

River Ramblings

Editor - Jeffrey Grimmer

Another Great Performance

July 3rd, St. Peter Catholic Church, Mankato Riverblenders Salute to America and honorarium to the local veterans. The parking lot was full, the church was packed and the Riverblenders sang extremely well.

This concert was the culminating event for our "Learn To Sing" program set up by Thom Schubbe. The honor guard started the concert by presenting the colors and did a very respectable job - thanks guys! The Riverblenders then started the show and sang patriotic songs from years past. MAGIC and Oh Brother! Quartets performed in between songs and did a great job - thanks to you guys!



During the performance Jerry and Matt gave small speeches about America and our veterans, performing well as they always do! - thanks to them also!

The local veterans of the different services were ask to stand, and they received their deserved applause as appreciation for their service to us and the country.

The final 2 songs were sung with the "Learn To Sing" guys that could make it and a long standing ovation was given by the audience for the job well done by the Riverblenders and guests.



Top left is MAGIC then the Riverblenders and then Oh Brother! To the right, the Riverblenders with "Learn To Sing" performers. We wish to thank all of you for your time and efforts over the past weeks which made this a most successful performance. Thank you's to all of the "Learn To Sing" committee!

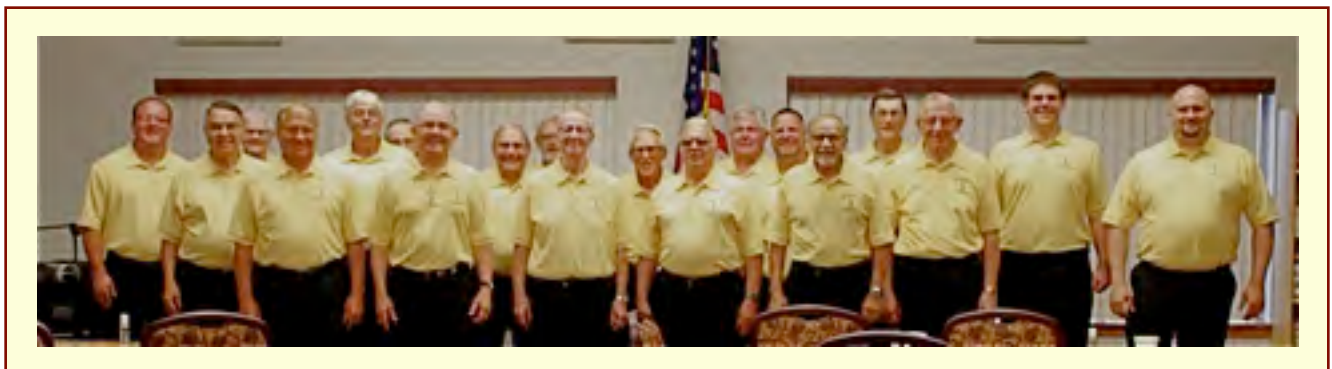


July Churches



On July 14, 2013 the group pictured above set out early Sunday morning to perform at 5 different churches and 2 retirement/rehabilitation homes. We left Mankato West parking lot at 7:15AM and headed to Lake Crystal. We had some coffee and rolls at the First Presbyterian Church in Lake Crystal and want to thank them for opening our eyes! Warm up was completed and at 8:45AM we were at Methodist Church, Zion Lutheran Church was next at 9:00AM, and lastly First Presbyterian at 9:30AM. It was a great day singing for very responsive groups, who were thankful for our harmonies.

Off to Mankato/North Mankato. The first stop was Messiah Lutheran Church in North Mankato, then a stop at Laurels Peak Rehabilitation Center to sing for them and especially to Carol Grimmer who has been re-cooperating from a heart attack, and then to the 1st Congregational Church in Mankato, and our finale at Pathstone Living in Mankato. Thanks to Wayne Hughes for lining up the churches in Lake Crystal.



On July 21st the happy group above met at Gander Mountain at 7:00AM, except for Jeff Grimmer who thought we were to meet at 7:15AM, and headed off to Waseca. We stopped at Colony Court Retirement Home for our needed jolt of coffee - thanks to the folks there for that! Warm ups followed and at 8:15AM we sang a set of 6 songs for a very receptive audience.

