

IMPORTANT DATE FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Take note of this important 2021 date. Changes will be made as new information is received.

April 15: 'I'm Feelin' Fine' Video is due.

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07 APRIL 2021

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PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE

During the month of April, please send any information for publication to both **Mae** and **Brian** by **Saturday noon** at:

denby.mae@gmail.com
bkmetcalfe@shaw.ca

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

For Assistance signing on, call Brian at 204-667-2727

CHORUS REHEARSAL PLANS AND UPDATE

from Paul Bullock

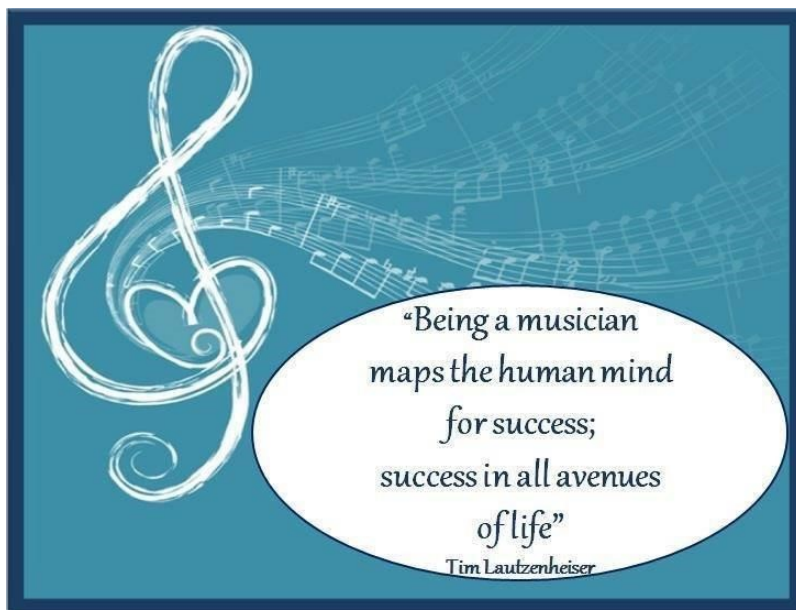
Welcome to our newest chorus member, Karen Jantzen. She has been rehearsing with us for a few weeks and has decided to join us. We know her from the Leather 'n Lace and Honeycomb quartets. She has already done an audio track for "I'm Feeling Fine", so she is wasting no time in becoming an active member. Karen, it is great that you have officially joined RCS.

This week we will be working on new songs in sectionals, then we will have two special sessions. Sherrie will lead another session on music theory. Larry Hunter will lead a tag singing session. The special sessions are both great learning opportunities and will really help us develop as musicians and singers. Most people won't realize how much goes into delivering these sessions. Sherrie has a wealth of information on music theory and a very limited time to offer instruction during a rehearsal. That is a huge challenge to figure out what she can cover in each short session. The tag singing works best with pre-recorded audio tracks. Sherrie and Larry Bredesen have recorded all 4 individual parts for some popular tags so that we can use them in a zoom rehearsal. So, thanks to Sherrie and Larry for your time and work behind the scenes to make these sessions possible.

Individual video recordings for "I'm Feeling Fine" are underway. Remember to make your video "joyful" and "exuberant". Brian, Larry and Wendy are hard at work with Jacob (our videographer) and have an initial plan in place for organizing our individual videos and photos into a compilation that will do us proud. There is an incredible amount of detail required to sort out and we thank you sincerely for your attention to this important part of the process.

We still need a couple of people to be the producer and chairperson for our Christmas show. Bruce has received interest from 4 different churches, who would be willing to hold the date of Saturday, December 11 for us to do a special Christmas show at their locations. So, we could move ahead if we know that we have people to organize and produce the show. It would be wonderful to look forward to an uplifting, in-person Christmas performance in 2021.

Keep singing. See you Wednesday.



RIVER CITY SOUND NEEDS YOU!!

(to produce or chair the December 2021 Christmas Show)

by Bruce Wilton & Larry Bredesen

We would like to book a venue for a Christmas show for a Saturday in early December. But we need a person to chair this endeavour and another to lead the production of the show. Bruce Wilton and Larry Bredesen have prepared an overview of what is involved in chairing and producing a show. Please give this serious consideration. The show cannot happen without people to organize and produce it.

