

**IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR**

Take note of these important 2020 dates. Changes will be made as new information is received.

- April 8 Executive Meeting & Rehearsal - **CANCELLED**
- April 15 Rehearsal - **CANCELLED**
- April 22 Rehearsal - **CANCELLED**
- April 29 Rehearsal - **TO BE DETERMINED**

**Upcoming Performances:**

- May 30 Chorus performance in Gimli (afternoon/evening)



**PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE**

Please send any information for publication to Krista by **Saturday noon** at:

kristahanisgervais@gmail.com

Thanks, Krista ☺



**APRIL BIRTHDAYS**

*Happy Birthday from  
Your Fellow Chorus Members  
at River City Sound!*

- Larry Hunter 2
- Norm Silverberg 3
- Sherrie Bredesen 10
- Ken Broadfoot 11
- Larry Bredesen 12
- Krista Hanis-Gervais 24
- Brian Metcalfe 26



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# KEEPING COMMUNICATIONS OPEN

From Larry Hunter

Hello to my Fellow River City Sound Members,

I hope everyone is staying healthy by practicing all of the recommended safety procedures, we are inundated with every day. But it will all be worth it, when we all come the other end of this together.

We do not know when we will be able to assemble as a chorus again, so I'd like to keep everyone focused on our music and use it as a distraction from the uncertainty of life today.

Music has always been therapeutic, and even more so if one participates as a singer! Keep up your part by rehearsing daily, and actually doing your breathing "workouts" to build up that singing apparatus you all have. I encourage you to continue with your learning, and when we do get back together, we will hit the ground running!

Since we all need inspiration every once in a while, check out this link below, if you have not already. It will take you to almost 4000 recordings, including international competitions. <https://www.youtube.com/user/BarbershopHarmony38>

Let's all stay connected, by whatever means are possible, and stay healthy!



## CHORUS REHEARSAL PLANS AND UPDATE

From Paul Bullock

Here is some updated information for everyone in the RCS chorus. The chapter will continue to provide information and resources to everyone so that we can keep singing, even though it is not the same as being together in a chorus. Many have said they have not been singing very much lately, which is understandable given the circumstances. So we want to do as much as possible to encourage everyone to sing.

1. Duncan will provide a weekly Wednesday night practice schedule in the Notes 4 U. We encourage everyone to dedicate Wednesday evening for singing. Do a vocal warm up and sing the songs on Duncan's list plus any others that you enjoy. Sherrie and Larry will continue to provide information to help with your practice and singing technique.

2. If you have questions about specific songs or need some assistance with learning, you can contact the person below for your section:

Section	Leader	Residence	Cell	Email
Tenor	Duncan Zaluski	204-999-7233		<a href="mailto:dztenor@gmail.com">dztenor@gmail.com</a>
Lead	Chris Magas	204-669-3330	204-941-1639	<a href="mailto:magasman@mymts.net">magasman@mymts.net</a>
Baritone	Paul Bullock	204-475-4278		<a href="mailto:prof.p.bullock@gmail.com">prof.p.bullock@gmail.com</a>
Bass	Larry Bredesen	204-477-8023	204-230-5464	<a href="mailto:larrybredesen@gmail.com">larrybredesen@gmail.com</a>

They will help you with your questions and if they need further assistance they will contact Sherrie Bredesen and Larry Hunter.

3. If you have issues with any of the learning tracks, please contact Duncan.
4. If anyone in our chorus has an urgent need that they are unable to deal with in this situation, RCS is offering to try and help you. Contact Chris Magas (see above). He has generously offered to be a point of contact for any of the people in our chorus who may be looking for someone to help in some way. Contact Chris and he will try to coordinate some help for those in need.

At the moment, we haven't been able to identify a reliable way for us to sing together online. This is a common challenge for choruses around the world. The link below gives you an idea about the number of people affected. We will continue to explore this but if anyone has an idea about how to set up a successful virtual practice, please let Duncan Zaluski, Les Creek, Henry Graham or Paul Bullock know about it.

