

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

January 4 Music Committee 5:30
 January 10—Performance at Boulton
 January 11 Exec Cmte 5:30

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JANUARY 4 2023

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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 Dec 31st, 2022

Wow, it's hard to believe I've already been RCS Chapter President for a whole year and am about to embark on my next term (actually 3rd time if you count 2000).

It has been a fascinating and sometimes challenging year but I believe a successful one in many respects. In my report to District, which was circulated, I listed many of our accomplishments in shows and other performances, support of charities and very entertaining singing, (as reported by our audiences). Unfortunately, our financial performance lagged behind what we had budgeted a year ago leaving us with a deficit. But I want to reflect on the fun times we have had together, the camaraderie. Once we were finally able to leave Zoom behind and actually meet face to face there were obviously many warm interactions. Wendy and Ferryl led us in interesting physical warm-ups set to song. We tried to follow their graceful moves but sometimes our bodies and brains were not that well coordinated. We laughed about "the other left". Members caught up with each other, even on the risers when we are not supposed to chit chat. In May, there was an excellent afterglow following the spring show. In summer, there were barbeques.

At Sherrie & Larry Bredesen's there was quite a bit of singing and even some fun in their pool. We also welcomed a new member to our RCS family (see photo). At Wendy & Paul's there was again lots of singing and group visiting including spouses we haven't seen for some time. There were some sad times as we said farewell to long time members who had died. In the fall we were very welcoming to the participants in LTSB as we all learned a couple of new arrangements together. Again, this year the awards banquet was a fun time competing in Ricki and Gary's games, honouring the various award winners and of course singing together.

Our Christmas show was another fun time. To me it didn't seem as tiring as some years and it sure went quickly. The pizza ordered by Wendy and the deserts brought by some members were welcome refreshment. We sounded good to ourselves up on stage and Sherrie told us so but there were also many very favourable comments from audience members. Some said "best ever". We can savor our accomplishments for a short time but very soon we will be back into re-learning songs we have sung before and learning new music. The next concert is in mid-May. It may seem like a lot of work, but we know it is well worth it. Happy New Year. Rob, President (again)

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!)

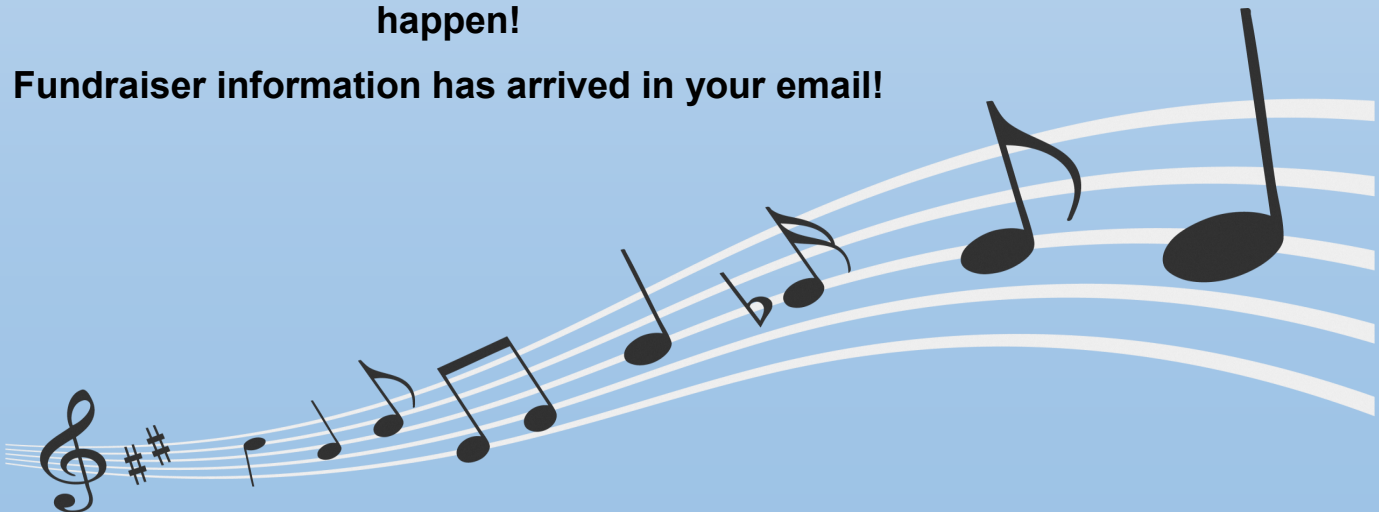
Happy New Year!

