

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

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

- 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=ZGJmeUIJTl5Nnp1Ly9sNGQxYkxPUT09>

Meeting ID: 844 5734 3549
Password: 974496

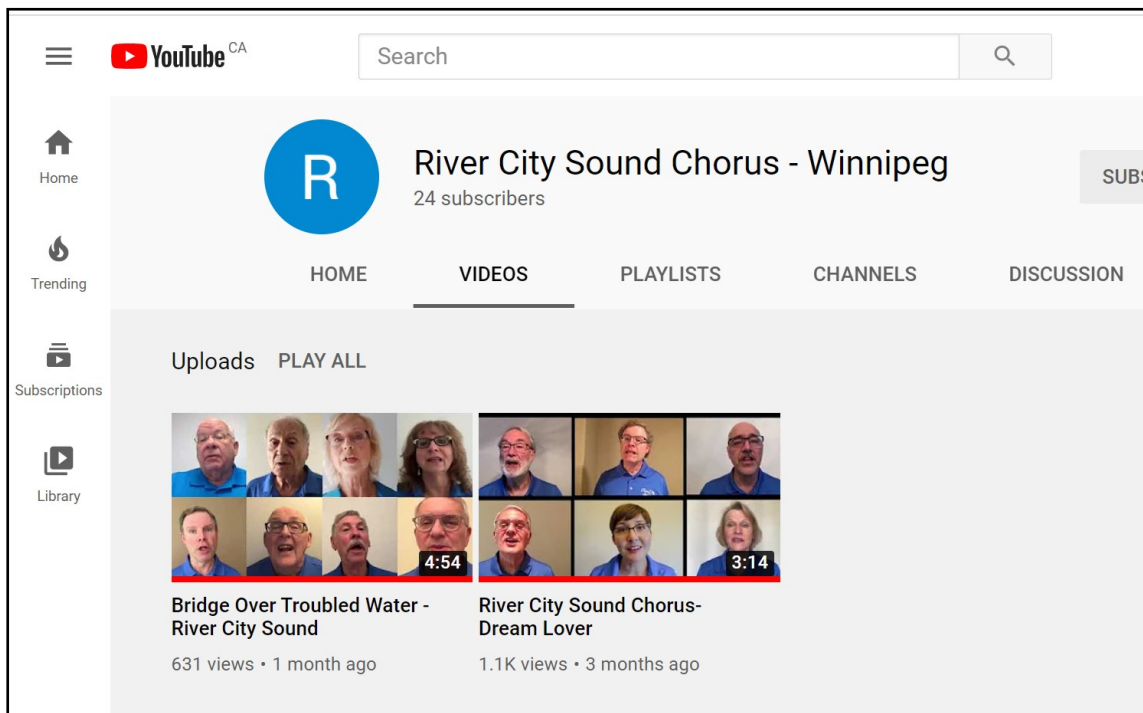
CHORUS REHEARSAL PLANS AND UPDATE

From Paul Bullock

Now that December is fully upon us, we have just 2 more gatherings for 2020. We have our rehearsal this coming Wednesday and our December 16 zoom Christmas party. That will be followed by a break over the Christmas holidays. There is an executive meeting on December 9, following which there will be information about the timing for the start-up of rehearsals in 2021.

It is still too soon to know what to expect for chorus plans next year. We already know that there will be no spring show again. Hopefully we will be able to re-start in-person rehearsals in 2021 but it's not possible to know when that will happen. If we are fortunate, we may be able to have a Christmas show next year. Certainly, we want to take advantage of warmer weather during the summer to have some safe, in-person events. But, for the moment, we can expect to continue with our virtual Wednesday nights and video productions for much of next year.

When we look back at 2020, we can all be forgiven if we have a feeling of distain. But, let's not forget all that we have learned. River City Sound has pulled together incredibly since the pandemic knocked the world on its ear. Only 6 months ago, none of us had a clue how to make a video and now we expect to enjoy our third production next week, all because we pulled together as a group and made it happen. We've figured out how to safely enjoy our love of singing. At the same time, we've experienced a deep sense of camaraderie and truly wonderful events like our summer gatherings, our virtual BOTY and November 11th reflection. As ironic as it may sound, we have much for which to be thankful. See you Wednesday.





CHRISTMAS ZOOM ON DECEMBER 16

Send us your best shots!

From Paul Bullock



This is the last update before our Christmas zoom on Wednesday, December 16 at 7:00 p.m. You can look for a program in next week's newsletter. You can expect to sing and, of course, to challenge yourself with another of Ricki's famous quizzes, perhaps a visit from the "Man with the Bag" and lots of fun.

You are, again, invited to create a short video with a Christmas theme showcasing your unique talent to contribute to the evening. Thanks to everyone who has already sent one in. You still have time. Please use wetransfer.com to send your video to **rickimiles@shaw.ca** by **December 9**.