<https://blog.chorusconnection.com/virtual-learning-taking-your-choir-rehearsals-online>

We will continue to provide updates as the situation changes. It looks very unlikely that we will be able to rehearse prior to April 29 and it is quite possible the cancellation will continue past that date. It is also possible that it will lead to cancellation or postponement of our May 30 show in Gimli. For the moment, there is no change to the status of that event. We will deal with matters one day at a time and strive to keep everyone informed.

Reach out to each other and try to stay connected as best you can. If you have some humour or an article to brighten our days, please share those with Krista Hanis-Gervais ([kristahanisgervais@gmail.com](mailto:kristahanisgervais@gmail.com)) and she will put those items into the Notes 4 U.

Hopefully, the chorus can be a source of support and enjoyment during this difficult period. Be safe and stay healthy.

# PLEASE REACH OUT TO YOUR PATRONS

From Paul Bullock

Many chorus members have people they contact each year who are regular patrons of our spring show. Herold Driedger has wisely suggested that we each reach out to the people that we normally would have contacted by now for spring show ticket purchases. Many have been faithful show patrons for years and they may be wondering about what is happening for spring 2020.

It would be good to let them know that we are not having a spring show in 2020. However, we have booked a venue for a fall cabaret on the evening of October 18. At the moment, we have no other details (ticket price, exact time, program) besides the date for the event. When you contact your "flock", you can ask them to put that date on their calendar and we will get back to them when we have tickets and other details available.

## PASSING OF JIM LEE

From Robert Brey, Land O'Lakes District Secretary

On March 23rd Jack Edgerton was checking with Jim Lee, District Auditor about sending the financial information for his financial review. Jack received the following from Jim's wife:

*"Jack - it's Linda Lee replying to Jim's email. I am sorry to tell you that my dear husband Jim Lee died on Tuesday, March 17th.*

*Linda Lee"*

Needless to say we will miss him and his smile when seeing you.

Gordon Billows responded with the following information:

*"Jim was a 33 year member of the Society, Past President, District Auditor, Endowment Chair, a Chapter Advocate, a quartet man, and held various other positions in the District and with his Chapter."*

Rudy Zarling worked closely with Jim on various Harmony Foundation endeavors. Rudy recounted sending a donation to HF in 2008 upon losing his wife, Carol.

Rudy is asking that those members or chapters that knew Jim think about making a donation to Harmony Foundation which was dear to Jim's heart. Harmony Foundation has a "Keep A Memory Ringing" program. When donations to HF in the name of an individual or group reaches \$1,000 a plaque is displayed on a memorial wall in the HF headquarters. Information about this program can be found at the following link presented by Kyle Snook:

<https://www.harmonyfoundation.org/memorial-giving>

# REHEARSAL SCHEDULES

From Duncan Zaluski

## MARCH 18, 2020 (ORIGINAL PLAN)

6:50 – 6:59	Assemble at seats, make sure music (if needed) is ready
6:59 – 7:00	Take a couple of Deep Breaths and relax, the music is about to start
7:00 – 7:20	Warm up
7:25 – 7:55	Sectional 1: Hello Mary Lou
8:00 – 8:20	Hello Mary Lou – As Chorus
8:25 – 8:40	Business Meeting & Break
8:45 – 8:55	Barber Polecat: Sweet, Sweet Roses of Morn
9:00 – 9:20	Dream Lover, O Canada, Blue Moons, Imagine
9:25 – 9:40	Directors Choice
9:45	Draw, Keep the Whole World Singing, Clean up

## MARCH 25, 2020 (ORIGINAL PLAN)

6:50 – 6:59	Assemble at seats, make sure music (if needed) is ready
6:59 – 7:00	Take a couple of Deep Breaths and relax, the music is about to start
7:00 – 7:20	Warm up
7:25 – 7:55	Sectional 2: Hello Mary Lou
8:00 – 8:20	Hello Mary Lou – As Chorus
8:25 – 8:40	Business Meeting & Break
8:45 – 8:55	Barber Polecat: Sweet, Sweet Roses of Morn
9:00 – 9:25	Dream Lover, Daydream, When I'm 64, Under the Boardwalk
9:30 – 9:40	Directors Choice
9:45	Draw, Keep the Whole World Singing, Clean up