Celebrating 75 Years of Harmony

The 2023 Fundraiser, with a goal of raising \$7500, has started!

Personal and Business donations will make this happen!

Fundraiser information has arrived in your email!



CHRISTMAS RAFFLE SUMMARY

The Christmas raffle was very successful. There were 369 tickets sold from the 400 that were printed. Shirley's daughter gave us an excellent suggestion to set out a "donation jar" at our shows on December 10th, which raised an additional \$170.35. At our December 14th windup we presented a cheque, that included both the raffle sales and the donations, for a total of \$2,115.35 to Susan Zuk to be donated to Backpacks 4 Hope. It was an excellent result.

Susan was also a very capable assistant for the raffle prize draw. The winners were:

1st prize - Lianne Lagasse (who was very excited when the rocking horse was delivered)

2nd prize - Karen Miles ("Bullrushes" limited edition print)

3rd prize - Tannis Sidloski ("Bald Eagle Landing" limited edition print)

4th prize - Hollie Andrew (family game pack)

5th prize - Faye Sierhuis (family fun pack)

Congratulations to all the winners and a huge thanks to the prize donors and everyone for selling tickets.



RCS DAYTIME SENIORS SHOW

TUESDAY 10 JANUARY 2023

From Len Paluck

Place: Boulton River-Heights Retirement Community

45 Boulton Bay
(enter off Kenaston between Grant and Taylor)

Time : Arrive 12:30, assemble in "Event Centre" for vocal warm-up. This room connects to Dining Room where we will perform.

Performance: 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm

Wardrobe: Long sleeve blue RCS shirts.

Parking lot next to building has 'visitor' spots, about 100 feet distance to main en-



MESSAGE

From Les Creek

Happy New Year everyone! I think that we are all glad to see the last of 2022, with all of its challenges, but we were able to produce 2 well received shows, and had a number of successful performances as well, so we were able to overcome a lot of the negative stuff.....

In 2023, we are continuing to pursue performance opportunities. We have 3 seniors home performances booked already (The Boulton, Seine River Seniors, and Lindenwoods Manor). The first one is on Jan. 10th at 1:00 at The Boulton, which gives us exactly ONE rehearsal to get our voices back in shape after the Christmas break, so please, please spend some time looking over the songs listed in the rehearsal schedule. Becki and Gayle have done a great job in obtaining these events for us, and they are much-needed revenue opportunities, so please make every effort to come out to these performances.

You'll note that we are NOT singing at the Winnipeg Ice game on Jan. 14th, as we could not come to an agreement with them about parking fees. The executive and music committees agreed that we will not pay to perform, which is what this engagement would have entailed.

You'll also see, in the rehearsal schedule, that we've allocated time for sectionals for some of our familiar songs. The reason is that there are a number of LTSB participants that wish to continue learning music with us. Paul and Duncan have developed a program that allows these folks to learn our repertoire at a more gentle pace than in the past (learn 3 songs at a time instead of 'here - learn these 30 songs...'), so sectionals will be a part of our rehearsals for some time to come to provide them with support in the learning process. It may also help some of us 'unlearn' things we may have been singing incorrectly.....

So for the next few weeks, we'll concentrate primarily on getting our basic show package repertoire in shape, and helping the prospective members learn some music. We'll also try to set aside some time for some 'quartetting', polecats and woodshedding at most of the rehearsals.

