

River Ramblings

Editor - Jeffrey Grimmer

The Mankato Riverblenders Double Board Meeting



Photo - j grimmer

L to R - Tim Schubbe, Thom Schubbe, Bruce Gray, Wayne Hughes, Chuck Youngblom, Ron Meyer, Jeff Grimmer, Charles Brooks, Doug Peterson, Arvid Zenk, Ron Larson

On Saturday December 10, 2011 the Mankato Riverblenders held their annual Dual Board Meeting at the City Center Hotel in Mankato. The meeting was held from 8AM to 12PM and was a planning meeting for the year 2012. A lot was accomplished and it appears that the chorus will be busy once again with performances, social events, contests, and many other projects. The board wants all members to understand that this is their chorus and each

member's input is vital for the health and well being of the chorus. All members are welcomed to attend any or all of the board meetings to voice their opinions. The board also wants them to know that their help on many activities will be needed if we are to continue the Riverblenders mission of "Singing Well and Having Fun". They would also like to thank all of the members for their support and cooperation in the year 2011! - Editor



Newspaper

St. Peter Herald

Around Region

Riverblenders place nationally

The Mankato Riverblenders Barbershop Chorus placed second, only 3 points out of first place in "Harmony International" 2011 Chapter Achievement Program.

Harmony International, formerly SPEBSQSA (Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America) consisting of 773 chapters in 12 different countries was proud to present the Mankato chapter with their 2nd place finish.

Each chapter was judged on Membership, Community, Chapter Management, Events/Contests, and Fulfillment. Please notice that our score of 92 was the highest score, in Community, of the top ten chapters. This means that we do a lot of support and good will, thru singing, in our local communities.

The Riverblenders have 52 members on their roster and have five active quartets that performed or competed over 60 times during the past year. The chorus has won the Southwest District Contest 14 different times and then competes at the District level.

The Riverblenders, along with the Minnesota Valley Sweet Adelines, hosted their first ever Youth In Harmony Festival this year (for choir members of local high schools) and are in the planning stages for a bigger and better one next year.

From The Music Vice President

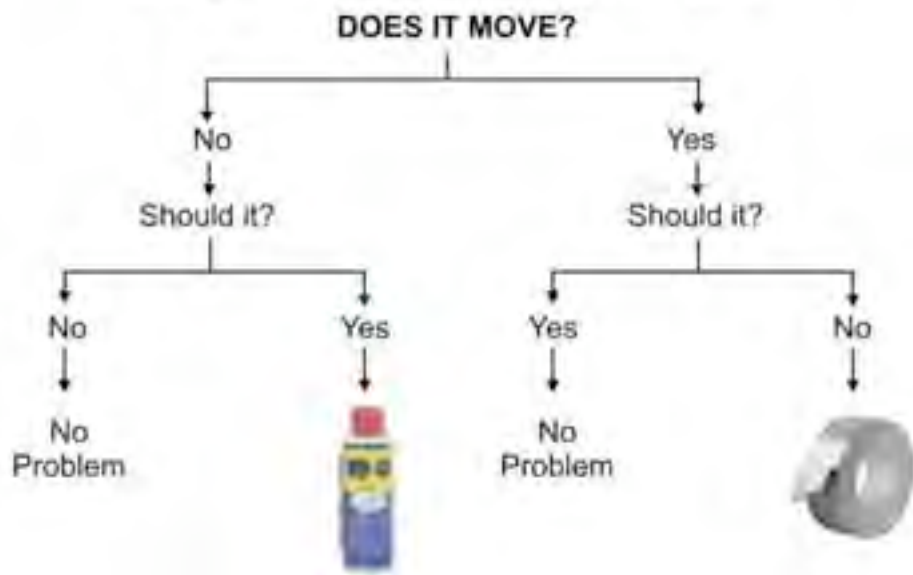
As your Music Vice President for 2012 I am excited for the coming year. Of course our number one goal is to find a new director for the chorus and under the leadership of Bruce Gray, the selection committee has already presented two candidates before the chorus. We are still looking at others and expect to have more candidates at future rehearsals. In the meantime we are most fortunate to have two great assistant directors in Doug Peterson and Arv Zenk. They will continue to direct us and prepare us for upcoming events and performances until we have procured a full time Director. We ask for your patience as this process takes time and we do not want to be hasty in any decision.

