



IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

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

October 14 Executive Meeting (5:30 p.m.)
October 28 Virtual BOTY (7:00 p.m.)

Inside this issue:

30 Sep 2020

Important Dates, Past, Present & Future, Permanent Zoom Rehearsal Link	1
Chorus Rehearsal Plans and Updates	2
List of Nominees for RCS Chapter Executive Positions	3
Rehearsal Schedule, Harmony University Warm-Up Series	4
RCS Virtual Chorus Recording Schedule, BHS Everyone In Harmony Virtual Chorus Performance—"Still the One"	5
Barbershopper of the Year Award—Chapter History	6
BOTY Awards—Save the Date—Oct 28th, Getting To Know You Better Format	7
Getting To Know You Better - Brian Metcalfe	8-14
To Brighten Your Spirits During These Trying Times	15
Calendars - September and October	16
Editorial Page	17

PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE

Please send any information for publication to Krista by **Saturday noon** at:
kristahanisgervais@gmail.com

Thanks,
Krista ☺

PERMANENT ZOOM REHEARSAL LINK

Join our online Zoom rehearsals every Wednesday with this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84457343549?pwd=ZGJmeUIJTjXI5Nnp1Ly9sNGQxYkxPUT09>

Meeting ID: 844 5734 3549
Password: 974496

CHORUS REHEARSAL PLANS AND UPDATE

From Paul Bullock

The Harmony University warmup videos have been a great way to start our weekly rehearsals, so we're going to continue with them. The only issue is that when I'm sharing my computer screen so everyone can see and hear the warmup video, I have not figured out how I can monitor the waiting room for anyone who may have logged in after the video starts. So, if you're logging in to the rehearsal and waiting for longer than you might expect, that is likely the reason. Once the warmup is finished, I am able to bring people into the rehearsal again from the zoom waiting room.

Thanks to Ferryl Casselman who has accepted a nomination for Member at Large on the 2021 Executive. Everyone is encouraged to consider helping out to make the chorus function. There is a list of positions on the last page of the newsletter with many roles beyond the executive positions that we need our members to fill. Your consideration for one of these will be much appreciated.

Last week, we heard about many people's efforts to record an audio track for Bridge Over Troubled Water. It is a beautiful arrangement but challenging because of several long phrases. Sherrie provided some tips on how to manage these and I hope that her advice has helped more members to complete an audio track. Our goal is to have the audio tracks finished for compilation by September 30. Keep working on your audio tracks and get them sent in to your section leader as soon as you can.

The next step will be recording video tracks for Bridge Over Troubled Water. The Music Committee is discussing the attire that we will use and will provide that information by this Wednesday. That will give us a couple of weeks, until October 15, to record and send in videos. If we can stay with that schedule, we should have the completed compilation video in time for the BOTY award evening on October 28.

We now have excellent learning tracks for "Merry Christmas Darling" (thanks so much, Sherrie and Larry B). That will be our next video project with a goal of having audio tracks by November 11 and videos by November 25. That would provide us with a Christmas video by the beginning of December.

It is very gratifying to see and hear everyone each week and to enjoy having our chapter continue to be a musical outlet at a time when those opportunities are very rare. We have done well and we can all be proud of making River City Sound an active, supportive and enjoyable organization.

LIST OF NOMINEES FOR RIVER CITY SOUND CHAPTER EXECUTIVE POSITIONS

From Paul Bullock

The following updated list of nominees is being circulated for your information. Thanks to Ferryl Casselman who accepted a nomination for Member at Large and to everyone on the list. During the business meeting at the September 30 zoom rehearsal, there will be a call for further nominations. If a vote is required, it will occur during the rehearsal on October 14. The 2021 executive position members will start in January.

If you want to put your name forward, contact Paul Bullock.