We hope to have new piece of music in a couple of weeks that I think everyone will enjoy. The Music Committee agreed on its purchase late last year but we had so much on our plates that we deferred the purchase to 2023.

Speaking of song selection for the chorus, it is a challenging task. The process that we have developed goes something like this:

1. Solicit song ideas from chorus members and committee members.
2. Determine if sheet music is available for purchase (at a reasonable price) in our TTBB voicing.
3. Determine if TTBB learning tracks are available for the chosen arrangement.
4. Obtain sample sheet music and, hopefully, a full mix learning track for evaluation purposes, and distribute to the members of the Music Committee, which includes the directors. Some of the aspects that we look at are the vocal range in each section; the amount of syncopation; whether the piece fits within our overall repertoire, whether we expect that it will be used in multiple shows or performances; and the overall difficulty of the piece.

~ Continued on next page ~





JANUARY 4 2023

From Les Creek

REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

MESSAGE CONTINUED

5. Once we've decided to pursue a piece, we have to calculate the overall investment. A single piece of music costs the chorus roughly \$350, including learning tracks. Of course, as the chorus grows in numbers, this cost will rise as we need to obtain more copies of the sheet music. Over the last couple of years, we have invested in quite a number of new pieces, such as Rhythm of Love, 500 Miles, Light One Candle, Believe. Of course, available budgeted funds are a determining factor.

Some of the pieces that we've purchased in the past have been a challenge to learn and perform, and yet we have risen to that challenge. Individually, we may still have some difficulty with these pieces, but we will continue to develop our skills in singing them. There really is nothing that feels better than conquering a challenge, and looking back at it, realizing what we have learned in meeting that challenge. Keep up the great work - it improves our performances dramatically.

- 6:55 to 7:05 Physical warmup
- 7:05 to 7:20 Vocal warmup
- 7:20 to 7:50 Sectionals (to assist LTSB members)
 - Can You Feel the Love
 - Unchained Melody
 - Stand By Me
- 7:50 to 8:30 Repertoire Review – Basic Show Package
 - Beach Boys / Dream Lover
 - Best of Doo Wop
 - Hello Mary Lou
 - I'm Feeling Fine
 - Can't Help Falling
 - Yesterday
 - Rhythm of Love
 - Imagine
- 8:30 to 8:45 Break and Business Meeting
- 8:45 to 9:30 Repertoire Review (continued)
- 9:30 to 9:55 Pick-up Quartets
- 9:55 Wrap up and Final Song
 - Irish Blessing



Planned Upcoming Rehearsals and Events (SUBJECT TO CHANGE!!!)

Jan 10 1:00 Performance at The Boulton

	New Music	Sectionals	Repertoire Review
Jan 11		Can You Feel The Love	Beach Boys / Dream Lover
		Unchained	Bridge Over Troubled Water
		Stand By Me	Rhythm of Love
			Best of Doo Wop
			500 Miles

Feb 3 2:00 Performance at Seine River Seniors

SING CANADA HARMONY SCHOLARSHIPS

Gordon Billows—SCH Board Member



Since becoming a Canadian registered charity in 2008, Sing Canada Harmony has awarded over \$800,000 in support of vocal music education in Canada. Our Winnipeg Chapter received almost \$18,000 of those funds. **The most recent Sing Canada Harmony scholarship award to our Winnipeg Chapter was \$550 for the purchase of music for our 75th Anniversary show.**

In 2022, 70 Sing Canada Harmony scholarships were awarded for a total value of about \$80,000. Twelve of those scholarships, total value of \$17,390, went to Manitoba individuals, schools, and community singing groups.

The Sing Canada Harmony Scholarship Fund receives donations mainly from members and chapters of the three Barbershopping organizations in Canada. Our Winnipeg Chapter supports this charity fund and there are, at the present time, 10 members wearing red Ambassador of Song (\$120/yr) or blue President's Council (\$1000/yr) ribbons that also donate to the Sing Canada Harmony Scholarship Fund annually.

