

River Ramblings

Editor - Jeffrey Grimmer



The show opened to a great audience with the renowned "River Bend Bells" bell choir



Photos by: Bobby McFall

The opening of the show after all of the set up is done! Thanks to Tim & Thom Schubbe and Willy Derner!



Riverbend singing their 1st song



Thom Schubbe, Don Miller
& Matt Strum



Soul Purpose sings their 1st song

More 2012 "Disney" Show



Photos by: Bobby McFall

RFD & Just The Messengers performing their first songs

Magic sings their 1st song



Just The Messengers with Matt



Actress: Emily Norell



RFD & Matt



Soul Purpose & Matt



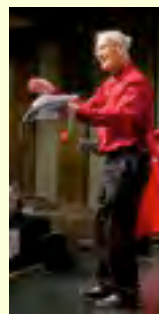
Riverbend



Matt doing his thing!



Intermission Sing Along



Don Miller at Intermission



Thom Schubbe & Pres. Meyer-Announcements

Yes! More 2012 “Disney” Show



Photos by: Bobby McFall



More of the chorus and quartets. The Second Half of the Show -
Riverblenders Chorus in their Tuxes and the fabulous “Humdinger’s” from Florida!

Yes! Even More 2012 "Disney" Show



Photo by: Bobby McFall

The finale of the Show - "Keep The Whole World Singing"
Riverblenders Chorus in their Tuxes, the Humdinger's, and other Barbershoppers

President's Report

Summer is right around the corner and 2012 is nearly at the half-way point. Soon, we will be moving to Christ The King Lutheran Church. Our 1st CTK rehearsal is June 5th. Bruce is busy setting-up performance dates. Be sure to check the website and update your calendar. June is a busy month. Our Annual Moon Dogs kickoff is scheduled for June 1st and then again, June 8th.

Steve and Stan have nearly finished getting measurements for our new black pants and the Sunday Church Singouts are just a couple weeks away.

Be sure to reserve Sunday June 24th for the Nicollet Parade.

Arv and his 2013 Show Committee have made the decision to have a Gospel theme, for the 2013 show, April 13. The great work Jeff and the "Humdingers" did for 2012 make for a tough act for Arv and his committee to follow.

However, Arv is just the right person for the job. The 2013 Show will be fabulous!

"A busy chorus is a happy chorus" and so we must all be grinning from ear-to-ear!

Ron Meyer



An Investment in the Future of the LO'L:

Land O' Lakes District Excellence in Teaching - Scholarship

Proposal: we move that a renewable \$5,000 scholarship be given to a charismatic and talented choral music education major in return for taking over the musical direction of a struggling chapter that has applied to the district and agreed to the stipulations in advance.

Imagine this: five years from now, Blanksville - a chapter who has been struggling mightily - is being directed by a senior music student from St. Olaf for the 4th year. He is known for his touch with the guys and positive attitude toward the teaching of singing. The active chapter is up 30 members from today and competing with 55 men, and their assistant director has directed one of the two songs in the district contest, where they placed 6th. The music major is now looking for gainful employment throughout the state, and has 55 men who will gladly act as references for him. Blanksville has its first top-five district quartet since the mid 1990's and perform to audiences of 800-1000 people every year at their shows.

See Chuck Schubbe for more information!

Former "Riverblender" - Herman Schutter Dies

Herman B. Schutter, age 90, died peacefully Tuesday, May 15, 2012 at Mayo Health Systems, Mankato, MN. Memorial services will be held at Centenary United Methodist Church in Mankato at 10:00 a.m., Saturday, June 2, 2012 with Rev. Dean Wolf, officiating. Visitation will be 1 hour prior the service. Interment with full military honors will be held at Woodland Hills Memorial Park.

Herman was born September 28, 1921 to Bonno and Elsin (Tjaden) Schutter on a farm near Titonka, Iowa. He attended rural school and graduated from Titonka High School in 1938. After graduation he helped on the farm with his father. In 1942, Herman entered the US Army. He was in the 91st Infantry Division which trained in Camp White, Oregon. He shipped to North Africa for additional training in 1944. He entered combat in Italy in June, 1944 receiving a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star. He was honorably discharged in October, 1945. Herman was united in marriage to Harriet Schram September 4, 1945 and they were married for 65 years.