President.....	Paul Bullock
Past President.....	Bruce Wilton
Executive VP.....	No Nominee
Secretary.....	Larry Bredesen
Treasurer.....	Bruce Wilton
VP Membership and Chapter Development....	Wendy Lamont
VP Music and Performance.....	Les Creek
VP Marketing and Public Relations.....	Gayle Wharton and Shirley Christie
Chorus Manager.....	Chris Magas
Member At Large.....	Henry Graham
Member At Large.....	Becki Ammeter
Member At Large.....	Herold Driedger
Member At Large.....	Ferryl Casselman
Member At Large.....	No Nominee

REHEARSAL SCHEDULE - SEPTEMBER 30, 2020 VIRTUAL SINGING WEEK 16

From Duncan Zaluski

***PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU HAVE: ALL OF YOUR NEW MUSIC,
CURRENT REPERTOIRE & BARBERPOLECAT SONGBOOK***

6:55 – 7:05 Login and greetings
7:05 – 7:25 Warm Up
7:25 – 7:45 Merry Christmas Darling
7:50 – 8:10 Bridge over Troubled Water
8:15 – 8:25 Business Meeting & Break
8:30 – 9:00 Daydream
Dream Lover
Imagine
Shenandoah



Current Show Repertoire:

Blue Moon(s)	Imagine
Can You Feel the Love Tonight?	Irish Blessing
Daydream	O Canada
Dream Lover	Shenandoah
Harmony Collage	Under the Boardwalk
Hello Mary Lou	When I'm 64
I'm Feeling Fine	

THE HARMONY UNIVERSITY WARM-UP SERIES

Shared by Gordon Billows

<https://www.barbershop.org/the-harmony-university-warm-up-series-donny-rose-youtube>

RCS VIRTUAL CHORUS RECORDING SCHEDULE

From Paul Bullock

Step 1. Record an audio track for “**Bridge Over Troubled Water**”. Use headphones or ear buds to sing along to the track for your part. Send it to your section leader for review.

Deadline: September 30. (Note, if you are concerned about your timing, please feel free to also submit to your section leader a recording without headphones or ear buds as you sing along with the track for your part.)



Step 2. Record a video of “**Bridge Over Troubled Water**”. No headphones or ear buds required.

Deadline: October 15. (Note, attire for the video TBD)

Step 3. Record an audio track for “**Merry Christmas Darling**”. Use headphones or ear buds to sing along to the track for your part. Send it to your section leader for review.

Deadline: November 11.



Step 4. Record a video of “**Merry Christmas Darling**”. No headphones or ear buds required.

Deadline: November 25. (Note, attire for the video TBD)

For some inspiration ...

BHS EVERYONE IN HARMONY VIRTUAL CHORUS PERFORMANCE— “STILL THE ONE”

From Les Creek

Here is a compilation video of over 300 singers (I was one) as part of Harmony University back in July, performing “Still the One”.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RVHguzeoU94>



BARBERSHOPPER OF THE YEAR AWARD

By Gordon Billows - Chapter Historian



The Barbershopper of the Year (BOTY) award was originally the Vern Leatherdale Trophy. Vern Leatherdale was the first Winnipeg Golden Chordsmen (WGC) director and he directed the chorus from 1948 to 1959. The BOTY award was first presented in 1955 to Charlie Brenan. The silver BOTY pin was presented at the same time. The original document describing the Vern Leatherdale award criteria has been preserved and is part of the WGC/RCS archives. The criteria have changed over the years, but the intent to recognize the Barbershopper of the Year has remained.



Vern Leatherdale was active in many service and fraternal organizations. He was a Past President of the Kinsman Club and a member of the K 40. He was a member of the Kiwanis, the St. Andrews Society and the Carlton Club and had a long association with the Barbershoppers S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A.. He was a member of Northern Light Prince Rupert's Masonic Lodge No.1, King Edward Preceptory, Khartum Shrine Temple, Motor Patrol. He was also a Past President of the Funeral Directors' Association of Canada 1958 - 1959.

