

River Ramblings

Editor - Jeffrey Grimmer

Mankato "Riverblender's" Place 3rd in International Achievement!

Congratulations! Earlier this year, you filled out our Chapter Achievement Program survey which tabulated a wide range of things the Society thinks are necessary to be a successful chapter. Thank you to you and your chapters for having such a healthy balance of fun, fellowship, fulfillment, and excitement in your chapter life! As a result of your efforts, you have been placed in the Top 10 of chapters participating in the 2011 Chapter Achievement Program. This achievement should bring great credit upon yourself as leaders of a very successful chapter. A special congratulations goes to the Louisville No. 1 Chapter for earning the top spot!

Thank you for perpetuating our style in such a healthy manner! Please share this wonderful news with your chapter however you best see fit.

Congratulations!!

Mike O'Niell - Music Educator
Barbershop Harmony Society



Place	ChplD	Chapter Name	Chorus Name	Total
1	F031	Louisville No 1 Chapter	Thoroughbreds	224
2	G069	Western Hills	Cincinnati Gateway	220
3 ★	H047	Mankato	Riverblenders	193
4	Q040	Wilmington	Cape Fear Chordsmen	173
5	I011	Grand Rapids	Great Lakes Chorus	155
6	B098	Atlanta Metro Chapter	Atlanta Vocal Project	154
7	A101	Papillion	Sarpy Serenaders	152
8	L026	Simcoe	Gentlemen of Harmony	152
9	E007	Bloomington	Sound of Illinois	150
10	D008	Santa Rosa	Redwood Chordsmen	149

Another Great Job By The Riverblenders!!

Congratulations to the "Riverblenders for all of their participation in the choruses activities. The number 1 item that keeps us in the top of International Achievement is our continued contributions of song and entertainment to the communities in and around the Mankato area. This also includes all of the performances the various chapter quartets do during the year.

Another very important part of this award is the professionalism of our Secretary, Tim Schubbe. His constant dedication in getting all of the information needed from the chorus and quartets, verifying it, and entering it into the needed documents is indeed phenomenal. We all owe him for the time and effort that he takes doing this.

On behalf of the chorus - **Thanks Tim!**
Editor



Everybody Wants to Go to Heaven!

The Riverblenders 2013 Spring Show is promising to be another truly entertaining barbershop experience for Mankato. We had our first Show Committee meeting and a great bunch of leaders and planners stepped forward to work on a show that could be one of the best.

We are planning a Gospel Show and once again we will be performing at the beautiful Crossview Covenant Church in North Mankato. Our featured quartet, Lunch Break, is a hilarious, comedy quartet and International semi-finalist. They have a great reputation for comedy routines and musical parodies that will bring you to your knees with laughter.

The Music Committee has also been working to find music that will be appropriate for the show and they came up with the following for the chorus and chapter quartets:

Chorus

1. This Train (may include Lunchbreak)
2. Swing Low
3. Joshua
4. Hush
5. Noah Found Grace
6. My Lord What A Morning
7. Amazing Grace (Audience participation)

Chapter Quartets

1. Magic - No More Sorrow
2. RFD - Everybody Wants To Go To Heaven
3. Soul Purpose - I'll Fly Away
4. Riverbend - The Lord Be Willing

Tim and Thom have some great ideas for a creative theme and script, and it sounds like they may have plans to make this a light-hearted, comedy show with a gospel theme – what a great idea for a most entertaining show!

So as you can see, a lot of ground work has already been done. Now we just need everyone to get involved to support another great Riverblender show. The Show Committee reviewed the show plan at our first meeting and are updating the plan with new milestones. Swing Low Sweet Chariot is already memorized and the chorus will be hard at work on a couple more new songs. But I think we are in good shape for our show next spring with everyone working together.

Thank you to our 2013 Show Committee for taking on the challenge and to every Riverblender. I look forward to working together with all of you to make our 2013 Gospel Show another Riverblenders hit!

Arv Zenk

2013 Show Chairman



We had three great coaching sessions in the past weeks. Two with our former and current GNU director-coach Peter Benson and another session from Scott Kvigne for our Stage Presence.

Both coaches challenged us to a high degree and worked us hard, but we were up to the task and we came through with great results.