Herman was employed with various business pursuits. In 1957, he became a

territory marketing manager for Hubbard Milling and moved to Spencer, Iowa. In 1965, they moved to Mankato where Herman continued to work for Hubbard until retiring in 1984. He was active in the **Mankato Riverblenders** and Centenary United Methodist Church for many years. He enjoyed spending his retirement winters in Mission, Texas.

He is survived by his son, Tom (Marie) Schutter of Truman, daughter-in-law, Dianna Schutter of St. Paul; grandchildren, Patrick Schutter of Eagle Lake, Jack (Chelsea) Schutter of Towson, Maryland, Steven (Tiffany) Schutter of Oahu, Hawaii, Lindsay Schutter and Alexandra Schutter of St. Paul; siblings, Arnold (Marie) Schutter of Titonka, Iowa, Florence Bunker of Ames, Iowa, Ardith (Dave) Buffington of Danbury, Connecticut; sister-in-law, Lois Holcomb of Mora, and their families. He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife, Harriet, and son, William.

The family would like to thank, Eileen, Sandy, and all the staff of Laurels Edge Assisted Living for the care and love they gave to Herman.



Herman B. Schutter

Don't Forget!!

Next week we meet at Christ the King Lutheran Church for rehearsal. Please use the Pfau Street parking lot. Thanks for coming early to help set up the risers.

We'll be there thru August.

Stan Bruss

Harmony Foundation - The Gift That Keeps On Giving

There are several members of the Riverblenders who give to the Harmony Foundation to support the education of youth. The Foundation has but one goal: To promote the future of barbershop. Each year, the generosity of donors to the Foundation makes possible programs that include: Harmony Explosion Camps and Youth Harmony Workshops (like the one we do with the Sweet Ads). Collegiate Quartet Competition, Director's College scholarships to 125 directors (we hope to send our directors

starting next year) plus other Youth programs. When we give to the Foundation they return up to 30% to our chapter to use any way we see fit (so far this year \$600) The Foundation also sends us money for our work with the Sweet Ads in our Youth in Harmony program in January. (\$675 this year). I would encourage all Riverblenders to give a donation, tax free, in support of the Foundation, our chapter and programs that include youth and the future of our Society.

Bruce Gray

Words From Doug Peterson

I want to say thanks to all of you for all your efforts. You know me, always nudging for better singing, but I have to admit, we do a fantastic job of meeting our stated objectives - Sing Well and Have Fun - which includes more than just singing well. I know the pride you take in not only good singing, but all of the things we do so well for our performances, our families, our chorus, and each other.

Well, we've had a brief respite from the hectic 4 weeks of contest and show, and now the month of June starts in again with plenty of action. I hope you all can make as many of our upcoming events as possible starting with the Moondogs on June 1. Two Moondogs performances, 2 Sunday Church Sing-outs, a Cancer Walk performance, and something new, singing on a community band performance evening - perhaps one of the busiest months ever. Only to be followed immediately in July with our appearance at the Celebration of Our Country in St. Peter. I'm looking forward to finally being able to be with you at this event, and eagerly anticipate our singing the Patriotic Medley for them. I think it will be a big hit. At least I'm hoping so. Please do your utmost to be with us on July 2. I really need you there. It will be air-conditioned this year!!

While I'm talking about really needing you at our performances, the most disappointing times in the

last few summers have been when we only have 20 or fewer members singing on Sunday mornings. The schedule has been set and is posted on the website, so mark the dates on your calendar, schedule your tee time for the afternoon and tell your 'sweetie' you have to be there.

The music team has decided that we will alter our choices for District Contest somewhat by replacing When You Wish Upon a Star with Spoonful of Sugar to go along with Zip-A-Dee-Doo-Dah. Both songs are acceptable songs for contest and should be lots of fun to do. We'll get crackin' on both of them in June. You can help the chorus by reviewing your learning tracks and making sure you have all notes correct. If you're not sure, ask a section leader or myself. When you find yourself singing your part correctly all by itself in bed at night as you're trying to fall asleep, then you can probably say you know your part. Good Luck!!

