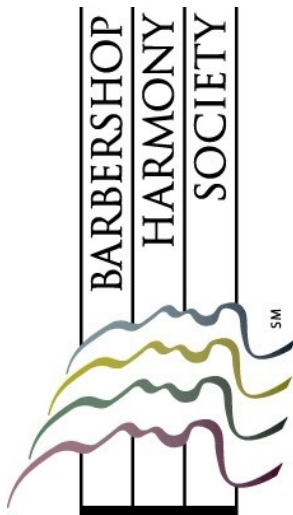




Notes 4 U

Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada
Land O' Lakes, Barbershop Harmony Society
www.rivercitysound.ca



25 March | Rehearsals - Wednesday 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at St. Andrews United Church (basement) - 255 Oak Street | Issue 12 2020

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

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

- Mar 25 Rehearsal - **CANCELLED**
- Mar 28 Chorus Coaching with Jay Althof - **CANCELLED & WILL BE RESCHEDULED**
- April 1 Music Committee Meeting & Rehearsal - **CANCELLED**
- 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 ☺



SONG 4 U

Lyrics by Ferryl Casselman
(Sung to the tune of "Dream Lover")

*Every night I hope and pray,
a chorus rehearsal will come my way.
A sheet of music to hold in my hands,
and hear the pitch pipe blow again.*

*Because I want, Coronavirus,
to go away!
I want a chorus rehearsal,
so I don't have to sing alone!*

*Chorus members where are you?
I got the email just like you.
Some music that I can hold,
soon before I grow too old.*

*Because I want, Coronavirus,
to go away!
I want a chorus rehearsal,
so I don't have to sing alone!*

So I don't have to sing a-lone!!!

Inside this issue:

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25 March 2020

REHEARSALS CANCELLED THROUGH APRIL 22

From Paul Bullock

The Wednesday night rehearsals are cancelled through April 22 (an additional 4 weeks). Through this time, please keep singing. Thanks Larry and Sherrie for all of your suggestions to help us learn and practice at home. Thanks Duncan, for the At-Home Practice song list. You will receive updates about rehearsal plans as new information becomes available.

We are assessing whether we can get together online on Wednesday nights. Please note, THIS WILL NOT PROVIDE A MEANS FOR US TO SING TOGETHER ONLINE. However, "virtual" sectionals are a chance for everyone to get information about new music and share any issues that you might be having with the entire section at the same time. We don't have this set up yet. It would be nice to gather online and keep Wednesday nights focused on chorus music even if we can't sing together. You will receive information once we have an online solution figured out.

Most important, follow the Covid-19 guidelines and stay safe. Hopefully, our music will help keep us all sane.

INFORMATION FROM THE LAND O' LAKES DISTRICT

From Gordon Billows, Arv Zenk and Jay Althof

Sent Sunday, March 15

Further to the Barbershop Harmony Society announcements, Land O' Lakes District Board suggests that you take every precaution to minimize the spread of this virus. The restrictions that we are seeing imposed on our communities to reduce human to human contact means that large gatherings are to be cancelled until the virus has subsided. Singing has been identified as a high-risk activity as it relates to the spread of the virus from human to human. This is due to the nature of singing whereby there is outward breathing and close contact to others. The general age demographic of most Land O' Lakes Chapters puts them in the target range for those most likely to be seriously affected by the virus.

While the Board recognizes that this is the Chapter's decision we recommend that you **cancel or postpone** any performances, spring shows and chapter rehearsals until further direction from the your State or Provincial Public Health Officials and until your local Public Health Officials indicate it is safe to resume activities.

If your chapter decides to cancel a scheduled show, please let Land O' Lakes District Secretary Bob Brey know so he can update the Pitch Piper show schedule with that information.

Your Land O' Lakes District Administration team remains committed to updating you on any changing information as soon as is possible. We thank you for your understanding as we do our part in addressing this global crisis. The District's primary priority is and will always be the health and well-being of our members and friends. Please observe the recommendations of your public health officials in the coming days and weeks.

In harmony,
Gordon Billows
President - Land O' Lakes District

Sent Monday, March 16

The LOL District Board decided to cancel the Quartet Festival and International Prelims scheduled for May 2, 2020 in the Twin Cities. This decision was based on the concerns and recommendations provided in a message from Harmony Hall last Friday, March 13th (see below).