As with all charities, we appreciate all donations and provide tax receipts. Consider making your donation to the Sing Canada Harmony Scholarship Fund in the 2022 tax year. Visit our website or contact me for information about our donor, scholarship or recognition programs.



LAND O' LAKES—LEADERSHIP TRAINING ACADEMY

Educational Sessions

Gordon Billows—IPP LOL

On Saturday morning, January 7th the Land O' Lakes District (BHS) will be hosting a Zoom Leadership Academy. Apart from sessions for Barbershop Harmony Society chapter executives (Pres, Sec, and Treas), there will also be two other electives that non-BHS members might be interested in "attending". Anyone interested needs to register for the Zoom sessions and/or electives before January 6.

Information and the registration link are on the following site:

<https://loldistrict.org/leadership-academy>

The Zoom link for the Saturday sessions/electives will be sent to registrants.

8:40—9:00 Online Sign-In

10:20—11:25 The Barbershop Belt by University of Illinois' Sarah Wigley In this class, she will teach you vocal techniques she teaches her Musical Performance students and the University of Illinois - and how you may use it in your barbershop life.

11:25—12:19 The Pain and Gain of Grant Writing by Harmony Foundation International's Dennis Castiglione. In this class, Dennis will teach you how to decide if grant writing is right for your organization. The focus will be on how to improve "Return on Investment" with successful practices.



“O CANADA”

From Gordon Billows—Wpg Chapter Historian

This “O Canada” sound track with words should help in learning the Bilingual version.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VkTLVFPe1J0>

“O Canada” - Bilingual (with translation)

O Canada!

Our home and native land!

True patriot love in all of us command.

Car ton bras sait porter l'épée,

Il sait porter la croix!

Ton histoire est une épopée

Des plus brillants exploits.

For thy arm knows how to bear the sword,

It knows how to bear the cross.

Thy history is an epic

Of the most brilliant exploits.



God keep our land glorious and free!

O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.

O Canada, we stand on guard for thee

"O Canada" is the official national anthem of Canada. The song was originally commissioned by Lieutenant Governor of Quebec, Theodore Robitaille, for the 1880 Saint-Jean-Baptiste Day ceremony. Calixa Lavallee composed the music, after which, words were written by the poet and judge, Sir Adolphe-Basile Routhier. The original lyrics were in French; the first English translation by Thomas Bedford Richardson was published in 1906. Multiple English versions ensued, with Robert Stanley Weir's version in 1908 gaining the most popularity, eventually serving as the basis for the official lyrics enacted by Parliament. Weir's lyrics have been revised three times, most recently when An Act to amend the National Anthem Act (gender) was enacted in 2018. The French lyrics remain unaltered. "O Canada" had served as a de facto national anthem since 1939, officially becoming the country's national anthem in 1980 when Canada's National Anthem Act received royal assent and became effective on July 1 as part of that year's Dominion Day (today's Canada Day) celebrations.

Robert Stanley Weir was a Montreal, Quebec judge and poet most famous for writing the English lyrics to "O Canada". He was educated as a teacher and lawyer and considered one of the leading experts of the day on Quebec's municipal civil law. He was appointed a municipal court judge and a judge for the Exchequer Court of Canada. Weir published several individual poems in magazines and collections in books. His 1908 lyrics for the English version of "O Canada" eclipsed many others' lyrical attempts and songs to quickly become the most popular patriotic song in Canada for the past century.

TO BRIGHTEN YOUR SPIRITS DURING THESE TRYING TIMES



A CHILLING ACCOUNT

A young man I know received a parrot as a gift. The parrot had a bad attitude and an even worse vocabulary. Every word out of the bird's mouth was rude, obnoxious and laced with profanity.