## APRIL 1, 2020 (ORIGINAL PLAN)

6:50 – 6:59	Assemble at seats, make sure music (if needed) is ready
6:59 – 7:00	Take a couple of Deep Breaths and relax, the music is about to start
7:00 – 7:20	Warm up
7:25 – 7:45	Sectional 3: Hello Mary Lou
7:55 – 8:15	Hello Mary Lou – As Chorus
8:15 – 8:20	Can You Feel the Love Tonight
8:25 – 8:40	Business Meeting & Break
8:45 – 8:55	Barber Polecat:
9:00 – 9:25	Dream Lover, Irish Blessing, I'm Feeling Fine, Harmony Collage
9:30 – 9:40	Directors Choice
9:45	Draw, Keep the Whole World Singing, Clean up

The Directors Choice area is where you can work on the songs you know you need work on...

# APRIL 1, 2020 - STUDY GUIDE: "HELLO, MARY LOU"

From Duncan Zaluski

## General Overview:

- Song has a lot of words and the key is to sing every phrase smoothly, this is an area where "Say it, say it, say it sing it" helps, since most of us don't speak in the overly exaggerated broken "Captain Kirk" speech of Em-Pha-Siz-Ing Ev-'ry Word, when we speak so, we should try also not to sing this way.
- Also, Tag Measures 66-67 we have been sliding up from the note in 66 over the rest into our note in 67, this is something we will need to work on when we get back together to keep it smooth & together.

## Leads – Know your Differences

- Verse 1 Measures 3 & 10 are similar, but the last note is different. This is the same for Verse 2 Measures 35 & 43. Also verse 2 changes the timing in a few phrases to look out for as well.
- Near the end of the tag the melody shifts to the Basses for their part. You're singing harmony near the top of your range for some of you, so use your head tone to keep it light & in tune and not straining.
- Also, watch the timing in Measure 44, it's a simple 1 2 3 4. There is a tendency to syncopate "good an" like 'A-bout' in Measure 43.

## Basses – Steady as she goes

- Try not to rush. As the excitement and energy of the song starts to flow it's easy to get caught up and start slowly speeding up, especially in verse 2 where you switch from singing words to singing a bass line.
- You have a few areas where there are tiny optional notes (Measures 8, 33, 40). Please use what's on the learning tracks until told otherwise by a director or section leader.
- Please watch Measures 38 – 39. You start with a really nice sounding Bass run going up (1, 3, 5, 6, 8, or Do, Mi, So, La, Do), but watch measure 39 coming down. It's scale not a bass run (8, 7, 6, 5, or Do, Ti, La, So).

## Baritones – it's the little things

- This song is fun to sing. The verses keep you in a nice easy to sing range. Please make sure you don't overshoot the jumps.
- Measures 19-20, 51-52, 61-62 & 69 take you up near the top of your normal range to the E flat, and in 61-62, 69 E natural and one F in 69; like the leads use your head voice when needed.
- Timing in Measures 41-42 & 43-44:  
Doom doo-be doom doo-be doom doo-be doo-be doom  
1 2 & 3 4 & 1 2 & 3 & 4

## Tenors — smooth and clean

- Don't move in Measure 4, same notes as in Measure 3 (It's a trap).
- Watch Measures 50 & 58. We duet with the basses in the second chorus only.
- As always, when you have jumps, like the other sections make them clean and don't overshoot.
- Also watch the steps (Measure 16) keep them clean & accurate.



## GETTING TO KNOW ... SHERRIE BREDESEN

I was born, lo these many years ago in Steinbach, the oldest of three children – a little cherub with loads of black hair and dark skin, so my parents nicknamed me “Cherry”. It was a name that stuck until my early teens when it evolved to “Sherrie”.

As a youngster, I used to “play the piano” by tapping on my bedroom window pane and singing as if there was no one listening. When I was nine, I developed spinal meningitis and a whole community of devout Mennonites prayed for my survival and a recovery without the possible effects of deafness, blindness, loss of mental capacity or handicapped in some way. My brother Doug loves to tease me that unfortunately there was some mental deficiency ...



