

River Ramblings

Editor - Jeffrey Grimmer

IT'S GREAT TO SEE KIDS SMILE WHILE WE'RE SINGING!

A month or two ago, Ryan Kuisle asked Bruce to consider having the Riverblenders sing for the 10 am chapel service at Loyola on November 13th. Bruce polled the chorus and the response was positive. Positive, in spite of the time to assemble being at 8:30 am on a Wednesday morning, following our normal Tuesday evening rehearsal. The closer we got to November 13th the guys began asking questions like: "what time is that again" and "isn't that the morning after our normal rehearsal on a Tuesday night" and things like that. It was beginning to look like the turnout might be light at best.

Fast forward to November 13th. Sleepy Riverblenders began assembling at Loyola. We met in the music room and the students were told by Arv, that they were "sitting in our chairs".....! A few blank stares later, Arv explained that we use their music room every Tuesday, to practice our hobby of Barbershop singing. After giving the students a few examples of how Barbershop singing works they welcomed us with their smiles and enthusiastic feedback. Next, Jeff did a super job of teaching the Love Tag. In the middle of our second session, "Mr Kuisle" entered the music room, to an applause from the music students. After that, Bruce seized the opportunity to welcome each student, to attend our February 8th "Youth In Harmony" event. Great timing, Bruce!

At 10am we moved to the Chapel and sang a couple songs to the whole High School student body. The acoustics were great. The student and adult feedback was wonderful. The Riverblenders left, enthused and recharged to carry on their day. It truly is great to be a Barbershopper!

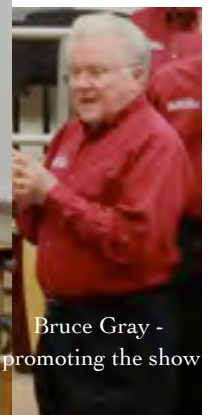
President - Ron Meyer



Director - Arv Zenk



The chorus entertaining and educating the choirs



Bruce Gray - promoting the show



Jeff Grimmer
"Teaching a Tag"



The chorus performing in the sactuary

Riverblenders - LO'L Chorus Mic Testers



The group above were the 21 guys that elected to go to the LO'L District Contest in La Crosse to participate as the Chorus Mic Testers. It was a first for the chorus! We had decided not to compete due to the large amount of commitments that we have this fall and spring and the large amounts of music that we have to learn.

We were extremely happy to see that the District, in all of its wisdom, allowed the La Crosse chapter to compete. And, they did an outstanding job singing and hosting the contest. You did yourselves and the Southwest Division proud! Thanks Again Guys!

The Faribault Chapter also sang on the contest and did a great job representing themselves and the Southwest Division. They looked good and sounded even better. Great job Lakelanders! One of their quartets from their chapter "Vocal Express" also sang. I had them placed much higher as they did a great job performing and representing Faribault and themselves.



The dapper Lakelanders Chorus - look-in good!

Vocal Express another great performance

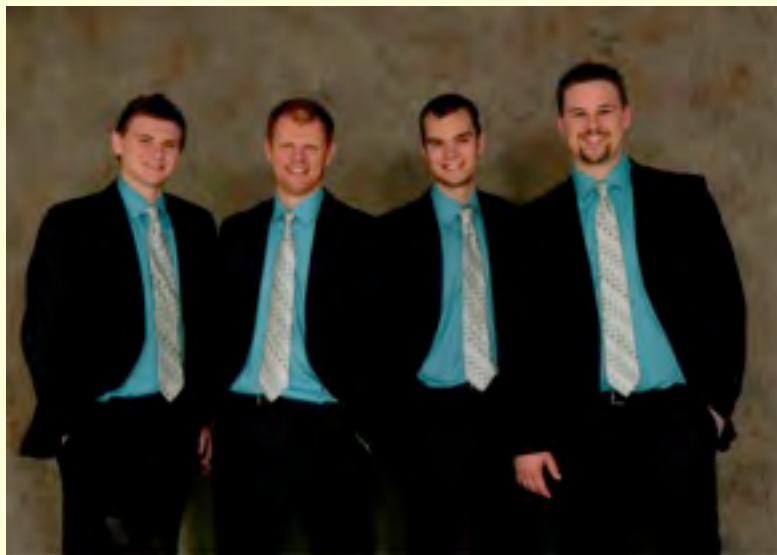
Quartet News

The other quartet from the Southwest Division that was at the La Crosse contest, was "Gambit".