We are also looking for some more entries for the Virtual Home for the Holidays decoration showcase. To keep it simple, you can just take a couple of photos of your decorations, or you can do a short video tour. It is intended to be a virtual showing of our homes with their holiday trimmings, since we don't expect to be doing any in-person visiting this year. Plus, decorated houses are part of our Christmas experience, so it is a way to share that feeling. Send your photos to **rickimiles@shaw.ca** by **December 9**. If you make a video, please use wetransfer.com to **rickimiles@shaw.ca**.

You can dress up for this event as formally or informally as you would like. We are prepared to showcase your ugly sweater, so this is your chance to show it off.

Please invite your "cheerleader", alumni and any other special people to join us on December 16th. I've pasted the link below. It is the same as that for our regular Wednesday night rehearsals and the one that Krista has on page 1 of the newsletter. They should be able to just click that link to join. If it is in the text of the newsletter, then they may have to hold down the "control" key while they click. The other alternative is to go to zoom.us, click "Join a meeting" and enter the meeting ID and password if that works better for them.

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84457343549?
pwd=ZGJmeUIJTjXl5Nnp1Ly9sNGQxYkxPUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84457343549?pwd=ZGJmeUIJTjXl5Nnp1Ly9sNGQxYkxPUT09)

Meeting ID: 844 5734 3549

Passcode: 974496



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. Log in time will be 6:45 p.m. See you all on the 16th!



BREATHING EXERCISES 2020



By Sherrie Bredesen

* Check your posture. Stand or sit tall with ribs lifted rather than sagging.

1. INHALE and allow the ribs to expand. Flex the Intercostal muscles in between the ribs as this allows you to control your air flow much better. These muscles will strengthen over time and you will be surprised how much further you can go on one breath without skimping on the sound.
2. INHALE to the count of 1, HOLD for count of 2 while engaging your “core” or “Intercostals” (muscles in between the ribs). Then EXHALE to the count of 10, HOLD for count of 2. Relax and repeat from the beginning, several times.
3. Inhale, then exhale SHHHH.. . First for whole note count (4), then 2 half notes (SHHH! SHHHHH!), then 4 quarter notes (SH.SH. SH. SH.), then 4 sets of eighth notes (SH SH, SH SH, SH SH, SH SH) then 4 sets of triplets. (Sh Sh Sh....Sh Sh Sh... Sh sh sh... Sh sh sh)
4. Hand on abdomen – Inhale to count of 4, exhale to count of 4, keep an expanded rib cage until near the end.
5. Hiss out warm, moist air to the rhythm of JINGLE BELLS (no cool air, put finger in front of mouth to check) eg. Ss ss ssssss, ss ss ssssss....(Jin-gle Beeeells)
6. INHALE with an open throat. EXHALE in a series of pants....”Huh, huh, huh, etc.”
7. Using notes 1-2-3-4 5-4-3-2 1 VVVVVV the notes. This requires lots of air and will strengthen those muscles.
8. Then VVV the notes 1—5---1 Eg. Bb ---F---Bb or C---G---C
9. Then VVVV the notes, rolling up the octave from 1 to 8 and back down again.
10. Now repeat all these exercises using a strong, resonant HUM.
11. Repeat singing the numbers and/or a vowel of your choice.

FREE SINGING APPS TO MAKE YOU A BETTER VOCALIST

Shared by Larry Hunter

A list of apps members may consider using for improving their vocal skills at home:

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

REHEARSAL SCHEDULE - DECEMBER 9, 2020 VIRTUAL SINGING WEEK 25

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 – 8:10 Let It Snow
White Christmas
I'll Be Home For Christmas
O Little Town of Bethlehem
Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree
- 8:20 – 8:35 Business Meeting
- 8:40 – 8:50 Directors Choice/Repertoire Review
Kneeling at the Manger
- 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

THE HARMONY UNIVERSITY WARM-UP SERIES

Shared by Gordon Billows

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

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 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
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84457343549?pwd=ZGJmeUIJTjXl5Nnp1Ly9sNGQxYkxPUT09>
Meeting ID: 844 5734 3549
Passcode: 974496
- **Saturday, Dec 19 - 8:30 pm CDT** - AIC Christmas Show - register online now - <https://watch.aicgold.com/signup.php>
- **Saturday until Thursday, Dec 19 to 24 - time TBD** - Minneapolis Commodores - connection information coming



have a merry
Christmas
and a happy New Year

WINNIPEG CHAPTER HISTORY FROM LAND O' LAKES – THE EARLY YEARS 1943 – 1980

Shared by Gordon Billows – Winnipeg Chapter Historian

The following article was published in the Land O' Lakes – The Early Years 1943 – 1980 book produced by Harry Purinton, LOL Historian.

