

This
Notes 4 U



The latest news and updates from River City Sound



PHOTO BY GORDON BILLOWS

Important Dates

Next Rehearsal Date:
Wednesday, September 27th

2024 Executive Elections
Wednesday, September 27th

Music Committee
Wednesday October 4th

Executive Committee
Wednesday October 11th

Show Committee
Wednesday October 18th

BOTY Awards Night:
Friday, October 27th

Chorus Vocal Coaching:
Saturday, October 28th

Christmas Concert:
Saturday, November 25th

President's Musings

ROB SMITH

Are we having fun yet? Well plan to have fun for this whole year!

Welcome back to Musings, for the first fall 2023 edition. And a special welcome to our new editor Andrea Leader. Her role is to receive submissions from members, format the newsletter and email it out each week. Our target is to get submissions to her by noon each Friday and she will distribute it either late Friday or else Monday morning. There is lots happening in our chorus already this fall and Notes4U is a wonderful way to get the news out to all members and former members who want to receive it.

I want to extend a huge welcome to our new Co-Director, Jewel Casselman. As many of you know by now, Jewel is a recently retired school music educator. She is also a winner of a 2023 Canadian Juno award for her musical teaching accomplishments. Finally, she is a daughter of Cass, our beloved baritone and 73 year member of the Barbershop Harmony Society who died just over 3 years ago. Although Jewel hasn't conducted Barbershop before, she has it in her blood. So far at rehearsals, she is listening and watching to further familiarize herself with our current repertoire. When she has stepped in her natural musical talent shows.

I continue to be amazed at the interest our chorus is generating in potential new members. Most weeks we have at least one guest. They all seem keen and are confident singers. It sure bodes well for the future of our chorus!

The musical team of VP Music & Performance, Les, other members of the Music Committee, the co-directors and the Christmas Show committee have an exciting schedule of new music to learn and older music to be refreshed. The show committee already has many details figured out as we prepare for our one performance on Saturday Nov. 25th. Before then we have the Oct. 27th awards banquet at the Masonic Hall at Confusion Corner and a coaching session with Mark McLaurin the next day. He coached us before our concert last spring and we look forward once again to experiencing his great talent in upping our performance level.

One last matter, is next year's executive. We are supposed to notify District of our slate of officers by the end of September. That means we have to hold our election by Wednesday Sept 27th. I have been referencing this at our weekly business sessions. I hope that counts as "Official Notice". Next week, will include a list of present members

of the executive who have agreed to allow their name to stand for 2024. Further nominations can be made from "the floor" on the 27th. However, there are still some key gaps. Shirley Christie will not be continuing as secretary as she will be away for an extended time during the winter. Becki has agreed to continue as VP Marketing & Public Relations, but she would certainly like someone to work with her a Gayle has retired after doing her part fabulously in recent years. There is no "Executive Vice President" and no "Past President". That last one could be solved if someone steps forward to let their name stand as 2024 President. That would make me the Past President. I would certainly welcome that. If anyone would be willing to take on the role as Secretary that would be great. If you are aware of anyone who is too shy to step forward, maybe give them a little nudge. Please phone, text or email me, (431)337-7774 rob@margshoney.com. Cheers 'til next week.

ROB 🎵



Brian, Chris, Donna and Becki show casing their new quartet - Photo courtesy of Gord Billows

Good Day Everyone!

LES CREEK

Hi everyone. I was really impressed with you all on Wednesday. We almost nailed Perfect, and we are making great strides with the 2 new Christmas pieces. Rock and Roll is really coming along, and I expect that Mary's Little Boy Child will soon follow.

As you may have noticed, we have included 'off the page' dates for these new Christmas songs. The thought behind this is that we'd like to use them as the coaching pieces for Oct 28th and for Mark to work with us effectively, we need to be off the page, and used to singing them on the risers. Being 'off the page' doesn't really mean that you'll sing them perfectly, but that you are comfortable singing without having your head in the sheet music - i.e. you can watch the director for cues and feedback.

We'll continue to bring back the show music over the next couple of weeks, as we have done with Silver Bells. I think Winter Wonderland is the next on the list, which we'll start working on in a couple of weeks. Meanwhile, have fun at rehearsal.

