

NO NOTES 4 U

Pre-St Patrick's Day Celebration

Let's show a lot of **GREEN** on Wednesday!

Maybe, we might even sing a special Irish Pole Cat song

MARCH 18 NEXT PRACTICE
APRIL 15 Chorus Coaching Session
APRIL 24, 25, 28, 29 Music Lovers' Festival

FROM OUR PRESIDENT, ROB SMITH:

Fellow barbershoppers, at the March meeting, your executive considered the question whether to maintain the policy requiring at least 2 Covid vaccinations to be able to attend our rehearsals. It was noted that Manitoba has discontinued the vaccination app and most public locations no longer require vaccination. With the exception of hospitals and some other health care facilities, there is no mandatory mask wearing. It is clear that Covid is still widespread in our community. The early vaccinations provide almost no protection from Omicron and other new variants. The more recent bi-valent vaccines do provide significant protection from serious illness and hospitalization but you may still get a mild infection. Some un-vaccinated folk claim that having had Covid 19 gives them better protection than being vaccinated. This is untrue; however, they likely have some short term protection depending on which variant they were infected with.

So, where do we go from here? There is no rationale for maintaining the present restriction requiring 2 of the early vaccinations. It was important at the time but protects no-one now. There is no government mechanism for validating what further vaccinations folk have had.

The executive has decided to discontinue the "vaccine mandate". We will continue to use the 4 air purifiers at our rehearsals and major performances. We will encourage members to get the latest vaccines available. Wearing masks at rehearsals and even performances will be by personal choice but not required. If members are not feeling well we encourage them to take a rapid test (which are still available) and not to attend rehearsals or other chapter events if they may have Covid.

Interested singers who were earlier turned away because of their un-vaccinated status may now attend as visitors and hopefully as future members.

I know some will be unhappy about this policy change but it is really the only choice based on present medical information.

The only remaining question is "when" to implement this change. It could be immediate but some executive members suggested we invite our members, LTSB folks and visitors to communicate directly with me (Rob) if they have concerns. The alternative would be to delay implementation until after our spring show. There is not enough time for any newly arriving members to get up to speed to sing on the show anyway. Let me know what you think.

Rob

Rehearsal Timeline
Mar 15 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
	Grand Night for Singing
	Do You Hear the People Sing
	Wild Irish Rose (polecat)
	I'm Feeling Fine
8:15 to 8:45	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
	Wild Irish Rose

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

	<u>New Music</u>	<u>Sectionals</u>	<u>Repertoire Review</u>	<u>Off page</u>
March 22		Grand Night	Pretty Woman	Mar 15
		Be Our Guest	People Sing	Apr 12
		People Sing	Grand Night	Mar 22.
			Be Our Guest	Apr 5
			Lost in the Stars	Apr 17
			Other show music	
March 29	same as March 22			

MESSAGE FROM LES CREEK:

My! Time does fly! It really struck me today that we are almost half way through March. So much has gone on in the chorus in the past 2 1/2 months: we've gotten grants for new-to-us risers; we've gotten the spring show well on it's way; our long time director (Sherrie) has decided to retire at the end of June, and we will soon start a search for her replacement (THANK YOU for so many years of dedicated leadership!); we've welcomed a number of new singers and worked to support them as they learn about our style of singing; there have been a number of new members audition and join, and I know of a few more that wish to audition soon; 3 performances at seniors' homes;... and so many other things.

Certainly, Rob and other members of the executive and music committees strive to keep you all informed of the opportunities and challenges we face, in order that everyone is informed and has fun at rehearsals. I know that it can be repetitive sometimes to sing the same 10 or 12 songs every week. That, however, is necessary as we polish the spring show. Next week Gayle, our choreographer, will start introducing some choreography for some of the show songs. We have existing choreo for Lost in the Stars, that was used at Christmas, and we will most likely use that again (but don't take my word for it!), and I know that she has some interesting ideas for our show opener.

Choreography can only happen when we are 'off the page' on the specific song(s), as we need to pay attention to the movements, and the timing of the movements. So we really need to be off the page by the dates listed in the rehearsal schedule. You'll notice that Pretty Woman should be off the page this week, and It's A Grand Night next week. It would help Gayle a lot if Be Our Guest could be off the page by the end of March, but we have listed it for April 5th.

By the way, for those of us that are somewhat (or, like me, a lot!!) uncoordinated, the physical warmups do help us prepare for the choreography, so a huge Thank You to everyone that leads that part of the rehearsal. It truly does help us sing better, and perform better.

I also wanted to mention the upcoming chorus coaching session on Saturday April 15th. We have a very well respected coach, Mark McLaurin from Grand Forks, coming to provide some thoughts and suggestions to both the chorus members and to our directors. We expect the session will run from roughly 9:00 to around 3:30 or so, but that may change. Lunch will be provided, so please, please plan to attend, and sign up on the attendance sheet. This is the first coaching session that we've had in the 5+ years that I've been a member, so let's really take advantage of this.

Also, just a note to be prepared that we will probably have one or two additional rehearsals just prior to the show. These typically are held on a Sunday afternoon or evening, depending on availability of the rehearsal space, so stay tuned for that information.

For all the new members, I have created slower versions of Be My Guest and they are now available on our website.

And lastly, this week we'll spend a bit of sectional time learning a polecat - My Wild Irish Rose - that we will sing as our final song, in tribute to St Patrick's Day, Leprechauns and 4 leaf clovers are certainly welcome to join us on Wednesday.

Les