Another goal of mine, is to appoint a person to be in charge of our Stage Presence. We need to be aggressive in this area as far as having our SP in place for our contest set at least two months prior to the competition. I believe this will enable us to get that presentation score up where it belongs and will make us all more confident as we go onto the contest stage. If anyone feels like this is something they would be interested in doing please contact me by email at de5135bro@gmail.com or call me on my cell at 507-525-6542 as I will be away in Florida until early March. During my absence, Wayne Hughes has agreed to be available for any questions or problems that may arise for the Music committee. I thank him and the other members of the committee for their input and support. As we all work together I believe that we can have our best year ever "SINGING WELL AND HAVING FUN!"



Chuck Brooks, Music VP

Engineering Flowchart



2012 Show Committee



Front L-R- Carl Schoenstedt & Bailey Blethen - Publicity, Tim Schubbe - Show Content, Wayne Hughes - 2011 Music Committee Chair, Doug Peterson - Talent Search, Chuck Brooks - 2012 Music Committee Chair, Thom Schubbe - Show Content, Ron Larson - Treasurer, Jeff Grimmer - Program Ads & 2012 Show Chairman, Back L-R -Ron Meyer - Award of Harmony, Chuck Schubbe - Pre/AfterGlows, Jon Schwichtenberg - Tickets, Steve Pettis - Printed Media, Chuck Youngblom - Program VP, Arv Zenk - 2013 Show Chairman

Pictured above is your 2012 Show Committee. They have been diligently meeting on the third Tuesday evening at 6 PM every month since last January. The show itself is coming along great and as you know we have had some of the music so long that we even sang one of the songs on last year's show. The ad packets have been handed out and we have already had some turned in to Ron Larson. Carl Schoenstedt has already picked up a new customer!

We have a great Quartet coming the "Humdingers" out of Disney World in Orlando, Florida, the River

Bells Bell Choir performing 1/2 hour before each show, and our very own "Don Miller" leading audience participation singing during our shows intermissions.

Because of the addition this year of a famous quartet our expenses will be greater. We therefore need all of you to try go out and sell at least 5 ads so we can raise the necessary funds. Please select the five you want and let Jeff Grimmer know who they are. We also need you to go out and sell more tickets. This will be a great show and will be enjoyed by people of all ages. Please volunteer when asked to help out -- Thanks!!

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The "Singing Saints from St. Peter, Minnesota" were directed by none other than Philip Knautz. This show featured the "Step Sisters" who were four wives of members - Dorothy Olson, Norma Kirby, Ruth Knautz & Marge Larson, "The Gate City Four" LO'L 1961 District Champs, the "Mel-O-Dons" 1959 LO'L District Champs, and the "Four Clips" the 1960 LO'L District Champs. WOW 4 LO'L District Champion Quartets on one show!!



Pictured above is the precursor to the "Riverblenders" they are the St. Peter "Singing Saints" Chorus from St. Peter, Minnesota "shown on their 1962 Show Program

Riverblenders Salvation Army - Bell Ringing



Photo - a hagedorn

A festive crew of 21 members and one dog entertained the shoppers at Cub Food West on December 6th from 5-7PM. Our annual venture to support the Salvation Armies Kettle Campaign was again a success. Thanks go out to all of the members that found time to participate in this worthwhile endeavor. We know that we did a great Wednesday morning I was at Cub Foods West and happened to talk to the lady that was the supervisor of the check out lanes. I asked her how it went over Tuesday evening and she said we were a big hit! She also said that "Everybody today is talking about how wonderful it was!" Later in the

job as there were many people dropping cash into the kettle while we were singing. The Riverblenders would thank the Andy Matthews and Alli Hagedorn at Cub Foods for their kindness and courtesy while we were ringing the bell. Thanks also to all of the Cub Food employees that helped us out and brought us water and coffee.

