

River Ramblings

Editor - Jeffrey Grimmer

The Mankato Riverblenders LO'L Academy Attendees



Photo - Academy attendee

L to R - Charles Youngblom, Arvid Zenk, Doug Peterson, Chuck Schubbe, Tim Schubbe, Jeff Grimmer, Thom Schubbe, Ron Meyer

January 6, 2012 - eight Riverblenders headed out to River Falls, Wisconsin to attend the annual LO'L Leadership Academy - Chord College. The weather was very nice and the trip was uneventful. Some of us checked in early and then went to register at the University of Wisconsin - River Falls Riverside building. Classes started at 1:00 p.m. and WOW was there a plethora of choices. The reason for this was the combination of Leadership Academy with the Chord College which failed to take place earlier in the year. I was very pleased with all of the choices and came back with a list of 30 things that I wanted to present to the chapter. I know that I speak for all of the members that attended, when I say, we learned a great deal and we would like to thank the chapter for sending us. Remember that any members that want to, can attend this great event. Thanks to the LO'L and its board members that were responsible for setting this up. Thanks also to UW River Falls for their support and excellent food service! - Editor



2012 LO'L Board of Directors



Photo - j grimmer

Do you notice anyone familiar on the LO'L board? Our own Chuck Schubbe - Arvid Zenk - Thom Schubbe





Photo - Academy attendee



Photo - Academy attendee

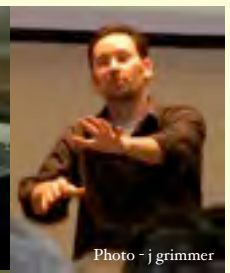


Photo - j grimmer



Photo - d. True



Photo - j grimmer

Top L to R - Pickup Quartet singing to the food Service Personnel, The Food Service Personnel, Adam Scott International Music Ed.
Bottom L to R - The Magnificent 8 right after eating chow, Dave Sylte District VP-Music & Perf. and Thom Schubbe SW Division VP



Photo - j grimmer

Show Committee: Back Row L to R - Bruce Gray, Arv Zenk, Ron Larson, Chuck Schubbe, Jon Schwichtenberg, Charles Youngblom, Tim Schubbe
Front Row L to R - Carl Schoenstedt, Bailey Blethen, Greg Rosevold, Wayne Hughes, Doug Peterson, Chuck Brooks, Thom Schubbe, Jeff Grimmer

Youth In Harmony Festival set

NORTH MANKATO — The Minnesota Valley Sweet Adelines and the Mankato Riverblenders is hosting its second annual Youth In Harmony Festival Saturday at Crossview Covenant Church, 2000 Howard Drive.

Students will learn two songs in their respective choruses, girls or boys, and one song together with choreography. Students will then perform a free concert at 4 p.m. featuring the Festival Choruses, as well as the Sweet Adelines, the Riverblenders and their quartets.

Call Jeffrey Grimmer at 327-0682.

Saturday

Bingo — 4 p.m., American Legion Post 294, Lake Crystal, 507-726-6150.

Children's story time — For ages 2-6, includes activity or craft, 11 a.m., Barnes and Noble, 150 Adam St., free, 385-0110.

The Luther College Nordic Choir performance — 7 p.m., Trinity Lutheran Church, 235 E. Seventh St., Blue Earth, \$10 for adults, \$5 for students, 507-529-3463.

Second annual Youth in Harmony Festival — 4 p.m., Crossview Covenant Church, 2000 Howard Drive, free, 327-3183.

Riverblenders, Adelines host youth barbershop event

The Youth in Harmony Festival Chorus will perform at 4 p.m. on Saturday at Crossview Covenant Church in North Mankato, 2000 Howard Drive.

The event is sponsored by the Minnesota Valley Sweet Adelines and the Riverblenders Barbershop Chorus — both local groups with long, storied histories.

The festival allows 10 high schools to have day-long workshop in barbershop-style singing. The event culminates with a free performance. The event is made possible by a grant from the Prairie Lakes Regional Art Council.

Last year, nearly 200 high school students participated in the inaugural event.



