

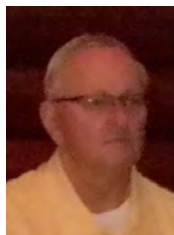
River Ramblings

Editor - Jeffrey Grimmer

Singing Valentines Shine!!

First things first! The chorus wants to give a great big **THANK YOU** to Singing Valentines Chairs - Dwain and Margaret Frazee for doing such an outstanding job. The day went without incident and ran very smoothly, even the weather cooperated! The quartets picked up quite a few performances during the day and all of them were taken care of in a timely manner.

The quartets sang at over 80 different stops, this number does not include the freebies that each quartet performed along the way. The



Dwain Frazee

freebies always create some fantastic public relations opportunities for the Riverblenders.

Secondly, a big **THANK YOU** goes out to the front men, drivers, publication & publicity people, runners for items, and all of the guys that performed in the various quartets.

Everyone should be proud of your efforts and you should know that you made a big difference in a lot of peoples lives! Congratulations to all!! - Editor

The Mankato Riverblenders Chorus

Presents

Everybody Wants to go to Heaven

April 13th, 2013

at 2:00 & 7:00 p.m.

Crossview Covenant

Church

North Mankato

Featuring:

Lunch
Break



TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets are available from Chorus Member, or call Jon at (507)-420-5847 or visit the

official Mankato Riverblender website at,

www.singmankato.com

Ticket Prices



BARBERSHOP
HARMONY
SOCIETY

Adult @ Door

\$15.00

Senior & Advanced

\$13.00

Student

\$5.00

Show Stuff

According to Tim and Thom Schubbe, the show script is starting to take shape. The music committee has handed out all the music and the CD's for learning. The Public Relations/Marketing committee recently had a meeting. The tickets and ad packages have been handed out. The poster is in its final stages. The marketing card (to the right) have been produced and handed out. The quartets have been hired.

Now it is up to each member to take all of these items to heart and use each of them to make the up coming show the best one we have ever produced. - Editor

(See Page 6 for more info)



Let's GO!!

Riverbend Has A Great Day!

Like everyone else, Riverbend began their day at the Happy Chef restaurant at 7am. Actually, Dwain got there much earlier to bring in the fruit of the Frazes' labors leading up to the big day. Dwain and Margaret had a hectic last seven days or so, starting in early February, coordinating the stops for each quartet.



Our first stop was at Menard's front entrance, to sing to Jane as she ended her night shift. Next it was on to Bill a Highway Patrolman who never even reached for his gun. Cindy Rupp the music expert was next and we left her and the staff at Hosanna, smiling. Next it was on to Cory and Gert and Nancy and Cleo. The next stop was for



Ruby Isebrand, the wife of our very capable driver and photographer Dave Isebrand. Ruby and the

staff at MRCI were all smiles as we made our exit.



Shari, Jessie, Debra, Wendy, J o l e n e , Geraldine, Clinton & Barb. Last but not least, Riverbend ended their day singing to

Johnetta and getting a great meal from Ruth Meyer.

Riverbend had an awesome day. Thanks to Dave Isebrand for his excellent work behind the wheel and the camera.



We look forward to Friday February 14th, 2014.

Special thanks to Dwain & Margaret Frazé for their well planned schedules and routes.

Ron Meyer - Lead - Riverbend

The MAGIC of Singing Valentines



MAGIC had a great time singing valentines this year. We sang in a few banks here in Mankato then headed up to St. Peter to sing for our favorite people, Ellis Jones and his wife. We then took off to the schools in Henderson, Le Sueur, and St. Peter. So much fun to see the look on the kids faces when we sing to their teachers! Bailey Blethen did a great job of driving us around, all 115 miles. During lunch at Whiskey River, a wedding party arrived and we made their day even more special!! We finished our day singing for the banks in St. Peter, the American Legion, Benedictine Living, and a Taylor Corp (guy) in North Mankato. Thanks to Dwaine Frazé and his wife for making it a fun day and organizing all the details. Awesome Job!! - Stan Bruss - Bass - MAGIC

RFD #7 & #8 Valentines Day

Valentines Story: RFD #8. This is the story behind February 14, 2013 Valentines Day for the 8th variation of RFD. This variation included quartet new-be Ron Conrad. Ron



sang bass for RFD. This was the first time for him singing publicly in a formal quartet. Ron did a fantastic job!

The day started out with a performance for Steve Pettis's boss Lane Habel. We were suppose to sing at a big meeting that was cancelled due to a track break. So we settled for a performance in his office. With the whole crew listening in or watching we performed our 2 songs and watched him

As with many of the quartets that were singing, we sang for some of our friends and family members. Chuck Schubbe's daughter was one of the aforementioned. We found her at Immanuel, St. Josephs Hospital on the



maternity floor. The picture above shows us performing songs to not only Susan but almost the entire floors personnel.