See you Wednesday.

LES.🎵



Grey Cup Pool Tickets

available soon, maybe as early as next Wednesday. We will have 1800 this year so prepare to **SELL, SELL, SELL!**

Save Our Editor Time and Effort

BRIAN METCALFE

Please format contributions to Andrea Leader, our new "Notes 4 U" Editor as follows: Each Word document should be created on an 8.5" x 11" page with a 1cm margin on all sides. The primary font should be Arial, with the title in Arial, Bold, 16 point, title. The author's name should be in Arial, 10 point CAPS, with the body text in Arial 12 point. Andrea will layout each issue & distribute it to members as a PDF.🎵

[All contributions must be emailed to Andrea \(leader71@outlook.com\) before noon on Friday to be shared prior to the next rehearsal.](mailto:leader71@outlook.com)

BRIAN.🎵

Upcoming Birthdays

John Latham
October 2nd

Ken Finnbogson
October 4th

Donna Boyle
October 11th



O Holy Night Descant Meeting

PAUL BULLOCK

Here's a list of names for who is singing each part of the Oh Holy Night descant. Shirley, I've assumed that you sing the bari part and Rhonda, I've assumed that you sing the lead part.

We'll meet at 6:45 on Sep 27 to practice singing the descant. It will likely require more time than that and it may be difficult for some to arrive that early. So, we'll likely need a bit more time to get everyone up to speed. That could be at the end of the evening after the chorus rehearsal or during

the break. If necessary, we could look for a different day. All of these will present some challenges, so think about it and if you have ideas, let us all know. In the meantime, work on your part and try to become familiar with it, if you haven't sung it previously.

Chris has put a link to the Descant sheet music alongside the individual tracks, under Oh Holy Night near the top of our web page.

Tenor - Beckie, Jewel, Carol, Caroline

Lead - Donna B, Donna S, Wendy, Susan, Rhonda

Bari - Andrea, Gayle, Sharon, Shirley

Bass - Roseanne, Lynne, Heather, Bonnie

PAUL 🎵



Rock and Roll Christmas Notes Don't Match Up

PAUL BULLOCK

There are two places in Rock and Roll Christmas where the notes for the lead and baritone learning tracks do not match up with those in the sheet music. For anyone that would like to know which notes are being sung at these specific spots in those learning tracks, please see below.

Bars 56 to 58, page 6

Lead - sing the notes as written in Bar 55 and 56 for the word "know". On the word "Yeah" (Bar 56), start singing the baritone notes (those with stems up in the bass clef). Continue singing baritone notes to Bar 58 as far as the syllables "mis -

tle". On the syllable "toe" (Bar 58), return to singing the lead notes.

Baritone - sing the notes as written in Bar 55 and 56 for the word "know". On the word "Yeah" (Bar 56), start singing the lead notes (those with stems down in the treble clef). Continue singing lead notes to Bar 58 as far as the syllables "mis - tle". On the syllable "toe" (Bar 58), return to singing the baritone notes.

Bars 71 to 74, page 7

Lead - sing the lead notes through bar 70. In bar 71, start singing the baritone notes (those with stems up in the bass clef) starting on the word "rock". Continue singing baritone notes up to and including the word "used" in Bar 74. On the word "to" in Bar 74, return to singing the lead notes.

Baritone - sing the baritone notes through bar 70. In bar 71, start singing the lead notes (those with stems down in the treble clef) starting on the word "rock". Continue singing lead notes up to and including the word "used" in Bar 74. On the word "to" in Bar 74, return to singing the baritone notes.

And, before you ask, "No, I don't have any idea why the learning tracks were sung with these changes!"

PAUL 🎵

Mary's Little Boy Child

JEWEL CASSELMAN

Please make note of the changes that we had discussed at last Wednesday's rehearsal:

- Measure 34 - change them to they
- Measure 40 - change come to came
- Measure 42 - change them to they
- Measure 44 - change born she to bear her

JEWEL 🎵

A Heads Up From Your Visual Presentation team

GAYLE WHARTON

Hi chorus! As soon as we can get off paper we will be introducing a few appropriate moves to enhance our "A Traditional Christmas" performance. Our big opener is "Rock and Roll Christmas". A fun song to capture our audience right off the hop.