..... day, I saw Oak Terrace Activities Director, Patty, at HY VEE. She said that everyone loved our singing. Thursday I received a Thank You card in the mail from Patty, included with the card was a donation for us.

Jim Mongeau



Quartet Corner



Dwain Peterson, Don Miller, Jeff Grimmer, Charlie Barbarisi

RFD had another busy month. We are using Magic's tenor, Wayne Hughes, while our new tenor, Steve Pettis, is busy learning our repertoire. We had several practices with both tenors present to help speed up the learning curve.

The first event we performed at was the Wells Lions Club. We sang both regular and Christmas songs for their annual Christmas meeting and then had a wonderful meal. Really nice people down in Wells - Thanks! On Friday the 16th we went to Waterville and Mapleton High schools promoting our Youth In harmony Festival. Wayne again helped us out. It was a lot of fun singing for the young people.

On Monday the 19th we went to the Happy Chef North to sing for the Mankato Sertoma Christmas Meeting. They had a great bunch of people there and they also fed us a great meal (thanks again to Wayne).

They had a drawing for 2 items and Chuck Brooks won one of them!

We were then called back to Waterville High School on Wednesday the 21st to sing for their Honors Choir.

This time we had Wayne Hughes, Sandy Allen, and Doug Peterson, and Jeff Grimmer performing for the choir. The director Jacob Ritter also joined in a sang some songs. A big thanks to all that helped us out!!!



RFD performing at the annual Wells Lions Christmas Party



Pick Up Quartet Performing at Waterville High School



RFD performing at the annual Sertoma Christmas Party



RFD Performing at Mapleton High School

Youth In Harmony Teams Sing At Local Schools



The Youth In Harmony Ambassadors at Waterville and Mapleton

L - R - Wayne Hughes, Chuck Brooks, Carol Grimmer, Jeff Grimmer, Chuck Schubbe



Photo - Student

Check out the sing behind the old guy!



Photo - Student

Now just a minute, real women sing also!

The "Riverblenders" and the "Minnesota Valley Sweet Adelines" both sent out ambassadors to various school the past couple of weeks. The "Riverblenders", MC'd by Carol Grimmer, participated in the music classrooms on Friday, December 16th at both the Waterville and Mapleton High Schools. Carol introduced the choirs to the barbershop style of music after which the quartet did a demonstration and sang some songs. We then taught each group (boys/girls) a tag. They came back together and sang their tags for each other. The meeting ended with the choirs singing for us.



Photo - j grimmer

L - R - Carol Grimmer, Patti Dykema, Ellen Gruhot, Kris Rykhus

We were unable to sing for both choirs at Waterville due to a lack of time. However, the choir that we did sing for made such a positive fuss about the package that they called Carol and wanted us to come back and sing for the other choir. So, we sent out another quartet on Wednesday, December 21. Carol was unable to attend because of work, so, Jeff had to do the introduction and other MC type stuff. The Choir Director at Waterville High School, Jacob Ritter, is a member of Hilltop, sings baritone, and sang a couple of songs with us for his choir. When we were done we were treated to Ice Cream and Cup Cakes- Yum!

One of "Minnesota Valley Chapters" quartets "Fourtuosity", sang at East High School in Mankato on Tuesday, December

20th. They basically put on the same package that we did, promoting the Youth in Harmony Festival to be held this coming January 21st at Cross View Covenant Church in North Mankato. We want to thank all of the people involve in these activities as it takes a lot of time and energy to perform for high school choirs all the while representing our local chapters. **THANKS GUYS & GALS!!**



Photo - d peterson

L - R - Wayne Hughes, Jeff Grimmer, Sandy Allen, Jacob Ritter



Photo - J Ritter

L - R - Wayne Hughes, Jeff Grimmer, Sandy Allen, Doug Peterson

Poem By "Marv"

Well Done

Marv Ostrom

Things are tough all over the place,
Ere where I turn, I'm slapped in the face.

I'm a man of means by no means

Been deprived of home for the past 60 days,

Running around as in a maze.