The Society Contest and Judging Committee has been working on a contingency plan for quartets that will utilize video submissions to qualify for International. We already use video qualifying for other BHS contests, so there is a tested and familiar process in place. If you are planning to compete at International you must register using Barberscore to qualify. If you have any questions regarding registration please contact Steve Johnson steve.johnson61@gmail.com. Qualification details will be released to all registered competitors next week.

Arv Zenk
LOL Events Chairman

Sent Monday, March 16

Just a quick note as we all deal with the issues related to the Corona Virus outbreak it is important to remember everyone in our Barbershop family. For many of us, our chapter meetings, rehearsal nights and quartet activities are highlights of our week. Not just the singing, but the comradery and family atmosphere. Now that shows have been postponed or cancelled and it looks like several weeks of rehearsals have been as well, we need to find ways to reach out and stay connected.

Over the next days and weeks, the LO'L Board of Directors will continue to communicate via e-mails, our website and the PitchPiper. Of course, we'll keep everyone aware of cancellations, connections with International and other logistical issues. But even more importantly, we want to help everyone stay in touch on a more personal level. One of the greatest aspects of this Barbershop hobby is the support we provide to each other as individuals. Think about the people in your chapter. Send them a note. Give them a call. Stay connected! Together we will make it through this crisis and maybe even learn how to better use technology along the way.

Stay strong, stay healthy and keep singing – even if it is just in the shower!

Jay Althof
Executive VP, Land O' Lakes District



MARCH 25, 2020 - STUDY GUIDE FOR “HE’S GOT THE WHOLE WORLD IN HIS HANDS”

By Duncan Zaluski

Simple, yet challenging, **Leads** have the biggest challenge, after singing 8 measures, you get a 40 - measure break before coming back in on the same note the song started on and hoping the pitch didn't change. The next challenge is bar 55, instead of going down on “whole world in his hands” you go back up; “whole world in” is the same (B flat, B flat, A flat), but you go back to where you came from for “his hands”(B flat) before moving up a half step (B natural) for the key change. After the key change it's a whole step (B natural to C sharp) make sure you get on top of that note.

Basses: You're in and out a lot, so keeping pitch is important, don't cheat on the jumps, land on top of the notes and it's also very important to sing smooth not choppy and all your jumps are on the word “wind” try hard not to over emphasize or “punch it”. At the key change in bar 56 you are going up one and a half steps (E flat to F sharp), make sure you get all the way there and don't overshoot it. Bar 57 is a half step higher (F sharp to G).

Tenors: You are also in and out, remember to keep the sound light and clear, you're singing words instead of harmonizing so we need to hear those words without getting choppy, say on top of the notes so the pitch doesn't drop and match the basses timing for “whole world in his hands”. Tenors don't move in measure 56 (hold the E flat) resist the urge to move, and in measure 57 the note is a half step up (E Natural), make sure you get all the way up to the note.

Baritones: You wait almost as long as the leads: 25 – measures, and you also start on the same note as the beginning of the song. Make sure you get all the way up to the E flat in measures 34 & 38. Be careful, Measures 35 & 39 are not the same, the timing is faster in measure 39 AND the word “His” is lower (A flat instead of B flat). The key change in measure 56 is a whole step up (G to A) and then another in 57 (A to B).

All Sections: It's important to listen to the other parts to keep the rhythm and flow, as well as for your cue to come in.

RIVER CITY SOUND, WHAT CAN WE DO?

From Sherrie Bredeson and Larry Hunter

In these uncertain times, we can still do much to further our chorus learning. The Chorus Executive has made a wise decision to cancel the Wednesday rehearsals for the foreseeable future. The information on the pandemic seems to be changing daily, and can be most confusing. See the link attached for a more realistic report on the situation. <https://youtu.be/E3URhJxONSw>

Regardless of the limitations in rehearsals, what can we do to strengthen our chorus in the meantime?

- Stay Healthy!
- Do more than listen to the learning tracks. Write out the words, read the music, sing without tracks and just hold the sheet music in your hand. Make an emotional connection with the music, to understand the soul of the music. Try many things.
- Build your music reading literacy: <https://www.musictheory.net/lessons>. Easy lessons to learn to read music. You start to feel very talented when you get better at reading.