They are from the Rochester chapter and area and they did an awesome job, as they always do, entertaining the crowd. Congratulations guys on a job well done!



"Gambit"



"Kordal Kombat"

The winners of this years LO'L District Quartet Contest was the young group "Kordal Kombat" Not only did they win the overall contest but they also won the novice championship as well.

NuBees winning it all. They were fresh, accurate, and exciting. But the best news is that the Riverblenders have them signed up for our 2014 show next April 26th!!!

Calendar

December 1, 2013-Sunday

Holiday Concerts - with

Minnesota Valley Sweet Adelines

Schedule/Instructions see pages 5 & 6

(Meal after show - \$10.00)

Performance - Mankato - 3PM

Performance - St. Peter - 7:30PM

*December 3, 2013 - Tuesday

Cubs West (On Hill) - sing 5-6 PM

Loyola High School Band Room

Regular Practice - 7:00 PM

*December 10, 2013 - Tuesday

HyVee (On Hill) - sing 5-6 PM

Loyola High School Band Room

Regular Practice - 7:00 PM

*December 17, 2013 - Tuesday

Cubs - downtown - sing 5-6 PM

Loyola High School Band Room

Regular Practice - 7:00 PM

December 24, 2013 - Tuesday

Christmas Eve

No Rehearsal

December 31, 2013 - Tuesday

New Years Eve

No Rehearsal

*February 8, 2014 - Saturday

Youth In Harmony in conjunction/

Minnesota Valley Sweet Adelines

Crossview Covenant Church

*March 29, 2014 - Saturday

Southwest Division Contest

Mankato Riverblenders - Hosts

Nicollet, MN

*April 26, 2014 - Saturday

Riverblenders Annual Show

Quartets:

"Kordal Kombat"

2013 LO'L District Champs

"Gay 90's"

LO'L Humor Champs all years

Holiday Harmony

PRESENTED BY THE
**MANKATO RIVERBLENDERS
&
MN VALLEY SWEET ADELINES**

*Sunday
December 1, 2013*

Tickets are \$10.00 at the door

Students are free with food shelf donation

**3:00 PM CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH
222 PFAU ST. MANKATO**

**7:30 PM CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST. PETER,
1801 BROADWAY, ST. PETER**

**TICKETS ARE ON SALE AT CUB FOODS, HYVEE,
& CHORUS MEMBERS OR CALL 507-420-5847**

Holiday Harmony

Minnesota Valley Sweet Adelines

Mankato Riverblenders

*** Everyone will be using sheet music for these songs.

*** Ding Dong! Merrily On High – Combined Chorus

*** Candlelight Carol—Combined

Sweet Adelines depart the risers as MC reads script

I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day – Soul Purpose Quartet

Do You Hear What I Hear? – Riverblenders

Lo, How a Rose – Riverbend Quartet

Mary Had A Baby – Riverblenders

Riverblenders depart and Sweet Adelines assemble on risers as MC reads script

Mary, Did You Know? – Sunday Punch Quartet

Carol Of the Bells – Sweet Adelines

Go Tell It On The Mountain – Sweet Adelines

Sweet Adelines depart and Riverblenders assemble on risers as MC reads script

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen – Oh Brother! Quartet

It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas – Riverblenders

Jingle Bells – Riverblenders

Riverblenders depart and Sweet Adelines assemble on risers as MC reads script

Caroling, Caroling – Fourtuosity Quartet

Prepare Ye, Prepare Ye – Sweet Adelines

It's the Most Wonderful Time – Sweet Adelines

Riverblenders join Sweet Adelines on the risers as MC reads script

A Holly Jolly Christmas – Magic Quartet

*** Baby It's Cold Outside – Combined Chorus

*** Going to Bethlehem—Combined Chorus

*** Silent Night – Combined Chorus

Holiday Harmony Concert - Directions

Sunday, December 1, 2013

Everyone: Be sure you have your music, food ticket, stage outfit, or be dressed for the performance. Bring a bottle of water or use the fountains in the hallway. We plan to have water and coffee in the Fireplace Room across from the sanctuary. If we need to exit between sets, it will be a place to relax and get refreshments.

Sweet Adelines

12:30 p.m. – All Adelines arrive at Christ the King to meet and dress in room #7.

If you use the Pfau Street entrance, turn down the first hallway on left. There will be signs directing you. There are two bathrooms further down the hall.

1:10 p.m. – Adelines warm up in Fireplace Room or sanctuary (TBD).

