

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

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

- December 2** Music Committee Meeting (5:30 p.m.)
- December 9** Executive Meeting (5:30 p.m.)
- December 16** Zoom Holiday Party (7:00 p.m.)

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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

Hooray!! Bruce reported on Wednesday that all of the Merry Christmas Darling videos (20 in total) are now with the videographer. Thanks Bruce for helping coordinate and facilitate getting all of the video files sent in. Brian, Krista and Larry Bredesen are already working with Jacob (videographer) on the visual presentation. Thanks to all of you. Your efforts really help to make these videos special. And thanks everyone for all of your work on this latest video recording project. It is quite likely that the fruits of our labor can be showcased December 16 at zoom Christmas party. There's updated information about the party in this week's newsletter.

We will continue to review more of our Christmas songs at upcoming rehearsals. We will also be doing lots of singing at the Christmas party. It really feels good to be singing Christmas songs and getting into a holiday frame of mind, something that may be challenging this year.

Keep your fingers crossed that sometime in 2021 (probably later rather than earlier), we can meet in-person again and sing. I know that I want to be ready for that day. There's nothing better than joining together in song with a group of like-minded and special people. Keep singing and see you on Wednesday.

CHRISTMAS ZOOM ON DECEMBER 16

Send us your best shots!

From Paul Bullock

The planning continues for our Christmas zoom party on **Wednesday, December 16 at 7:00 p.m.**. This will be in place of our regular Wednesday evening rehearsal.

You are, again, invited to create a short video with a Christmas theme showcasing your unique talent to contribute to the evening. Please use wettransfer.com to send your video to **rickimiles@shaw.ca** by December 9.

There were some questions about the Virtual Home for the Holidays decoration showcase. This is proposed to be a short video tour highlighting your holiday home decorations. It is intended to allow us to visit your home (interior or exterior) virtually so we can experience your decorating as if we were actually there. Provide some narration during your video to speak about your decorations, or a Christmas memory, or a special keep-sake ornament, or whatever ... this is your video. Please use wettransfer.com to send your video to **rickimiles@shaw.ca** by December 9.

You can dress up for this event as formally or informally as you would like. Do you have an absolutely ugly Christmas sweater that you never wear? December 16th is your chance! At long last we will find the answer to the intriguing question of who in our chorus has the ugliest sweater. Just join us on Zoom to find out.

Please invite your “cheerleader”, alumni and any other special people to join us on December 16th. All they need is the zoom link for our regular Wednesday night rehearsals. If you need assistance getting the link ready to send, just reach out and someone in the chorus will help you. Brian Metcalfe has offered to send everyone a pre-party message (thanks Brian) so that we have time to get ready and fill up our mugs with wine, eggnog or any favorite Christmas beverage.

Let’s make this another special occasion to help us all go into the Christmas season in high spirits and full of . . . (um) cheer! HoHoHo

THE HARMONY UNIVERSITY WARM-UP SERIES

Shared by Gordon Billows

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

FREE SINGING APPS TO MAKE YOU A BETTER VOCALIST

Shared by Larry Hunter

Here’s a list of some apps that our members may consider using for improving their vocal skills at home:

<https://myvocalskills.com/8-free-singing-apps-that-make-you-a-better-vocalist>

WWI CHRISTMAS STORY OF SILENT NIGHT - CELTIC THUNDER’S “CHRISTMAS 1915”

Shared by Larry Bredesen

As a follow-up to River City Sound’s beautiful Remembrance Day Service:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JG3I-OBdcPI&list=RDNOP6z4CIWtY&index=14>

(Note: the editor apologizes, as this was to be included in last week’s Newsletter)

REHEARSAL SCHEDULE - DECEMBER 2, 2020

VIRTUAL SINGING WEEK 24

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 – 7:20 Warmup
- 7:25 – 7:40 Everybody's Waiting for the Man with the Bag
- 7:45 – 8:00 I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus
O Holy Night
- 8:05 – 8:15 Business Meeting
- 8:20 – 8:35 Tag - Lonely For You Am I



2. Lonely For You Am I

Lone-ly, so lone-ly for you_ am I_ lone-ly for you_ am I_

- 8:40 – 8:50 Directors Choice/Repertoire Review
Imagine
- 8:55 Final Song: Peace, Peace

Current Show Repertoire:

Blue Moon(s)
Can You Feel the Love Tonight?
Daydream
Harmony Collage
I'm Feeling Fine
Irish Blessing
Shenandoah
Under the Boardwalk



Bridge over Troubled Water
Can't Help Falling In Love
Dream Lover
Hello Mary Lou
Imagine
O Canada
Stand By Me
When I'm 64

GETTING IN THE MOOD - BARBERSHOP CHRISTMAS SHOWS

Shared by Gordon Billows

Leading up to RCS Christmas Party, plan now to enjoy some virtual Barbershop Christmas Shows. For a few of the shows, you will need to register ahead (easy to do). I will send updates if and when I receive information.



- **Saturday, Dec 5 - 2 pm CDT** - St Croix Chapter LOL www.croixchordsmen.com (visit this site for information now)
- **Saturday, Dec 12 - 2 & 7:30 pm CDT** - Vocal Majority - The Secret of Christmas - sign up now to register for a free virtual seat - https://www.watchbarbershop.com/vocalmajority/?utm_source=affiliate&utm_medium=vmweb&utm_campaign=VMChristmas2020
- **Sunday, Dec 13 - 2 pm CDT** - Heralds of Harmony - The Christmas Celebration of the Ages - sign up now to register for a free virtual seat - <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/a-christmas-celebration-for-the-ages-tickets-124614566523>
- **Wednesday, Dec 16 - 7 pm CDT** - River City Sound virtual Christmas Party - Zoom connection coming
- **Saturday, Dec 19 - time TBD** - AIC Christmas Show - registration information will be sent when available - soon
- **Saturday until Thursday, Dec 19 to 24 - time TBD** - Minneapolis Commodores - connection information coming



have a merry
Christmas
and a happy New Year

LAND O' LAKES BOTY AWARD

From Gordon Billows - Chapter Historian

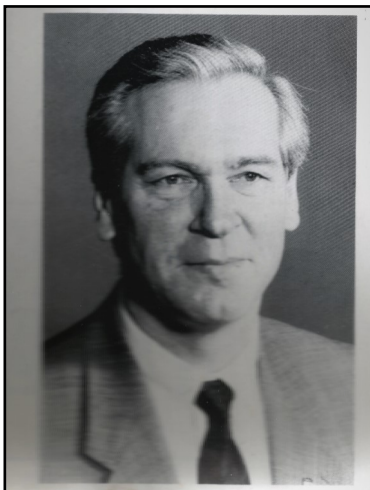
I submitted an article for the next issue of the Pitch Piper that gives the history of the BOTY award that originated here in Winnipeg in 1955. I included pictures of our BOTY trophy and our BOTY silver pin. Today the tradition of recognizing the Barbershopper of the Year continues throughout the Society in many of the Chapters and Districts. In the Land O' Lakes District, the Barbershopper of the Year receives a LOL BOTY pin, an actual bow tie, a plaque, and has their picture, name and specific District achievements displayed on the permanent BOTY Recipients board.

Since 1955, there have been three "of our own" LOL BOTY recipients—Les Gurr in 1970, Dave Maunder in 2009, and Gordon Billows in 2018.



HANK MOORLAG - WINNIPEG CHAPTER PRESIDENT 1992

From Gordon Billows - Chapter Historian



FROM OUR 1992 CHAPTER PRESIDENT,
MR HANK MOORLAG

In the maelstrom of incredibly rapid change and high technology, it is interesting to see that there is a revival of the music from yesteryear. We seem to want to reach out for the familiar. The melodies and words of the songs that have spanned generations can soothe us with nostalgia. They continue to intrigue us with thoughts and emotions that are timeless.

The Winnipeg chapter of SPEBSQSA is proud to be a part of that resurgence. This is particularly true tonight as we present "Olde Tyme Harmonie". The Winnipeg Golden Chordsmen chorus, chapter quartets and indeed the Society at large, are committed to preserving the old songs and the spirit of harmony, in every sense of that word.

At least five Wpg members will remember Hank Moorlag, our 1992 President. I was doing some Winnipeg Chapter research and found him in Whitehorse, YT <http://www.commongroundyukon.com/> I connected with him, gave our website and Dream Lover links. Here is his response:

Hi Gordon,

Thanks so much for reaching out. What a pleasure to hear about the chorus. Yes, indeed, I was an active member of the chorus until my transfer with the RCMP to Whitehorse in 1992. And I served as the chorus' president for a term. It was such a privilege and delight to be part of it all with our performances at Rainbow Stage, the Convention Centre and one of the old theatres.