Our directors are on board so please let's work hard to accomplish this goal as soon as possible. Time is short!!!

Thank you so much.

GAYLE🎵

Sing Canada Harmony & Land O' Lakes

GORDON BILLOWS

Since becoming a Canadian registered charity in 2008, Sing Canada Harmony has awarded over \$850,000 in support of vocal music education in Canada. Our Chapter received over \$20,000 of those funds. The most recent Sing Canada Harmony scholarship awards to River City Sound was \$760 for the purchase of music for our 2024 Learn to Sing Better program and \$550 for our 75th Anniversary music.

In the last 12 months, 112 Sing Canada Harmony scholarships were awarded in Canada for a total value of about \$131,000. Seventeen of those scholarships, total value of \$14,795, 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 Chapter and many

members make annual donations in support of this Canadian charity. We Keep the Melody Ringing!

The Land O' Lakes District will be holding a "Parade of Checks (cheques)" at the upcoming House of Delegates meeting at the LOL convention on October 13th. Chapter have this opportunity to show their support for their charity of choice. American chapters usually support Harmony Foundation and Canadian chapters support Sing Canada Harmony. As in the past, we include chapter members' donations in the total donation amount that is announced at the "Parade".

YOUR PERSONAL DONATION CHEQUE TO SING CANADA HARMONY CAN BE A PART OF THAT TOTAL.

Simply write a cheque, payable to Sing Canada Harmony, and give it to me for processing. All donations are appreciated and donations over \$20 will generate a tax receipt. October 11th is the last day to add your personal donation to the "Parade" total. Contact Gordon Billows (LOL and SCH representative) if you would like further information - billows@shaw.ca

GORD🎵



Wendy, Larry, Les, Rob, Herold and Andrea spinning a few chords - courtesy of Gord Billows

Rehearsal Timeline
September 27 2023

6:55 to 7:05 Physical warmup
7:05 to 7:25 Vocal warmup
7:25 to 8:15 Sectionals
Rock and Roll Christmas
Mary's Little Boy Child
Light One Candle
Lost in the Stars
Silver Bells
Jingle Bell Rock



8:15 to 8:50 Repertoire Review
Rock and Roll Christmas
Mary's Little Boy Child
Light One Candle
Lost in the Stars
Peace, Peace
Silver Bells
Jingle Bell Rock
Perfect
Imagine

8:50 to 9:10 Break and Business Meeting
9:10 to 9:50 Repertoire Review (continued)
9:50 Wrap up and Final Song



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

	<u>New Music</u>	<u>Sectionals</u>	<u>Off page Date</u>	<u>Repertoire Review</u>
Oct 4		R & R Xmas Perfect Mary's Boy Child O Holy Night	Oct 4 now Oct 11	Imagine Perfect Light One Candle Lost in the Stars O Holy Night Peace Peace Jingle Bell Rock Silver Bells
Oct 27	BOTY (Barbershopper of the Year) Awards			
Oct. 28	Coaching session with Mark McLaurin – confirmed – time 9 am to 3pm			

Here's a "Perfect" Tip

BRIAN METCALFE

At our last rehearsal, I had forgotten to bring my sheet music to "Perfect". However, I did have my "lyric sheet" with all the words to "Perfect" typed out in a one-page Word document. Bernie Gunn, who was sitting beside me, was amazed that I had typed out all the lyrics to this song and asked if I would send him all the words that I had "typed" out. I assume Bernie knows that I only type with one finger, so I assume he was impressed with my dexterity and patience. When I told him my technique for creating these lyric sheets, I thought there might be other chorus members who might benefit from creating lyric sheets. So, here's my secret to create a lyric sheet with a minimal amount of typing:

1. Use Google to find the lyrics to the song. For example, I searched for "lyrics of Perfect by Ed Sheeran". The key seems to be the word "lyrics", the song title, and the music or lyrics creator.
2. Highlight the lyrics from the website that Google recommended, copy & paste the lyrics into a blank Word document, and save the lyric sheet.
3. Verify that the lyrics in the Word document agree with the lyrics in the sheet music and the audio track as there may be slight differences. Save this original lyrics document in a Word format.
4. Volunteer to share your lyrics sheet with other chorus members.