Shameless Plug - Come give our district quartets and GNU a rousing send-off to the International Contest on June 30 at Hopkins High School! Performances are at 4 pm and 7 pm. Tix are available from Greg R, Leonard H. and myself. Don't forget to come cheer on Derek and Leonard as they try to improve on last years' performance. I'm confident they will, unless every quartet there improves as much as they have in the last year.

RFD Performs at the Loose Moose

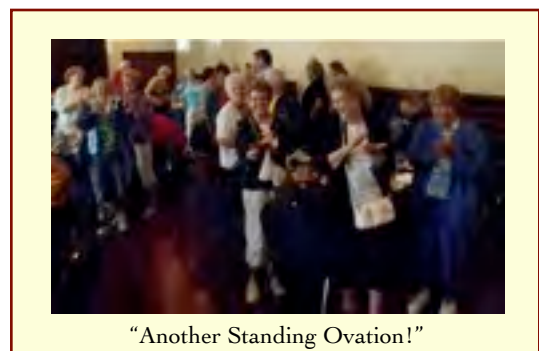
On Thursday, May 17th a bus full of travelers from Cambridge, ventured to Southern Minnesota on a sight seeing trip. They visited "The Loose Moose" for great meal and were treated (a very loosely used term) to some entertainment by our very own "Riverblenders" RFD Quartet.

Lead Jeff Grimmer told the group that he knew they had just ridden for 2 hours on the bus, traversed 50 steps to the Loose Moose just to sit down again. He referred to the malady as "Boat Butt" and told them that sometime during the performance they would be asked to arise and stretch out for a little while.

The singing went on, (with MAGIC's Wayne Hughes filling in as tenor), until we sang our last song. Immediately after the final tune, while they

we applauding, Jeff asked the group to arise and as they stood up he took this picture and then he yelled out - "Look another standing ovation!"

We had a great time, as did the audience, and we thank Wayne for his help.



"Another Standing Ovation!"

Riverbend at the 2012 SENIOR EXPO:

Riverbend was able to participate in the 2012 Senior Expo at the Verizon Civic Center, May 15th. Magic was there from 11-1 and Riverbend took over in the 1-3 slot. Our efforts were directed to the Twin Rivers Council For The Arts, but Michael was there to staff the booth, so we just sort of sauntered around the exhibition area. There were many opportunities to entertain the folks, but that had to wait until we did our initial performance for Shirley Grundmeier, a charter member of the Minnesota Valley Sweet Adelines and one of the recipients of the 2011

Award of Harmony. Shirley listened very intently and coached us on the spot, for how we could improve and make a better blended sound. How about that? Free coaching at the Civic Center from an expert! There were lots of distracting sounds in the display area, so it created a perfect environment for getting "close and personal" with our eager recipients. Many people had great comments about the 2012 Disney Riverblenders Annual Show. The Humdingers Quartet certainly left a great impression in the Mankato area.

Ron Meyer

Riverbend's First Real Gig

Today, Riverbend, had its first real (uh - non-Valentine that is) gig. We went to the Taylor Center at MSU and sang for a retirement party for Dwain's wife, Margaret Frazee. Somehow we managed to make this a surprise, by practicing at Jim's house, and Loyola, and not mentioning it in any emails to Dwain, or not replying to ones he sent to us. For our opening song we did a parody on "How can I miss you if you won't go away. We collaborated on the wording and came up with this ditty, which could easily be modified as needed, to fit any retiree's reception.

work and dedication over her 27 year career, these words fit the occasion very well.

*You'll admit that you are sentimental,
A slave to your emotions it is true, so very true.
But logic after all, is fundamental,
So this baffling question, we must ask of you:
We ask of you:*

*How can you miss her if she won't go away,
Far, far away from you.
How can you grieve if she won't leave,
And how can you shed a tear if she's still here!
Absence makes the heart grow fonder, so they say,
Let's see if that old saying still holds true today.
You'll sadly sigh, (pause and sigh) as you bid good bye.
You'll miss her more than words can say,
But how can you miss her if she won't go away?
So go 'way dear Margaret, and please don't delay,
Then our hearts will grow fonder each day you're
away!*

We sang six songs, and received many compliments, and were even asked to sing a couple more by some ladies who had arrived later and missed our first set.