John tried and tried to change the bird's attitude by consistently saying only polite words, playing soft music and anything else he could think of to 'clean up' the bird's vocabulary.

Finally, John was fed up and he yelled at the parrot. The parrot yelled back.

John shook the parrot and the parrot got angrier and even more rude.

John, in desperation, threw up his hand, grabbed the bird and put him in the freezer. For a few minutes the parrot squawked and kicked and screamed. Then suddenly there was total quiet. Not a peep was heard for over a minute.

Fearing that he'd hurt the parrot, John quickly opened the door to the freezer. The parrot calmly stepped out onto John's outstretched arms and said "I believe I may have offended you with my rude language and actions.

I'm sincerely remorseful for my inappropriate transgressions and I fully intend to do everything I can to correct my rude and unforgivable behaviour."

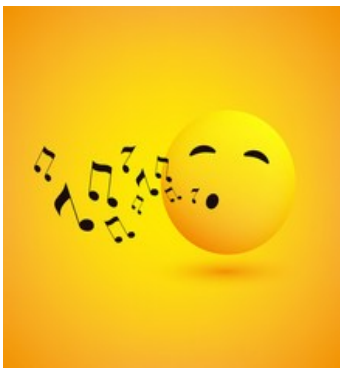
John was stunned at the change in the bird's attitude.

As he was about to ask the parrot what had made such a dramatic change in his behaviour, the bird spoke-up, very softly.....

"May I ask what the turkey did?"

START THE NEW YEAR RIGHT!





From Len Paluck



~ January 2023 ~

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 	2 Happy Birthday Chris Magas	3	Happy Birthday Shirley Christie Music cmte 5:30 Rehearsal 6:55	5	6	7 Happy Birthday Charlie Siegel
8	9	10	11 Exec.cmte 5:30 Rehearsal 6:55	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 Rehearsal 6:55	19	20	21 Happy Birthday Gordon Billows
22	23	24	25 Rehearsal 6:55	26 Happy Birthday Les Creek	27 Happy Birthday Becki Ammeter	28
29	30	31				

~ February 2023 ~

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Happy Birthday Brian Strong Music Cmte 5:30 Rehearsal 6:55	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 Exec Cmte 5:30 Rehearsal 6:55	9	10	11
12	13	14 	15 Rehearsal 6:55	16	17	18
19	20 	21	22 Rehearsal 6:55	23	24	25
26 Happy Birthday Rob Smith	27	28				

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.



2023 Chapter Executive

President: Rob Smith
Executive VP: Wendy Lamont
Past President: Paul Bullock
VP Membership & Chapter Development: Rosanne Labossiere-Gee
VP Music & Performance: Les Creek
VP Marketing & Public Relations: Becki Ammeter
Secretary: Shirley Christie
Treasurer: Paul Bullock
Chorus Manager: Len Paluck
Board Members at Large: 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,
Performance & Staging: Gayle Wharton
Music Research: Duncan Zaluski
Sheet Music Librarian: Len Paluck
Learning Track Librarian: Duncan Zaluski

2023 Leadership Positions

Accountant: Gary Miles
In-person Meeting Attendance: Norm Silverberg
50/50: Norm Silverberg
Awards Banquet Chairs: Gary & Ricki Miles
Learn to Sing Better Program: Wendy Lamont
Grey Cup Pool Chair: Rob Smith
Historian: Gordon Billows
Notes 4 U Team: Mae Denby, Becki Ammeter
Refreshments: **Need Volunteer**
Sing Canada Harmony: Gordon Billows
Sunshine: Charlie Siegel
Wardrobe: Charlie Siegel
Women's Wardrobe Committee: Becki, Gayle, Sherrie, Wendy
Website: (update and maintain) Chris Magas
Spring Show Producer: Mae Denby
Spring Show Chairperson: **Need Volunteer**
Spring Show Vice-Chair: **Need Volunteer**
LOL District Chapter Advocate: Gordon Billows
Historian Assistant: **Need Volunteer**