I will try to stay connected with the link you have sent to the website.

My very best regards to everyone, and my best wishes for a safe, joyous and peaceful Holiday Season.

Hank

GETTING TO KNOW ... HEROLD DRIEDGER

by Herold Driedger

This past January, at the Land o'Lakes Leadership Academy in River Falls, WI one of the classes I was in was asked, "How many of you joined the society because of the great barbershop sound?" I did not raise my hand, because the instructor'd said "joined because of the barbershop" sound. Unfortunately, there was no follow-up question...(and most of you in the chapter know I am not loath to express myself)...so there was no opportunity to share. Had I been asked, I would have said my first introduction to barbershop was to the American style...you know...a bass with three tenors. It had harmony, but I didn't like it. The screaming tag was not to my taste.

After church choirs in my teens and musical theatre (Broadway style) in my twenties, opportunities to sing became few and far between. A cancer diagnosis in 1994, made me realize there was something on my bucket list (the term was not vogue then) that I still wanted to do. Thank God, Gordon Billows heard my plaint and said he knew of a group I might like to join. He did not use the term barbershop. Two months later, in September 1995, I attended a Winnipeg Golden Chordsmen rehearsal. One thing the Chordsmen do well when they're on their game is on sing in harmony, with a deliciously warm and mellow sound. They did so that night. Warm and mellow. I've not looked back since.

One other thing that impressed me that night was that I was not permitted sit alone...even when the guys were on the risers. My shepherd was a lead (can't remember his name). He answered questions...and he slew my barbershop dragons. That was twenty years ago.

When I jumped in I didn't stay in the shallow end...but committed with-in two or three months to join a make-up quartet with Larry Hunter, Victor Olafson and our then director Dennis Owens. We sang "I'm Gonna Sit Right Down and Write Myself a Letter" the following spring in our 1996 "Salute to the Big Band Era." We called ourselves Good Vibrations. Dennis, who sang tenor was also active in Winnipeg Square, so our fledgling quartet was doomed (at least so we thought), until Jack Byzuk who had recently returned to barbershop was convinced...perhaps with some serious arm-twisting by Dennis...to give our three-some a chance to mature. I've been in the same quartet with but two changes...Jack became Rob and Victor became Paul...ever since.

George Smellie, one of our chapter's longtime basses several years later, added another piece of wisdom which is still very important to me as a barbershopper. He pointed out that we are a fraternal organization. We care for each other unconditionally...well almost unconditionally. We do demand that members love harmony and be able to harmonize. But other than that there are no expectations. It is our hobby, and as such we should all do our part to keep it strong. But for each of us, life presents challenges that sometimes make it difficult to be as supportive of the organization as we might otherwise like to be. I used the chapter as a place of respite for many years. As my wife's health deteriorated, this was a place where I could forget for a while and lose myself in song.

Lorraine and I had a bond that was steeped in music. She was a classically trained pianist who had a



gift for knowing just how a piece of music...regardless of genre...was meant to be played. My talent — at least until I “discovered” barbershop — was listening. And listen I did...to music that spoke to my inner being whether Litolff, Mendelssohn, Bach or Beethoven all the way to Broadway musicals or classical jazz. She could play the organ too. When she played the organ section of Saint-Saëns Symphonie No. 3 “avec orgue” on our big Baldwin, it threatened to raise the roof of the house. I actually contemplated buying an old church so she could have a real pipe organ on which to play. That box remains empty on the old bucket list!

My family isn't large, just two daughters who are successful in their own right. In fact I have a special file in my computer dedicated to “bragworthy stuff” which is bursting with accomplishments...their exploits and successes...not mine. One is an administrative assistant in the Faculty of Social Work at the U of M. The other is a Tier II Research Chair in Environment and Health Risk Communication in the U of M Faculty of Medicine. And the grandkids are no slouches either. Proud? You Betcha!

