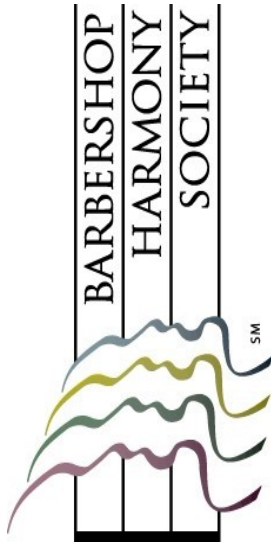




Notes 4 U

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



17 February 2021

COVID-19 Online Zoom Rehearsals - Wednesdays 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Vol 2021 Issue 7



IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Take note of these important 2021 dates. Changes will be made as new information is received.

March 3 Music Committee Meeting (5:30 pm)

March 10 Executive Committee Meeting (5:30 pm)

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17 Feb 2021

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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=ZGJmeUIJTjXl5Nnp1Ly9sNGQxYkxPUT09>

Meeting ID: 844 5734 3549
Password: 974496

CHORUS REHEARSAL PLANS AND UPDATE

from Paul Bullock

Chad Bennett gave us our first visit and information session with a person from the Barbershop Harmony Society last week. That was one part of our plan to have variety in our rehearsals. Be sure to have a close look at the rehearsal schedule this coming week. We are making subtle changes to try and improve the delivery. A 2-hour rehearsal goes by quite quickly, so try to be logged in before 7:00, so we can start on time.

In this week's Notes 4 U, you will also find a summary of the input that you provided to Wendy when she contacted you earlier this year. A big thank-you to her for undertaking this initiative, achieving a very successful level of response and compiling the information. That was a lot of work and extremely helpful. Every member's input to the survey is valuable and very much appreciated. It is already having an impact on the things that we do and the way that we do them. Remember that you don't have to wait until the next survey. If you have ideas, you are welcome to share them with your section leader or other member of the music team at any time. Did you enjoy the session that Chad provided last week? Did it spark any creative ideas that might be helpful to us as a chorus? Don't be afraid to speak up. Your opinion is valuable. It may not be possible to implement your idea but it is still useful to take it into consideration.



Our next video project is coming up soon. We are massaging the audio tracks for "I'm Feeling Fine" since they will underpin the delivery of the song. Les has slowed down the tracks just slightly to make them a bit more manageable for singing along but still retain the energy in the song. (Thanks Les!) We will be working on this song in rehearsals so that it is familiar when we start the video project. Remember, you need to be able to sing along with correct notes, words and timing so that your audio and video can be synchronized with everyone else's. The more that you rehearse the song, the better will be the quality of your individual audio track and video. This should be a really upbeat and entertaining video. We want to do everything we can to have as many members participate as possible.



Keep singing. See you Wednesday.

NOTES FROM YOUR MUSIC COMMITTEE

shared by Les Creek on behalf of the Music Committee

At the February 3rd Music Committee meeting, a number of items were resolved. Following is a summary of these discussions.

1. Rehearsal timelines and schedule are being revised to include more time for sectionals (now 25 minutes) and with tighter scheduling in hope of reducing the 'talk time' at rehearsals. Sectionals will probably occur only for the first couple of weeks after a song is introduced. The following weeks, the sectional time will be used for other chorus development, such as tag singing, woodshedding, music theory, presentation, etc. Directors will provide details of the development initiatives a couple of weeks in advance so that the rehearsal schedule can be shared with the chorus. It was also suggested that chorus members play some of the music during rehearsals to reduce the coordination required by Paul.
2. Video Production - I'm Feeling Fine – this video production is open to all chorus members that wish to participate. Members may submit audio only, video only, or both audio and video. Submissions are to be addressed to the member's section leaders for review. Section leaders may suggest corrections to the submitting member. We encourage everyone to make a 'good faith' effort to create good recordings, in which they know the words, the tempo, the breathing spots, and the notes.
3. The committee recommends that video production continue even after the pandemic restrictions are lifted.
4. Discussion of the Christmas 2021 show deferred to the March Music Committee meeting. This will become the primary topic of discussion at that meeting.
5. The committee recommends the purchase of Light One Candle, as a new Hanukkah piece. Discussions with BHS indicate that clearance costs for 40 copies will be approximately \$280 USD. Learning tracks are available for \$95 USD. This is a digital download so we will have to print our own copies.





