



IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Choralfest—Nov. 19—Prairie Spirit 8:30 a.m.
 Sunday Rehearsals Nov. 27 & Dec. 4 7:00 p.m.
 St. Andrews UC Auditorium 255 Oak St.

Dec. 10 Christmas Show: Celebrate the Magic!
 2:30 & 7:00 Prairie Spirit

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NOVEMBER 9 2022

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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 Nov 5th, 2022

It is wonderful having so many enthusiastic participants attend our "Learn to Sing (Better)" program these last 2 Wednesdays. In The First Noel, most of us struggled to find our note of the starting chord after the tune up on "d". Folks with a lot more musical education than I have can likely name that as some kind of diminished or augmented starting chord. Not me. I have been singing for quite a few years and have learned quite a lot, especially through participation in barbershop. However, I didn't start out at all confident. My mother was a choir director and when I was maybe 6 or 7 she had our church children's choir sing on CBC radio. It was live from the basement of a studio on Main St.

Afterward a friend said he could hear my voice in the broadcast and I was embarrassed about that as I was a nervous child from my wartime experiences.

At United College I wasn't bold enough to join the chapel choir although my cousin and a few friends did. Over the years, I did sing in several church choirs and learned to read the tenor line but wasn't introduced to barbershop until about 1983 when a group of us got together in a small Interlake town.

When we moved to Winnipeg in 1988, I immediately joined the Winnipeg Barbershop Chapter. That was when I learned that tenor is mostly sung in falsetto so I no longer had to strain to sing Gs and As in full voice. I soon joined quartets.

One director observed that I always leaned in towards the Lead as if for support and I needed to stand tall. Another coach noticed that my nervousness led to busy fingers. He called that "rolling boogers" and encouraged me to have relaxed hands. Lots of directors have said to smile but that is sometimes difficult when trying to remember the next note or word. Another director suggested singing out, even if you are not sure of the note. That is the only way they can hear it and help you fix it.

Over the years, especially with our quartet Harlequin, I have become more confident. There is the phrase "fake it until you make it". To me that means try to smile and look relaxed even if that isn't how you feel. I'm getting better at that even though I'm sure my smile is weaker in numbers I'm not sure of. The better I know a piece, the easier it is to be relaxed and to smile. I often burn the learning tracks onto a CD and play them repeatedly in my vehicle. Maybe some of you are already confident in your singing, but for those of you who are like me, I encourage you to work on this step by step and you will get there.

We are now only 5 Wednesdays plus 2 Sunday rehearsals from the show. Although there are still some numbers that need work, I am confident that we can put on really good concerts for our audience. Soon we will be able to sell show tickets to ensure we have a full house. Keep up the good work.

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>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

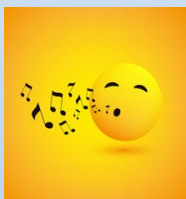
**BE A SINGER BRINGER!
WHOM WILL YOU INVITE
TO THE NEXT REHEARSAL?**

(Mention our Covid mandates to guests –
vax!)

CHORALFEST

**SATURDAY NOVEMBER 19
PRAIRIE SPIRIT—THOMPSON ST.
9:00 A.M.**

ChoralFest is an annual two-week, non-competitive festival that provides choirs and conductors an opportunity to work with acclaimed adjudicators and expert clinicians from across the continent. The festival invites all levels and styles of choral singing, including vocal jazz. Approximately 150 choirs and 6,000 singers participate each year



★ Grey Cup pool tickets have been selling really well but there are still more than 100 in members' hands. If you have sold yours, please turn in your stubs and money by this next Wednesday. If yours aren't yet all sold and if you don't think you will be able to sell them all, please return them to Rob as there are other members who believe they can still sell more.



LTSB CONTINUES THIS WEEK!!!

CHRISTMAS SHOW PLANNING

Quartets and ladies' VLQ preparing songs to perform in the Christmas Show need to audition their song(s). This can be done at the November 16 and 23 rehearsals. You can choose to do this before the rehearsal starts, during the break or at the end, or even in front of the chorus. Make arrangements with the directors.



MESSAGE

From Les Creek

Week 4 of Learn to Sing (Better) is upon us, and I sincerely hope that our guest participants are finding this a rewarding experience. How quickly the past 3 weeks have passed!

So what are our aims in offering this program? Most importantly, to provide participants with an opportunity to learn some fundamentals of music, and fundamentals of singing. Secondly, to provide an opportunity to sing in harmony with others, in an a cappella format. And thirdly, to provide an opportunity to sing on stage in front of family and friends in a seasonal show. This is something that many people (I'd expect most people) have never experienced, and it can be a very moving and exhilarating experience, as we chorus members know. You could say it's like catnip to felines; once you've experienced it, you can't walk away from it!