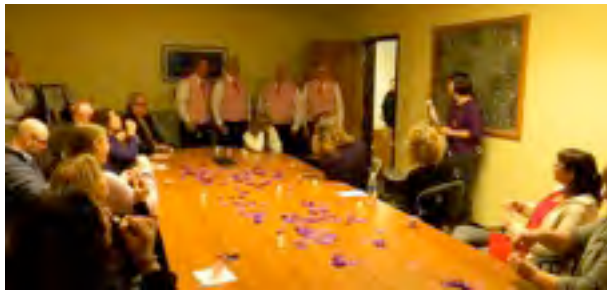
Another family member we sang to was Steve Pettis's daughter Ava. We performed our

songs not only to her but to the entire class! She loved it and the whole class was smiling and squirming around as youngsters do.



We continued on and caught Jennifer Myers at a Valentines Party in the Alumni Foundation Building at her job at Mankato State. She wanted us to sing in the

hall, but as you can see, we don't listen very well. They all got into t h e



performance and when we finished they gave her and us a great big bubble thank you.

We were lucky enough to sing for the Rochelle Emmers family the wife of former



Riverblender Tim Emmers. We sang to 3 young daughters, wife Rochelle, Tim and 3 very friendly cats.

RFD #7 finished up the evening singing for a Murder Mystery Party at the Loose Moose. We sang with bass Tim Schubbe during the happy hour just prior to the evenings festivities. There was a large crowd of different people and they were very receptive to our performance.

- Jeff Grimmer - Lead - RFD

Oh Brother Quartet Fronted by Local Celebrity!

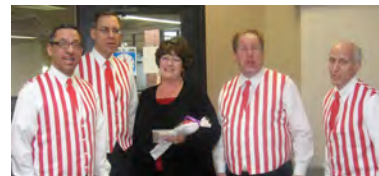
February 14th was an exceptional day for chapter quartet "Oh Brother". Not only did they get to spread joy with the gift of barbershop music to sweet hearts through out the Mankato area; Jerry, Larry, Tim and Thom also had the great privilege of having Leonard Huls as their front man, photographer, navigator and nutritional advisor through out the day. Although constantly recognized by members of the community and praised at nearly every stop, this titan in the tenor



world reflected attention back to the quartet and recipient of the Valentine with grace and humility at every turn. Because Leonard has developed exceptional time management skills in his many years traveling up and down the treble clef as well as through out greater Minnesota, we had enough time to sing songs to every floor at the hospital except the psych ward on 4th. It's easy to check in but very difficult to get back out!

In addition to our paid stops we spent quite a bit of time singing to patients in the ICU and even to two unsuspecting young ladies in the elevator and a

newborn whose middle name was "Rose"- Irish?. We weren't sure if Payton Rose's great smiles came from the quiet strains of "Wild Irish Rose", the sparkle in Leonard's eye (or gas) but her Dad looked very proud and only a little alarmed at the time. Since they had only sung one time with lead Larry Walsh, expectations were low for this new quartet. However, with expert guidance (the baritone was way too loud – big surprise) from Leonard this rag-tag foursome became a love spreading machine by noon and had time to enjoy the delectable offerings from Larry's co-workers at the Hy-Vee. Once again Leonard sacrificed himself for the good of the quartet and steered us to the salad bar while taking on the two entrée Chinese-A-Palooza bar by himself. It's this kind of dedication that sets the bar so high for tenors every where. Jerry Morton, our tenor from Woodbury, made the trip down with a certain trepidation having never done singing Valentines before. But with a few tips and a knowing look of approval from Leonard all was well. Jerry commented that the day would have been nearly perfect in every way if the baritone had not been too loud most of the time. Our great hope is to join the Riverblenders again next year on Valentine's Day and will endeavor to get the baritone to tone it down a bit. Perhaps Leonard can help with that too.



Yours in Harmony,
The Oh Brother quartet.