When I returned home from the hospital weeks later, there was a shiny new Heintzman piano waiting for me and I was so excited! Mom and Dad told me that I would take lessons soon. I remember telling them that I didn't want to take lessons, I just wanted to sit down and play. So, lessons it was. I am so grateful for those lessons and the times they nagged me to practise the way I was supposed to rather than play by ear.

I also used to sing with glorious freedom to my Mom and Dad's classical records, which was a kind of self-given voice lessons as I worked on range, accuracy and vocal freedom while covering Tchaikovsky, Mozart, and many other great composers. When I hear those pieces these days, I still trill along happily.

I have always had a mind of my own and wanted to live my life with my own chosen decisions and adventures which, of course, made me a bit of a rebel in our Mennonite circles. Soooo...my parents sent me off to a Christian High School in Caronport, SK for grades 11 and 12. My loving brothers refer to this as me being sent to Reform School. Unfortunately, it didn't really work as I continued to have a mind of my own, but it did bring me closer to our faith and the God I have always believed in and tried to follow.

Over the years, I married and had a daughter, Kimberlee, and 7 years later, identical twin sons, Kerry and Christopher. I loved being a mother. Kim was such a big help being the big sister to two small babies. We did a lot of singing together as the children grew and there was always music going on, mostly Barbershop, which made one of my twins babies cry whenever the pitchpipe was blown. He seemed to think we would soon be “yelling” at him. He eventually caught on that everything was ok.

Some of my friends asked me if I would teach them or their daughters/sons to sing and this gave me enough money to pay for the musical activities. Unfortunately, after many years of being a homemaker, a divorce became necessary and I moved on, going to University of Winnipeg full time while working 3 part-time jobs just to support myself and the kids, and pay the mortgage and tuitions. I majored in Music and Drama and graduated in 1995 with a B.Ed degree and started teaching Music and other subjects in various schools, from elementary to high school.

I started to sing with my first quartet, GENESIS, in 1972 and it brought me so much joy and relief from the pain of an unhappy marriage. We shared wonderful music together, went to many music schools, coaching sessions, com-



petitions and had wonderful performance opportunities. There was always a lot of laughter and a few tears here and there too. We created deep and lasting friendships. As a founding member of Assiniboine Chorus at that time, I sang with them for many years, served in many musical capacities and directed them for several years until fairly recently.

How did I get to be a director? Well, at the very worst time of my life, I received a phone call from someone in the Winnipeg Chapter of Sweet Adelines. They were looking for a new director and had heard about me. This kind of opportunity had been my *dream* since I was very young – to direct a choir, any choir, any age, any music....but now???? I asked God, “Now? Really????” But He knew what He was doing. I started to direct this lovely group of ladies. This was also the year that my mother passed away so, along with the divorce, my spirit was really broken. With this opportunity I found my passion, the love and support of those ladies, and my best friend Doreen. All of these things were God’s gifts to me as he saw me through the Hell that some divorces can be.



Along the way, I became the director of the Happy Homesteaders, a Seniors’ Barbershop group, where I was treated like a queen by those wonderful gentlemen. This also helped to heal my spirit and renew my faith in the goodness of men. Life was hard but music lifted my spirits. The friendships and the music soothed my soul and I felt like I was worth something again.

In 1999, Paul Bullock approached me to see if I would be interested in coming to the Winnipeg Golden Chordsmen as a Coach, with the thought that the guys would get to know me and experience the expertise I could bring. The hope was that I would become the director. This was fully supported by Dennis, their current director. I jumped at the chance. I began by coaching, then directed two songs on the show that year and became the full time director immediately after that.

My Larry was in the audience that year as he had been away. He saw this lady onstage and was intrigued. We soon got to know each other. This turned into him flirting at rehearsals and me blushing a lot! “Like” turned into more serious feelings and after receiving friendly warnings from several of the Chordsmen, my surrogate “fathers”, Larry decided to pursue dating me. You know the rest of the story and the other most important gentlemen in my life were there to share our wedding with us.