Jim Mongeau



Ambassadors of Harmony

Singing to large group of Margaret's fellow employees, who clearly appreciated her hard



Poem By "Marv"

Focus

Marvin Ostrom

All humans suffer this affliction.
I'm sure you'll agree without contradiction.
We've a problem keeping attention.
On just one subject without intervention.
So how will we ever complete a task,
If we fail to focus, may I ask?
'Tis a wonder we ever get things done,
'Cause we stroll from the path when we're under the gun.
There's a need to train our wandering brains,
To stay on the track, like railroad trains.
When we allow our thoughts to go hither and yon,
Instead of concentrating on a single job we're on.
We lose our focus, our thoughts tend to stray.
We forget where we are going, and we lose the way.
So if it's progress you wish and it's not on your plate.
Try your best to focus, 'tis never too late.



What is Celibacy????

Celibacy can be a choice in life, or a condition imposed by circumstances.

While attending a Marriage Weekend, Frank and his wife Ann listened to the instructor declare, "It is essential that husbands and wives know the things that are important to each other."

He then addressed the men.

"Can you name and describe your wife's favorite flower?"

Frank leaned over, touched Ann's arm gently, and whispered,

"Gold Medal-All-Purpose, isn't it?"

And thus began Frank's life of celibacy

Calendar

June 1, 2012 - Friday

Moon Dogs Baseball Game

Franklin Rogers Ball Park - 6:15 PM

June 5, 2012 - Tuesday

Christ The King

Regular Practice - 7 PM

June 8, 2012 - Friday

Moon Dogs Baseball Game

Franklin Rogers Ball Park - 6:15 PM

June 10, 2012 - Sunday

Mankato Church Performances

June 12, 2012 - Tuesday

Christ The King

Board Meeting - 6 PM

Regular Practice - 7 PM

June 15, 2012 - Friday

Cancer Walk

St. Peter

June 19, 2012 - Tuesday

Sing with City Band

Sibley Park - 7:30 PM

Regular Practice - Christ The King

June 24, 2012 - Sunday

Mankato Church Performances

Nicollet Parade

June 26, 2012 - Tuesday

Christ The King

Regular Practice - 7 PM

July 2, 2012 - Monday

Church of the Holy Communion - St. Peter

Performance - Celebration of our Country

August 25, 2012 - Saturday

Annual Riverblenders Auction

Jeff & Carol Grimmer's

Oct. 26-27 - Fall Contest -
Rochester

Items of Interest

Dwain & Margaret Frazee's
45th Wedding Anniversary Celebration

June 16th - Saturday

Mankato Legion Post 518

Open House - 12:00 - 4:00 PM

"Your Presence Is Your Gift"

Marv Ostrom is back at
Hillcrest Nursing Home

Ambassadors of Song

“Keep a melody ringing in your heart” is the last phrase I share with all of the Riverblenders each Tuesday night. It’s that familiar tag with a series of barbershop chords which leads to that “home” chord, and then we’re all on our separate ways homes. Another satisfying evening with my friends, but then I can’t adequately describe what happens next.

Sometimes I’m just bushed and want to get to bed. Other times I sing for another hour or so at the Wine Café or maybe practice a couple of songs with the quartet. Sometimes it’s well after midnight, but rarely can I go to bed as soon as I get home – no matter how late it is! There’s something inside of me that wants me to stay up “just a little while longer” and maybe it’s to savor the evening. Maybe it’s that melody ringing in my heart. I’ve shared this feeling with a few other Riverblenders and found that it may be common to many of us. So what’s it all about?

We need each other to make those chords. We need each other to produce those “goose bumps” and emotions that can bring us to tears. We are not only bound by the “cords” of goodwill and friendship that we find in so many other organizations, but our “chords” of harmony bind our hearts and souls together. This makes our hobby something special and this “secret gift” may be the greatest gift we could ever share with a friend, a youth, or another man.