An eight by twelve four bit room

Hospitals and nursing homes are where I abide,

Tend to make my tummy unsettled inside.

Rooms to rent fifty cents

Pneumonia and weak lungs got me down,

Naught to wear but a hospital gown.

Ain't got no cigarettes

Things could be worse - don't get me wrong,

The music on my lips not a drollful song.

King of the road

Got a beautiful room in lovely Pathstone,

Colorful walls, TV, and phone.

Third boxcar, midnight train

Entertaining activities most every day,

Food not all that great? Ain't no way!

Two hours of pushin broom

Many friends keep my spirits high,

So all in all I'm a lucky guy.

Trailers for sale at rent

Blessings from heaven round me fall,

I've got it good - lack nothing at all.

Destination Bangor, Maine

Chorus Communications

News Release

A couple of weeks ago I sent out a news release to 38 different radio stations and newspapers about our second place finish in the International Chapter Achievement Program. As you can see by the article on page 2, we received some press by the St. Peter Herald.

One of our members also heard this release on KTOE, thanks to Pete Steiner.

If any of you have heard or seen this news release anywhere else please let me know and I will pass this information on to the chorus.

Jeff Grimmer

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Director Search

The search for a new director continues. We currently have one more possibility, but looks like the two candidates that directed us is it. Will know more in a few days. The committee will meet the first part of January.

PS- We will be asking the chorus for their observation on last weeks candidate. Feel free to email Bruce Gray with your opinions.

Bruce Gray

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Blenders BUCKS

Post - If you haven't received your Blenders BUCKS for all of your event participation, contact Charles Youngblom.

REMEMBER - it is up to you to make sure you get paid!!

Charles Youngblom.

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Youth In Harmony

Former Riverblenders Director "Derek Glenna" has accepted our offer to be one of the directors, along with "Carol Grimmer", at the 2012 Youth In Harmony Festival this January at Crossview Covenant Church.

Happy New Year!



Thom Schubbe teaching (trying to) a new warm up dance step
even Marv is stepping it up!!

YOUTH IN HARMONY FESTIVAL

GRADES 9-12



Saturday, January 21, 2012

Crossview Covenant Church
2000 Howard Drive
North, Mankato, MN

Tentative Schedule:

8:30 Registration
9:00 Warmups
9:15 Divide into 2 choruses
9:30 Learn song #1
10:15 Learn song #2
11:00 Sectionals
12:00 Lunch
12:45 Combined rehearsal
1:30 Choreography
2:30 Break
2:45 Riser rehearsals
3:30 Wrap-up
4:00 Concert for friends and family

Clinicians:

Director Minnesota Valley Sweet Adelines Chorus - Carol Grimmer
Director Riverblenders Chorus - Derek Glenna
and chorus quartets

Registration Fee: \$5.00

Sponsored by the Minnesota Valley Sweet Adelines and Mankato Riverblenders



This activity is made possible by a grant provided by the Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council from general funds approved by the Minnesota State Legislature and in part, by the Minnesota Arts And Cultural Heritage fund as appropriated by the Minnesota State Legislature with money from the vote of the people of Minnesota on November 4, 2008.



Calendar

***January 3, 2011 - Tuesday**

Loyola High School

Regular Practice - 7 PM

***January 6-7, 2012 - Fri/Sat**

2012 - LO'L Leadership Academy
& Chord College

UW River Falls-River Falls, WI

See Tim Schubbe

***January 10, 2011 - Tuesday**

Loyola High School

Board Meeting - 6 PM

Regular Practice - 7 PM

***January 17, 2011 - Tuesday**

Loyola High School

Show Committee Meeting - 6 PM

Regular Practice - 7 PM

***January 21, 2011 - Tuesday**

Youth In Harmony Festival

Crossview Covenant Church

← See poster

***January 24, 2011 - Tuesday**

Loyola High School

Regular Practice - 7 PM

***February 14, 2012**

Singing Valentines

***March 31, 2012 - Saturday**

Southwest/10,000 Lakes

Division Contest

Mankato, MN

***April 14, 2012 - Saturday**

Annual Show:

Crossview Covenant Church

2 & 7 p.m

Items of Interest

Chuck Brooks will be gone and will
return in early March - Phone -
507-525-6542

Dean Kluge's new e-mail address

klugeklickers@gmail.com

This is the schedule for the 2nd annual "Youth In Harmony Festival"

Check it over - we need as many men as possible to attend this event.