*Cupid nailed us over 17 years ago!*

It was a very special culmination of where God had been leading all along. This was, and still is, amazing to me – to have a wonderful man who deeply loves me and also shares my love of Barbershop music. He is proud of me and what I accomplish musically. He is the right person to handle this strong woman. We are soul-mates.





*HONEYCOMB: Karen, Sherrie, Diane & Gayle*

The years have changed a few things and I now sing with the ladies quartet, HONEYCOMB, and love it! Larry and I also sing in a mixed quartet called LEATHER 'N LACE which is such a treat for us both. I no longer sing with Assiniboine Chorus but have lasting friendships with many of those ladies. My energies are now devoted to the newly minted RIVER CITY SOUND and I love what we accomplish together. At my request last year, Larry Hunter became Co-Director with me (he refers to himself as Larry #1 with a cute smile on his face). Things are working so well and the *actual* Larry #1 and I can now have more time off to travel, knowing that the chorus is in good hands.

My kids are now married and together Larry and I have five children, and eleven grandchildren. Boisterous, rambunctious, unique and loveable!

Life is so rich - with love, music, and precious friendships! The members of River City Sound are especially dear to me and I cherish every moment as we make wonderful music together! I have great memories of over 45 years of Barbershop experiences and now Larry and I can make more memories as we have new adventures together. We are so blessed!

Sometimes the paths we trod seem too full of thorns and darkness, but I know Who has lead me through them and I praise Him for the sunshine that followed the rain!



*Our kids and grandkids in Winnipeg*

## SINGING IN ISOLATION

From Brian Metcalfe

The coronavirus has certainly turned our lives upside-down. However, humour and harmony can help keep us sane. At this past Wednesday's online rehearsal (using the Zoom app), I found Mae Denby's compliment of Ferryl Casselman to be inspiring. Mae stated how she loved Ferryl's initiative in creating new "virus appropriate lyrics" to the song "Dream Lover" which was shared in the March 25th issue of "Notes 4 U". Mae found that after she sang the lyrics, she just "couldn't get that song out of her head".

Recently, I have received email videos about a number of familiar songs which have been re-branded with a coronavirus influence. I trust you will get a chuckle out of the lyrics and harmony shared by these creative individuals. Turn up your speakers & enjoy. Take care, be safe & keep smiling :-)