Job Description - SHOW CHAIRPERSON

The principle role of the Show Chairperson is to ensure that all the “off-stage” activities complement the “on-stage” activities, which are the purview of the Show Producer. The responsibilities of the Show Chairperson (in no particular order of importance) are as follows:

1. Chair show committee meetings which generally start three to four months before the show. They are held monthly until the last month before show date, and then the frequency escalates to bi-weekly or weekly, as circumstances require.
2. Fill the following positions on the show committee:
 - a. An individual with responsibility for the house committee. The house committee looks after:
 - i. Set up of change rooms for guest performers
 - ii. Set up of change rooms for male chorus members
 - iii. Set up of change rooms for female chorus members
 - iv. Set up of risers on the stage
 - v. Set up of the sound system
 - vi. Arrangements for audio/video recording (if required)
 - vii. Decoration of the seating area (if required)
 - b. An individual with responsibility for the “front of house”. This person looks after:
 - i. Ticket sellers
 - ii. Ticket takers
 - iii. Securing ushers and managing them for show(s)
 - iv. Handling of wheelchairs and walkers before and after the performance(s)
 - c. An individual with responsibility for managing tickets. This person looks after:
 - i. The ordering of tickets from a printing company
 - ii. The sale and collection of proceeds of tickets
 - iii. Managing the number of comp tickets
 - iv. Setting up Eventbrite for online sales
 - d. An individual with responsibility for marketing the show. This person looks after:
 - i. Advertising in newspapers
 - ii. Advertising in social media
 - iii. Preparation of posters
 - iv. Working with media to get Radio spots and TV spots
 - e. An individual with responsibility for production of the show program. This person looks after:
 - i. Graphic design of the program
 - ii. Liaise with the show producer to ensure the show line up is correct
 - iii. Reproduction of sufficient numbers of programs for our patrons



(continued from previous page)

- f. An individual with responsibility for the pre-show meal. This person looks after:
 - i. Contacting a catering company to determine costs for a light meal before our show.
 - ii. Collecting payment from chorus members for the pre-show meal.
 - iii. Managing the delivery and set up of the meal for the chorus.
 - g. An individual with responsibility for the after-glow. This person looks after:
 - i. Selecting a venue for the after-glow.
 - ii. Selecting a light meal that is appropriate for the celebration
 - iii. Selling tickets to chorus members who wish to attend
 - iv. Arranging an MC for the evening (if required)
 - v. Managing the flow of tables to the buffet (if required)
3. The show chair is responsible for **sourcing venues** for the show and bringing a recommendation back to the show committee for approval.
 4. The show chair is responsible for **negotiating** with and securing guest performers for the show (if required).
 5. The show chair is responsible for **putting together the budget** for the show once the costs for the venue and guest performers has been determined. The show budget should be prepared within the first month of the operation of the show committee.
 6. The show chairperson is responsible for **seeing that honorariums are paid** to guest pianists (etc.)

Most of the tasks of the show committee are delegated to members of the committee. The show chairperson's responsibility is to meet regularly with the committee members and monitor progress as the show date approaches. Decision making is done on the basis of consensus by members of the committee.

Job Description - SHOW PRODUCER

The primary responsibility of the Show Producer is to oversee all activities related to what happens on stage and to support the Director(s) in the musical performance.

The Show Producer works with the Show Chairman in the overall planning process, and is part of the Chairman's Show Committee. The responsibilities, in no particular order of priority, are:

1. **Supports** the Director(s) in developing the order in which the song selections are performed.
2. **Develops** (or oversees the development of) the show script.
3. **Provides** an understanding of the show theme and the flow of the songs to chorus members.
4. With the support of the chorus Director(s), Wardrobe and Presentation leaders, **determines** chorus wardrobe and wardrobe changes.
5. **Arranges** for the MC(s) to become familiar with the script, and ensures "show readiness" of the MC(s).
6. **Oversees** the stage preparations:
 - a. Riser placement
 - b. Props and/or Audio-visual components of the production
 - c. Stage decorations
7. **Supports** the Director(s) in the dress rehearsal preparation, movement of singers and MC(s), and run-through of songs.
8. **Works with the sound and lighting (A/V) technician(s)** to ensure clarity of instructions.
9. **Works with the videographer** on the plan for recording the performance.
10. **Works with Chorus quartets and guest performers** regarding the overall structure of the performance and their placement in it.