But this initiative is supposed to be about me. So what have I done or am I doing that is worth the telling? Some time back, my eldest, Laurie, asked whether I had ever checked out my Google foot-print. Apparently this is a way some people gauge their impact or influence in their world. I had to say, “No.” I'm not the least bit interested. It has been a long standing practice of mine not to read, or listen to how I may have been misquoted, or had a point of view edited for another's bias; and that practice has been extended to what today passes as social history. But that doesn't mean I haven't done things.

I'm a first generation Canadian from a culture that valued education...and in my case a natural penchant for books as opposed to sports, led me away from home and into a world where I could explore and sell ideas. Teaching was my entry level job and I was good at it. I wasn't political enough to become a principal. I was too outspoken, but that was OK. I was happy to stay in the classroom because it gave me the freedom to do things I wanted to do. A cancer diagnosis in 1994 changed all this. I joined the Manitoba Prostate Cancer Support Group...initially for what it was able to do for me...but then, as I learned more about how the medical system worked and about the problems that many patients experienced in it, a mission of sorts crystallized in my mind. I was asked to serve on the executive of the Canadian Prostate Cancer Network...which got me appointed to the Canadian Cancer Action Network (CCAN) where I found my true calling. Events in the cancer world were coming to a head. The out-of-control freight train, that would be the baby-boomer generation's impact as it entered into the age when most people begin their experiences with cancer was threatening to beggar the delivery of health care in the country. Provincial Cancer Agencies, Health Canada, its provincial counterparts, doctors and nurses collaborated to try and devise solutions to the impending crisis. Out of this the Canadian Strategy for Cancer Control was born. One of its most important stakeholders and participant on the directing board was the patient community represented by CCAN, a national network of most of the national cancer-patient support groups then in the country. These were exciting times because the early 2000s were characterized by internecine political warfare and minority governments in Ottawa. Cancer benefited, because it had become organized enough as a chronic disease group to be able to present to Stephen Harper's first minority government in 2006, a ready-made solution to making a Conservative Party contribution to Canada's health landscape, and thus the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer (CPAC) came to be.

Why is this important? Well, when the health community in the country was held hostage by the H1N1 flu scare in 2009, and provinces and Health Canada seconded personnel and other resources to dealing with it, CPAC continued to focus on its primary goal which is the prevention and control of cancer. I was privileged to have been able to play a small part of all of this. As Lorraine's condition worsened

and I was needed at home, I withdrew from this national stage...although I made certain another Manitoban with a like mind was there to replace me. Today I continue to push patient interests through my appointment to the Manitoba Patient Access Network. And for sheer fun, I sing with the Winnipeg Golden Chordsmen, Harlequin bsq., and Brothers in Harmony. I am content.

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

by Herold Driedger

And I was content.

I have experienced things that might not be high on the list for anyone else, but provided me with life lessons and satisfactions which serve me still.

- I was T-boned. Not a bucket list item, but an experience nevertheless. I survived.
- I was elected to public service. A life lesson that colours ones outlook on world, national and provincial affairs. This was only a “maybe” bucket list item which presented itself too early in my life, but an experience I would not trade for another.
- I became a caregiver.



In the fall of 2011, my youngest daughter Michelle informed the family that she (Michelle was the Canada research chair one) and her friend Cindy were off to a conference in Nairobi in January to meet up with a potential research collaborator for a project the two were planning. In a passing comment I simply suggested that they make time while they were there, to take in the Rift Valley...a geographic phenomenon I'd studied about and would have liked to see, but fully aware that this was not in the cards anymore as I was a caregiver now.

Unbeknownst to me, the women in my life began planning and soon I was informed that I would be accompanying Michelle and her colleague Cindy, to Kenya. I was not comfortable with the concept. I knew how fragile Lorraine's condition was. Many of the special occasions and events in our marriage had been cancelled because of a sudden relapse. Nevertheless, I decided to accept the gift Lorraine was giving me and joined in.

The morning of our departure my worst fears were realized. Lorraine experienced a post-polio relapse but hid the true extent of this from us and encouraged us to press on or Michelle and I would miss the plane. I had arranged for Lorraine to have live-in-company while I was gone, but I did not leave with a carefree heart looking forward to the experience of a lifetime. Quite the contrary.

However, I vowed to make the experience one that would pay tribute to the gift I had been given.

Long story short. The flight was long. Three separate legs with arrival in Nairobi after 10 pm. Next morning rush hour to a regional airport...a two hour wait and then a short hop on a Dash 8 to the Masai Mara in the Rift Valley. Three days of Eco-tourism heaven.