WINNIPEG Manitoba No. 1

Charter dated July 15, 1948

The chapter was organized by Charles Brenan and Jack Galbraith with Galbraith as the first president. There were 37 charter members. Purcell E. Barker, the Area Governor from Virginia, Minnesota, brought 14 members from there to the Winnipeg charter night show in November. August Neubauer of Virginia presented the charter to Galbraith.

The new chapter immediately petitioned to join the Land O' Lakes district and Western Ontario, Manitoba, and North Dakota were taken in. Almost immediately there were seven registered quartets: Ash Pit Four, Kinsmen Four, Wild-wood Clippers, Uncalled Four, Harmony Honers, Fort Garry Four, and Woodshedders. Charlie Brenan was the lead of the Ash Pit Four from 1948 to 1952. He knew the words of the old songs and enjoyed more than most the honest woodshedding with improvised harmony.

The first Parade of Quartets was held April 2, 1949. Because of the distances to travel to bring in out of town headliners Winnipeg learned early to rely on their own talent, using only one or two state-side quartets. Headliner quartets such as the Atomic Bums, Hi-La's, and For Mor all came back with fabulous stories of the hospitality. For example, the For Mor arrived about 5 AM. on the Soo Line train to find a large welcoming contingent singing in the Alexandria station. And after a heavy weekend of singing they left at 5 the next morning with a similar send off

So it was bound to happen that one of the most exciting, exhausting, and exhilarating barbershop experiences was the 1960 Regional Preliminaries in Winnipeg and THE TRAIN. It was Mid-Canada's first district contest and they really did a job. Most of the train organizing was by Leo Fobart, more recently the editor of the Society's Harmonizer, but then a Soo Line dispatcher in Stevens Point. The train started out in Milwaukee as three cars hitched onto the regular train to St. Paul, gradually filling up as they crossed Wisconsin during the night. As one celebrating crowd got on and settled down to sleep another even more hilarious group would get on board. In St. Paul the three cars became part of a special train of six lounge cars and a baggage car, the latter loaded with sandwiches,

milk, pop, and what have you, including continuous singing. When the train arrived at 7:30 the following evening at the famous Alexandria Station the whole Winnipeg chorus was assembled singing. The contest itself went fine to packed houses, and the Hut Four, the Lake-Aires, and the Mel-0- Dons, all from Minneapolis, were chosen to go to Dallas for the International contest. A Red River Valley pick-up quartet contest was won by two St. Paul men, a farmer from Kaukauna and a machinist from Sturgeon Bay. The prize for each was a model of a typical settlers' two-wheel ox cart.

Two Winnipeg people went on to be Society secretaries at Kenosha: Barrie Best and Hugh Ingraham. Ingraham was district secretary in 1961. Les Gurr was Region V vice president 1963-1965, edited LOL Pitch Piper 1964-1966, and in 1970 was named district Barbershopper of the Year, in large part for his efforts in expansion in the Canadian area, where Winnipeg buses often traveled hundreds of miles to new chapter locations.

Other Winnipeg men taking part in district affairs were Vern Leatherdale, contest judge, Charles Brenan, Tom McEwen, and Art Gallie. Charles Brenan had sung in duos and quartets most of his life, eventually doing a lot of singing with the Winnipeg Canoe Club, both on the veranda and in canoes while drifting down the river. He became a member of the Catfish Colony Four in the early thirties, singing in government project camps.

GETTING TO KNOW ... GORDON BILLOWS

By Gordon Billows




Please note: Gordon was motivated to re-write his original 2015 “Getting to Know You” story and blend it into his 2020 “Getting to Know You Better” story. Please enjoy Gordon’s story which has been shared as a separate PDF attachment named **Notes 4 U—December 9 2020—Part B.pdf**.


TO BRIGHTEN YOUR SPIRITS DURING THESE TRYING TIMES

Shared by Larry Bredesen, Brian Metcalfe and Ricki Miles

NOT EVERYTHING IS CANCELLED...



sunshine is not cancelled
love is not cancelled
relationships are not cancelled
reading is not cancelled
naps are not cancelled
going for a walk is not cancelled
kindness is not cancelled
imagination is not cancelled
conversations are not cancelled
HOPE is not cancelled



YOU HAVEN'T EXPERIENCED TRUE HEARTBREAK UNTIL YOU'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT LEFTOVERS ALL DAY AND THEN COME HOME TO FIND THAT SOMEONE ATE THEM.

I hate it when I'm singing a song and the artist gets the words wrong.

Shared by Gary and Ricki Miles



Walk Off The Earth presents:
A History of The Beatles 1962-1970

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rfOx4CmQWLs>

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 Ferryl 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	7 <i>Happy Birthday Charlie Siegel</i>	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 <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 <i>Happy Birthday Becki Ammeter</i>	28	29	30
31						

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