(Next week - Dorothy Casselman Lifetime Achievement Award)

BOTY AWARDS - SAVE THE DATE - OCT. 28TH

By Brian Metcalfe

At our last rehearsal, Mae Denby “Asked what is a bowtie?” Her innocent question got me thinking that there are perhaps a few new members to our chorus that are not familiar with our BOTY (note spelling) Awards Night, usually held in late October each year.

For as long as I have been a chorus member, our BOTY Awards Nights have been organized by Ricki and Gary Miles. Members and their spouses/partners/dates enjoyed drinks and dinner at the Mari-gold restaurant on Inkster. Throughout the evening, those seated together at tables competed to answer an innovative quiz and to have fun creating and singing songs in a variety of interesting ways.

At each annual BOTY Awards Night, deserving members were presented with trophies to acknowledge their contributions to our chorus while quartets and others demonstrated their harmonizing talents. The last award each evening is the **BOTY** which is an acronym for **Barbershopper Of The Year**.



This year, rather than our regular rehearsal, our BOTY Awards Night will be virtual and we will connect by Zoom at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, October 28th. Although it is a Wednesday evening, it will NOT be a rehearsal!

- **Members, together with spouses/partners/dates are asked to attend online**, connect by Zoom with the entire chorus, enjoy the comraderie, engage in the online quiz, and cheer for the award winners.
- If all proceeds as planned, our second musical video, “Bridge Over Troubled Water”, will be shared with members for the first time.
- If you haven’t yet connected with Zoom to participate in a virtual rehearsal, I urge you to review the information and click on the active Zoom link on page 1. You have four more Wednesday rehearsals to try to perfect your Zoom process so that you can both see and hear your colleagues and comment when appropriate.
- If you are still unable to fully connect by Zoom, through your own device, perhaps you and your spouse/partner/date could travel to another member’s home to share the BOTY Awards Night experience on a working system. Furthermore, if you are connecting to virtual Zoom rehearsals just fine and notice a colleague who has not appeared on Zoom, please make the offer to invite him/her and their spouse/partner/date to your home to share your Zoom connection and our BOTY Awards Night.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU BETTER FORMAT

By Brian Metcalfe

At our last rehearsal Bruce Wilton asked me how I planned to organize the 2020 updates that several of our former Winnipeg Golden Chordsmen would be adding to their initial stories that were shared nearly six years ago. I suggested that I was only planning to share the updates in “Notes 4 U”. Later, I followed up with Bruce who suggested that without the original background, the updates might not be as meaningful. To facilitate a better understanding, I will include both the original “Getting To Know You” story followed immediately by the more recent 2020 “Getting To Know You Better” update which will be identified by this sequel symbol.



GETTING TO KNOW ... BRIAN METCALFE

By Brian Metcalfe

I grew up in a very caring family and neighbourhood in Fort Rouge. In 1967, I started my teaching career at Churchill High School. Each summer, I rode my bike out to the University of Manitoba to take courses in the Education and the newly-created Computer Science faculties. A teaching colleague at Churchill, who recently came to Canada from Britain, convinced me that I should take one summer to fly overseas and cycle throughout Britain and Europe. In 1970, I flew to London, where I bought a Raleigh 10-speed bike, a sleeping bag, and saddle bags. Six weeks, eight countries, and 2600 kilometers by bicycle were the ingredients in my "adventure of a lifetime". When I returned, I was often asked "What was your most unforgettable experience?" Several decades passed before I was able to capture this very profound experience in a short on-line video entitled "Are two minutes too much to ask?" To view my thought-provoking video, one may search YouTube by the title, click the link, or type the following cryptic address into your Internet browser: <https://youtu.be/77TKyIU02gM>



During the Winter, after I returned from my solo overseas cycling trip, I went out, on a blind date with an interesting elementary teacher with whom I could relate. Five years later, I returned to cycle through England and Europe, with my best friend, Sally, on our honeymoon! In fact, this July marks 40 years of marriage in which we are still cycling side-by-side and climbing and cruising life's hills together.

