generation – Young Singers from 11-23 have a special place to have fun and learn skills to make them better singers and performers.

Music Educators Track – Special topics for the professional musician wishing to bring barbershop harmony to the classroom.

RIVERBLENDER'S

BARBERSHOP BUCKS PROGRAM

Bender Bucks will be awarded according to the following schedule:

\$1,000

- 1) Attending a regular meeting (***on time***) +\$1,000 bonus with name tag
- 2) Directing the chorus at a rehearsal (not regular directors)
- 3) Participating in a tag quartet/octet at a rehearsal
- 4) Singing a polecat song in a quartet (correctly)
- 5) For every \$25.00 worth of ads sold for the show program
- 6) For every \$25.00 worth of tickets sold for the show
- 7) Helping to set up and tear down the risers at rehearsals
- 7) Setting up and tearing down the sound system at a performance
- 8) Volunteering to set up the rehearsal room on a regular or an extra practice
(at “Christ The King” church only)

\$5,000

- 1) Bringing one guest to a rehearsal (first visit only)
- 2) Singing at a chorus performance (other than annual show or a contest)
- 3) Singing in a pickup quartet or octet at a performance (not show / contest)
- 4) Attending an extra chorus rehearsal
- 5) Attending a chorus social function +\$1,000 bonus singing in a Quartet
- 5) Hauling the risers to and from a performance - (vehicle owner)
- 6) Putting together a program for a chapter meeting
(one that we use) (not the regular PVP)
- 7) Hosting a guest at a regular rehearsal (no doubling up from #1)

\$10,000

- 1) Bringing two guests to a rehearsal (first visits only)
- 2) Attending a show dress rehearsal
- 3) Singing in our annual show
- 4) Singing in a contest - chapter, division, district, or international
- 5) Singing in a pickup quartet or octet at a show / contest
- 6) Direct a chorus performance (not regular directors)
- 7) Become a new member
- 8) Becoming a board member (once a year)
- 9) Obtaining a chorus performance (not the Chorus Manager)
- 10) Participating in any aspect of Singing Valentines

The purpose of the barbershop bucks program is to create an interest in participating in all the activities of the chapter and to provide funds for the annual auction usually held in August. Your attendance and participation in our activities helps us become a better chapter. Earn bucks by your participation AND spend them at the auction - for all sorts of items, from prized possessions to junk. The list above is not complete - other extra efforts and good deeds may be rewarded from time to time. This years dollars are only good for this year.

NO LATE PAYMENTS - IT IS UP TO YOU TO
MAKE SURE THAT YOU GET PAID
AT THE TIME OF ITEM COMPLETION!!!