Three recent articles that were printed in the Mankato Free Press - let me know if you see any in other publications

HUMDINGERS

The **Humdingers** have been entertaining audiences for almost 40 years. Collectively, they bring to the stage over 100 years of quartet experience and have performed throughout North America and several foreign countries. They are truly unique, as no other barbershop quartet in the world performs with the antique Deagan Organ Chimes along with original tap dance and straw-hat routines. Here's a little bit more about each of the Humdingers.

Roger Ross is the tenor and has been singing barbershop music for 40 years. He sings tenor in Keepsake, 1992 International Quartet Champion of the Barbershop Harmony Society and in Main Street, 2011 5th Place Bronze Medalist. Roger has performed weekends with the Dapper Dans in the Magic Kingdom since 1978. He resides in Orlando and works full time for the Orange County Property Appraiser.

Lead **Ken Thiboult** is not new to the stage. For many years he starred in the Hoop-De-Doo Review show at Disney's Fort Wilderness resort as well as other comedy venues at the Walt Disney World Resort. He currently performs daily with the Dapper Dans at the Magic Kingdom. Ken lives in Orlando with wife Lorraine and son Game.

Steve Culpepper, baritone, is the "seasoned veteran" of the quartet, having been a member of the Dapper Dans of Walt Disney World for 35 years. Steve is also a Sunshine District Quartet Champion and his only claim to fame is that the tenor in that champion quartet was none other than Tony DeRosa, now a 3 time gold medallist. Steve lives with his wife Vicki in Winter Haven, FL.

J.C. Fullerton sings the low bass part and along with being a member of the Dapper Dans, he sings full time with the Voices of Liberty at EPCOT's American Adventure attraction. J.C. also performed in the Dockside Porters quartet at Tokyo Disneyland's Disney Sea theme park in Tokyo, Japan.

The **Humdingers** are thrilled to be performing on the Mankato show and hope you enjoy their unique style of a cappella entertainment!



Youth In Harmony Promotion - Belle Plaine



Carol Grimmer - Making Introductions

The Whole Group at Belle Plaine

Fourtuosity Performs: Belle Plaine

Photos - j grimmer

On January 3, 2012, the 4th visit to schools for Youth in Harmony Festival promotion was made by an ambitious group of 5 individuals. Jeff Grimmer chauffeured the quartet "Fourtuosity", consisting of lead Patti Dykema, base Kris Rykhus, baritone Ellen Gruhot, and tenor Carol Grimmer to Belle Plaine High School.

Introductions and descriptions of when, where, why, and how the "Barbershop" style of music came about was done by Carol Grimmer. Fourtuosity then sang a couple of songs to demonstrate how the "Barbershop" style of a cappella music sounds.

We then broke the chorus up into two groups, boys and girls. Fourtuosity taught the girls the "Behind" tag and Jeff taught the boys the "Love tag". We got back together and each group sang their tag to the other. This was done for both of the Belle Plaine Choirs, one in the morning and one in the afternoon.

The final event was to have their choir sing one of their songs to our group. We wish to thank Belle Plaine Choir Director - Cheryl Gorton (a former Sweet Adelines Director) for her support! - Editor

Don Miller's 80th Birthday Party

On January 31st, Don Miller celebrated his 80th Birthday! A party was hosted by his family at the North Mankato Fire Department Building by Caswell Park. The chorus was invited to attend, give him their best, and maybe, if he wanted us to, sing a song or two. Well, not only did we sing a song or two, Don chose the songs and directed us! He was able to sing with a former quartet of his, "MAGIC", which consisted of lead Bruce Gray, bass Bill Lydecker, baritone Don Miller (minus the red hair piece), and tenor Wayne Hughes. A poem was then offered up by our own poet laureate: Marvin Ostrom. More people and "Riverblenders" continued to show up into the early evening and another group of chorus members put on another show in the afternoon. Congratulations Don!