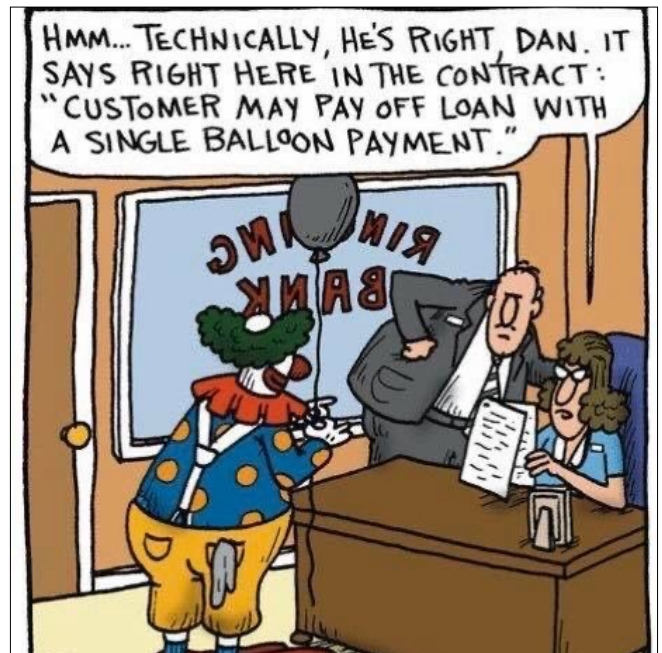
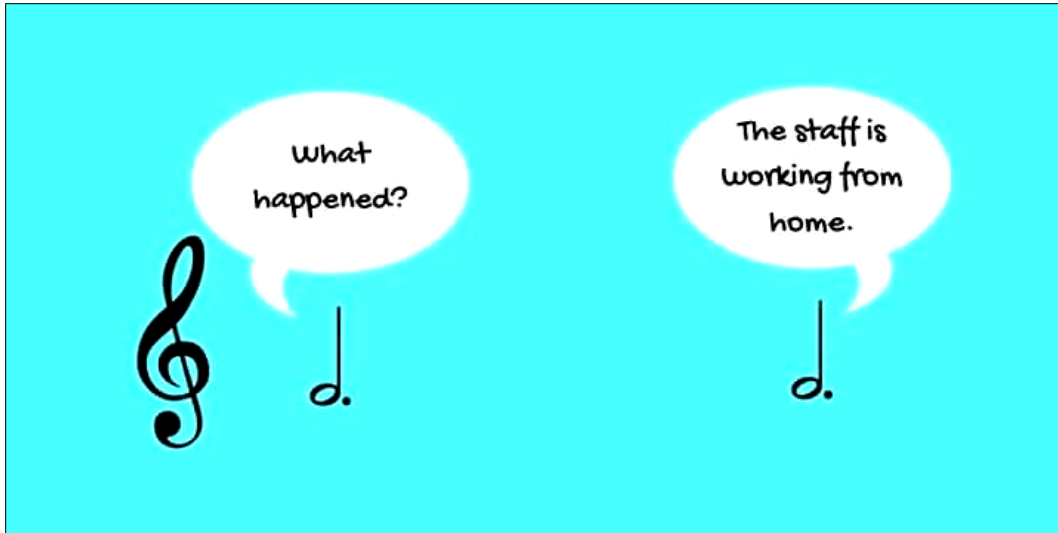
- I Gotta Wash My Hands - <https://youtu.be/OxOJ7hh3H-I>
- The Broadway Corona Virus Medley - <https://youtu.be/n1OCZRann8w>
- Sweet Caroline - [https://youtu.be/sPLgsV\\_Ms3Q](https://youtu.be/sPLgsV_Ms3Q)
- Kokomo - <https://youtu.be/0uDTs-9fq00>
- Bohemian Virus Rhapsody - <https://youtu.be/K0HLUa4zTXQ>
- We're All Home Bound - <https://youtu.be/k0ci5EYb9qA>
- **My Corona** - <https://youtu.be/ojrtwXqqc6g>