- Start learning new music, by referring to the song list in the Notes 4 U, and listen to the learning tracks on the website.
- Learn the Polecat 1's. We can all review these simple songs and double check our notes.
- Learn 4 parts to a tag. Memorize it so you can teach it to the Chorus. It's fun and challenging!
- HARMONY UNIVERSITY ONLINE! <https://education.barbershop.org/> For 20\$ US you can subscribe to watch many courses to further your knowledge in a plethora of areas. This is a largely untapped resource that has become a convenient way to further your education while staying at home.
- Read some books. We should start a book list about voice, philosophy and health, and share it with the Chorus.
- Add to our list of Apps or links that our fellow members can use to become better singers.
- Start increasing your physical health. Avoid things that lowers immune functions. Get good sleep, stay hydrated, eat nutritious foods. Breath as the singers you all are! Do your breathing exercises that we do at the start of each rehearsal, every day! The greatest detriment to our chorus would be losing members to this virus, so stay as healthy as you can!
- Use social distancing as recommended, but stay in touch with family and friends with emails and FaceTime. Take care of each other!

BE A BETTER SINGER - JOIN THE VIP CLUB

From Sherrie Bredesen

If you so wish, commit to the **VIP (Vocal Improvement Program) Club** and dedicate yourself to improving your own skill level which in turn will raise the level of the whole chorus. This is your chance to have weeks of free voice lessons, honed for Barbershop singers.

The VIP Club resources have been posted on both the *Members* and *Prospective Members* pages of the River City Sound website under the heading "VIP Club" in both Microsoft Word and PDF formats. I am available for consultation if anyone needs to speak to me about this or has questions at 204-477-8023.

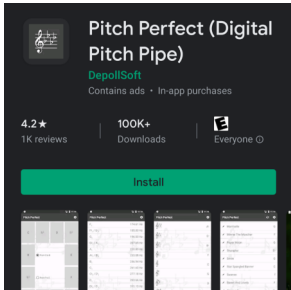
Here are the VIP Club details:

- * Members who wish to be in this club will make a personal commitment to spending 10 MINUTES A DAY to improve their vocal skills. ***This is SEPARATE from working on music notes or lyrics of repertoire or new songs***
- * INFORMATION WILL BE PROVIDED on how to work on specific areas.
- * VOCAL EXERCISES will be provided so that members will know how to improve vocal skills.
- * A SCHEDULE will be kept by each member of the VIP CLUB in order to show that they have spent 10 minutes or more at least 5 times each week. Areas they are working on will also be indicated.
- * These schedule sheets may be accessed and assessed by the Director at times in order to encourage, help and monitor for improvement in quality.

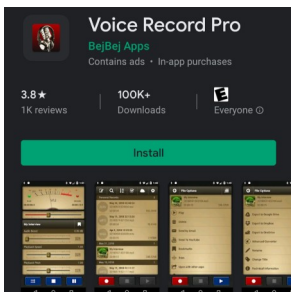
MUSICAL PROGRAMS & APPS 4 U

By Krista Hanis-Gervais and Les Creek

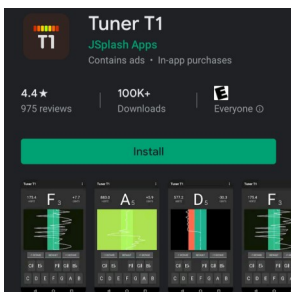
This week Les Creek has shared a wealth of online knowledge with us for helping us to maintain and improve our musicianship. He has showcased 3 phone apps which are available for both iPhone and Android, as well as 1 computer program which is available for Apple Macbook, Windows-based and Unix-based PCs. Thanks Les!



Pitch Perfect - This app provides a pitch pipe for various keys, a note generator (including flats and sharps) and a list of the various key signatures. It is useful for practicing 'taking a pitch', and hearing how a given note should sound.

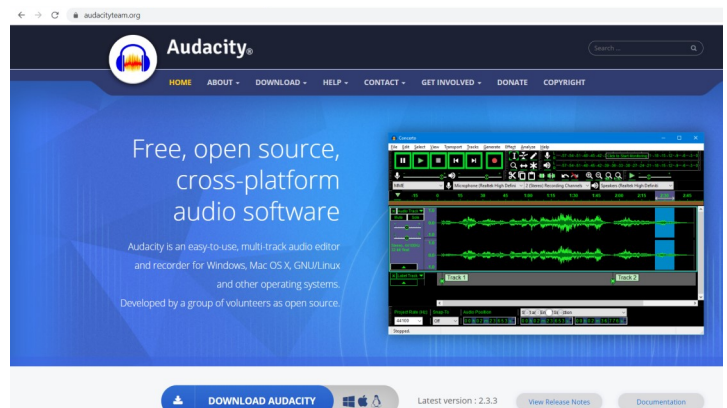


Voice Record Pro - This app allows a person to record something, then to play it back, or send it to someone else, or save it to a cloud folder. There are a lot of different options included with it, but most people won't need them. It does allow changing of speed of playback, so one could slow down fast portions of a song to aid in learning the song, but this option is a little hard to find. I haven't explored fully all the options available.