My Customize or Personalize Tips

- I use the Windows Ctrl-A command to highlight all the lyrics in my Word lyric sheet & set all the words to **Bold Face**
- Next I highlight any lines that are repeated in the song and I change them to the *Italics* type style as I often will work on them first.
- As I slowly learn certain lyrics, I remove their **Bold Face** so the plain text displays which lyrics are mastered and the remaining **Bold Face** lyrics highlight those words on which I must focus.

Take care & keep smiling :-)

BRIAN

PERFECT

by Ed Sheeran

**I found a love, for me
Darling, just dive right in and follow my lead
Well, I found a girl, beautiful and sweet
Oh, I never knew you were the someone waiting for me**

**'Cause we were just kids when we fell in love
Not knowing what it was
I will not give you up this time
But darling, just kiss me slow
Your heart is all I own
And in your eyes, you're holding mine**

*Baby, I'm dancing in the dark
With you between my arms
Barefoot on the grass
Listening to our favourite song*

**When you said you looked a mess
I whispered underneath my breath
But you heard it
Darling, you look perfect tonight**

Well, I found a woman, stronger than anyone I know
She shares my dreams, I hope that someday I'll share her home
I found a lover, to carry more than just my secrets
To carry love, to carry children of our own

We are still kids, but we're so in love
Fighting against all odds
I know we'll be alright this time
Darling, just hold my hand
Be my girl, I'll be your man
I see my future in your eyes

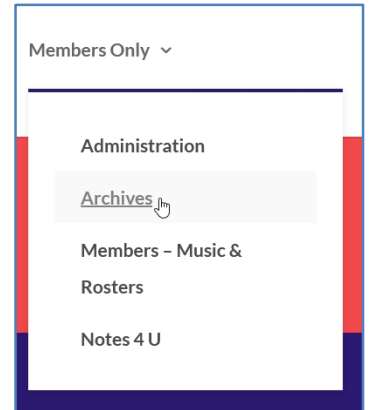
*Baby, I'm dancing in the dark
With you between my arms
Barefoot on the grass
Listening to our favorite song*

“Friends are the family you choose.” (Jess C. Scott)

BRIAN METCALFE

As a chorus member, I’m sure you regularly visit our rivercitysound.ca website to check on the musical resources under the third menu item. However, I encourage you to also visit the “Archives” (second entry) and explore the “Getting To know You” Autobiographies of other chorus members.

When I first joined the chorus, I encouraged our chorus members to write a short story about themselves including pictures to enhance their article. Imagine how much better I could connect with individuals who had a passion for cycling, gardening, travelling, books & movies or driving Mazda Miata sports cars.



I will be contacting any “new” members, who, as yet, do not have an autobiography displayed in the Archives, to share their story. The newsletter date, in which you will be asked to share your story, will be based on the alphabetical order of your surname. Based on this process, next week’s story will be shared by Brian Blakeley and Brad Trupp has plenty of time to prepare. Please email me your story and pictures to: bkmetcalf@shaw.ca I will then format your handiwork and send it on to our Notes 4 U editor. Furthermore, I would also like those, who have shared an Autobiography, to consider adding a sequel to a previous story to bring us all up-to-date.

I would be remiss if I did not thank Andrea Leader for taking over as Editor of “Notes 4 U” from Mae Denby. Having witnessed Andrea’s creative talents in creating show posters, I am delighted to have her share her innovation with us through this important weekly publication. Furthermore, to help readers visualize what a “Getting to Know You” story might look like, Andrea has graciously shared her autobiography on the next page.

BRIAN🎵

GETTING TO KNOW ... ANDREA LEADER

ANDREA LEADER



I was born on June 14, 1971 in Winnipeg's Grace Hospital to June and Cliff. I'm the youngest of three children, my brother John was also born in Winnipeg, while elder brother Chris born in England before my parents chose to emigrate.



here
my
was

I feel so fortunate to have been raised in a home full of music and I am truly blessed to have had the joy of music instilled in me at an early age.