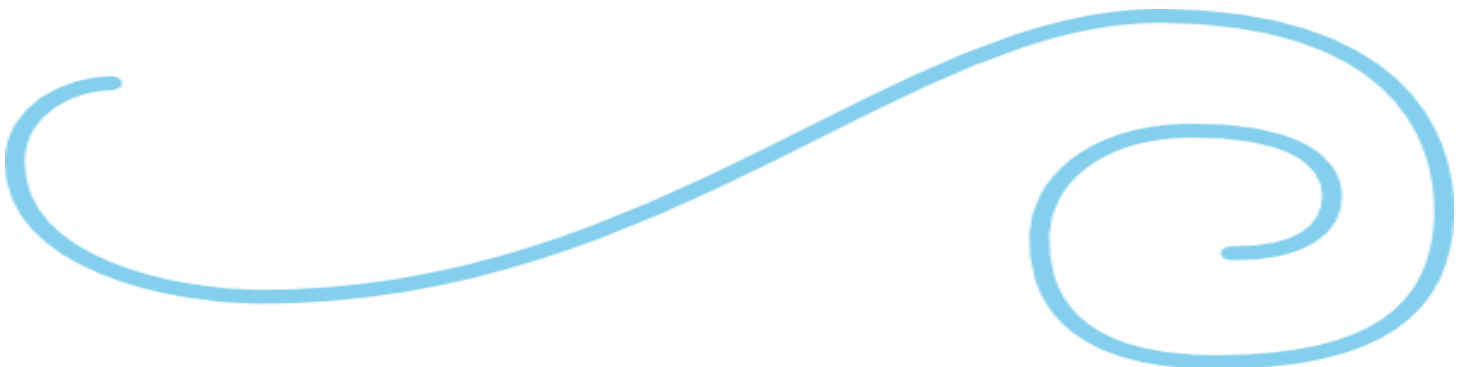
It has really been an exciting few weeks to have you LTSB participants with us at rehearsal. The opportunity to get to know you a little bit and to see you react to the music and to the program is a really rewarding experience. We realize that this form of singing, or singing in public at all, is not for everyone, so should you choose to exit the program, we understand, and we wish you well on your musical journey. We just hope that we have been a welcoming group and that you've had a good overall experience.

This week, as part of the LTSB segment, we will be conducting sectionals on Light One Candle, to help the LTSB participants become familiar with this (new to them) piece.

As well, we will be setting aside time for a short Remembrance Day program immediately following the LTSB program. Everyone is invited to remain and participate. Chorus members, you may want to brush up on White Cliffs of Dover; we may (or may not) sing it as part of the program.

As well, we will be spending some dedicated time in preparing our 3 pieces for Choralfest; Can You Feel The Love Tonight, I'm Gonna Be (500 Miles), and Slow Rockin' Christmas. This will be the second last opportunity to polish these pieces. Don't forget that we sing at Prairie Spirit United at 9 AM on Saturday Nov. 19th. We must be at the church, vocally warmed up, by 8:30 AM.

It's going to be an interesting couple of weeks so stay tuned.





REHEARSAL SCHEDULE – NOVEMBER 9 2022



From Les Creek

6:55 to 7:05 Physical warmup
 7:05 to 8:10 LTSB Program – week 4
 7:05 to 7:35 Vocal warmup and lesson
 7:35 to 7:50 Sectional – Light One Candle
 7:50 to 8:10 Chorus rehearsal
 Joy to the World
 The First Noel
 Light One Candle



8:10 to 8:25 Remembrance Day program
 8:25 to 8:40 Break and Business Meeting
 8:40 to 9:40 Chorus Rehearsal

everything off the page now

Lost in the Stars with Choreo – 10 minutes
 Little Saint Nick
 Believe
 Everybody’s Waiting for the Man
 O Holy Night
 Halleluyah
 Happy Holidays
 Lost in the Stars
 Slow Rockin’ Christmas

9:40 to 9:55 Choralfest review
 500 Miles
 Can You Feel The Love
 Slow Rockin’ Christmas



9:55 Wrap up and Final Song
 Keep the Whole World Singing

Planned Upcoming Rehearsal Music (SUBJECT TO CHANGE!!!)