The biggest challenge that we now have is to remember to perform what we were taught. This

can be accomplished through our own at home practices and at each of our rehearsals. Doug Peterson did a good job of writing down what was presented and gave us that information. That, along with Director Jacob Ritter's efforts, should prove fruitful and should bring us great results, not only in contest but at all of our performances.

Thanks Pete and Scott for sharing your time and talents!



Photos - j grimmer

International & LO'L Stuff

On November 9th your LOL District Operations team, along with Arv Zenk and I, will be leaving for Las Vegas to take an active part in the annual Forum hosted jointly by the Society and the Districts. It is a chance to compare notes with our counterparts to see what is new in each of our respective areas and discuss new ideas from our Barbershop Harmony Society. It is a good time for each of us to check out how we compare with other districts, to see what new ideas are being implemented or evaluated.

Our education committee has put together the courses that will be offered at that Leadership Academy for 2013. They have many new interesting and exciting courses for all district members. So start talking about how many of your chapter members can attend. This is one of the most rewarding events that your new chapter officers can attend, and anyone else that is interested in top notch music or administrative

education. Judd Orff and Dave Sylte along with their committee have done a fantastic job creating a very exiting curriculum for our district. So start making preparations to attend.

If you haven't already registered for our fall convention be sure and do so soon. This will be a good year to bring your spouse or a friend. You will find a number of additions at this year's district convention that I am sure your will enjoy. You will also hear about some new and exciting additions that will be incorporated for more fun at your conventions in the coming years. Del Ryberg and his crew are working very hard to make this convention different and more enjoyable. Don't miss this convention and join the "flock" taking part in the fun changes planned for this convention. I'll see you in Rochester for a grand convention.

Chuck Schubbe



LO'L Contest Stuff

Hi Guys,

So far I have rooms reserved for Ron Larson, Dwain Frazee, Ron Meyer, Bailey Blethen, Bruce Gray, Charles Youngblom, Leonard Huls, Jacob Ritter, and myself. There are 3 left – any takers??? Let me know tonight at rehearsal (and bring your credit card). You can cancel if your plans change.

Also, while I have your attention, the Loyola Sing-out for Mass on Wednesday, October 3rd – has

been changed to Wednesday Oct. 10th – mark your calendar. Show up at Loyola at 8 AM to warm up. Uniform will be announced later, but it will be new black pants and ?? shirt.

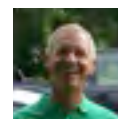
Stay tuned,

Stan Bruss

House Manager

Mankato Riverblenders

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By the time you get this newsletter column, the "Riverblenders" will be less than thirty days away from the Fall Contest in Rochester. Every year we go to a competition in the spring and usually in the fall. This year, I sense a special excitement and anticipation. There was also an uneasiness on the part of our membership. The uneasiness I sensed, was due to the songs that were selected. We've never sung those songs in a contest before. Jacob came on the scene August 7th, and immediately dug into being an expert on both of the songs. We won't know for another 30 days what the contest results will be, time will tell. The point I'm trying to make, is that Jacob is taking a bold step with

these two songs and I'm confident he will be successful.

The excitement and anticipation I spoke of earlier, is coming from all of us who are seeing the great improvements Jacob has been making with the chorus. We all need to give the contest and especially Jacob, our very best efforts. The "Riverblenders" have always been a great chorus and "Fall 2012" will be another step-up for us!!!

Everyone needs to give Jacob their best in Rochester!! Go Jacob, YOU'RE THE MAN.....!!!!
President - Ron Meyer



LO'L Contest Stuff - Youth In Harmony

This summer, as most of you know, Charles and I brought our Grandsons, Nick, Sam and Charlie to a rehearsal. You may recall, the guys motivation was hearing Charles and I practicing Swing Low, Sweet Chariot. Nick told Charles the song was kinda cool and about that same time, Sam & Charlie gave me the same response, while driving with me in the car one day. After rehearsal that evening, Nick told Charles he had fun and Sam & Charlie told me the same. Fast forward to the Fall Contest and the

Youth-In-Harmony Festival, it seems as though Nick & Charlie want to go to Rochester. Sam on the other hand, is busy with Football and doesn't really want to perform on stage....."maybe next time Papa", Sam said.