The Barbershop Harmony Foundation is dedicated to Keep the Whole World Singing. Sharing our gift of harmony with others and especially our youth is the primary objective of this wonderful organization. In the past couple of years the Riverblenders have received nearly \$2,000 from the Foundation to support our local Youth In Harmony festivals and our educational budget. We received \$15 for every youth (male and female) and

every educator who attended our youth festival in January from the Foundation. And when members of our chapter have given to the Harmony Foundation up to 30% of every gift can be designated to return to the chapter. We have been blessed by these gifts, but we can do so much more.

Our future is in our youth. We’ve seen growth in our local youth festivals and in youth events throughout the Society. This fall there will be a new, youth chorus festival in Rochester. And it will be a great opportunity for us to sponsor local youth who want a weekend barbershop experience along with a regional convention. Next January, we plan another Youth In Harmony festival right here in Mankato and then there is the National chorus competition in Orlando. All of these events are planned to provide our youth with a sampling of those barbershop chords that bind us together. But they need our financial support. The way we do that is through the Harmony Foundation.

Ambassadors of Song can arrange for automatic monthly deductions at any level, starting at just \$5 per month. It’s easy to begin investing in the future of barbershop and it can be surprisingly rewarding. We can inspire interest in young singers. We can turn interest into skill, skill into inspiration, and inspiration into achievement. Your gift to the Harmony Foundation will provide, free music to school programs, exposure to high schools, excitement through Youth Harmony Workshops and Harmony Explosion Camps, and support youth chorus competitions, collegiate quartet contests, and Director’s College opportunities for young directors.

We have such a wonderful opportunity to invest in our future – consider the possibilities!

Arv Zenk - Membership

2012 MN Twins Singout

This year's LOL service to MLB in the Twin Cities is as follows:

DATE: Sunday August 12, 2012

LOCATION: Target Field

TIME: 1 PM game. Arrival must be no later than 11:45 AM

VISITING TEAM: Tampa Bay Rays

NOTE: MLB has the option of changing ANY game starting time but it is rare.

TICKET PRICE: \$18 each

SEAT LOCATION: Sections each side of the foul pole in right field

We have 300 tickets again this year. Rules are the same as last year, SINGERS first (in 2010 we had only 200 tickets and all went to singers) then guests in order of requests. This is a great opportunity to introduce young men to our craft! All requests for SINGERS will be honored through June 25th up to 300 total. I would guess that the Twins do not have the pressure for tickets that they had two years ago and that there will be other tickets available even if we sold all 300 of the ones we now have reserved.

National Anthem - BHS Stock #7643 – sung on the field

7th Inning Songs: (Sung from our seats – with mics and TV cameras)

God Bless America – BHS Stock #7641 - ONLY Chorus 2, Ms 57 - 100

Take Me Out To The Ballgame – BHS Stock #8111 – ONLY Ms 1 - 32

If you are planning on singing, please do the following:

1. Count the number of SINGERS and send a check(s), made out to either the Great Northern Union or the Minnesota Twins for the right amount (\$18 each ticket).
2. Tell me the number of guest tickets you would like – there is no guarantee that there will be any available. Send NO MONEY for potential guest tickets. If any are available, I will tell you how many you can get and you can send another check(s).
3. Send an email to the address below (or call) to let me know that you are sending in your request.

I need all the money for SINGERS by June 25th, please.

At that time I will contact those who would be eligible for guest tickets. Remember, first come, first served.

Tickets will be distributed in July after International.

Contact me with any questions you might have.

Ken Slinde

Bass and Mentor and Twins Ticket Wrangler
Great Northern Union Chorus

2100 Dixon Drive
Bloomington, MN 55431-1711
952.884.4975 Home
612.817.5724 Cell

Email at: g nubass@comcaast.net

Riverblenders Sunday Church Singouts June 10, 2012

7:15 - Coffee & Rolls - Christ The King Church

8:15 - Christ The King - 222 Pfau St, Mankato

9:00 - Centenary United Methodist, 2nd & Cherry, Mankato

9:25 - First Congregational, 150 Stadium Court, Mankato

10:00 - Grace Lutheran, 320 East Main St., Mankato

10:40 - Oak Lawn Health Care Center, 201 Oaklawn Ave., Mankato