	<u>Sectionals</u>	<u>Repertoire Review</u>
Nov 16	LTSB – week 5 As needed	Christmas show set list Choralfest selection rehearsal
Nov 23	LTSB – week 6	Christmas Show set list
Nov 27 (Sunday 7pm)		Christmas Show set list

CHRISTMAS SHOW SET LIST

From Herold Driedger



CELEBRATE THE MAGIC

Saturday, December 10th, 2022 2:30 PM and 7 PM

Prairie Spirit United Church, 205 Thompson, Winnipeg, MB

Chorus

HALLELUYA

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

LITTLE SAINT NICK

EVERYBODY'S WAITIN' FOR THE MAN WITH THE BAG

SLOW ROCKIN' CHRISTMAS

LOST IN THE STARS

BELIEVE

JOY TO THE WORLD (LTSB)

THE FIRST NOEL (LTSB)

LIGHT ONE CANDLE

LET THERE BE PEACE ON EARTH

O HOLY NIGHT

Quartets (plus)

Harlequin WHEN CHRISTMAS COMES AROUND

Honeycomb HAVE YOURSELF A MERRY LITTLE CHRISTMAS

River City Sisters CANDY CANE LANE

Honeycomb BIG BAND SANTA

Harlequin DIDDLEY SQUAT

Leather 'n Lace I'LL BE HOME FOR CHRISTMAS

Harlequin DO YOU HEAR WHAT I HEAR?

Leather 'n Lace WHO IS THIS TINY CHILD?

SLOW ROCKIN'CHRISTMAS—PRESENTATION

By Gayle Wharton

Here are some reminders to help with the planned moves in this song.

Please follow along with your music and make your own notations if you find it helpful. I have Little Notes/reminders on all my music and they do help me get off paper sooner.

FA LA LAS - We will present this song with vibrance and fun.

Verse 1 - begin pivoting to the right. Easiest way to pivot is to keep the balls if your feet on the floor and lift the heels to pivot.

Continue till page 2 bar 16 "wall"

Stop.

Keep the excitement going with exuberant faces and "DANCE THE HOURS AWAY". Have fun with this.

Verse 2 - page 2 - begin pivoting and continue till Bar 32 "glow".

Stop.

Keep up the energy and again "DANCE AWAY THE NIGHT" then continue pivoting till

Ho Ho Ho Ho.

BRIDGE- No planned moves till

VERSE 3 - Pg 4 -

Begin pivoting. Continue till bar 63 "leave".

From here till the end of the song

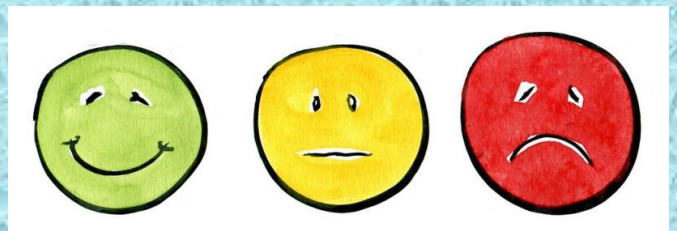
We will continue to project cheerfulness, fun and joy to our audience.

Still working the ending on the Oh Yeahs! Will make it clear on Wednesday.

Thanks so much for working on this visual aspect of our performance. At our next rehearsal we should be able to breeze through it and please remember -



FACES ARE FIRST AND FOREMOST ALWAYS!



CHRISTMAS SHOW TICKETS ARE NOW AVAILABLE

By Brian Metcalfe

Tickets for "Celebrate the Magic" on Saturday, Dec 10th are now ready for distribution. Please note that our ticket prices for adults have increased to \$25. To help differentiate between the Afternoon (2:30) and Evening (7:00) tickets, I have colour coded them. Since there's more sunlight in the afternoon, those tickets have a light background. With our shortening days, it seemed natural to colour code our evening tickets with a black background.

With our Learn To Sing Better initiative underway and our focus on learning Christmas songs, it is important that I distribute tickets to you at rehearsal in a non-disruptive manner.

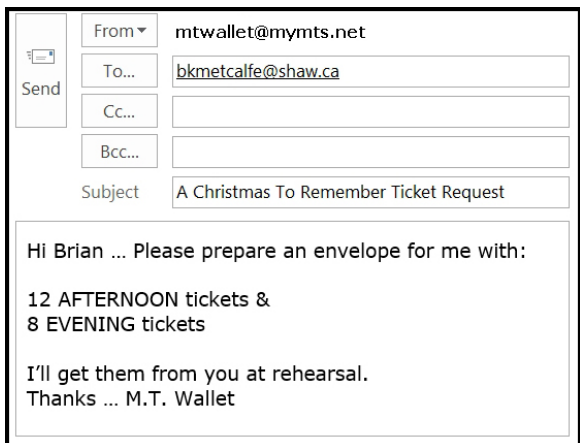
Please help me prepare in advance by sending me an email (bkmetcalfe@shaw.ca) before noon on each Wednesday, requesting the number of **AFTERNOON** and/or **EVENING** tickets needed. I will then count out your tickets & place them in an envelope which I will then give to you at rehearsal. Make sure to count & verify your tickets in your envelope. Although, I will have tickets for distribution at each rehearsal, your thoughtful email request will help keep me sane and speed up the transactions so as not to disrupt the learning each Wednesday evening.