My Dad was always musically inclined and in 1978 he joined the Golden Chordsmen. As a young girl, I happily sang his baritone part along with him and shadowed him at every opportunity. I remember riding on the tour buses and would proudly spout the acronym for SPEBSQSA: **S**inging for the **P**reservation and **E**ncouragement of **B**arbershop **Q**uartet **S**inging in **A**merica! I had the opportunity to perform with the chorus in 1994, dancing the black bottom. I love to sing and singing with my Dad was amazing!



In 1981, a small group of students were selected within my school division for a two-day choir camp. The intention was to present this newly assembled choir to the board of trustees in hope that they would start a legacy. We were a success as this choir continues today.

In school I sang (of course!) played clarinet, bass clarinet and contra-alto clarinet. High

school found me in the jazz band and choir.

In Grade 10 I auditioned for the Winnipeg Chorus. We practiced once a week downtown at Knox United Church and toured the continent in competition with other choruses.



Outside of music, I participated in Brownies, Girl Guides, Explorers and took dance lessons. When I was old enough, I signed up for Sea Cadets like my eldest brother at HMCS Chippawa and of course joined the band.



In junior high school, I had the usual McJob as fry-gal and later worked at D-Jays restaurant, Pizza Hut, Big Sky Restaurant, and Country Kitchen.

Years later while on my worked for Dr. Mestdagh were married in 1999 and children: Michael, Colin with you that all three of mid-wife. I chose to stay chiropractic clinic and time to work on site once



path to becoming a herbologist, I and met my husband, Eric. We began our family with three amazing and Rebecca. I'm proud to share my babies were born at home with a home and work, running our orchestrating staff until I felt it was again at Assiniboine Chiropractic.



In 2001 my Dad's quartet, Zephyr, were in need of someone to fill in for alto in this mixed quartet. Although it had been many years since I sang, it was my pleasure. For what ever reason their alto never came back and so I was the full-time fill-in.

Zephyr sang together for twelve years performing as a quartet and trio. We sang as the main performance at open-mic nights and coffee houses. We sang for many Manitoba Herb Society functions and any celebration that could use a little extra harmony.

When I'm not studying notes and words, you'll find me in the garden looking for bees and butterflies, working on my Subaru with Michael, taking my cat for a walk, or spending quality time with friends and family!

ANDREA🎵

2023 Chapter Executive



President: Rob Smith
Executive VP:
Past President:
VP Membership & Chapter Devel: Rosanne Labossiere-Gee
VP Music & Performance: Les Creek
VP Marketing & Public Relations: Becki Ammeter
Secretary: Shirley Christie
Treasurer: Bruce Wilton
Chorus Manager: Len Paluck
Board Members at Large: Herold Driedger & Susan Altomare

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 – Andrea Leader

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 unsubscribe, or has questions about any of the items in Notes 4 U, contact the editor.

2023 Music Committee

VP Music & Performance: Les Creek
Chorus Co-Directors: Jewel Casselman & Larry Hunter
Tenor Section: Becki Ammeter & Andrea Leader
Lead Section: Chris Magas & Charlie Siegel
Baritone Section: Len Paluck
Bass Section: Ken Broadfoot & Herold Driedger
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
Grey Cup Pool Chair: Rob Smith
Historian: Gordon Billows
Historian Assistant: **Need Volunteer**
Notes 4 U Team: Andrea Leader & Becki Ammeter
Refreshments: Len Paluck **Need Volunteer**
Sing Canada Harmony: Gordon Billows
Sunshine: Charlie Siegel
Wardrobe: Charlie Siegel
Women's Wardrobe Committee: Becki Ammeter & Gayle Wharton
Website: (update and maintain) Chris Magas
LOL District Liaison: Gordon Billows
Christmas Show 2023 Producer: Larry Hunter
Christmas Show 2023 Co-Chairs: Charlie Siegel & Donna Boyle
Spring Show 2024 Producer: **Need Volunteer**