The first outing or safari (there were five in total) had us see 4 of the big 5 animals on the must see list. The big 5 so named because of the difficulty of the kill they presented to big-game hunters of the past.

I claim credit for the illustrations herein only because I was using a very good camera...

Altogether this camera took over 3000 photos of animals. There was no editing of whether to take a picture or not. If you saw it you took it. Warthogs, waterbuck, topi, Cape Water Buffalo, Thompson gazelles, Impala, lions, giraffes, Grant gazelles, elephants, bat-eared fox, leopard (ours was the only sighting of a leopard that day), and hyena were captured, sometimes many times, as the shutter kept on clicking. This list and illustrations below are in the order of our seeing them:



Cape Water Buffalo (1st of the Big 5)



Mating pair of Lion (2nd of the Big 5)



Giraffes "necking"



Elephant (3rd of the Big 5)



Leopard (4th of the Big 5)

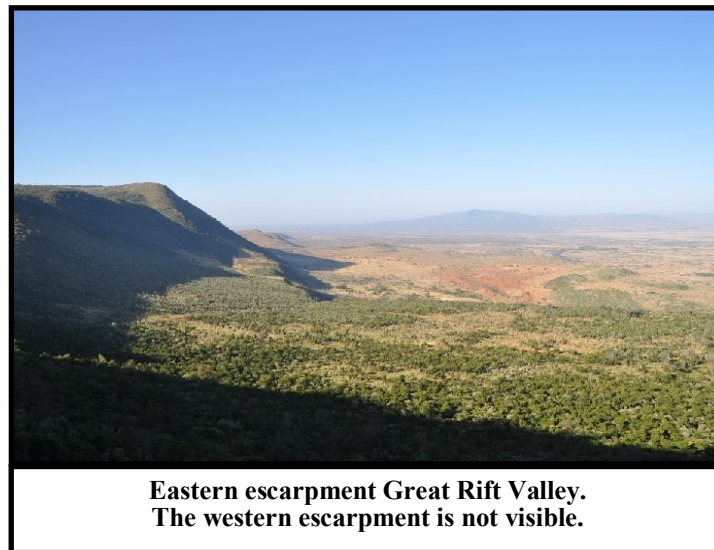


Rhinoceros (5th of the Big 5)

The remaining safaris were dedicated to visiting an authentic Masai village and seeing more animals and exotic birds as well...Our guides were not restricted to roads and we got as close as caution would permit. The rhinoceros shown at the bottom of the previous page, crossed the road directly in front of us.

The last afternoon had us searching for the cheetah. Again many sightings and photographs of grazing animals. Even the occasional wildebeest and zebra. These two were lone animals who had not joined the big migration in October the year before. Many animals but we alas, did not see a cheetah.

We returned to Nairobi where the girls prepared for the conference. I was left to amuse myself with playing a round of golf at the equator...something not many golfers can claim...and taking in guided tours of Nairobi. The girls joined me for a day trip to Lake Nakuru National Park in the Great Rift Valley...within driving distance of the city. This gave a better perspective of the landform I had come to see.



While on safari...although we were not roughing it, there was an overwhelming sense of being at peace. Being out of touch with the rest of the world helped...but there was a significant sense of being away from omnipresent humanity. Although an eco-tourist destination, cost is a huge barrier, so that the numbers of visitors (even though the tourist service infrastructure contributes 63% of Kenya's GDP) was not noticeable. Our joke was that whenever a rare sighting was shared amongst the drivers, the resulting congregation of Land Rovers formed but a very small herd. The Land Rovers and the people therein were the endangered species.

The most memorable impression for me was the juxtaposition of predator and prey. There was an uneasy but peaceful co-existence...disturbed only when hunger ruled, but we did not see evidence of this. Our visit must have come when all appetites, except for that of the ungulates was satisfied. I was struck by the absence of vultures in all three of the reserves I visited.

After all these adventures, and with a successful conference behind them, we returned home the way we came. Nairobi to London and then on to Toronto where we went our separate ways...Michelle and I to Winnipeg, and Cindy to Edmonton.

Home was where I left Lorraine. I was happy to get back to my caregiving role...ever grateful to my wife who made this happen.

