



IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING APRIL 13 5:30 P.M.

Inside this issue

APRIL 13 2022

Important Dates & Have Your Say	1
President's Musings	2
Free singing apps to make you a better vocalist	
Strategic Planning Followup	3
A Peek At Performance preparations	4
Rehearsal Schedule	5
Golden Moments 1	6
Golden Moments 2	7
To Brighten Your Spirits	8
Calendars - March & April	9
Editorial Page, 2022 Chapter Executive and Leadership	10

Deadline for contributions to Notes 4 U is noon Saturday. Please send your information to Mae at Denby.mae@gmail.com to have it Included.

Thanks!



PRESIDENT'S MUSINGS

By Rob Smith

President's musings April 9, 2022

While I was out walking the dog earlier this morning, (Saturday), it was a clear day but I had this image of walking in a fog where I could see shapes ahead but was uncertain what they were. There was even a bright light on the horizon. Was that a freight train headed our way? These days it seems like that, trying to figure out what is ahead with Covid. Will the fog soon lift and enable us to proceed toward our destination or do we have to jump off the rails to get out of the road of the train? In hindsight, the decision to cancel last week's rehearsal appears to have been the correct decision. Since then, I have learned of a number of other chorus members and spouses who have tested positive for Covid. What is ahead for us?

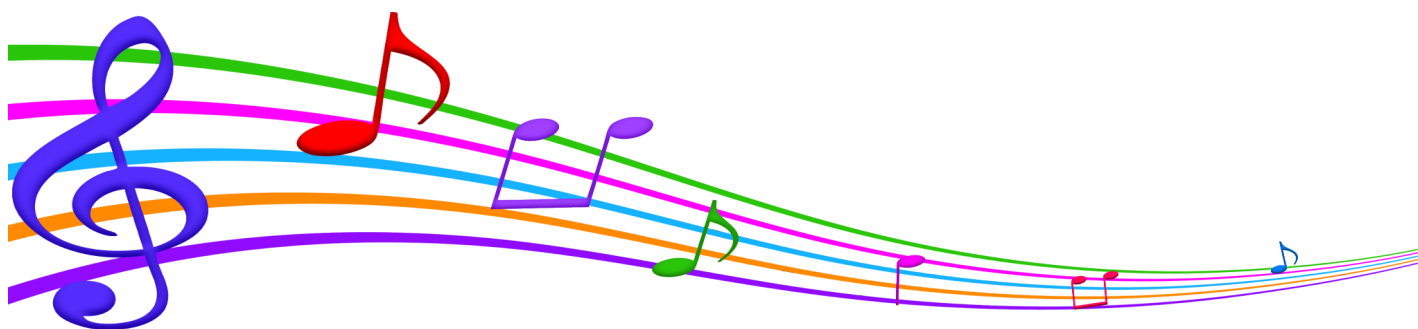
We still have the pressure of getting ready for the show but do have a contingency plan in case the show has to be deferred. Music committee by Zoom last Wednesday decided to book some extra rehearsal dates to make up for the cancellation of last Wednesday. We know when the church can be available (at no extra cost) and will let you know about those dates when they are finalized. We may even take a straw poll on Wednesday about who could be available when. Meanwhile preparations are continuing at full pace to be ready for the May 14th show, just 5 weeks away. Are you ready?

There is lots of information out there about this wave of Covid and also about how long one should isolate before mingling with others, even with masks. I appreciate the information members have sent me on this topic. It will be taken into account in our decision.

Sunday afternoon I will be sending out a brief questionnaire to each member to assist us deciding about Wednesday's rehearsal. It will be sent out by Paul and you can just hit "reply" to send your answers back to him. The executive will receive a compilation of the answers and will use that information to decide what we should do. The decision should be sent out by later Sunday evening.

Maybe the fog is lifting.

In Harmony, Rob



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>

STRATEGIC PLANNING FOLLOWUP

From Paul Bullock

A set of action items has been drafted and is now under consideration by the Executive.

It is very gratifying to report that we are already benefitting from the ideas and discussion at the planning session. Andrea drafted some new business card samples that all include a QR code. A new design will be finalized so that new business cards will be available at the spring show for people who are interested in more information about RCS. A table display for the spring show, including a Powerpoint presentation, is under development along with accompanying information material about RCS. This will include information about the next "Learn To Sing Better" (LTSB) campaign planned for this fall. The LTSB songs for this fall are being reviewed and selected. After the show, there will be an initiative to form an RCS Community Chorus, which will be a subset of our members who are available for weekday performances. Paul and Duncan will be drafting a plan for mentoring the people who decide to join RCS after going through the LTSB program.