After teaching Mathematics and introducing Computer Science at Churchill High School, I was seconded to the Department of Education for two years to create a new Computer Science course for high schools throughout the province. I then returned to teaching for six years at Elmwood High School where I taught Mathematics and also introduced the new Computer Science course.

In the summer of 1978, Sally and I were planning another cycling trip to Europe but six weeks before departure, I tore the tendons in my ankle. Rather than give up on our "European adventure", we flew to Amsterdam where we acquired two, new 50 cc mopeds that we used to tour parts of Scandinavia and Northern Europe.

In the early 80's our two boys were born and as they grew older, I became a leader as they progressed through Beavers, Cubs, and Scouts. I think my love of music was fostered through singing around campfires both as a Cub and Scout, as well as, in a leader capacity. Our family enjoyed the outdoors with camping, canoeing, and tenting.

Another teaching colleague suggested that we enroll our sons in the ski program at Springhill Winter Park. Although the banks of "Duff's Ditch" hardly qualify as mountains, the "poor altitude" was made up for with "amazing attitude" by both skiers and parents in this sport. For more than eight years, Sally and I were engaged with our sons in the downhill ski racing program. As parents, we took on roles as gate keepers in -30 degree weather, time keepers, running the ski race computer program, and announcing. Each Spring Break our family would jump in the van with all our ski gear and drive to Fernie, B.C. to ski in the mountains. The friendships fostered in this uniquely competitive environment were amazing and

we all cheered and rang cow-bells with enthusiasm for every racer navigating the gates on race day. Today our older son still coaches skiers at Springhill Winter Park and our younger son, who now lives in San Francisco, counts his closest friends as those who he skied with and raced against.

In the early 80s, I was once again seconded from teaching to return to the Department of Education as a Computer Consultant to support the teaching of Computer Science throughout the province. After one year with the “Department”, the Winnipeg School Division decided that they needed their own Computer Education Consultant and I applied, and was selected, for this position. For the next 25 years, I helped K-12 educators, and their students, use computers and technology to support learning.

Both Sally & I retired in 2007. I had spent 40 invigorating years as a teacher and Computer/Educational Technology Consultant for the Manitoba Department of Education and the Winnipeg School Division. During my last 25 years, I wrote and edited a monthly educational newsletter called “Bits and Bytes” which I created “to provide educators with tips and techniques to help them integrate technology to enhance learning in K-12 classrooms”. When I retired, I found that I still wanted to continue to share educational ideas and resources so I created my own WordPress blog, entitled “Life-Long-Learners.com”.

In the spring of 2012, Peter, our “best man” (who now lives in Vancouver), phoned me and wanted to know if I would like to re-live some of our younger biking experiences. In mid-August, 1974, Peter and I flew to Moncton, New Brunswick and cycled a circular route through P.E.I., around the Cape Breton Trail, on to Halifax, across Nova Scotia to the Digby – Saint John ferry and back to Moncton. All within 20 days!



Peter suggested that in the summer of 2012, we might want to slow our pace down somewhat. Rather than cycle 40 miles per day, carrying our tent, cooking gear, and sleeping bags, as we did in 1974, Peter suggested we could travel much lighter and just carry “plastic”. We would average only 50 kilometers per day and not bother with cooking our own meals over a primus stove, nor sleep in sleeping bags in a tent. As more “civilized seniors”, we would eat at restaurants and stay in Bed & Breakfast establishments or motels along the way. So we decided to fly to Montreal and cycle through the Eastern Townships to Quebec City. We would cycle on the dedicated bike paths (many which were along converted railway roadbeds), known in Quebec as “La Route Verte”. We covered 663 kilometers in 18 days and had a series of photos, videos, and stories about this amazing biking holiday. In fact, rumour has it that we are planning to return to Quebec and the Maritimes this summer for another cycling adventure.