Riverblenders

12:30 p.m. – Riser Crew will setup risers and sound equipment.

1:00 p.m. – Other chorus members arrive at Christ the King. Riverblenders meet and warm up in Chapel. Wear long sleeved, white shirt, black pants, and black shoes. Red ties will be provided for chorus members and quartets will wear a variety of Christmas ties.

1:10 p.m. – Riverblenders warm up in Chapel.

Sweet Adelines & Riverblenders - Christ The King Lutheran Church

1:30 – 2:00 p.m. - Everyone report to sanctuary for rehearsal

2:50 p.m. – Everyone will be seated in the sanctuary ready for the performance.

*Following the 3:00 PM concert, everyone with food tickets should go to the community room to eat. Be sure to have your ticket in hand. We cannot sell food tickets at the door.

Catholic Church of St. Peter

5:30 p.m. - Riser crew arrive at Catholic Church of St. Peter at to setup risers, sound system, locate dressing rooms, and other facilities.

5:45 p.m. – Sweet Adelines arrive at Catholic Church of St. Peter and find dressing room. (Dressing rooms are to be determined)

6:00 p.m. – Everyone arrive at the Catholic Church of St. Peter, 1801 West Broadway, St. Peter.

6:10 p.m. - Everyone on the risers for quick run and sound checks. We need to find out where we will be seated and where to process on/off the risers and run through the pieces with piano accompaniment.

7:20 p.m. - Be in place and ready to sing.

(Note: We will have to be prepared to exit and enter from the foyer between sets as we may need all sanctuary seating for audience.)



Help With The Risers

Hi guys,

Below is the anticipated schedule for risers this week. Please let me know if you **can** help with some or all of these. Thanks!!

Tuesday: 11/26 - Meet at Loyola at 3:15 PM

*Load 5 risers railings, and steps into trailer (plus reversed riser) then go to Christ the King to unload and set-up for rehearsal - we may need to experiment with 1 lay out. Plan A: 4 risers and 4th steps behind altar, depends on space and Christmas trees - Plan B ??

*Tear down and store at CTK after rehearsal (after Sweet Adelines are done with the risers).

Sunday: 12/1 - Meet at Christ the King at 12:30 PM

*Set up ramp and risers/railings, concert at 3 PM (quick bite to eat depending on how long the concert is?).

*Tear down after concert (leave ramp at CTK), load in trailer, head to St. Peter.

*Set up in St. Peter as soon as possible to allow time for lay out options.

Plan A: 3 risers with 4th steps on top area and perhaps one riser on each side on floor level.

Plan B: 3 risers on top level with reversed riser in center (like July 3).

*Tear down and load into trailer after concert.

Tuesday: 12/3 -

Sing at Cub foods 5-6 PM, prior to 7 PM rehearsal at Loyola.

Unload risers at Loyola about 6:15 PM.



Sounds like a lot of work but I know we can do it - there will be “Blender Bucks” for all who help.

Stan Bruss

House Manager

507-525-0419

.....

“Alabamy Bound”

Gentlemen - Because of the goals we have set for ourselves for learning new music for contest and show this coming 6 months, we would like to ask all of you to make a concerted effort to get off paper for Alabamy Bound as soon as possible. We have had learning tracks for a few months already, and a few run throughs at rehearsal, but now after the Christmas show we have to kick it into high gear. We will be taking time at the Dec. 10 and 17 rehearsals to 'assess' your knowledge of Alabamy Bound. We'd like everyone to be off paper with 90% proficiency in order to rehearse on risers without paper.

Here's how it will go:

You will be asked to sing “A.B.” in a small group -

You will be asked how well you think you did. If your assessment and Jacob or section leaders are in agreement, you can sing 'A.B.' without music on risers.

If not, you can sing with music standing along side of the risers.

This is for notes and words only, breathing, interpretation and stage presence will not be assessed at this time. We will be having a coach about the third week in January and we want to make sure we know what we are doing so the coach isn't just fixing wrong notes. We will be spending a lot of time on show music in the coming months, so we don't have the luxury of spending a lot of time learning notes and words for 1 new contest song. That's why we need to “get'er done” now. Thanks for your understanding.

Assistant Director - Doug Peterson

2013 Installation of Officers Banquet



We had a large group of 70 people attend the 2013 Installation of Officers. This is the largest attendance for this event in a long time. Thanks to all of the guys that took their time organizing and participating in the events of the evening. The only unfortunate part is that Applewood is closing as of January 3, 2014.