I was content. Life resumed its familiar pattern.

Barbershop continued to be my respite, although by now I had stepped back from all leadership positions in the chapter and devoted time primarily to the quartet. Life for all four of us in the quartet had taken on different priorities by 2010. We did commit to trying to do some recording during this period in order to produce a CD. We laid down tracks, but these took years not months. In fact we interrupted our recording objectives to do the "gospel" CD "Harmony for the Soul" first. It came out in 2014. Only after its release did we go back to finish off "A Journey in Song".

Lorraine passed in 2014.

My familiar pattern of life was gone. I was emotionally adrift. I guess you might say I was not content. I was alone. The quartet still provided some respite, but being summer, less so. Chapter meetings too, had taken a break. The song was gone...the only distraction I could manage was to watch CBC's transmission of Brazil's FIFA World Cup matches...drink some scotch...and feed the cat.

I can't say how this period of time would have played out had Michelle not come in one afternoon in August to inform me that I was accompanying her to another conference destination. This time to Anchorage, Alaska. Latitude 61.2°. And yes, I played golf north of 60. A cruise down the inside passage to Vancouver rounded out this trip.

Then in December, I accompanied her to a conference in Australia...in Cairns, Queensland to be specific. This time I went on ahead as she had to make a presentation in Denver before being able to catch a flight to Brisbane where we met up. We flew on to Cairns together. Day trips into the rainforest...to the Great Barrier Reef...and yes, golf too. Not at the Tropic of Capricorn, but close enough for bragging rights.

But this bio sketch has a theme and the topic I believe, was always 'how has barbershop affected your life'...not the other way around.

Because of his increasingly time-consuming duties at the university, Paul delegated the responsibility of obtaining the mechanical licenses for the songs we wished to record, to me. The first task was to license the songs for our "Harmony of the Soul" CD. A song therein, the "Spiritual Medley" was actually arranged for the chapter by our own Cliff Harris. Some of the songs in this medley are in the public domain, but the arrangement thereof and the use of songs not in the public domain need to obtain a "permissions to record". Cliff died in 2013. I had to contact the widow. There was no difficulty in obtaining the permission. The only cost was a request to have a recorded copy of the song. It fell on me to deliver the complimentary copy of "Harmony" with our thanks to the Harris family.

This was easier said than done. Emails were unanswered. Months went by.



Father and Daughter
"Asante sana"

Eventually, a telephone call to Chris, the son, was to learn Mom wasn't at home. "You can leave it in the mailbox," was unsatisfactory. I was determined to express our thanks in person. Getting the CD to Mrs. Harris became a mission. My persistence paid off. We finally connected in June, 2015. Then arranging for a place to meet became an issue. She finally selected a safe place...a little herbal restaurant specializing in local herbs appropriately named the Osborne Street Café, in the early afternoon...a safe time.

This meeting continued for nearly two hours. The CD was presented sometime there in. What happened in that meeting cannot simply be explained as two lonely widowers talking about what they had in common. We both were dealing with house issues. She a bit further along than I. But the depth and breadth of what we talked about that afternoon goes deeper than that. There was a comfort and familiarity in the ease of sharing our thoughts that defies explanation. Travel, family, our house issues, her husband, my wife, good food, love of music, theatre, spirituality...wide ranging topics, in no particular order...like old friends sharing; meeting again after a long time apart. Time as they say, stood still.

When we parted I knew we would meet again, but I did not know when. It happened to be for dinner late in August. Once again that old comfortable feeling...

Our first "date" as such, was a 'let's have a drink' following the chapter's Bud' n Spud that October. The quartet had sung that evening, but having another barbershopper in her life was as I found out not an attraction, but neither was it a problem. That evening we closed down the establishment which tolerated our slow consumption of a ½ litre of wine, as we continued to discover the depth of the ease and familiarity we felt with each other.

Since then we've travelled. Rediscovering old places and finding new.

- Puerto Vallarta
- Myrtle Beach
- England (her family; not large...and I got to meet her mom)



Our lodging. The New Crown, Whittlesea



Hunstanton on the North Sea

- a Western Canada road trip. (June got to meet part of my extended family and friends)
- more Myrtle Beach

- taking in the fall colours of Nova Scotia and Celtic Colours festival of Cape Breton Island
- discovering an idyllic get away in Mexico.