Editor



Don
Miller



Riverblenders



MAGIC



Marv

Photos - d. Miller's daughter



The
Big
80

Quartet Corner



Grand Design - Top Gun 2012 LO'L Academy



President Meyer's Comments

Riverblenders, I mentioned this at a recent rehearsal, but it can't be told too often: The Mankato Riverblenders are an awesome Chapter and it's day-to-day organizational structure is the envy of many chapters in the Land O' Lakes district. This is not just my opinion, but it is shared by many chapters. Before I get too permanently stuck on a pedestal, let me say there are many other great chapters in LO'L also, but Mankato certainly stands out among some of the best. I'm very proud to be your President and especially proud of all the great board members and high caliber of talent on the board. I wish I could take credit for them being there, but they all preceded me. I'm the new guy!

Our Youth In Harmony event was successful, thanks to the great efforts of so many people. Thanks, especially to The Grimmer's, Bruce, Derek and all the many-many extra hands that made the work light. We had 47 kids show-up, which is a nice increase over 2011, which was 19.

We all really need to get behind the increasing membership efforts. Thom and Arv are putting some great ideas together, but it really takes all of us to keep the membership numbers increasing. Keep an open eye for the person in church or other public events that sound great singing that next song. I really believe that people are intimidated by our high quality and feel as though they can't

possibly measure-up. Just have them come to one rehearsal and try us on.

Next is Valentines Day. Our thanks to Sandy for his great effort so far. If he asks for your help, please step forward and let's make this Valentines Day the best ever.

Arv is busy with last minute details for the Spring Contest in Nicollet on March 31st. Another good opportunity to add revenue to our coffers and have lots of fun along the way.

The ever busy Jeff is busy as a beaver, getting show things done. The Disney Show, will truly be: Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious...A Disney Convention in 4 part Harmony, to quote the great efforts of Steve Pettis. This show will also present lots of opportunities to do the show over and over, for our out of town fans. Bruce is working on this. Speaking of Bruce, he has been busy getting all the details lined-up for a new Director. I'll save the details for Bruce to share.

One last note, Stan agreed to take on the responsibility of coordinating summer Church singouts. Also, to give Sandy a break, we decided to ask Joel to coordinate the Mankato area. I have a personal goal of averaging 25 guys per singout for the Summer season. Let's try to beat that!

That's all for now.
President - Ron Meyer



The “Riverblenders” Support Local Groups



Christ The King - Rev. John Peterson



Loyola Intern Administrator - Shelley Schultz



Crossview Covenant - Rev. Kevin Melvin

Every year the Mankato “Riverblenders” seek out other non-profit organizations that we can help out with some financial aid and a possible performance package. This year we chose: Christ the King Lutheran Church, Loyola High School, and Crossview Covenant Church. We also performed at Christ the King Lutheran Churches Hilltoppers Christmas celebration. Stan Bruss and Ron Meyer were this years ambassadors of good will. Our congratulations to all of the recipients for receiving their awards and helping out the “Riverblenders” Chorus. If members would like to give their input on these annual donations, please attend a board meeting or give a note to one of the current board members. - Editor

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The 1962 St. Peter Singing Saints



Poem By "Marv"

Fellowship

Marv Ostrom
March 24, 2009

For new members, we've a strong desire of course,
'Mongst all those faces in that human forest.
We should mention our motto: "sing well, have fun,"
What more could you ask for, when all's said and done.
But there's a third factor, as important as those two,
Experienced weekly, let's keep it in view.
The great fellowship of the finest of men,
"Hi, George, nice to see you, how have you been?"
Year after year, 'tis brothers we've become,
When one hurts, we all hurt, 'til our feelings are numb.
So, where else, a distinct honor you'd find to belong,
To me, I'm not leaving, 'til God rings my gong!



The Riverblenders New Rehearsal Hall

Chorus Communications News Release

A couple of weeks ago I sent out a news release to 42 different radio stations and newspapers about our second annual Youth in Harmony Festival. As you can see by the articles on page 3, we received some great coverage by the Mankato Free Press.

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

And Mankato's TV station KEYC had us on the Lisa Cowney show at noon.

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

Director Search

On Tuesday the 24th of January the Riverblender Board voted to extend a contract to Anita Norman. She is pleased that she will be joining us on April 1, 2012. She hopes to arrive in time to see us sing in the contest. Let's greet her with a Riverblender win in Nicollet. We look forward to her joining us.

Search Committee

Doug Peterson, Arv Zenk, Chuck Brooks, Wayne Hughes, Thom Schubbe and Bruce Gray.