BREATHING EXERCISES 2021



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 - FEBRUARY 17, 2021 VIRTUAL SINGING WEEK 7



from Les Creek

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

6:55 to 7:05	Greetings
7:05 to 7:25	Warmups
7:30	New(er) Music I'm Feeling Fine – performance notes
7:35 to 8:05	Sectional Breakout I'm Feeling Fine Best of Doo Wop Beach Boys Medley
8:05 to 8:15	I'm Feeling Fine - mix
8:15 to 8:30	Repertoire Review Daydream Stand by Me Can You Feel the Love Tonight
8:45 to 8:55	Business Meeting
8:55	Final Song Irish Blessing
9:00 to 9:15	Afterglow



PLANNED UPCOMING REHEARSAL MUSIC (SUBJECT TO CHANGE – CHECK NOTES 4 YOU EVERY WEEK)

New(er) Music Sectionals

Repertoire Review Sectionals

Feb 24

Unchained Melody
I'm Feeling Fine

Harmony Collage
Dream Lover
Hello Marylou

Mar 3

Unchained Melody
I'm Feeling Fine

Shenandoah
Under The Boardwalk
Down Our Way

Mar 10

Rhythm Of Love

Blue Moon 1 & 2
Stand By Me
O Canada

CHAD BENNETT PRESENTATION ON ENTERTAINING SINGING & PERFORMANCE - FEBRUARY 10, 2021

notes shared by Sherrie Bredesen

CHAD BENNETT: 35+ years as a performer, singer, actor, musician

Sang with the DAPPER DANS over 20 years at Disneyworld

Competed at International Competition many times, coming in the top 20 (never won)

HIS ADVICE: Take whatever works for you and ignore the rest.

What makes a PERFORMANCE ENTERTAINING?

- There are “Different strokes for different folks” so performances are all relative.
- It is personal taste for any audience
- BUT – we can ALL be BETTER PERFORMERS!

THREE BASIC PRINCIPLES

1. KNOW YOURSELF.
2. KNOW your AUDIENCE.
3. KNOW your MATERIAL.

KNOW YOURSELF

- Have fun! It shows!!
- What’s your brand? What “type” of chorus re you? How do you want to be perceived?
- Why do you do what you do? (It’s fun!)
- Play to your STRENGTHS – musical skill level etc.
- USE YOUR BODY! Stay loose!
- Sell the song with Body Language.
- Use your FACE. *“If you’re happy and you know it, tell your FACE!”*



- Smile. Make eye contact. Do not close your eyes and sing – you will be disconnecting and cutting yourself off from the audience.
- If you have a hard time actually “seeing” the audience, look just above their heads and cover the whole audience that way. The audience will think you are looking at them.
- Make solid eye contact with your Director and get your whole SELF engaged in your performance.
- Always use more EMOTION. Imagine if you are telling a bedtime story to a child – you would use an expressive voice (maybe several voices) and be animated. You would use inflection.
- A PLEASANT expression (uplifted face if not outright smiling) is the least you can do.
- Use your face and body and your emotions to take your audience on a journey with you.
- When performing with a chorus or a quartet, you should relate to each other too. This also helps to connect with the audience as well as each other and makes them feel that they are sharing your experience.

KNOW YOUR AUDIENCE

- WHO are you performing for?
- You need to be *flexible and relatable* to your audience.
- Are you singing for seniors’ homes, schools, Farmers’ Market, community event?
- In some performance, YOU and your PERFORMANCE is NOT the focus, so what you sing is not that important. But you should still be ENTERTAINING with faces and body language.
- If you are singing in a school, the kids won’t know your songs so being ENTERTAINING is very important.
- AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION in some way or another is almost always a good idea.
- When an audience participates or laughs or applauds, they are connecting with you. FIND WAYS TO DO THAT!
- VARIETY is IMPORTANT! Have a few extra songs ready so you can change it up when the audience seems to be disengaging.
- READ the AUDIENCE and have the ability to switch midstream.

KNOW YOUR MATERIAL

- **3 P’s** – Practise! Practise! Practise! PRACTISE MAKES **PERMANENT!**
- Don’t practise WRONG NOTES! You will be making those PERMANENT! Stop and make them

right!