My first exposure to the Winnipeg Golden Chordsmen was a performance, in which the chorus wore white tuxedos, at Harrow United Church in the late 90’s. Having no choral experience, other than my mandatory Grade 9 Grad Choir, I thought everyone in the choir sang the same melody line. However, the WGC included a song like “He’s Got The Whole World In His Hands” which showcased the different contributions that each of the four sections made to create the amazing harmony. I was astounded at the complexity of the arrangement and the beauty of the blended voices.

We now fast-forward to 2013, when my wife suggested it was time to renovate our 35-year-old kitchen. We contracted with a local cabinet making shop and asked them if they could recommend a renovator. As luck would have it, they suggested we contact Larry Hunter. Many of you know that Larry is somewhat of a perfectionist when it comes to singing. I can assure you that he is even more proficient with his carpentry and renovation skills. His attitude is “I want to complete this renovation task to the same high standards that I would showcase in my own home.” During our morning planning and coffee breaks, Larry shared with us his hobby of singing in a barbershop chorus and quartet. When he completed the renovations in our new kitchen, Larry gave Sally and me free tickets to the WGC’s 2014 Spring performance at The Mennonite Brethren Collegiate. We attended and loved the singing of the folk songs from our youth. Larry invited me to come out to the “Open House” practice and I was immediately taken by the friendship and camaraderie that was evident by all the chorus members. Needless-to-say, I joined up three weeks later.

At our BOTY Awards dinner in 2014, I was completely surprised to be named “Rookie of the Year” and, within eight months of joining our organization, I was nominated to join the WGC Executive. I am delighted by the response received from my “Getting To Know You” initiative printed in Brian Sanderson’s “Notes 4 U”. The stories that are being shared by our members will help the chorus better understand and relate to their amazing colleagues who have so many talents outside of their love of music.

My favourite WGC song is “I’m Feelin’ Fine” because it beautifully blends the different voices and I can’t help singing it without tapping my toes in time to its infectious beat.

In closing I apologize for my rather lengthy story. Having written two different theses during my educational career, where I was always told to expand on certain points, I just naturally write longer sentences and paragraphs. If you are still reading, and have not as yet fallen asleep, I thank you :-)

I also want to acknowledge all the members of the WGC who have welcomed me into this amazing musical fraternity and have done their best to answer all my questions.

I think Arnie Charles’ traditional prompt, at the end of each rehearsal, reminds me of my feelings about being a member of the Winnipeg Golden Chordsmen ...

“It’s great to be a barbershopper!”

******* GETTING TO KNOW YOU BETTER *******

By Brian Metcalfe

Having proposed this “Getting to Know You” initiative to our chorus’ Executive in late 2014 and having learned so much about my colleagues, who so willingly shared their autobiographies in “Notes 4 U” in 2015, it seems appropriate to offer an update six years after this activity’s inception.

Now that our chorus’ music is a blend of both male and female barbershop harmonies, with a number of newer members, I trust that my colleagues, who shared their initial stories will be willing to update their original contributions. What better way for all members to “Get To Know You Better”?



In 2014, our older son, Jonathan, began volunteering at the Assiniboine Park Zoo. He took on a number of different tasks until the zoo began focusing on its “Journey to Churchill” exhibit. When they began acquiring polar bears, it was decided that they needed a polar bear mascot. Jonathan immediately volunteered for this new role and took on the persona of “Winston”. Over the past 6 years, Jon has devoted in excess of 500 hours greeting children and parents as “Winston” and acting as a zoo ambassador.



Thanks to the talents and creativity of his partner, Taryn, Jon has had his mascot outfitted with unique costumes and props to enhance Winston’s appearance at various themed events.