- Bruce Gray





A Singing Valentine

for that *Special Someone*

by a Mankato Riverblenders Quartet

The quartet will sing 2 songs,
present a long stemmed rose, a
Valentine card naming the sender,
and a photo of the occasion.

Appointments available
Tuesday, February 14th
from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM.
all for only \$40

CALL NOW! 507- 387-3969
or
www.singmankato.com



Music Committee Report

All of the songs for the Disney show have been handed out, and I believe that all of our quartets have selected their Disney Song for the show. Now all we have to do is *learn them!*

I'm sure that Arvid has everything on track for the March 31st contest in Nicollet. He will be asking us to help during the contest, please be willing to pitch in and help Arvid when he asks for it.

One of the next things we need to work on is selecting music and dates for our church performances and next years show.

As most of you know, Anita Norman is going to be our director for a trial period of 6 months. She should be arriving in Minnesota sometime in April.

Wayne Hughes - "Temporary Replacement for Chuck Brooks"



Midwinter Convention

Dateline January 21, 2012 - Tucson, AZ

We just attended the most memorable barbershop event that I've ever seen. It was the 5th Annual International Youth Festival and it was absolutely "amazing"! There were over 400 young men in 15 choruses from around the U.S. and Canada - the youngest participants were just 12 years old and the oldest 30. These guys were energized and gave some of the most spirited and/or heart wrenching renditions of barbershop standards that I've ever heard. They brought tears of joy and tears of admiration to a packed house.

This was my first Midwinter Convention and there were many other highlights. Our own LO'L champs, "St. Croix Crossing", came in 3rd with an outstanding performance - I thought they had won it! We also saw 2011 champs "Old School" along with the other top 4 medalists from 2011. By the way, we also saw the "Humdingers" performance and they truly provide top-shelf entertainment. We won't be disappointed at our Spring Show.

I'm sorry that I was unable to participate in our own Youth in Harmony Festival since it was the same weekend as this event. But I must tell you, that the experience I had, in that very same time frame, in a place nearly 2000 miles away, was a youth barbershop experience that foreshadows the future of this great hobby.

There are wonderfully talented young men that love to sing and they are dedicated to the barbershop sound. All we need to do is provide the opportunity and they will come. Arv Zenk



OFFICIAL SCORING SUMMARY, BHS, International Midwinter Seniors Contest
International, Quartet Finals Seniors, Tucson, Arizona, January 20, 2012, REVISED 01-23-2012

Finals Seniors	Songs	MUS.	PRS	SNGL	Total	Avg
1 Rusty Pipes	If See You in My Dreams	152	150	147	849	73.9
(JAD)	Musicals	148	148	144		
2 Border Patrol	Each Time I Fall in Love	145	152	146	843	73.4
(CHNT)	All Of Me	144	147	144		
3 St. Croix Crossing	Wipe Your Troubles In Dreams	147	149	140	836	72.7
(LOL)	We Knew Miss Those Good Old Songs	143	149	138		
4 Velvet Fingers	Sam, You Made The Pants Too Long	143	145	143	831	71.7
(FWCE)	Circle	139	147	140		
5 Legacy	Rockin' On Planet	147	135	141	823	70.2
(MAD)	Shakin' The Blues Away	144	135	140		
6 Highpoint	Whatever Happened To The Old Songs	145	147	136	828	70.5
(LOL)	You're The One I Can't For	143	141	133		