- More Banquet -



Treas. Ron Larson making sure everyone pays



Emcee - Ryan Kuisle



Welcome - Pres. Ron Meyer



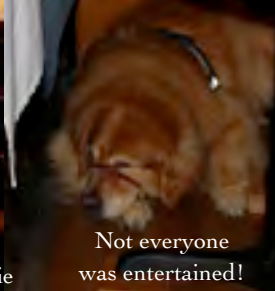
Invocation - Arv Zenk



LO'L President Chuck Schubbe installing the 2014 officers



Don Miller, maker of the ties, presents Arv with the 2013 BOTY Tie



Not everyone was entertained!



Gavel maker Willy Derner presents the 2014 President with his own gavel



Riverblenders Award Winning Chorus Sings



Riverbend Harmonizes



Soul Purpose Entertains

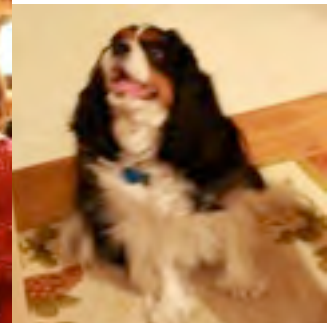
Did Someone Say Afterglow?



Kathy



Stan



Stan and Kathy Bruss invited all to an afterglow at their home right after the Installation Banquet. We were already full from the buffet meal at Applewood, but when we saw the layout of food at the Bruss's our fullness was all but forgotten.

Stan also had a large array of his wine available for us along with the standard water and soda beverages.

We would all like to give a thank the Bruss's for their hospitality - **THANKS**



2013 BOTY

Presented by Jeffrey Grimmer November 16, 2013

This years BOTY recipient has been a member of the Riverblenders for more than a year and is an active male member. He has served on the Riverblenders board at least once during the past 25 years, and has participated in many of the chapters performances.

Our recipient has also been a show chairman within the past 20 years and was born and raised in a Minnesota town of less than 1,000,000. While in high school, he participated in some of the following activities, 4-H, choir, theater, band, detention, student driving, sports, eating, and senior skip day. He did some of these thinks, while living on a farm and hanging around with the hogs.

After high school, he received a scholarship to attend a local college where he sang tenor in the choir, and graduated in order to join the armed forces. After retiring from the service to his country, he joined forces with Glen Taylor for the next 17 years of his life. He has also retired from the position.

It seems that he retires a lot!

Since his last retirement, he has been extremely active in many local service organizations and he now works for the Riverblenders, or so it seems. He is quite active in the Riverblenders where he does some directing, writing scripts, emceeing, chairman of committees, is been a board member, has taught at COTS School, is a LO'L District Vice President, and is currently the LO'L Secretary.



Let' have a big round of appreciation for our:
2013 Barbershopper Of The Year - Arvid Zenk!

Chapter Visitation Program

The chapter visitation program was held in 2011, with 756 chapters having face to face visits. Under Judd Orff's leadership, the district area counselor completed this task. The Land O Lakes District was one of the Districts that visited 100 % of the Chapters. The intent of the visits was to come away with an understanding of the “pulse” of the Society's chapters, as well as gather useful data to help Society leadership plan and develop programs designed to assist chapters.

At the Leadership Forum just held in Nashville, these five areas were the focus of that meeting.

1. Recruitment.
2. Frequent visits from and communication with District and Society staff and officers.
3. Coaching help for chapters.
4. Help chapters plan and implement shared activities with other chapters.
5. Modernize the music and arrangements available through the Society.

The five representatives from our District are, Chuck Schubbe, Steve Zorn, Judd Orff, Dan True, and Harvey Weiss. Each member of our group took one of the above Focus areas. Each group had about thirty five members. We spent an entire day suggesting Ideas that would accomplish these goals. My group addressed the Coaching help for chapters. We came up with about forty different ideas. Those forty ideas were boiled down to just two ideas by a vote of the group members and then each voted on just one main idea of providing the most help for the coaching that best fits the individual Chapter. The groups decided how to implement the plan. They also made recommendations as to how we evaluate final result of the plan.

All of this information was given to the Society for evaluation and their recommendations for implementing all the Focus Areas. This will happen as soon as the society has the final plan. The LOL has a fine coaching program for chapters already and it is my hope we can incorporate our plan with the society plan for coaching chapters in order to receive the best results possible.

LO'L President - Chuck Schubbe

Happy
Thanksgiving