- Wrong notes require going through CORRECTLY many times before they can become muscle memory.
- Know your material cold! DO NOT use material everyone isn't comfortable with yet.
- Know your song order.
- Know the VISUAL PLAN throughout the song and throughout the show.
- VISUAL PLAN needs unity in the overall look.
- Find what works for you visually.
- DYNAMICS are extremely important. Eg. *Tenderly, softly, building to a climax, varying emotions*
- It is okay to imitate things from other choruses that you liked. *"Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery."*
- Use small elements of others' performances you like – start small. Use only what you feel comfortable doing in your chorus and incorporate those into your performance. Preserve those kinds of elements and make them part of your own plan.
- DYNAMICS! DYNAMICS! DYNAMICS! Vital to any good performance.

Q and A

Q: How can an "older member chorus" present an authentic but with "younger looking appeal" to an audience?

A : Present a younger looking image with your FACE and BODY LANGUAGE. You must have a pleasant expression at the very least and SPARKLE IN THE EYES! This gives a more youthful appearance. You can use movement to achieve that as well. Some planned movement will help e.g. side to side.

Sing familiar songs rather than just the older ones. Connecting to each other as a group as well as connecting with the audience (audience participation is excellent too) will give us a younger persona.

Q: How can we improve our own individual performance?

A: Improve your own performance by watching yourself in a mirror (as hard as this may be). Mirrors can give you excellent feedback instantly.

User your CELLPHONE and record your performance on the VIDEO MODE. The video doesn't lie. Watch it even if it's hard or frustrating or disheartening at first. You will get used to it and it can really help you to improve your own visual performance. It's a great learning tool! Don't get "down" on yourself – use it to improve yourself. You will get past having a hard time hearing and seeing yourself and it **will become an excellent tool for improvement.**

Q: I feel that the “Fun Factor” really goes up when you have Audience Participation. Should we be doing this regularly?

A: The MC can facilitate a lot of this. Most people in the audience want to participate, some just need to be “asked”. Most want to get involved. It can be: Questions you ask or single out someone (who is willing) for a little fun exchange, etc. It CAN be too much so spread Audience Participation things out and use it wisely.

Q: VISUAL vs. AUDITORY LEARNING – how can help these two types of learners?

A: Learning tracks are excellent for the auditory learner. They can also incorporate dynamics and interpretation of a song (if recordings include those). For the visual learner, watch the sheet music. Even if you don't read music, you can see it the notes go up or down.

Q: When learning a new song, how important is it to be visual right away?

A: Trying to do everything at once is too much. Try to get the “feeling” of the song. First you have to learn the music- the notes and the words – then add the dynamics, then the expression. You add the finer details lastly when you have the music down.

As we interpret the music, we want to look to the Director (or the Lead in a quartet) to help us get an agreement of emotions.

CHAD BENNETT - cbennett@barbershop.org



RIVER CITY SOUND MEMBER FEEDBACK (91.3%)

JANUARY 2021

compiled and collected by Wendy Lamont,
VP Membership and Chapter Development

Comments from Members Participating in Zoom Rehearsals:

- Members who are zooming are really enjoying the experience; all would prefer to meet in person, however until we can do this, Zooming is the next best thing.
- I really enjoy the meetings with Paul as moderator.
- Members enjoy visiting with everyone on Wednesday evenings and to keep up with what is happening on the music front.
- A member mentioned they are doing well and has no comments except to say that they enjoy coming in from time to time to the Zoom sessions.
- I continue to find River City Sound a very welcoming organization. I'm pleased with the addition of the 'Afterglow' segment to our Wednesday rehearsals.
- Grateful not to have to make the drive to rehearsals.
- Enjoying Zoom, singing and camaraderie is my favorite part.
- The breakout sessions are awesome, really helpful to learn the songs.
- I am so very pleased that we will now be having breakout rooms so that each section can learn their music separately.
- I like the Zoom rehearsals very much. Zoom has given me (as a relative newcomer) an enhanced opportunity to put names to faces! I find Zoom an excellent option, under the circumstances - I was sorry to read in one of the publications, that some choruses simply stopped operating once social distancing and quarantine became the order of the day. It will be interesting to experience the use of the breakout rooms, and I commend our leadership team for keeping us moving forward with the technology.
- We need to do more singing and less talking.
- Suggestion that our Zoom calls were too long and recommended 1 1/2 hours instead of 2 hours; 2 hours in-person is a different story.