Calendar

*February 7, 2011 - Tuesday

Loyola High School

Regular Practice - 7 PM

**February 14, 2011 - Tuesday

Valentines Day

Qts. & support personnel meet at

Happy Chef North at 7:00 AM

Loyola High School

Board Meeting - 6 PM

Regular Practice - 7 PM

February 20, 2011 - Monday

Presidents Day

*February 21, 2011 - Tuesday

Loyola High School

Show Committee Meeting - 6 PM

Regular Practice - 7 PM

*February 28, 2011 - Tuesday

Loyola High School

Regular Practice - 7 PM

*March 3, 2012 - Saturday

Quartet School

Faribault

March 11, 2012 - Sunday

Daylight Savings Time Begins

March 17, 2012 - Saturday

St. Patrick's Day

*March 31, 2012 - Saturday

Southwest/10,000 Lakes

Division Contest

Nicollet, MN

April 8, 2012 - Sunday

Easter Sunday

*April 14, 2012 - Saturday

Annual Shows

Crossview Covenant Church

2 & 7 p.m

Summer Churches

Start thinking about them

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

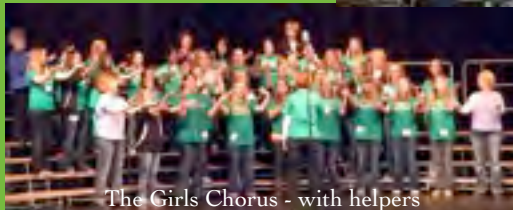
klugeklickers@gmail.com

2012 Harmony

Youth In Festival



The Entire Youth Chorus Rockin' Out!



The Girls Chorus - with helpers



Chris the Sound Guy



The Boys Chorus - with helpers

Photos - j grimmer



Thank You Hi-Vee!



HARMONY!



Thank You Hi-Vee!



Fourtiosity Quartet



Minnesota Valley Chorus



Riverblenders Chorus



Magic Quartet

On January 21, 2012 it all finally fell into place. All of the hard preparation work that the Minnesota Valley Sweet Adelines and the Mankato Riverblenders put in finally came to fruition. The students showed up on time, got registered, picked up their T-Shirt, and were shown to the sanctuary where they mingled for a few minutes. After receiving their finalized instructions, off to work they went rehearsing and practicing their music and choreography.

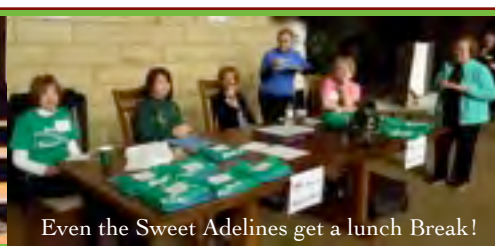
A lunch of Pizza and Soda was served to all and a **big thanks** goes out to Hy-Vee for the grant, from them, that paid for the meal. After lunch a few tags were learned and then stage presence was practiced. The combined chorus then rehearsed "Harmony", a song that was sung by both the girls and boys choruses and the Minnesota Valley Sweet Adelines along with the Mankato Riverblenders. A short break and then they all got ready for the big show. An audience of about one hundred family, friends, and members of the public graced our show with their presence and listened to some great singing. We want to thank all of the students, their directors, and parents/guardians for allowing them to participate in this festival. We look forward to having it again next year, at approximately the same date, and we are hoping the everyone that attended this festival will show up next year with more of their singing friends.

A special thanks to the team that put this all together! Carol Grimmer, Mary Lou Kudela, Pat Potzler, Pat Prange, Bruce Gray, Jeff Grimmer, and Arvid Zenk. A special THANK YOU to Sharon Kleinsasser for all of her help! - Editor

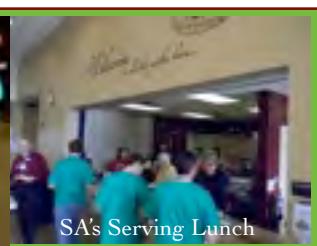
Thank You
Clinician &
Boys Chorus
Director
Derek Glenna



Part of the Riser Crew



Even the Sweet Adelines get a lunch Break!



SA's Serving Lunch

Thank You
Clinician &
Girls Chorus
Director
Carol Grimmer

Show Date: April 14, 2012

Location: Crossview 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 - Doug Peterson - Done

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) - *All Music has been handed out.*

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* - *1st Draft out.*

Script - *Working on* - Tim & Thom Schubbe

Props - Tim & Thom Schubbe, Willy Derner

Costumes - Along the lines of Disney - *1st Draft out.*

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 - Poster in its final stages

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

Ticket Sales - Jon Schwichtenberg (Greg Rosevold taking over until Jon returns)

Award of Harmony - Ron Meyer - Needs your suggestions now



Thank you for your time and effort!!

Jeff Grimmer - 2012 Ad & Show Chairman

Next Meeting - February 21, 2012