In 2012 our “best man”, Peter Johnson, a retired educator, like me, suggested that we bicycle the 660



kms from Montreal to Quebec City through the Eastern Townships. In June 2016, we decided to continue our cycle-touring adventure and pedal more than 1000 kms from Quebec City to Halifax. To motivate us, I had cycling jerseys created for Peter and myself which show-cased the cycling emblem that I designed. This message is particularly relevant when you consider that Peter works very hard to reduce the extra weight that he carries in his panniers. For example, he cuts off half of his toothbrush handle to reduce the weight that he must carry on his bike while touring.

Cycling gives me an important time to reflect on how lucky I have been during my lifetime. True, I have an amazing family and although I had both knees replaced in 1999, I have been relatively healthy when compared with close

friends who have, too early in my opinion, passed away or have to deal with the challenges of family crises or debilitating medical issues.

On our honeymoon in 1975, my wife, Sally, and I cycled through many European countries and we always wanted to return to Europe. In the summer of 2018, we decided to take a Trafalgar bus tour through the WWI & WWII battlefields; enjoy a bike and barge tour from Amsterdam to Bruges; meet our younger son and his girlfriend in Switzerland; and follow up with an Insight bus tour of Ireland before flying home. Sally and I flew to London, England and spent 2-3 days shaking off jet-lag, enjoying the “Lion King” live theatre and exploring before joining the Trafalgar 10-day bus tour. From London we travelled by tour bus to Portsmouth and then took an overnight ferry to the Normandy beaches of D-Day.



We toured Hitler's Atlantic Wall and museums in Bayeux and Caen. We visited both the immaculately maintained Allies and German gravesites with an important takeaway that world wars wipe out a generation of our youth.

To balance the sombre feeling after touring the battlefields, we spent sight-seeing time in Paris and Amsterdam. Following Paris we toured many of the WWI battlefields. Sally found this to be very meaningful. Sally's grandfather, at the age of 32, left a wife in Winnipeg with three young boys (all under the age of 6) to join the Canadian army in August, 1915 and to be shipped overseas. Having researched the [Canadian First World War Library and Archives](#), we knew that he was killed in the Battle of the Somme at Courcelette, France. Unfortunately, her grandfather had no known grave but his name, like the names of over 11,000 Canadian soldiers, who were posted as "missing, presumed dead" in France, was inscribed into the ramparts of the Vimy Memorial. We were fortunate to make a rubbing of his name to be kept as family memento to remind us of the sacrifice he made for our freedom.



Admittedly, the battlefields tour, which ended in Amsterdam, was very emotional. Sally and I needed to decompress and get ready for our next adventure. We spent two days in Amsterdam before boarding the "Magnifique III" for a week-long Boat Bike Tour from Amsterdam to Bruges. There were only 40 of



us on board with half the cyclists from Hong Kong and the remainder from the U.S., Australia, and Canada. Although Sally, in her youth, has accompanied me on many cycling adventures, unfortunately, after a fall off her bike a few years back, Sally no longer feels comfortable cycling. However, she graciously agreed to this dream of mine. Each day I'd cycle about 40 miles with the other cyclists on a Dutch bike (where one sits quite upright when pedalling) while Sally would "help" the crew navigate the rivers and locks. The meals were awesome and the camaraderie uplifting. It was a welcomed change from the bus tour. Not only was it a less sombre experience with more laughter and gaiety, but also, we didn't have to unpack our

suitcases each evening and rush each morning to have them packed and placed outside our door before 7:00 a.m. Rather, the captain would dock our vessel each evening and after a first class supper, we would explore the nearby city/town on foot. In the morning, those who were going to cycle that day would prepare a bag lunch following breakfast on board and unload the bikes for a reasonable 9:00 am departure. Sally and a few others, who stayed on-board that day, would gain a unique experience as the captain and crew explained the navigation of the river and lock system. The vessel would tie up for the evening at a pre-arranged berth about 4:00 p.m. and we, the cyclists would appear shortly thereafter looking forward to a shower and a refreshing drink prior to supper. Following supper, our cycling guides would distribute maps and outline the next day's cycling route. Although I had cycled from Amsterdam to Bruges by myself in 1970, it was so enjoyable to travel by bike and boat with Sally and other tourists. At the end of the week, we explored the medieval, walled city of Bruges, Belgium which is a UNESCO Heritage site and is sometimes referred to as the "Venice of the North".