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 - APRIL 7, 2021 VIRTUAL SINGING WEEK 14

from Les Creek

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

6:55 to 7:05	Login and Greetings
7:05 to 7:25	Warmups
7:30	New(er) Music Do You Hear the People Sing?
7:35 to 8:05	Sectional Breakout Yesterday Do You Hear the People Sing? Bridge Over Troubled Water
8:05 to 8:15	Do You Hear the People Sing? -mix
8:15 to 8:45	Repertoire Review Music Theory and Tag Singing breakouts
8:45 to 8:55	Business Meeting
8:55	Final Song Irish Blessing
9:00 to 9:15	Afterglow and Music Team review (in tenor room)



PLANNED UPCOMING REHEARSAL MUSIC (SUBJECT TO CHANGE !!!)

New(er) Music

Repertoire Review

Apr 14	Do You Hear The People Sing?	Bridge Over Troubled Water Blue Moon 1 & 2
April 21	Do You Hear The People Sing? Can You Feel the Love Tonight	Music Theory and Woodshedding

MELODIES & MESSAGES - THEIR IMPACT ON OUR CHORUS

by Brian Metcalfe

I begin this article with a skill-testing question. Who wrote/recorded the following song lyrics?

1. Getting to know you
2. Life is a highway
3. I hope you had the time of your life
4. You've got a fiend in me
5. I'm leaving on a jet plane



Perhaps a better question is “What do these lyrics” have to do with our WGC/RCS chorus members?

The first set of lyrics were used in 2015 to motivate members of the Winnipeg Golden Chordsmen (WGC) to write a brief autobiography and share it with the chorus through Notes 4 U. These “Getting To Know You” stories helped me and many others get to know our colleagues better and to facilitate important connections that fostered life-long friendships.

I still remember doing my best to encourage Arnie Charles to share a brief insight into his life. He kept putting me off by saying that he didn't have much to write about. I even told him I'd take him for lunch, record his memories as he reminisced, and type up his story. Eventually, Arnie shared his story of a very challenging upbringing and how his love of singing was fostered. He, like many who shared their stories, demonstrated that “life is a highway” and that we all shared a common bond through music and singing.

Five years later in 2020, Krista Hanis-Gervais, as the new editor of “Notes 4 U”, read over the “Getting to Know You” stories on our website and asked me to help her. Krista wanted to encourage new members to our River City Sound chorus to share their stories and/or updates to foster connectivity and friendship. I'm sure Krista and I hoped that each person who made the effort, “had the time of your life” as you researched and shared your autobiography.

Perhaps I'm somewhat naïve but I believe that this important process helped me get to know members of the chorus better and helped to foster important friendships. Today I feel confident that several in our chorus could honestly say to another member ... “You've got a friend in me”.

The final set of lyrics was chosen as they describe an event that happened on April Fools Day. It seems as though the “Getting To Know You” endeavour, spanning a 5-year history in our chorus, comes to an end. I'm sure Krista began singing “I'm leaving on a jet plane” as she left for Vancouver on her way to finally connect, after five months, with her husband, Matt, in Edinburgh. We wish them well.