Comments from Members Not Participating in Zoom Rehearsals:

- A member felt frustrated because they don't have Wi-Fi and is afraid they will be left behind because they can't practice music so feels like quitting. I advised there are a number of members who are not zooming or practicing their music so hope that I was able to put the member at ease.

- A lot of members are interested in meeting in person in summer when we can meet outside and I will be advising all members when we can safely do this.
- Another member stated they would be renewing their membership and looks forward to getting back to singing in person sans mask.
- One member reported they work 12 hours a day plus some weekends and have too many priorities competing for their time these days.
- Some members continue to support the group through membership, but don't have time for practice these days.
- Some members do practice singing at home even though they aren't Zooming with us.
- During my discussions I said to members "If Zooming isn't your thing, let me know and when we can meet in person again, I would be happy to let them know". People seemed to genuinely like this idea.
- Some members were unable to zoom with us for several reasons (1) no internet service (2) poor internet service (3) already on Zoom all day (4) have no interest in zooming, would rather meet in person or will be back when we can meet in person.
- A member mentioned their Wi-Fi is not working and gets upset when they can't link in so Zooming isn't an option

Music-Related Comments:

- Warm up sessions are too long.
- Start-stop of the music when we are practicing can be disruptive.
- Discussed changing words in a song, such as Hello Mary Lou to which this member said they didn't think we should be doing this.
- It's a waste of time discussing the details of musical notes and timing in the middle of a rehearsal.
- Music should be vetted thoroughly and completely before being introduced to members.
- There shouldn't be any more dropping songs two weeks before we are to perform them after spending weeks learning them.
- Not everyone reported enjoying some of the songs; enjoyed some more than others.
- What I find most useful is the direct feedback that I get from Sherrie when preparing the audio tracks for Les.

- Good feedback from Chris and Les on audio tracks submitted.

Comments from Newer Members:

- A comment from a new member that they are feeling overwhelmed with everything. The learning curve for a new member is huge especially pressure to learn songs all at once.
- I really wish I had attended the Learn to Sing Program, but unfortunately I missed it. I don't read music and I don't have a piano, so I find it challenging to pick out the correct notes in some of the tracks.
- With regard to audio tracks, I really appreciated Sherrie's comments and Chris' for other songs. I know some people don't like submitting audio tracks, however it is a great learning tool for me as a new member.
- A coach or mentor could help a new member learn the songs more quickly and to feel more confident about his/her progress. I think a little one on one would go a long way.

Sourcing Potential New Members:

- Asked members whether their spouse would be interested in zooming with the Chorus; a couple of people may come out to a meeting.
- Also asked members if they had any friends or young people who enjoy singing that may be potential members.
- One of our members works in a greenhouse and mention was made of our Chorus to the young staff. We could perform a couple of songs to the staff with the hope that we could entice one or more to come out to a meeting.
- Suggested we hold a "Learn To Sing" program virtually.

Communication/Education:

- Suggestion that each person in a leadership capacity, write a short blurb on their responsibilities to share with members for a better understanding of each role.
- A member wanted to know when the chapter fees are due and how much they are. I advised the Chapter dues will be \$90 this year only and that the Chapter is holding off collecting Chapter dues until April in the hope that we will receive our Charitable Organization status and will be able to claim on income tax as a charitable donation.

Other Comments:

- The only negative thing is that too many people seem to express too much.
- Wednesday evening is an issue for a member but hopes to work around this issue.
- A member stated they enjoyed the BOTY event but will not be rejoining the chorus, as it no longer sounds like a barbershop chorus. The sound is more like every other mixed choir now and has no appeal.
- A member feels it will be unlikely that we will be able to go back to the Church and is looking for an alternate site once we can meet in person again.
- There have been frustrations with the Member Centre with members not being able to find the information they require.
- Two members who have not yet been inducted will be inducted into the Chorus during one of our events in the summer so that we can do this in person.
- I think that it would be helpful for a new member to be assigned a mentor that could help them learn the songs. It might make sense for this to be the section lead.
- Thanks for reaching out. I appreciate all the effort that Paul and Co. is putting into the Zoom meetings. I also appreciate the opportunity to make suggestions.
- A couple of our regular Zoom members have been having throat and sinus issues but are now feeling better.
- A member was very appreciative of Brian Metcalfe for hooking their Internet up for them.
- People were genuinely happy I was asking for opinions and thanked me for my call; thought it was a great idea that I was calling everyone.



