

NO NOTES 4 U

MARCH 22 NEXT PRACTICE
APRIL 15 Chorus Coaching Session
APRIL 24, 25, 28, 29 Music Lovers' Festival

FROM OUR PRESIDENT, ROB SMITH:

At rehearsal on Wednesday, some folks, especially Gord, were talking about singing Polecat songs. I promised to write an explanation what they are as that isn't self evident and us old timers sometimes forget that when talking with newer members.

Back in the early days, following the origins of the Barbershop Harmony Society in 1938, there was the question of obtaining musical arrangements in the barbershop style. For a number of years there were annual compilations of Harmony for Men. I think there were 12 books in that series. In the early 1980s Wendy Broadfoot (Ken's wife) gave me most of the books in that series as someone in Ontario had given them to her but they weren't in women's range for her quartet. I passed them along to our music librarian and they are probably somewhere in our archives. They were familiar songs from an earlier era and probably most were in public domain. Great songs, but a little dated. Sometime after that the Polecat #1 was introduced. Here is the link for this book if you're interested. <https://shop.barbershop.org/barberpole-cat-songbook-vol-i-download/> The name comes from the barberpole image of a white pole with a red wrap circling it. That was the image for barbershops when barbers not only cut hair but also did dental extractions and minor surgery.

There were 12 songs in this series and when a member mastered all 12, he (no women then) was given a little pin of the barberpole with the voice part displayed. I received my Tenor pin more than 30 years ago. I believe all the songs were in public domain so members could sing them anywhere with no royalty implications. The idea is that members across the society can sing standard arrangements of these songs at conventions etc. by finding members of the other 3 voice parts. Our chapter has had at least 2 more times when the Polecat program was run and many more members received their pins. There is some suggestion we run it again but members have much on their learning plate right now. Learning tracks for all 12 songs are in our chapter "member only" website for those who want to work on numbers on their own. So far, the arrangements are only in the range for male voices but women could give it a try as Andrea has done. There is also further explanation at society website <https://www.barbershop.org/polecats-cross-generations>



In recent years a second book of newer polecat songs has been published. It features some songs we know, such as "Hello Mary Lou", "I Don't Know Why" and other great songs such as "Bright Was the Night" which is quite a high level of difficulty. Some of those songs are also on our website along with downloadable music. I think you may have to buy Book 1 to get the music for those songs. Happy singing!

Rob

MESSAGE FROM LES CREEK:

I've talked a little before about our music selection process, but today I'd like to address something related. Last week we sang a polecat, My Wild Irish Rose, whose lyrics contained some innuendo that, in today's world, are questionable. This was mentioned to me last Wednesday, and it had been a topic of discussion previously. When it was written 124 years ago, these lyrics I'm sure were quite acceptable, but times have changed. The Barbershop Harmony Society has in the past few years removed a number of songs from their catalogue due to lyrical content, and we have decided that we will no longer sing one song, I've Been Working on the Railroad', from our performance repertoire. I'd like to remove Wild Irish from our repertoire as well.

I've mentioned before, and I want to reiterate, that we are an inclusive group and that we wish to offend no one. If there are any of our pieces that you find objectionable in any way, please speak to me directly.

Now to the coming rehearsals. As you all know, we are working diligently on the show music, and that will continue for the foreseeable future. We should now be 'off the page' on Pretty Woman and Grand Night. As soon as Gayle returns, we will also start scheduling time for choreography work on some of the songs (this is where we can use all we've learned from the physical warm-ups...).

One of the other things that we'll see in the coming weeks are the auditions by participating quartets. It's been our practice that every quartet that wishes to sing on the show must audition their show pieces well before the show date. At the last music committee meeting we felt that having the quartets audition by April 5th would aid the production of the show script and program. If needed, the final audition date will be April 12th. We have 4 chorus quartets planning to audition!

Again, I want to stress, for all of our new and prospective members, that you are NOT expected to learn all 11 pieces that we will be performing on the show. That is a tremendous amount of work to take on in only a few weeks or months. We would far rather have you sing a few songs that you know well and with which you are comfortable, than to attempt a lot of pieces that are weak. We are not discouraging you from learning all the pieces, but do not feel that you need to do that. If you are unsure about your readiness to sing a song, feel free to consult your section lead or one of the directors.

This being the middle of March, we will soon start to see our snowbirds return; something that we are all looking forward to!

Stay well and see you Wednesday!

Les

Rehearsal Timeline
Mar 22 2023

6:55 to 7:05	Physical warmup	
7:05 to 7:20	Vocal warmup	
7:20 to 8:15	Sectionals – spring show music	
	Be Our Guest	
	Lost in the Stars	
	Do You Hear the People Sing	
	I’m Feeling Fine	
8:15 to 8:45	Show Repertoire Review and choreo introduction	
	Be Our Guest	
	It’s a Grand Night for Singing	
	Unchained	
	Can You Feel the Love	
	Do You Hear the People Sing	
	Lost in the Stars	
	Can’t Help Falling	
	Daydream	
	Pretty Woman	
	Stand by Me	
	I’m Feeling Fine	
8:45 to 9:00	Break	
9:00 to 9:50	Repertoire Review (continued)	
9:50	Wrap up and Final Song	Keep the Whole World Singing

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

	New Music	Sectionals	Repertoire Review	Off page
March 29		Be Our Guest	Pretty Woman	now
		People Sing	People Sing	Apr 12
			Grand Night	now
			Be Our Guest	Apr 5
			Lost in the Stars	Apr 17
			Other show music	
			Choreography	

Apr 5 same as March 29

75th Anniversary Show Program

(Gordon Billows 204-488-2009 or billows@shaw.ca)

I am working on the show program now and would like all **Business/Quartet ads and Personal Donations** completed before **April 1st**. Contact me if you need more time or need any further information.

Business or Quartet Ads from Chapter members:

Business card \$100, 1/4 page \$200 (2 X 4 1/2), 1/2 page \$300 (3 1/2 X 4 1/2)

Process: In an email to billows@shaw.ca confirm size of ad wanted and send as a JPEG (preferred). Gordon will confirm if ad is OK for the program or will give suggestions. Once OK'd, you will receive an invoice. Gordon will need the complete business address and business contact person's name and email address.

Payment Options: (a) give Gordon a cheque at rehearsal (made out to River City Sound) or (b) e-transfer payment to billows@shaw.ca. Once payment is received our Chapter Treasurer will send a receipt to the contact person.

Personal Donations in support of our 75th Anniversary

Personal donations of \$75 or more will have the donor name(s) listed in the show program and will receive a tax receipt. Lesser donation amounts will also result in a tax receipt.

(River City Sound—Registered Charity Number 81567 7422 RR0001)

Process: In Person - Give Treasurer Bruce Wilton your \$75 cheque (made out to River City Sound and "75th" in the Memo area) and a note that includes the following information—your name and the name(s) you want listed in the program (ex: 75th, Paula & Gordon Billows) and the email address as to where to email the receipt.

*If an "**In Memoriam**" donation, indicate that (ex:75th, John Doe in memory of Jane Doe) in your note.

Online (on the RCS website via Canada Helps):

- Click **Donate Now** and indicate Donation Amount. In message area type "75th Anniversary" and type name(s) to be listed in the show program.

*If an "**In Memoriam**" donation, indicate that (ex:75th, John Doe in memory of Jane Doe)

- Click on **Donate** and provide your contact information
- Click on **Continue** and give your credit card information
- Click on **Complete Your Donation** and a tax receipt is sent to your email address.