**WARNING: Swear Words**

# TO BRIGHTEN YOUR SPIRITS IN THESE TRYING TIMES

From Larry Bredeesen and Wendy Lamont



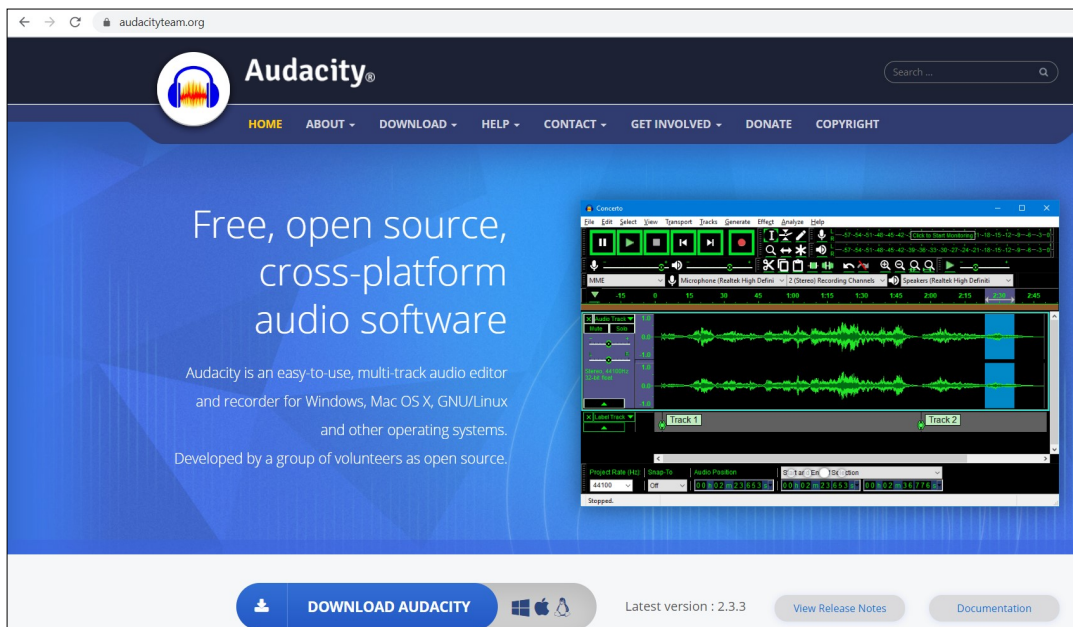
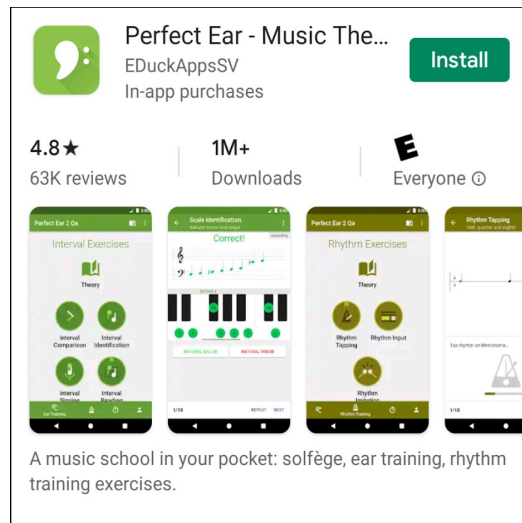
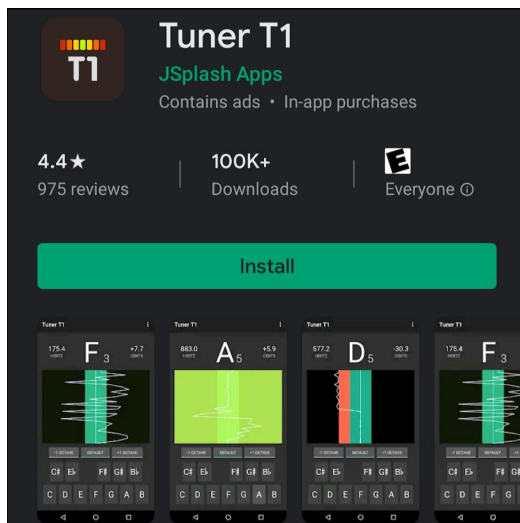
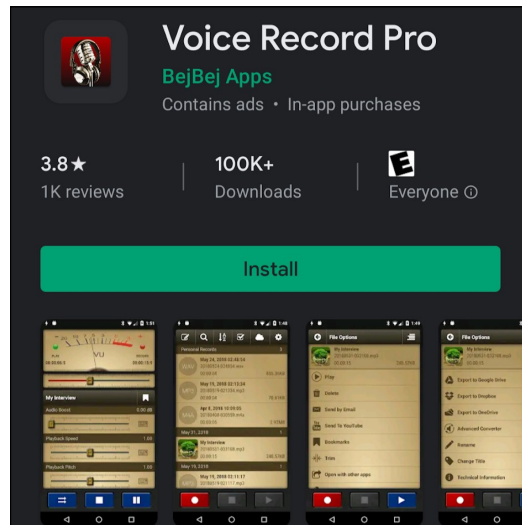
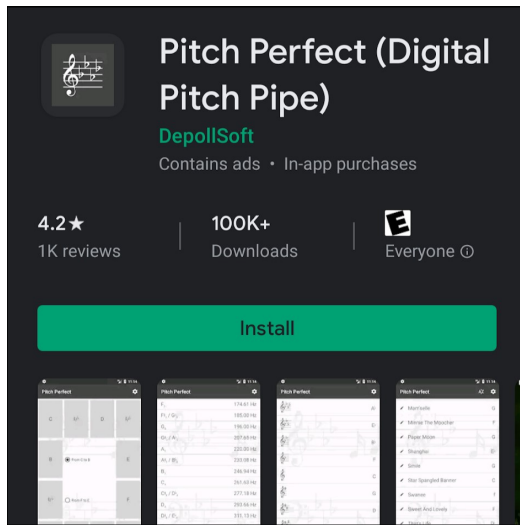
**You're not stuck at home, you're safe at home. One word can change your attitude and one cough can change your life.**