Sally and I have always loved Switzerland. We agreed to meet our younger son, Chris, and his girlfriend, Hilary, (who both live in San Francisco) and spend a week with them in Interlaken. When “the kids” arrived at the Interlaken train station, they caught us on video. Chris was panning past us taking in the beautiful mountains when Hilary reached up to reposition Chris’ smartphone which was also capturing Sally’s and my reactions. To Hilary’s repositioning suggestion, Chris said “Get that rock out of here!” It took us a fraction of a second ... all caught on camera ... of Mom and Dad realizing that Hilary was now wearing a beautiful engagement ring. Sally, unlike her husband, is a woman of few words. When I was congratulating and hugging our “daughter-in-law-to-be”, Sally was directing her “one word message” to Chris about his marriage proposal. Unbeknownst to us, Chris had proposed to Hilary on Lake Como two days prior. We were so happy for “the kids” and we so enjoyed sharing a delightful week with them in Interlaken. One special day, that I will treasure forever, was the day we took the train to nearby Grindelwald and took a gondola up to the top of the mountain. Our trip down the mountain used three different modes of transportation ... all propelled, exclusively, by gravity! At the top, we started with a zip line which reached speeds of 84 km/hr. The middle activity was to travel down the Swiss mountain access trails on a “Swiss mountain trike” (similar to the low-slung child’s “big wheel”). We stopped to take pictures as we coasted downhill along 5 km of trails passing picturesque farms with window boxes of beautiful flowers. Our last engaging activity was to travel the remaining third of our downhill journey on “trotti bikes” which were similar to scooters. The day was beautiful and the mountain scenery, with wild flowers and cows grazing in verdant meadows, was spectacular!



Hilary is an amazing cook and she encouraged us to visit a chocolate factory in Interlaken to learn how to make chocolate. Undoubtedly Hilary was trying to protect us as she had observed the motto: “Skinny people are easier to kidnap. Stay safe: Eat Chocolate!” The four of us became immersed in learning the process to create and decorate our own Swiss chocolate bars. It is obvious, from the picture at left, that we enjoyed the learning and tasting experience and one might observe that Sally “has a definite nose for chocolate”.

Following our departure from Switzerland, Sally and I flew to Dublin, Ireland where we took a 12-day Insight bus tour of both Southern and Northern Ireland. The scenery was spectacular and the tour director provided us with a real insight into Irish history so that we could better understand “The Troubles”. However, in hindsight, Sally and I agreed that our European adventure, of a little over six weeks, was just too long. As such, we were ready to come home following the fun-filled week that we had experienced and enjoyed with “the kids” in Switzerland

The highlight of 2019 had to be Chris' and Hilary's wedding in Maui. Not only did Hilary & Chris have a number of relatives and friends from California attend, Chris was delighted to have 25 Canadian family and friends be present, as well.

Undoubtedly, 2020 will be a very important year in the Metcalfe family. Jonathan and Taryn became foster parents to a little girl who was born prematurely with a weight of only 1 pound 15 oz. With their love and support, our first grandchild is now almost 16 pounds and is a joy to behold.

In closing, I should reflect on some of my accomplishments with our chorus:

- Awarded Rookie of the Year in 2014 & BOTY in 2015
- Initiated a "Getting To Know You" activity in which chorus members shared their autobiographies
- Served on the Executive from 2015 - 2017
- Created, with the help of Larry Bredesen, the "Christmas Chorus Ticket Sales Protocol", a 14 page booklet, to help standardize and promote accountability
- Designed an Excel spreadsheet to accurately record chorus ticket sales and present results to Executive
- Took over preparing our chorus' paper-based Roster booklet from Gordon Billows in 2015 and after three years moved it to an online, digital format, accessible off our chorus website
- Collected and maintained a Past Patrons' database to advise "fans" of upcoming performances
- Served, from time to time, as our "Notes 4 U" editor and, since joining our chorus, have written in excess of 80 articles to be shared through this important newsletter
- Assisted four years on the BOTY selection committee and helped to plan the BOTY Awards Night with Ricki Miles

I pride myself on trying to help out our chorus so that tasks that need doing do not "fall through the cracks".