SUNDAY SUMMER SING OUTS:

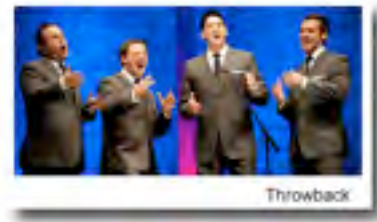
It's time to put some dates on your calendar for the Riverblender Summer Sing-outs. Please mark these dates, I will be getting a "commitment sign-up" starting **March 12th** so be ready. We will start out on **June 9th** here in Mankato led by Joel Botten; then on **June 23rd** we will be in the St. Peter area, led by Bruce Gray; (We will also be in St. Peter for the special show on the evening of Wednesday **July 3rd** at the Catholic Church and perhaps in the **July 4th** parade). We will resume on, Sunday, **July 14th** in Lake Crystal and North Mankato led by Wayne; then **July 21** in the Waseca, Waterville, Janesville area led by Jacob; **August 11** we will be in the Mapleton/Medo area led by Chuck Schubbe and Ron Conrad; and finally finish up back in Mankato on **August 25th** led by Joel Botten. Uff da – dats a lot of singin! Our goal is to have **25 guys** each Sunday. The uniform will be the yellow shirts, black pants, black sox, and black shoes. If you need a new yellow shirt contact Steve Pettis. Thanks to all the guys who stepped up to organize each week – Stay tuned!!



Stan Bruss - Summer Sing-out Coordinator

Come for the Contest - Stay for the Concert!

International Quartet Prelims
10,000 Lakes/SW Division Chorus Contest
May 3-4, 2013



The Great Northern Union is proud to host the 2013 Division and International Quartet Prelims contest this May.

The GNU has teamed up with the L'OL Board of Directors and Leadership to introduce an all new weekend schedule designed to encourage more participation among contestants and non-contestants alike. This new format promises to bring a renewed energy and excitement to the contest.

New to the schedule in 2013 will be an afternoon quartet finals followed by an evening Convention Concert Finale featuring the Great Northern Union Chorus and guest quartet Throwback.

Throwback recently finished 6th place at the 2012 BHS International Competition in Portland. Throwback will also compete in the International Quartet Prelims right here in the LOL.

An all-contest/concert weekend ticket is just \$45 and includes the Saturday evening concert admission.

Another exciting change this year is the location. The venue will be beautiful [Maranatha Hall](#) at Northwestern College in Roseville, MN. The contest venue and HQ hotel are just a mile drive from the [Rosedale Center](#) which boasts hundreds of shops and restaurants for contestants and their families.

Additionally, the Saturday evening afterglow will be hosted by Grumpy's Bar and Grill only a short walk from the [HQ hotel \(Country Inn\)](#).

For all the details of the weekend including full event schedule, registration forms, and hotel and performance venue locations please [Click Here](#).

Get your registration in today. This will be an event you won't want to miss. If you have specific questions please do not hesitate to reach out to myself via email at wbrink@hotmail.com



SPRING CONVENTION – May 3-4, 2013

At rehearsal on March 12th I will begin the collection of registrations for the Spring convention (\$25) from each singer, (plus \$45 for your spouse for full registration) and that includes the special show on Saturday evening with GNU and some great quartets. Information is in your Harmonizer, but there are quartet prelims on Friday evening. The Chorus contest and Quartet finals are on Saturday. Should be a fun time. I can help you with hotel reservations and will coordinate rides as needed, closer to the event.

40 guys on the risers – wouldn't that be GREAT!

Stan Bruss
House Manager





Everybody Wants To Go To Heaven

Your 2013 Show Committee Script guys hope the Riverblenders are all looking forward to their parts in the big April 13th Show - **Everybody Wants To Go To Heaven!** For this year's show, the chorus and quartets are all guests at the Shady Pines Sunset Resort.

The quartets are foursomes of golfers, tennis players, bird watchers, etc. as well as employees of the resort hotel. The chorus members not in quartets are at the resort for a reunion for their high school Glee Club. Our main character is a guest who is meeting his old college buddies at the resort for one last weekend as a bachelor. He hasn't broken the news to his buddies that he is getting married and just told them, "I have a big announcement to make."

The show kicks off in the busy resort hotel lobby as the main character checks in. He is interrupted by a phone call from his fiancée who is trying to finalize plans for their wedding and honeymoon (a romantic train ride to Florida). The fun starts when the bellhop overhears just part of the phone conversation. Rather than planning for a wedding and honeymoon, he thinks the guest is planning his funeral and going to heaven. That's where all the music starts and this year's Gospel selections for the Show all fit in.

Your Show Script guys have your parts assigned, costume suggestions for everyone, and plans for the set are well underway. Now your homework is to keep practicing those Gospel songs because none of our work matters unless your great singing comes through. So enjoy these next rehearsals, keep practicing at home, and in a few weeks we'll be running through the Show for the first time. And remember that we'll be performing with some fantastic guest quartets, "Grand Design" and "Lunch Break". So get ready for a great 2013 Show!

Thom and Tim Schubbe

2013 Award Of Harmony Nominations

Please take some of your time to nominate the "Award Of Harmony" to someone that you deem is a worthy recipient(s) of the prestigious award - See page 8 for the nomination form.