Tuner T1 - This one uses the phone's microphone to display the note being sung. It's quite useful to see if the note being sung is flat or sharp, and it gives an indication of how far off the target the sung note might be. It also allows one to hear the desired note by pressing the note keys on the bottom of the app screen.

Audacity - This program is a full featured audio workbench that has a large number of uses, but for most of the chorus, the features that would be most useful would be to variably isolate one track of a stereo recording (left or right) without having to change the audio settings on the computer, and secondly to change the tempo of a song without changing the pitch (i.e. to slow down a song to assist in learning parts). I'd suggest that this would be most useful when used with our learning tracks in conjunction with the sheet music. I'll often use Audacity and Tuner T1 together, using headphones to listen while I sing along, and using Tuner T1 on my phone to validate the notes I'm singing.



GETTING TO KNOW ... GAYLE WHARTON

I feel so fortunate to have been raised in a home full of music. I was truly blessed to have had the joy of music instilled in me at an early age.

My love of music led me to piano lessons and singing in any ensemble available. While in junior high I was excited to be asked to be the understudy for a small part in South Pacific at Rainbow Stage. My singing teacher prepared me well for this venture but sadly in the end the understudy wasn't needed. Darn!

While attending Daniel McIntyre Collegiate I met my husband Mike Wharton. We were married In 1961 and began our family, Jeff, Kelly and Andrew. Today we are proud to boast of our five granddaughters and six great grandchildren.

Last February was very difficult for myself and my family. Mike passed away after losing his battle to cancer. We are still adjusting to not having our Husband, Dad, Grandpa and GG Pappa in our lives.

Some of our happiest times have taken place at our summer home in Boundary Park, Winnipeg Beach. Since 1970 it has been the hub for family and friends to come together. Our annual August long weekend celebration complete with circus tent, pig roast, music and entertainment has always been anticipated with great enthusiasm. You can find us hosting weddings, special anniversaries, birthdays, neighbourhood gatherings and family reunions.



In my spare time, when I'm not studying notes and words, I enjoy reading James Patterson books or taking my dog Zoey for a walk. Having received a Fitbit for Christmas I'm obliged to be true to myself as it counts every little step as we go along. Yikes!

In my days of employment I worked in secretarial positions at Osler Hammond and Nanton Insurance Ins. Co. While working there I met Shirley Christie and here we are decades later still friends singing barbershop harmony together.

After Mike and I completed our family I returned to the workforce. I taught the microwave cooking classes for all three Sears Stores in the city and moved on to manage a store in St. Vital Center.

Finally, I joined our family business Globe Moving and Storage until I retired.

Mike and I were fortunate enough to spend our winters in Florida where we made so many new friends. With winters down south and the beach in summer, life was good.

I joined Sweet Adelines in 1962 and sang with the Winnipeg Chapter until 1975 when a group of us, which included Sherrie and myself, were proud to be the founders of the Assiniboine Chorus. We were chartered in January, 1976. I loved being a Sweet Adeline, performing with the chorus and quartet while always working with the music team, stage presence and choreography. Mike caught the bug too and joined the Golden Chordsmen. He sang under the direction of Ron Crapper.

My passion for singing Barbershop Harmony has now brought me to the River City Sound Chorus and I'm loving being a part of this organization. I'm pleased to be helping out in different areas where I can and enjoying the rehearsals.



My beloved Quartet Honeycomb - Sherrie, Karen, Diane and myself has been the mainstay of my music world since 2009. Belonging to a quartet is very special in so many ways and I highly recommend it.

I would like to end my story by sharing with you, my mantra:

“Music is my passion. It soothes my heart and my soul and keeps me sane in an insane world”.

~ March 2020 ~

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4 Regular rehearsal	5	6	7
8 <i>Daylight Savings Time Starts</i>	9	10	11 Music Committee Mtg Regular rehearsal	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 Executive Meeting & Regular Rehearsal CANCELLED	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 Regular rehearsal CANCELLED	26	27	28 Chorus coaching with Jay Althof CANCELLED
29	30	31				

~ April 2020 ~

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

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

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