Mark your calendar and make plans to attend!

Christ The King Performance



The 28 members that sang for the "Hilltopers" at Christ The King Church in Mankato. We had a great time and sang for a great audience. They then served us a huge lunch!



MC Bruce Gray give the audience the word about the next song



Byron Norell talks to former member Don Lind

On December 20, 28 Riverblenders showed up at Christ The King Church in Mankato to perform an afternoon Christmas Concert for the Hilltoppers club. MC - Bruce Gray introduced each song which included old Christmas standbys and some of our more popular repertoire songs. RFD also sang a song for the group to give the chorus a chance to rest their voices. We performed for a total 45 minutes and then

the served us a lunch. What a lunch!!! Fried Chicken, Cheesy Potatoes, about 12 salads, and a nine foot long table of desserts! I think that I am still full from that meal.

Thanks to everyone that attended! We were able to provide a more enjoyable holiday season for a large number of people.

- Editor



Pre-Concert organizing



Show Date: April 14, 2012

Location: Cross View Covenant Church - Contract signed by Doug Peterson

Show Times: 2 PM & 7 PM

Ticket Prices :

Seniors - \$13.00

Students - \$ 5.00

Advanced - \$13.00

Regular/at Door - \$15.00

\$5.00 Ticket for members of Crossview Covenant Church

2 free tickets for every ad sold for \$50.00 or more

1 free ticket to each member of a Sweet Adelines Quartet that sings on the afterglow

2012 "Disney" Show

Quartet:

"Humdingers" - *(Traveling Show we may include a Sweet Adeline's Quartet)*

Travel Items - *Working on* - Doug Peterson

Housing - *Working on* - Doug Peterson - will work with hotels for lodging Ad exchange

Host - Doug Peterson

Sub-Committee Reports -

Show Content - Tim & Thom Schubbe

First Half-

Concept - Fan Club - Convention

Title - ***SUPERCALIFRAGILISTICEXPIALIDOCIOUS***

"A DISNEY CONVENTION IN 4-PART HARMONY"

Songs: **Chorus:** (need a learning CD contact Doug Peterson)

Disney Medley, Zip-A-Dee-Doo-Dah, When You Wish Upon a Star

Heigh Ho, The Bare Necessities, A Spoon Full of Sugar.

Quartets:

Magic - *Ten Feet Off the Ground*

Soul Purpose - *When She Loved Me*

Stretch - *Be Our Guest*

RFD - *Fortuosity*

Riverbend - *Jolly Holiday*

Flow - *Working on* - Excitement about the "Humdingers" Quartet

Script - *Working on* - Tim & Thom Schubbe

Props - Tim & Thom Schubbe, Willy Derner

Costumes - Along the lines of Disney - *Checking on what is possible*

Second Half -

Humdingers

Chorus - Tux Uniform

Entertainment - Pre-Show - River Bells Bell Choir

Intermission- Don Miller - Singalong

Preglow/Afterglow - Chuck Schubbe

Preglow - Best Western (4-6PM) - \$10.00

Afterglow - Loose Moose - approx. 9:30 PM - \$10.00, Chuck Brooks - MC

(1 free ticket to each member) *Need to remember to invite Sweet Adeline Quartets*

Publicity - Bailey Blethen - Carl Schoenstedt will help

Program Ad Sales - Jeff Grimmer - Doug Peterson will help

Print Media - Steve Pettis

Ad Sales - Packets have been handed out - Comp tickets a GO - Need everyone to sell some ads!

Ticket Sales - Jon Schwichtenberg

Award of Harmony - Ron Meyer - Needs your suggestions now



Thank you for your time and effort!!

Jeff Grimmer - 2012 Ad & Show Chairman

Next Meeting - January 17, 2012