To help you promote our Christmas show, Shirley & her artistic friend, Joyce, created an eye-catching poster (seen at the right). I will be sending each of you this 8.5" x 11" poster in both an image (JPG) and PDF formats so that you can attach this poster to any email that you send out to potential patrons.

I will begin working on the Eventbrite.ca online ticket purchasing mechanism. In the next Notes 4 U, I will provide the links to purchasing both the Afternoon & Evening tickets using this online process.



It is the chorus members, like you, who are our best promoters & sales agents.



2022—PORTAGE INDIAN GLEE CLUB

From Gordon Billows



My Indian Glee Club performed “It’s a Small World” (with a Cree verse) and “Land of the Silver Birch” (with drum and vocalizing) for the Long Plain Treaty One community and dignitaries at the Truth and Reconciliation event in Portage la Prairie on Sept. 30th.

I welcomed the opportunity to tell the community some POSITIVE history of the Residential School and the students that were in my Glee Club and who performed at Disney in California (‘69) and in

Osaka, Japan at Expo ‘70. The Long Plain community honoured Paula and me that afternoon by



presenting us with a hand sewn “Ojibway Star Blanket”!

On Oct. 30th the National Indigenous Residential School Museum of Canada and members of the Truth and Reconciliation committee gathered in Portage to honour me for my dedication and work with the Glee Club. Most of my 2022 Glee Club members were attended. They presented me with an Indigenous hand drum set painted by Long Plain artist Garry

Meeches Sr.



Paula and my involvement with these 2022 Portage Indian Glee Club members over the last few months and our preparation for singing together “one more time” has been simply wonderful! In so many ways, my 40+ years of Barbershopping experience was key to our successful performance at the Truth and Reconciliation event in Portage. The rehearsals, the bonding, the story telling, the preparation, etc will be fondly remembered by each of us for the rest of our lives. **Miigwech!**

TO BRIGHTEN YOUR SPIRITS DURING THESE TRYING TIMES



QUIZ TIME




1. Which popular Christmas beverage is also called "milk punch?"
2. What did the other reindeer not let Rudolph do because of his shiny red nose?
3. How many ghosts show up in A Christmas Carol?
4. The movie Miracle on 34th Street is based on a real-life department store. What is it?
5. What are the two other most popular names for Santa Claus?
6. Elvis isn't going to have a white Christmas he's going to have a....
7. What do people traditionally put on top of a Christmas tree?
8. In the classic Christmas movie, How The Grinch Stole Christmas, the Grinch was described with three words. What are they?
9. In which modern-day country was St. Nicholas born?
10. In the movie It's A Wonderful Life, what happened every time a bell rang?
11. Which Hollywood actor played six different roles in The Polar Express?
12. In Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol, what was the first name of Scrooge?
13. Which country did eggnog come from?
14. Which real-life person is Santa Claus based on?



THIS TIME, NO ANSWER KEY! YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN!



~ November 2022~											
Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday			
1		2		3		4		5			
		Music Committee 5:30 Rehearsal 6:55									
6		7		8		9		10		11	
				Exec. Committee 5:30 Rehearsal 6:55							
13		14		15		16		17		18	
				Rehearsal 6:55		Happy Birthday Wendy Lamont				Choralfest 9:00 a.m.	
20		21		22		23		24		25	
						Rehearsal 6:55					
27		28		29		30					
Rehearsal 7:00						Rehearsal 6:55					

~ December 2022~													
Sunday		Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
								1		2		3	
													
4		5		6		7		8		9		10	
Rehearsal 7:00						Rehearsal 6:55				Happy Birthday Karen Janzen		CELEBRATE THE MAGIC 2:30 & 7:00	
11		12		13		14		15		16		17	
						Christmas Windup 7:00 pm St/Andrews							
18		19		20		21		22		23		24	
		26		27		28		29		30		31	
		Happy Birthday Ferryl Casselman											

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

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: Rob Smith
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