# MUSICAL PROGRAMS & APPS 4 U

## Recommendations From River City Sound Chorus Members



~ April 2020 ~

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Music Committee Mtg Regular rehearsal <b>CANCELLED</b>	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 Executive Meeting Regular rehearsal <b>CANCELLED</b>	9	10 <i>Good Friday</i>	11
12	13	14	15 Regular rehearsal <b>CANCELLED</b>	16	17	18
19	20	21	22 Regular rehearsal <b>CANCELLED</b>	23	24	25
26	27	28	29 Regular rehearsal <b>TO BE DETERMINED</b>	30		

~ May 2020 ~

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6 Music Committee Mtg Regular rehearsal <b>TO BE DETERMINED</b>	7	8	9
10 <i>Mother's Day</i>	11	12	13 Executive Meeting Regular rehearsal <b>TO BE DETERMINED</b>	14	15	16
17	18 <i>Victoria Day</i>	19	20 Regular rehearsal <b>TO BE DETERMINED</b>	21	22	23
24	25	26	27 Regular rehearsal <b>TO BE DETERMINED</b>	28	29	30 Performance in Gimili



# River City Sound

## Notes 4 U

This is the official weekly bulletin of the River City Sound Chorus. For more information about us, go to our website:

[www.rivercitysound.ca](http://www.rivercitysound.ca)

Editor - Krista Hanis-Gervais

Unless carrying a by-line or some form of credit to borrowed sources, all items in this bulletin are by the editor and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the chapter or board. If anyone wishes to contribute anything to the next Notes 4 U, wishes to subscribe or un-subscribe, or has questions about any of the items in Notes 4 U, contact the editor or email distributor.



## 2020 Chapter Executive

**President:** Paul Bullock

**Executive VP:** vacant

**Past President:** Bruce Wilton

**VP Membership & Chapter Development:** Larry Bredesen

**VP Music & Performance:** Duncan Zaluski

**VP Marketing & Public Relations:** Drummond Brown

**Secretary:** Charles Siegel

**Treasurer:** Bruce Wilton

**Chorus Manager:** Chris Magas

## Board Members at Large

Ken Broadfoot, Les Creek, Shirley Christie, Gayle Whar-ton, Henry Graham

## 2020 Music Committee

**VP Music & Performance:** Duncan Zaluski

**Co-Directors:** Sherrie Bredesen & Larry Hunter

**Assistant Director:** vacant

**Tenor Section:** Duncan Zaluski

**Lead Section:** Chris Magas

**Bass Section:** Larry Bredesen, Asst. Bruce Wilton

**Baritone Section:** John Latham

## 2020 Leadership Positions

**Accountant:** Gary Miles

**Attendance & 50/50:** Norm Silverberg

**Awards Banquet Chairs:** Gary & Ricki Miles

**Charities:** Harold Casselman

**Church Xmas Chorus:** Bruce Wilton

**Learn To Sing Program:** Les Creek, Len Paluck, Paul Rondeau

**Grey Cup Pool Chair:** Ken Broadfoot

**Historian:** Gordon Billows

**Music Librarian:** Wendy Lamont

**Notes 4 U Editor:** Krista Hanis-Gervais

**Program Director:** Duncan Zaluski

**Refreshments:** Norm Silverberg, John Latham, Len Paluck

**Sing Canada Harmony:** Gordon Billows

**Sunshine:** Brian Metcalfe

**Wardrobe:** Les Creek, Charlie Siegel, Louise Malo

**Website:** Chris Magas

**Youth Outreach:** Drummond Brown

**2021 Show Producer:** Les Creek

**2021 Show Chairman:** vacant

**Chapter Advocate for the Winnipeg Chapter:** Gordon Billows