I try to improve my singing, when not sitting at my computer (typing with one finger), working on chorus-related administrative tasks.

As this story comes to its conclusion, I'll end with a favourite saying of mine ...

Take care & keep smiling :-)



Can't help singing our "Irish Blessing" without thinking of this picture I took of Peter Johnson cycling up a hill in rural Nova Scotia

TO BRIGHTEN YOUR SPIRITS DURING THESE TRYING TIMES

Shared by Norm Silverberg



Cantor Azi Schwartz of the Park Avenue Synagogue in New York performs with Valerie Simpson "Bridge Over Troubled Waters", along with a mixed synagogue and gospel choirs.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TtI8UHnvSgc>

Shared by Brian Metcalfe



Simon & Garfunkel - The Story Of Bridge Over Troubled Water

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8uZgcz_WIAA

Shared by Ricki Miles



BBC News - Comedy Wildlife Photography Awards 2020 Finalists Revealed

<https://www.bbc.com/news/in-pictures-54118899>

Interesting Word Facts

- "Stewardess" is the longest word typed with only the left hand.
- And "lollipop" is the longest word typed with your right hand.
- No word in the English language rhymes with month, orange, silver, or purple.
- "Dreamt" is the only English word that ends in the letters 'mt'
- Bookkeeper is the only word in the English language with three consecutive sets of letters
- The sentence: "The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog" uses every letter of the alphabet.
- The words 'racecar,' 'kayak', and 'level' are the same whether they are read left to right or right to left (palindromes).
- There are only four words in the English language which end in "dous":
- tremendous, horrendous, stupendous, and hazardous
- There are two words in the English language that have all five vowels in
- order: "abstemious" and "facetious."
- TYPEWRITER is the longest word that can be made using the letters only on one row of the keyboard.

IMPORTANT DATES 4 U - SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 2020

Meetings, Rehearsals, Holidays and River City Sound Member Birthdays

~ September 2020 ~

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Music Committee Meeting (5:30) Zoom Rehearsal (7:00)	3	4	5
6	7 <i>Labour Day</i>	8	9 Executive Meeting (5:30) Zoom Rehearsal (7:00)	10	11	12
13	14	15	16 <i>Happy Birthday Earl Golden</i> Zoom Rehearsal (7:00)	17	18	19
20	21	22	23 Zoom Rehearsal (7:00)	24	25	26
27 <i>Happy Birthday Milt Muldrew</i>	28	29	30 Zoom Rehearsal (7:00) <i>BOTW audio track due</i>			

~ October 2020 ~

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 <i>Happy Birthday John Latham</i>	3
4 <i>Happy Birthday Ken Finnbogason</i>	5	6	7 Zoom Rehearsal (7:00)	8	9	10
11	12 <i>Thanksgiving</i>	13	14 Executive Meeting (5:30) Zoom Rehearsal (7:00)	15 <i>BOTW video recording due</i>	16	17
18	19	20	21 Zoom Rehearsal (7:00)	22	23	24
25	26	27	28 Virtual BOTY (7:00) (No Zoom Rehearsal)	29	30	31 <i>Halloween</i>

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, Bruce Wilton
Baritone Section: Paul Bullock, John Latham

2020 Leadership Positions

Accountant: Gary Miles
Attendance & 50/50: Norm Silverberg
Awards Banquet Chairs: Gary & Ricki Miles
Charities: vacant
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