Then off to the First Congregational Church of Waseca for our first church, Christ The King Lutheran Church was next on the agenda, then Grace Lutheran Church. We followed Grace by performing at St. John's after which they invited us to a banquet of treats and beverages. It was so good that we were a little late to the final church in Janesville. Thanks to the parishioners at St. John's for a nice buffet. We arrive just a few minutes late to the United Methodist Church in Janesville and sang to a grateful group of people.

Thanks you to Jacob Ritter for lining up this Sundays performances.

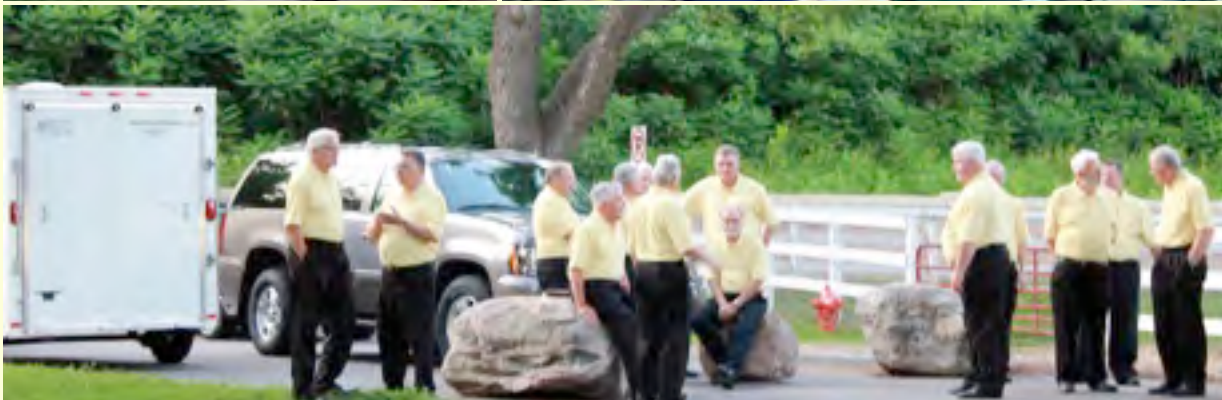
Second Time with the Band

July 9th, Sibley Park, Mankato Minnesota. For the second year in a row the Riverblenders were invited to sing with the Mankato Community Band. The weather was great, the crowd was larger than last year, and there were more mosquitos that ever.

The Mankato Community Band, along with their guest singers did an outstanding job. Even Abe Lincoln (Bryce Stenzel) was there to help out!

The Riverblenders had a great time singing for the large group of people, as you can see by the photo below, and we would like to thank Pathstone for letting us use their facility for our rehearsal and warm up time.

Thanks to Stan Bruss for his trailer and for the guys that unloaded, set up, and reloaded loaded the risers. We are very lucky chorus to have a group of fellas that help each other out. We consistently communicate and volunteer our services, which makes it a lot easier to perform at functions such as this. Thanks to everyone that helped in any way.



About The Mankato Riverblender Black Tuxedo Shoe

As you all may know, our black and white tuxedo shoes are in need of being replaced. The Riverblenders are changing the uniform to an all black tuxedo shoe.

This new change to our uniform is **essential**, and is to be implemented **by or before fall contest**.

The new shoe (below) will run very similar in size to the old shoes but might have slightly more room in the toe area, (not a problem for most people). I think it would be safe to order the size you currently own, unless you want to change sizes for any reason.



The shoe at left will cost \$50.00.

The Riverblenders have offered to pay \$25.00, meaning **you get a pair of new black Tux shoes for \$25.00.**

Gentleman, this is an extremely good deal, all from the help of Nutter Clothing Co., and your uniform chairman. 😊 Please let me know if you have any questions about the new shoe. I do have one sample that is a 10.5 medium width if anyone is interested at looking at it. Please fill out form attached and return to me ASAP so we can get the ball rolling on this.



Now for the discriminating person or someone who has special requirements for their feet. I strongly urge those who wish to get a well built Tuxedo shoe to go to www.batesfootwear.com.

You will be on your own to order the Men's High Gloss Oxford for a cost of \$114.95 + shipping.

These shoes are made in the USA and are very comfortable. Now in this case, the Riverblenders will reimburse you \$25.00 of your total bill.

Now if you already own a pair of high gloss black tux shoes, please let the uniform chairman review what you have, and will probably pass inspection. Thank you.