All of the above were ideas that came from the planning session. Of course, there are many other action items that arose from the discussions. The executive will consider these going forward and roll them out over time. We want to take maximum advantage of our collective wisdom and see RCS thrive. Well done every-



COVID AND REHEARSALS

From Les Creek

With the cancellation at short notice of last week's rehearsal, the Music Committee agreed that the following recommendations should be followed by everyone that is planning to attend in-person rehearsals in the coming weeks.

1. Please, please perform rapid Covid testing on each of the Tuesdays and Wednesdays before attending in-person rehearsal. If you have a positive result, stay home.

If you have a negative test, but still have symptoms of Covid, stay home.

2. Feel free to wear a mask during rehearsal. We do not want to mandate the wearing of a mask, but it is **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED**, for your safety and for the safety of others.

'Singers who are required for work purposes to test frequently will not be required to test on the Tuesday and Wednesday of the rehearsal'

The situation last week highlighted the on-going challenges we face in producing the spring show. While we are aware that Covid seems to be all around us, we must continue to prepare for the show as if we are certain that it will proceed. Should we find that public health orders change, or if we do not have enough singers to present the show, it will be deferred until September. The decision to defer will be made by the show committee and the executive committee as we move closer to May 14th.

In the meantime, we still have a fair bit of work to do to polish the songs and to prepare for the show, so please spend some extra time learning your parts, so that the remaining rehearsals are productive.

We are also tentatively scheduling some additional rehearsals to compensate for last week's cancellation, and for final polishing of the numbers. The first would most likely be Sunday April 24th, with Friday May 6th and Monday May 9th as additional dates, if needed. Please stay tuned for further information on these additional rehearsal dates and times.

Stay safe everyone.

A PEEK AT PERFORMANCE PREPARATIONS

by Bruce Wilton & Brian Metcalfe

You may recall for the Christmas show last year, the Executive requested that each member of the chorus keep track of the contact information for those to whom they sold tickets. For the upcoming show, we would like each ticket seller to submit the contact information to Brian when they submit their ticket sale proceeds. Brian has developed a form (as illustrated below) for the contact information which he will circulate to members of the Chapter before ticket sales commence. We would appreciate your co-operation in submitting the requested information.



Saturday, May 14, 2022 is fast approaching. The following items are ready to be distributed by Brian once the Executive team decides when best to proceed:

- The AFTernoon (2:30 pm) & EVEning (7:00 pm) “Remember That Summer...” tickets
- A limited number of 8.5” x 11” advertising posters will be available but each chorus member will receive this poster in both a JPEG image & a PDF for sharing with patrons
- Our Eventbrite.ca online show tickets will be made accessible to the general public and chorus members will be provided with the internet links to the AFTernoon & EVEning tickets
- A full page of “Ticket Sales Information” form (shown below) will be distributed in both Excel & PDF format. Those familiar with using Microsoft Excel may wish to type their sales data directly into the form while most will prefer to print out the form and enter data with pencil.

Please ensure that this completed form(s) is included in the envelope when returning your proceeds and unsold tickets to Brian on or before the Wednesday, May 11 deadline.

There are many individuals working hard to make “Remember That Summer” a real success! Unfortunately, like some chorus members, I tend to think that my main focus is on learning the melody and lyrics for the songs I have to sing. True, I am on the Show Committee but I often forget just how complex a performance can be when I focus only on my own responsibilities. However, when I “crashed” the Music Committee meeting on Zoom last Wednesday, I became aware of the myriad of details that Les Creek and his team were working on “behind the scenes”. May I suggest that you personally thank someone or send them an email indicating just how much you appreciate their efforts.

2022 ANNUAL SHOW TICKET SALES INFORMATION

RCS TICKET SELLER: _____

NOTE: Should we have to cancel our show, all sold tickets will be refunded. To help Bruce Wilton manage this challenging task, we ask each chorus member to accurately **ENTER** patron ticket sales data on separate rows as indicated below. Please enter your name as the Ticket Seller together with an accurate accounting for all \$20 ticket sales. If you require more than one form, please staple the sheets together and enter the page # & total pages in the bottom right corner. An envelope containing this completed form, together with the ticket sales funds, must be given to Brian Metcalfe on or before the Wednesday, May 11 deadline.

FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	ADDRESS & POSTAL CODE	PHONE	EMAIL	# AFT Purchased	# EVE Purchased	TOTAL REFUND
Samantha	Sample	123 Rupertsland Ave. Wpg R1M 0V3	204-667-1234	samsample@mts.net	3	6	\$180

Page ____ of ____



REHEARSAL SCHEDULE – APRIL 13, 2022



As you know, our situation is in flux, and our executive is working hard to sort it out. Once decisions are finalized, the Rehearsal schedule will be sent by email. Watch for it!



GOLDEN MOMENTS

From Gordon Billows. Chapter Historian

TULSA DAILY WORLD

The Only Newspaper in Tulsa With Complete Associated Press Trunk Wire Service

12 PAGES

FINAL HOME EDITION

TULSA, OKLAHOMA, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1, 1938

No, No Folks—You're Wrong! That Was Musical History in the Making

Tulsa's Barber Shop Singers Tune Up Just For Fun

By RALPH MARTIN
Of The World Staff

A LITTLE YELLOW moon as thin as a fingernail paring was hanging in the purple sky Tuesday night as certain astonished Tulsa citizens coagulated along Main and Seventh at the base of the Alvin hotel.

Maybe they didn't know it—maybe they still won't believe it—but they were listening to musical history in the making.

The mighty sounds emanating from the French and lavender halls above were of such strength and volume as to cause one staid and settled taxpayer to voice the consensus fermenting in the group—

"Hell," he muttered in a tone of voice compounded of equal parts of alarm, astonishment and admiration, "has broken loose in the henhouse."

But it was not hell in the henhouse. Instead it was the aardvark's camisole—it was the berries—it was the mellifluous voices of the S.P.E.B.S.S.A. in action.

THE BROTHERHOOD of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America were congregated 63 strong in their sixth meeting and exercising the inalienable right of all American males to harmonize while imbibing beer.

National recognition was plucking at their sleeves as they vocalized, but as one man the warbling brethren paid it absolutely no mind.

O. C. Cash, who together with I. S. Hall, collaborated in hatching out this organizational idea in the first instance, revealed that in spite of the fact the

fraternity is less than two months old, it is begetting progeny in the form of local chapters in other cities with all the prolificacy of a roe shad hatching eggs.

The national magazine, Time, was clamoring Monday and Tuesday for further details, the Chicago Tribune had a newshawk hatching up a feature story, and the Associated Press up in Topeka was insisting on additional details to go with their story of the starting of a local chapter in that city.

But Tuesday night the pick, the pink and the perfection of local male bards gathered and sang soulfully and with not the slightest sign of self-consciousness.

THE WARBLING WAS led by that prize package of pandemonium, "Tubby" Young, who wears a rotund shape which could arouse enthusiasm in nobody but a circus owner, but who nevertheless possesses a base voice which sounds like somebody throwing big rocks in a deep well.

The song hit of the evening was a touching rendition of the "Old Gray Mare," sung with acrobatic adam's apples and realistic sound effects by S. M. (Puny) Blevens, who is an attenuated young man possessing lots of longitude but notably shy as to latitude.

There were tenors as mellow as aged wine casks, top tenors which would make you cry, baritones as full in tone as a Stradivarius, and basses as low as a rat's heel in the bottom of a deep cellar. Various talented persons took turn-about abusing a piano.

After a full hour of singing such favorites as "Roll Them Bones," "Down by the Old Mill Stream," "My Wild Irish Rose," "Sweet Adeline," "Sweetheart of Sigma Chi," the brotherhood called a momentary halt by singing the theme song of the organization, "The Old Songs," and went in to eat.

Sidewalk Crowds Gape And Wonder—But Nobody Cares

AN ATTEMPT WAS made to rake up some competition singing between various tables where a cold lunch and beer was being devastated, but it ended in a flat failure. Each time a table would start a little bit of individual singing, all other singers found themselves unable to resist the urge to join in.

"Puny" Blevens was conscripted as emergency chairman and welcomed the delegation from Bartlesville, headed by "High Grade" Cunningham. A report was called for from the "nominating quartet," headed by Fred Graves, but Mr. Graves was conspicuously absent.

An investigation revealed that he had gone out to mobilize an additional supply of beer and had somehow failed to return. It was decided that an election will be conducted by mail and ballots from each member will elect a president, a vice president and secretary-treasurer for the charter member organization.