Charles and I are excited for Nick and Charlie. It will be interesting to get their feed-back after the 26th, in Rochester.

Ron Meyer



Mankato "Riverblenders" New Director Jacob Ritter

The Mankato Area "Riverblenders" Chorus proudly announces that they have obtained the directing expertise of Jacob Ritter.



Jacob originates from Columbus, Nebraska and comes from a musical family. He earned his degrees from Doane College and the University of Central Missouri.

He was very active musically throughout his high school and college years, singing in various quartets and small groups and competing in many contests.

In 2007 he was selected to perform with the "Dapper Dans" at Disneyland in Hong Kong, China. He has sung with the Great

Northern Union Chorus in Minneapolis, a two time silver medalist chorus, where he is a Warm-up Leader and Associate Section Leader. He has also served as a Clinician in two "Youth In Harmony" programs.

We proudly welcome him to the "Riverblenders" and hope to have him here for many years.

The "Riverblender's" rehearse Tuesday's at 7 p.m. and are always looking for members. Contact Bruce Gray at bgray@gustavus.edu or 507-934-2372 or visit our website at www.singmankato.com

The Free Press

It was nice to see a couple of articles in the local Mankato "Free Press" the other day. Both were in the Sunday, September 16th issue. One of the articles was on the front page of the "Currents" section.

But, best of all, it is really nice to have Jacob as our new director!!!

Riverblenders tap Ritter to serve as new director

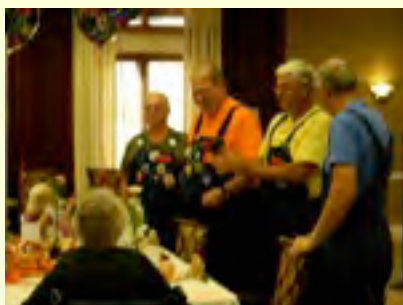
After a lengthy search for a new director, the Mankato Area Riverblenders Barbershop Chorus has chosen Jacob Ritter as its new director.



Born in Columbus, Neb., Ritter's father was a high school music director. Ritter joined his first quartet while still in high school and joined a barbershop quartet while at Doane College. He has performed with barbershop quartets and choruses all over the world, most recently with the "Great Northern Union."

Ritter holds a master's degree from the University of Central Missouri and is currently employed as a vocal music teacher at Waterville-Elysian-Morristown Schools.

Ritter formally began his duties in August, replacing former director Derek Glenna and interim directors Doug Peterson and Arvid Zenk.



RFD, along with fill in tenor Wayne Hughes - thanks Wayne, sang for Pathstone's September Birthday Party. With around 50 guests and nine with birthdays, we entertained them and then had Cake and Ice Cream afterwards. Thanks Pathstone!

Be Thankful for Your MVP

Someone in the chorus made it known that I received recognition from my employer, Hewlett-Packard, and that HP sent Nancy and me to San Diego where their annual MVP award presentations were held for 2012. It was a great honor and we had a fantastic weekend with lots of free time to run around San Diego between all the HP events. But the real story is about my boss who nominated me for the MVP award. Allyn Veazey has been a mentor of mine for many years. We work in the health care industry and she has spent a lifetime helping companies be more effective and become a part of all of our lives. She created all the opportunities for me to serve our customers and part in the bigger picture. She and education I needed, shielded came our way, and had the vision performing beyond expectations. And above all these things, she has a strong faith that comes through in everything she does. We need more leaders like this today.



proactive in this critical area that has paved the way for me to do my small also made sure I had all the resources me from the political battles that that kept us in front of things and And above all these things, she has a everything she does. We need more

Do you have a boss like this? Maybe you ARE a boss like this. I'm thankful for you. I'm thankful that our chorus is made up of leaders like this, and that each of you has found a way to serve your community in this hobby and in many other ways. I grew up with leaders like this in my family, and my wife, Nancy, leads like this as the Director of Children's Ministries at our church. She is responsible for leading hundreds of volunteers and serving hundreds of children and their families where all these leadership lessons are taught and where becoming servant leaders is the mission. That's our future and those are the real MVPs.

Tim Schubbe - Secretary - Mankato Riverblenders

"As always, Tim is being very humble about his very impressive award! Yes, he had help along the way, but he in fact, did the work to get this very prestigious award -- Congratulations Tim!!" -editor"

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I am sure that you are aware that we are performing our spring show at Nicollet High School on November 18, 2012, at 3 pm.