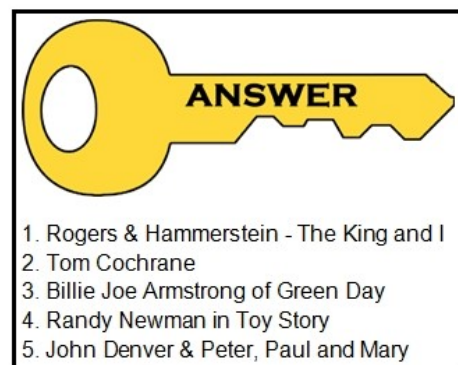
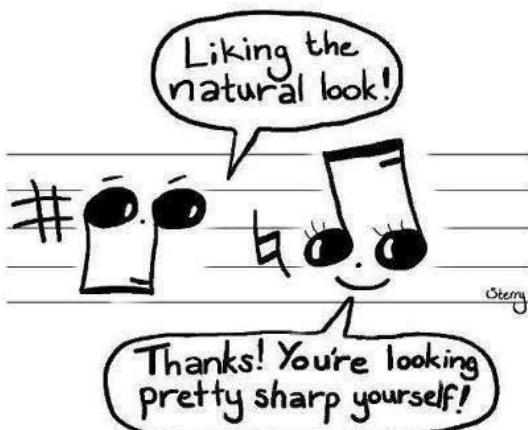
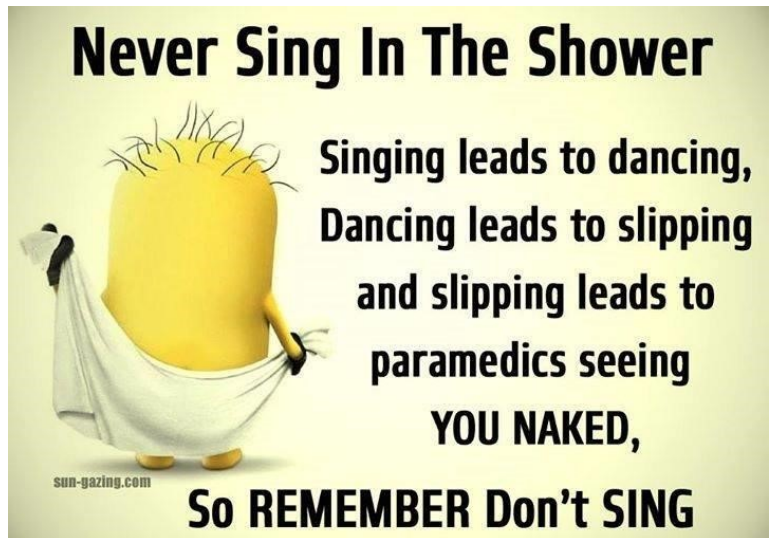
Should you like to review the “Getting to Know You” stories, you are encouraged to visit our RCS website. Select the “Members Only” menu, enter the password, and choose “Archives”. Scroll down and peruse the “Autobiographies” that Chris Magas, our website manager, has worked so hard to preserve.

Take care & keep smiling :-)

PS If you want to see the answers to the 5 questions at the start, check out the answer key on page 8.

TO BRIGHTEN YOUR SPIRITS DURING THESE TRYING TIMES

Shared by various RCS members



IMPORTANT DATES 4 U - APRIL & MAY 2021

Meetings, Rehearsals, Holidays and River City Sound Member Birthdays

~ April 2021 ~						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
					<i>Good Friday Happy Birthday Larry Hunter</i>	<i>Happy Birthday Norm Silverberg</i>
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<i>Easter Sunday Passover Ends</i>	<i>Easter Monday</i>		Music Committee Meeting (5:30) Zoom Rehearsal (7:00)			<i>Happy Birthday Sherrie Bredesen</i>
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
<i>Happy Birthday Ken Broadfoot</i>	<i>Happy Birthday Larry Bredesen</i>		Executive Meeting (5:30) Zoom Rehearsal (7:00)	<i>"I'm Feeling Fine" Video Recordings Due</i>		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
			Zoom Rehearsal (7:00)			<i>Happy Birthday Krista Hanis-Gervais</i>
25	26	27	28	29	30	
	<i>Happy Birthday Brian Metcalfe</i>		Zoom Rehearsal (7:00)			

~ May 2021 ~						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2	3	4	5	6	7	1/8
	<i>Happy Birthday Morley Bernstein</i>		Music Committee Meeting (5:15) Zoom Rehearsal (7:00)			
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
			Executive Meeting (5:30) Zoom Rehearsal (7:00) <i>Happy B-Day Mae Denby</i>			
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
			Zoom Rehearsal (7:00)		<i>Happy Birthday Duncan Zaluski</i>	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	<i>Victoria Day</i>		Zoom Rehearsal (7:00)			
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 - Mae Denby

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.



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

Accountant: Gary Miles
Zoom Meeting Attendance: Wendy Lamont
In-person Meeting Attendance: Norm Silverberg
50/50: Norm Silverberg
Awards Banquet Chairs: Gary & Ricki Miles
Charities: vacant
Church Xmas Chorus: Bruce Wilton
Learn to Sing Program: Len Paluck, Wendy Lamont, Ferryl Casselman
Grey Cup Pool Chair: vacant
Historian: Gordon Billows
Notes 4 U Editor: Mae Denby
Refreshments: Norm Silverberg, John Latham, Len Paluck
Sing Canada Harmony: Gordon Billows
Sunshine: Brian Metcalfe
Wardrobe: Charlie Siegel, Louise Malo
Website: Chris Magas
2022 Show Producer: Les Creek
2022 Show Chairman: vacant
Advocate for the Winnipeg Chapter: Gordon Billows