Judge Edgar Shook of Kansas City, originator of the chapter in that city, has indicated that plans will soon be complete to invite the national brotherhood in its first country-wide meeting there. Tentative plans are being outlined to invite Bing Crosby, who first gained recognition as a baritone in a barber shop quartet from Seattle.

The gathering carried on as gaily as busting bubbles in a champagne bottle until the small hours and eventually broke up when all voices became as weak as a gnat with the lumbago and the brethren departed for home after singing "Sweet Adeline" and exchanging mutual commitments that a "wonderful time was had by all."

GOLDEN MOMENTS

April 11, the Barbershop Harmony Society (SPEBSQSA) is 84 YEARS OLD

(Gordon Billows—Wpg Chapter Historian)



In early April of 1938, two harmony-hungry souls from Tulsa, Oklahoma, met in Kansas City and sparked the beginning of an organization that has lasted for almost 85 years. Owen C. Cash, a tax attorney for a petroleum company, and Rupert I. Hall, an investment banker, had a chance meeting in the lobby of the Muehlebach Hotel when both were grounded overnight by bad weather that had closed the airport. Co-founder Cash recalled: "I ran into Hall, whom I knew slightly, and as I was lonesome that night, I asked if he could sing tenor. He gave the typical barbershopper's answer, 'I suppose I'm the best barbershop tenor in the United States.' "I tried him out on 'I Had A Dream, Dear,' and he stayed on pitch. We concluded that we were terribly good and canvassed the hotel lobby for a lead and bass." Legend has it that Cash tipped a bellboy a quarter to round up two other singers to make that first foursome. They found a couple and developed a "fairly good quartet." The baritone was a Kansas City real estate man named Joe Stern. Stern later started the Heart Of America Chorus in Kansas City and was its first director. He wrote words and music for a song, "Daddy, Get Your Baby Out of Jail," that became a barbershop standard, and he served as national treasurer of the Society. History does not record who sang bass. During the evening, Cash outlined to Hall the dream of organizing a barbershop quartet club. He had previously discussed this idea with fellow Tulsans with whom he sang occasionally, but not often enough. Though the idea of a singing society was Cash's, it was Hall that got the ball rolling. Hall promised that when he returned to Tulsa he would call Cash and "get this thing started." That happened on April 6th.

Rupert Hall, a member of the very exclusive Tulsa Club, arranged for an April 11th meeting in the Club's "Roof Garden". Cash drafted an invitation and sent it out to 14 men who he thought would be really interested. Shortly, his telephone began to ring and, after his assurance that guests would be welcome, 26 men turned out for the "songfest". Rupert Hall arrived at the Tulsa Club first and began to check on arrangements for food. Donnie O'Donovan of radio station KVOO, Elmer Lawyer of the Tulsa Paper Co. and Cash were the next to arrive. The 26 men sang and harmonized to some old songs for several hours with several breaking off into quartets as well. Some members of the Tulsa Club objected to the "noise"! The next week, Hall and Cash arranged for 70 barbershop singers to meet on the rooftop of Hotel Tulsa. The idea of an ongoing barbershop singing club became very evident and a more permanent location was found for the third week. About 150 men met to sing harmony on the Mezzanine level of the Alvin Plaza Hotel. This group would soon become known as the Tulsa #1 Chapter and continue to meet at the Alvin for 37 years.

The grand sounds of harmony resounding through the open windows on the Mezzanine level of the Alvin created quite a stir on the street below. Ralph Martin, a reporter for the Daily World newspaper, heard the singing, sensed a great story, and joined the meeting. O. C. Cash bluffed his way through the interview, saying his organization was national in scope, with branches in St. Louis, Kansas City and elsewhere. He simply neglected to mention that these "branches" were just a few scattered friends who enjoyed harmonizing, but knew nothing of Cash's new club. Cash's flair for publicity, combined with the unusual name—the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America, made an irresistible story for the news wire services, which spread it coast-to-coast. Cash's "branches" started receiving puzzling calls from men interested in joining the barbershop society. Soon, groups were meeting throughout North America to sing barbershop harmony. SPEBSQSA was born.

In July 2004, the Board of Directors of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America, Inc., rebranded itself and officially changed its public name to the Barbershop Harmony Society but maintained the Society's legal name as SPEBSQSA, Inc. The new Barbershop Harmony Society logo was approved in 2007. The international headquarters was in Kenosha, WI for fifty years before moving to Nashville TN in 2007.



