

This
Notes 4 U



The latest news and updates from River City Sound



PHOTO BY JUDY MANNES

Important Dates

Next Rehearsal Date:
Wednesday, October 11th

Executive Committee
Wednesday October 11th

Show Committee
Wednesday October 18th

BOTY Awards Night:
Friday, October 27th

Chorus Vocal Coaching:
Saturday, October 28th

Music Committee
Wednesday November 1st

Christmas Concert:
Saturday, November 25th

President's Musings

ROB SMITH

Already, we are at Thanksgiving weekend. Marg and I will travel out of town and visit with relatives in Brandon. I hope you all have exciting plans for this weekend, likely focused on family. Before I "retired" 25 years ago, I looked forward to having a Monday off. Now, probably like most retirees, my weekly schedule is no longer built around "work days" but around other activities, especially singing. Some of you still have a regular work schedule, and we are thankful you fit singing into your plans. It is a great way to balance your activities.

On Wednesday, we had the election of the 2024 Executive. A number of the present executives

have agreed to stay on. Still, there were some new members: We are pleased to welcome Brad Trupp and Bonnie Robinson, especially delighted that Sharon Sankar offered to take on the role of chapter secretary. The list of Executive Members is elsewhere in Notes4U. I also thank retiring members Bruce Wilton and Shirley Christie. I'm sure they will continue mentoring the members taking over as treasurer and secretary.

At the business portion on Wednesday, the membership also passed revisions to the chapter by-laws, including an amendment proposed by Gordon Billows and seconded by Ken Broadfoot. Les had undertaken to draft revisions as our previous by-laws were seriously outdated. It did not reflect that we are no longer a men-only organization and did not reflect how our chapter admits new members. Now that our by-law changes are approved, the executive will forward them to the society.

On Wednesday, Gary Miles began selling tickets to our Awards Banquet on October 27th. The cost is \$35 per person, a great deal. Chris also reminded us that he is the contact for anyone who wants to participate in River City Sound's Got Talent. We invite you to showcase your entertainment skills.

I count seven more Wednesday rehearsals until our November 25th Christmas show. The good news is that we are in good shape on the learning curve. I'm incredibly impressed by how newer members are learning the music, some of which are difficult. We are sounding good. We will be ready for our coaching session on Saturday, October 28th.

In Harmony

ROB 🎵



The Renewed 2024 Executive

- President..... Rob Smith
- Past President:..... **vacant**
- Executive Vice President:..... **vacant**
- VP Membership & Chapter Development.....
..... Rosanne Labossiere-Gee
- VP Music & Performance..... Les Creek
- VP Marketing & Public Relations...Becki Ammeter
- Assistant to VP Marketing & Public Relations (not necessarily a board position)..... **vacant**
- Secretary..... Sharon Sankar
- Treasurer..... Brad Trupp
- Chorus Manager..... Len Paluck
- Board Members at Large:
- Herold Driedger
- Susan Altomare
- Brian Blakley
- Bonnie Robinson

Good Day Everyone!

LES CREEK

Wow! Where does the time go? We have seven regular rehearsals before the Christmas show! We may have an extra rehearsal the weekend before the show, but that has yet to be confirmed, as the Sunday before the show is Grey Cup, and we hope that everyone singing in the show can attend the rehearsal. For the new folks, these extra rehearsals are typically held on a weekend and last for about 2 hours; just enough time to go through the show songs, work on a couple of them, and also on any choreography that needs a little help. Stay tuned as we try to select a date and time for the rehearsal.

I want to reassure all the new and prospective members who hope to sing on the show that we expect you to learn only some of the show's music. We'll probably be singing about 11 songs, which is a lot to learn in 2 or 3 months. We don't use sheet music on the risers when we perform. We hope you can sing (off the page) at least 2 or 3 pieces with the chorus on stage and more if you are comfortable and confident with the additional music. We view ourselves as a teaching organization, so it is perfectly acceptable for members to go on and off the stage throughout the performance. So don't stress out about all the music to be sung! If you are comfortable with some of the pieces, you will be relaxed when singing them; relaxed singers create the best sound.