Other than that I am not fully aware of anything else.

The songs were announced at rehearsal on the 25th but no follow up information was received for publication. Feel free to contact Music Committee Chairman Chuck Brooks for this information.

Tim & Thom Schubbe are working on the new show script and will be making announcements as things are put in place - Editor

Poster by "Steve Pettis"



Bruce & Sue Gray along with Alan Lampson Harmony International President just after Bruce received his 50 year membership honors

The Chorus Contest

Marv Ostrom

Seem's we go from the frying pan into the fire.
Next, winning the district contest is our main desire.

Gotta get it right, each dot and tittle,
The first and the last, and also the middle.
Twill take some time, and effort to boot,
For whatever the judges might feel is moot.

Uniforms clean, tucked neatly away,
Ready to don, we'll swing and we'll sway.
It's important to us to be number 1,
Singing well, having fun.

Well worth the effort, if we give it our best
And soon we will know, if we pass the test.

Annual Installation of Officers Banquet

Come and join us for an evening of fun, business, entertainment, and great food. We will meet at Applewood Banquet Center located at 11 Telemark Drive in Mankato. Happy Hour is at 6 PM with a Buffet Meal at 7 PM. The cost is \$13.50 a person for you, your spouse, or your friend. Some singing is always a must, so be prepared to sing well and have fun!! Why does that sound familiar?? See you there!

Chuck Youngblom - Program Vice President

Calendar

October 2, 2011 - Tuesday

Loyola High School
Regular Practice - 7 PM

October 9, 2011 - Tuesday

Loyola High School
Board Meeting - 6 PM
Regular Practice - 7 PM

October 10, 2011 - Wednesday

Loyola High School
Sing for Students
8:00 AM

October 16, 2011 - Tuesday

Loyola High School
Regular Practice - 7 PM

October 23, 2011 - Tuesday

Loyola High School
Regular Practice - 7 PM

October 26-28, 2011 - Fri-Sun

Southwest Division Contest
Rochester, Minnesota

October 30, 2011 - Tuesday

Loyola High School
Regular Practice - 7 PM
(??Pizza Party - 8 PM??)

November 3, 2011 - Saturday

Annual Installation of Officers Banquet
Applewood Banquet Center
11 Telemark Drive, Mankato
6 PM Happy Hour
7 PM Banquet

November 11, 2011 - Saturday

Crossview Covenant Church
Minnesota Valley Sweet Adelines
Annual Show

November 18, 2011 - Sunday

Riverblenders Show
Nicollet High School
3 PM

Members Comments



This summer, when fishing up north at West Angel, Canada and Minn., Lake of the Woods area (my first time there). I had a great time and caught the biggest fish! It was a Northern Pike which was over 38 inches long! He was released because I was fishing with the catch and release license. Charles Youngblom



I was fishing up north in the Ely area on Lake Burntside this month. The lake is about 9 miles long and 7 miles at the widest point with over 100 islands. It is also a very clear lake making the job of catching fish rather difficult. However, while trolling in 23 feet of water, heading over to the shallow end of the lake, I managed to hook this 5 pound Small Mouth Bass. What it was doing in 23 feet of water is unknown to me. It was a good fight and then I released it to let some other angler have the fun of catching it some other time. Jeff Grimmer



Rita and I have been married 55 years as of September 1, 1957, and it seems like only yesterday. My father-in-law Ray Krause, a humorous fellow, would say "and you know what a terrible day yesterday was." We have been blessed with 3 wonderful children, Thomas Carl, Lynn Ann, and Michael Lorenz. Thomas has a daughter Leah Rae, she and her husband Derek have triplets Christian Carl, Emma Rae, and Tyler Donald. Tom's wife Beverly has 3 children Daniel George, Audre Marie

and Andrew Earl. Lynn Ann is shown with her friend David Doerr. Michael and his wife Dawn have 2 children, Sophia Lorenz and Nicholas Michael.

I have enjoyed being a Riverblender for over 39 years and look forward to many more years singing. It's been also fun to sing with the boys at the Wine Café.

Carl Schoenstedt