TO BRIGHTEN YOUR SPIRITS DURING THESE TRYING TIMES

My gardener talked to me about edible herbs I can grow.
It was sage advice.

Did you hear about the gardener who went crazy?
He was hearing voices in his shed.

I stood in my garden early yesterday morning wondering where
the sun had gone.
Then it dawned on me.

So my neighbour sees me kneeling down, busy in my garden and
asks what I'm doing. "I'm putting all my plants in alphabetical order"

"Really?! I don't know how you find the time!"
"It's right next to the sage"

I started growing some fungi in my garden, but it failed miserably.
I guess there is mushroom for improvement

My wife is furious at our next door neighbour who sunbathes
nude in her garden...
Personally, I'm on the fence

I have a bird feeder in the garden.
It also works as a cat feeder

How did the millionaire gardener get rich so quick?
He was running a huge pansy scheme

Why is Incredible Hulk such a good gardener?
He's got green fingers.

I used to make loads of money clearing leaves from gardens.
I was raking it in

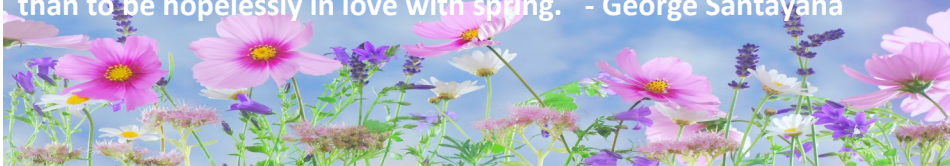
A friend perfected his garden flower beds through a process of
trowel and error.

Yet again, someone has added more soil to my allotment. . .
The plot thickens...

What is the gardener's favourite novel?
War and Peas



To be interested in the changing seasons is a happier state of mind
than to be hopelessly in love with spring. - George Santayana






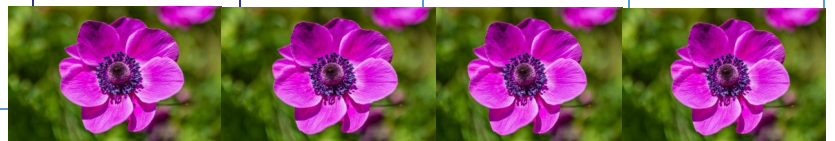
IMPORTANT DATES 4 U – APRIL—MAY 2022

~ April 2022~

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Happy Birthday Larry Hunter
3 Happy Birthday Norm Silverberg	4	5	6 Music Cmte 5:30 Rehearsal 7:00	7	8	9
10 Happy Birthday Sherrie Bredeesen	11 Happy Birthday Ken Broadfoot	12 Happy Birthday Larry Bredeesen	13 Exec Cmte 5:30 Rehearsal 7:00	14	15 +	16
17 	18	19	20 Spring Show Cmte 5:30 Rehearsal 7:00	21	22	23
24	25	26 Happy Birthday Brian Metcalfe	27	28	29 	30

~ May 2022~

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4 Music Cmte 5:30 Rehearsal 7:00	5	6	7
8 	9	10	11 Exec Cmte 5:30 Rehearsal 7:00	12 Happy Birthday Mae Denby	13	14 
15	16	17	18 Spring Show Cmte 5:30 Rehearsal 7:00	19	20	21 Happy Birthday Duncan Zaluski
22 	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	31 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 - 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.



2022 Chapter Executive

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

2022 Music Committee (not yet updated)

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

2022 Leadership Positions

Accountant: Gary Miles
In-person Meeting Attendance: Norm Silverberg
50/50: Norm Silverberg
Awards Banquet Chairs: Gary & Ricki Miles
Charities: Bruce Wilton
Church Xmas Chorus: Bruce Wilton
Learn to Sing Program: Len Paluck, Wendy Lamont, Ferryl Casselman
Grey Cup Pool Chair: Len Paluck,
Historian: Gordon Billows
Notes 4 U Team: Mae Denby, Becki Ammeter
Refreshments: Norm Silverberg, John Latham, Len Paluck
Sing Canada Harmony: Gordon Billows
Sunshine: Charlie Siegel
Wardrobe: Charlie Siegel; Ferryl Casselman
Website: (update and maintain) Chris Magas
2022 Spring Show Producer: Les Creek
2022 Spring Show Chairman: Bruce Wilton
2022 Spring Show Vice-Chair: Donna Paryniuk
LOL District Chapter Advocate: Gordon Billows
Historian Assistant: Vacant