TO BRIGHTEN YOUR SPIRITS DURING THESE TRYING TIMES

shared by Krista Hanis-Gervais

 Happy Valentine's Day!



Here's The Newfangled Four with "Hello My Baby" Through The Years

<https://youtu.be/mjclpSSk30E>



"Let Me Call You Sweetheart" by TMI

<https://youtu.be/yBRoBi-hq9U>



"Sweet, Sweet Roses of Morn" Sing-a-long (1963)

<https://youtu.be/X2pJ9pGYMjM>



GQ performs "I've Found A New Baby"

<https://youtu.be/UxBnB0g8OGM>



IMPORTANT DATES 4 U - FEBRUARY & MARCH 2021

Meetings, Rehearsals, Holidays and River City Sound Member Birthdays

~ February 2021 ~

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	<i>Happy Birthday Brian Strong</i>		Music Committee Meeting (5:30) Zoom Rehearsal (7:00) AGM (8:00)			
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
			Executive Meeting (5:30) Zoom Rehearsal (7:00) <i>Happy Birthday Brian Duplak</i>			
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
<i>Valentine's Day</i>	<i>Louis Riel Day</i>		Zoom Rehearsal (7:00) <i>Happy Birthday David Petrie</i>			
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
			Zoom Rehearsal (7:00)			
28						

~ March 2021 ~

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
		<i>Happy Birthday Bruce Wilton</i>	Music Committee Meeting (5:30) Zoom Rehearsal (7:00)		<i>Happy Birthday Jerry Moscovitch</i>	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
<i>Happy Birthday Gary Miles</i>			Executive Meeting (5:30) Zoom Rehearsal (7:00)			
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
			Zoom Rehearsal (7:00) <i>St Patrick's Day</i>			
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
		<i>Happy Birthday Gayle Wharton</i>	Zoom Rehearsal (7:00)			
28	29	30	31			
<i>Happy Birthday Herold Driedger</i>			Zoom Rehearsal (7:00)			

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.



2021 Chapter Executive

President: Paul Bullock
Executive VP: vacant
Past President: Bruce Wilton
VP Membership & Chapter Development: Wendy Lamont
VP Music & Performance: Les Creek
VP Marketing & Public Relations: Gayle Wharton, Shirley Christie
Secretary: Larry Bredesen
Treasurer: Bruce Wilton
Chorus Manager: Chris Magas
Board Members at Large: Becki Ammeter, Herold Driedger, Ferryl Casselman

2021 Music Committee

VP Music & Performance: Les Creek
Chorus Directors: Sherrie Bredesen, Larry Hunter
Tenor Section: Becki Ammeter
Lead Section: Chris Magas
Baritone Section: Paul Bullock, John Latham
Bass Section: Larry Bredesen, Bruce Wilton
Performance & Staging: Gayle Wharton
Music Research: Duncan Zaluski
Sheet Music Librarian: Len Paluck
Learning Track Librarian: Duncan Zaluski

2021 Leadership Positions

(we're starting with a clean slate and will re-fill each one starting with a consultation with the incumbents)

Accountant: Incumbent Gary Miles
Attendance & 50/50: Incumbent Norm Silverberg
Awards Banquet Chairs: Incumbents Gary & Ricki Miles
Charities: vacant
Church Xmas Chorus: Incumbent Bruce Wilton
Learn to Sing Program: Incumbents Les Creek, Len Paluck, Paul Rondeau
Grey Cup Pool Chair: vacant
Historian: Incumbent Gordon Billows
Notes 4 U Editor: Incumbent Krista Hanis-Gervais
Program Director: Incumbent Duncan Zaluski
Refreshments: Incumbents Norm Silverberg, John Latham, Len Paluck
Sing Canada Harmony: Incumbent Gordon Billows
Sunshine: Incumbent Brian Metcalfe
Wardrobe: Incumbents Les Creek, Charlie Siegel, Louise Malo
Website: Incumbent Chris Magas
Youth Outreach: Incumbent Drummond Brown
2022 Show Producer: Incumbent Les Creek
2022 Show Chairman: vacant
Advocate for the Winnipeg Chapter: Incumbent Gordon Billows