The deadline for turning in your nomination is March 12, 2013

PAST AWARD OF HARMONY RECIPIENTS

1980 Elmer Fritz	1981 Betty Painter
1982 Dorothy Foster	1983 Fr. Robert Crosbie
1984 Roy B. Moore	1985 Ray Kraus
1986 Bunny Just	1987 Donald Paap
1988 Sara McKay	1989 Harold Paul
1990 Allen Wortman	1991 Dagne Pearson
1992 Jean Sorenson	1993 Dr. Ellis Jones
1994 Chuck Pasek	1995 Robert Warrent
1996 Fred Lutz	1997 Lowell Schreyer
1998 Carol Grimmer	1999 Claire & Hazel Faust
2000 Martin Larson	2001 Bob Wirtz
2002 Jack McGowan	2003 Paulette Redman
2004 Angie Miller	2005 Sue Splinter
2006 Pamela Determan	2007 Denny & Karen Sandersfeld
2008 John Berg	2009 Truman Wood
2010 Pam DeMarce	2011 Win & Shirley Grundmeir
2012 Jerry & Carol Larson	

Nice To Know

LAFAYETTE NICOLLET LEDGER February 7, 2013, Page 10



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

CALL NOW!
507-469-4085 or 507-382-9284
www.singmankato.com

Thursday, January 24, 2013 The Gaylord Hub, Page 3

SE students to attend annual Youth In Harmony Festival

The Minnesota Valley Sweet Adelines, in conjunction with the Mankato Riverblenders, present their third Annual Youth In Harmony Festival.

The event will take place January 26, 2013 at Crossview Covenant Church in North Mankato.

The following High Schools are invited to the festival: Belle Plaine, Cleveland, JWP, Le Sueur/Henderson, Madelia, Mankato West, Minnesota Valley Lutheran, St. Clair, Sibley East, Byron, Immanuel Lutheran, Lake Crystal Welcome Memorial, Loyola, Mankato East, Maple River, Nicollet, St. Peter, WEM.

The students day will start at 9 a.m., they will learn two songs in their respective choruses (girls; boys) and one song together, along with choreography.

The day will culminate with a free public concert at 4 p.m. featuring the Sweet Adelines, as well as the Mankato Riverblenders, and their quartets. Clinicians

will be Jacob Ritter, director of the Riverblenders Chorus, Mankato, and Carol Grimmer, director of the Minnesota Valley Sweet Adelines Chorus, Mankato.

This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

Southwest Division Champs

1975 - 1976 - 1977 - 1978

1979 - 1980 - 1982 - 1983

1985 - 1986 - 2000 - 2002

2003 - 2005 - 2006 - 2007

2008 - 2009 - 2010 - 2011

2012

Calendar

March 5, 2013 - Tuesday

Loyola High School Band Room

Regular Practice - 7:00 PM

March 12, 2013 - Tuesday

Board Meeting - 6:00

Loyola High School Band Room

Regular Practice - 7:00 PM

March 19, 2013 - Tuesday

Loyola High School Band Room

Regular Practice - 7 PM

March 26, 2013 - Tuesday

Loyola High School Band Room

Pete Benson - coaching - 7 PM

April 11, 2013 - Thursday

Show interview with

KEYC's Jan Ellington

8:00 AM

April 13, 2013 - Saturday

Annual Show

"Everybody Wants To Go To Heaven"

More information coming soon

April 23, 2013 - Tuesday

Loyola High School Band Room

Larry Monson - coaching - 7PM

May 3-4, 2013 - Tuesday

Contest -

Southwest/10,000 Lakes - Int. Pre-Lims

Hilltop - see page 5

July 1-7, 2013

International Convention

Toronto, Canada

August 14, 2013 - Wednesday

Orange City Iowa Show - 5:30 PM

(We will be taking a bus- please plan now!)

More information coming soon

December 1, 2013 - Sunday

Holiday Concert

Mankato - St. Peter

More information coming soon

Jacob Ritter - Phone

660-441-4055

2013 Mankato Riverblenders Award of Harmony Nomination Form

I would like to nominate _____ for the 2013 Award of Harmony, to be given at the Riverblenders Annual Show, April 13, 2013. Please list below, a brief outline of some of the contributions he/she/they have given to create harmony in our community. (continue on reverse side if needed) Return the completed form to: Jeffrey Grimmer, 52098 Deerwood Trl, North Mankato, MN 56003.

Please find, on the reverse of this sheet, the previous Award of Harmony Recipients List. Please refer to the Riverblenders website to view last years recipients biographical information.

Nominated by: _____ Current Riverblender