Villa Romana in Myrtle Beach SC

And planning our next journey of discovery for when these snowbirds can fly again.

I am content again.

p.s: The Osborne Street Café is now the Village Diner on Sargent...and yes...we've been back.

TO BRIGHTEN YOUR SPIRITS DURING THESE TRYING TIMES

Shared by Brian Metcalfe



T'was a Month Before Christmas 2020

By: Shawna Hickling, Calgary, AB, Canada

T'was a month before Christmas, and all through
the town,

People wore masks that covered their frown.

The frown had begun way back in the spring,
when a global pandemic changed everything.

They called it corona, but unlike the beer,
It didn't bring good times; it didn't bring cheer.

Contagious and deadly, this virus spread fast,
like a wildfire that starts when fueled by gas.

Airplanes were grounded, travel was banned.
Borders were closed across air, sea and land.

As the world entered lockdown, to flatten the curve,
The economy halted, and folks lost their verve.

From March to July we rode the first wave.
People stayed home; they tried to behave.

When summer emerged, the lockdown was lifted.
But away from caution, many folks drifted.

Now it's November, and cases are spiking.
Wave two has arrived, much to our disliking.

Frontline workers, doctors and nurses,
Try to save people, from riding in hearses.

This virus is awful, this COVID-19.
There isn't a cure. There is no vaccine.

It's true that this year has had sadness a plenty,
We'll never forget the year 2020.

And just 'round the corner - the holiday season,
But why be merry? Is there even one reason?

To decorate the house, and put up the tree,
when no one will see it, no-one but me.

But outside my window, the snow gently falls,
And I think to myself "Let's deck the halls!"

So, I gather the ribbon, the garland and bows.
As I play those old carols, my happiness grows.

Christmas ain't cancelled, and neither is hope.
If we lean on each other, I know we can cope.

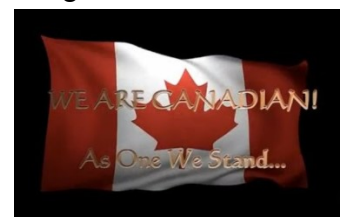
Shared by Larry Bredesen

It seems like we are under siege right now. As our country copes with Health and economic challenges, and watches many countries, including our neighbours to the south, threaten to come apart at the seams, it feels like a good time to take stock of who we are. We are Canadians!

And what better way to celebrate that than in a song. Music is important to all of us to tell a story, to celebrate, and to bolster our spirits and pride. If it wasn't, we wouldn't be associated with this great musical organization. This is a song that was written by an 86-year-old Canadian from Perth, Ontario. I think it's worth sharing, and I invite you to listen to his words and enjoy the message.

We are Canadian, and proud of it!

<https://canadiansatarms.ca/we-are-canadian/>



IMPORTANT DATES 4 U - DECEMBER 2020 & JANUARY 2021

Meetings, Rehearsals, Holidays and River City Sound Member Birthdays

~ December 2020 ~

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Music Committee Meeting (5:30) Zoom Rehearsal (7:00)	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 Executive Meeting (5:30) Zoom Rehearsal (7:00)	10 <i>Hanukkah begins at sunset</i>	11	12
13	14	15	16 Zoom Holiday Party (7:00)	17 <i>Hanukkah ends at sunset</i>	18	19
20	21	22	23	24 <i>Christmas Eve</i>	25 <i>Christmas Day</i>	26 <i>Boxing Day Happy Birthday Feryll Casselman</i>
27	28	29	30	31 <i>New Year's Eve</i>		

~ January 2021 ~

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 <i>New Year's Day</i>	2 <i>Happy Birthday Chris Magas</i>
3	4 <i>Happy Birthday Shirley Christie & Sandi Lips</i>	5	6 Music Committee Meeting (5:30) Zoom Rehearsal (7:00)	7 <i>Happy Birthday Charlie Siegel</i>	8	9
10	11	12	13 Executive Meeting (5:30) Zoom Rehearsal (7:00)	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Zoom Rehearsal (7:00) <i>Happy Birthday Henry Graham</i>	21 <i>Happy Birthday Gordon Billows</i>	22	23
24	25	26 <i>Happy Birthday Les Creek</i>	27 Zoom Rehearsal (7:00) <i>Happy Birthday Becki Ammeter</i>	28	29	30
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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