Deadline to order new shoes - August 31, 2013

Orange City Performance

Please find listed below the chorus songs that we will be singing at Orange City, Iowa on August 14th. Please get your music out and look over the notes for each of the songs. We have not sung some of these songs as of late and need to refresh our memories. Don't expect that our regular rehearsals will be enough to get you up to snuff on these songs

Set I

Star Spangled Banner

Patriotic Medley

God Bless America

Battle Hymn of the Republic

This Is My Country

Quartet

Set II

Feelin' Fine

Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho

Morte Christe

Noah Found Grace

Hush

Swing Down Chariot

Intermission

Quartet

Set III

Everybody Loves a Lover

Mary Lou

Wonderful World

Zip-A-Dee-Doo-Dah

*Where the Southern Roses Grow

When It's Night Time in Dixieland

God Bless the USA



This may be the only photo of our performance at St. Peter on Memorial Day. Thanks to everyone that attended!!

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Riverblenders Opt Out of LO'L Contest in LaCrosse

At the July Board Meeting the board, with input from Director Jacob Ritter, decided to sit out of the LO'L Contest this fall.

The reasons for this is two fold. First off, we are extremely busy with large performances this summer and fall. The contest would take a lot of preparation time away from the preparation for these performances.

Secondly, it was discussed that if we do not go, host chapter La Crosse would probably be able to sing on the contest stage at the contest they are hosting.

We know that this was a tough decision by the board as we have always gone to the contest when we have scored enough points. The circumstance listed above, along with others, were not taken lightly. It is hoped, by the board, that many of our members will still attend the contest to enjoy the music and fellowship of the LO'L members. - Editor

Nice To Know

Jim Mongeau has been visiting his kids out East for quite sometime now, but recently sent us a short note on what he's been up to.

On Sunday 7/21, I sang with the 2nd@9 band/choir (<http://o36off4.netsolhost.com/secondpresby/worship/music/>) at the 2nd Presbyterian Church here in Baltimore. We had a drummer and guitarist, they are brothers and music majors, a bass who could also sing barbershop tenor, and who sings like Luciano Pavarotti, 3 women (one of which could sing Opera) and a 12 year old girl, and our director/pianist Liz Sesler Beckman. After the service a few folks complimented me on my singing, and one lady asked, if I knew that Liz had played with --- Dave Brubeck! (actually it was The Stan Kenton Band see below), and of course I had not known that. Had I known that I may have been too intimidated to ask to sing with this group. I did manage to slip in a Barbershop chord at the end of one of the TAGS (yes they sing tags too), that did not go un-noticed by Liz, and an associate pastor, caught it and complimented me as well. I said, "Well, I just couldn't help my self on that one. It was just the right place for it."

I thought before I sent this out, I'd better check with Liz to verify the Brubeck story, and here are her words;
Hi there,

No, I did not play with Dave Brubeck. I was the pianist in the Stan Kenton Band after Stan passed away. I have done a few CDs with them ("On the Road" and "Have Band, Will Travel". While playing with that band, we did several jazz master classes and one of them was at Gettysburg College.

Dave Brubeck's grandson was in the class-- I don't know if that is what the person was thinking of, although I don't remember telling that story to anyone at church :)

Thanks,
Liz

During the service Liz played an interlude solo of "What a Friend We Have in Jesus", a jazz version, that even Brubeck would have been proud of (from memory with no sheet music).

Sing Well and Have Fun!

Jim Mongeau

I just can't imagine Jim sneaking in something like a few Barbershop Chords - it's just not like him - editor

Calendar

August 2, 2013 - Friday

Moondogs - Mankato

August 11, 2013 - Sunday

Churches - Mapleton/Medo

August 10, 2013 - Saturday

Annual Auction

Grimmer's - 2PM

August 14, 2013 - Wednesday

Orange City Iowa Show - 7:30PM

(We will be taking a bus- leave 3PM)

August 25, 2013 - Sunday

Churches - Mankato

August 27, 2013 - Tuesday

Last Rehearsal Christ the King

Regular Practice - 7:00 PM

September 3, 2013 - Tuesday

Loyola High School Band Room

Regular Practice - 7:00 PM

October 13, 2013 - Sunday

Show - Gaylord

(Possible Church Performances)

December 1, 2013 - Sunday

Holiday Concerts

Mankato - 3PM

St. Peter - 7:30PM