Now that we are in show rehearsal mode, using the risers every week until the end of November, riser discipline on the chorus's part is critical to successful rehearsal. That means a) Minimize talking to your neighbour (when you are talking, people around you can't hear the director) and b) Watch the director from the start of the song to the finish, and for any of the director comments following the song. This is important in learning the new music and any choreography (and figuring out which song will be sung next).

Everyone is working hard on the show music, and it is really coming together, including the two new pieces. Well done! We'll give our audience a great show!

LES.🎵

Grey Cup Ticket Update

ROB SMITH

Ticket sales are going really well! The first batch has been handed out and we are now working through the second batch. Great job every body!

ROB 🎵

BOTY Awards Banquet Go on Sale

GARY MILES

Tickets go on sale this Wednesday for the BOTY awards banquet on October 27th. The price is \$35 each, and payment can be made in cash, by cheque payable to River City Sound, or by e-transfer to garmiles@shawbiz.ca.

Try to have exact change, but if you can't, I will have a fund of \$5 bills. Tickets will be available up to the last Wednesday before the dinner. If people need a vegan, vegetarian, or gluten-free meal, they should email Gary to let him know so it can be pre-ordered.

GARY🎵

BOTY Banquet Menu

*House baked caramelized onion and rosemary
focaccia with olive oil and balsamic*

Chef's choice house salad

*Chicken cacciatore with peppers, mushrooms on
jasmine rice and fresh herbs*

Roasted carrots with butter and dill

Vegan gluten free option

(will need to be pre-ordered)

Dessert, fruit, coffee, tea

Christmas Show Song List

LARRY HUNTER

So the Chorus members know the songs they will need to review/learn for our upcoming Christmas Show. Songs are not in their final order.

- Rock & Roll Christmas
- Jingle Bell Rock
- Winter Wonderland
- Silver Bells
- Joy to the World (LTSB)
- First Noel (LTSB)
- Mary's Boy Child
- Light One Candle
- Imagine
- Lost in the Stars
- O Holy Night
- Peace Peace/ Silent Night

LARRY 🎵

Land O' Lakes "Parade of Checks"

GORDON BILLOWS

The Land O' Lakes District will hold a "Parade of Checks" at the upcoming House of Delegates meeting on October 13th. This coming Wednesday, October 11th, is the last opportunity for members to add their personal Sing Canada Harmony donation cheques to those given already. So far, the Chapter's donation and two private donations total \$870. Write a cheque payable to Sing Canada Harmony and give it to me for processing. Giving cash will work, also. You will receive a tax receipt for donations over \$20. If you decide to donate to Sing Canada Harmony online, let me know so I can include your donation in the total amount presented at the "Parade of Checks." Contact me if you would like further information.

GORDON 🎵

Getting To Know ...Susan Altomare

SUSAN ALTOMARE

My love for music started when my parents enrolled me in ballet lessons at three years of age. Things got more serious when I turned five and took my first Royal Conservatory of Dance ballet exam—this involved months of practice, a special outfit, and pink ballet slippers. I was in heaven! The examiner came to Canada from England, and the pianist was the only other person in the examination room. Even the windows were covered, so no one could see what was happening. Talk about nerve-racking but still fun! I was hooked and continued dancing until I was 15. During that time, I passed five ballet exams, performed in many recitals and helped with preschool dance classes.



My "singing career" started when I joined St. Mark's Anglican Church Choir at age 6. We practised weekly, and I loved it. We performed on

many occasions, but my favourite by far was Christmas. I continued singing with the Church choir until 1983.



In Grade 1 at school, I joined the choir. In 1967, to celebrate Canada's Confederation, I was asked to sing in an honour choir with Bobby Gimby as the guest conductor (yes, I'm that old). I was first asked to sing a solo in Grade 2 at the school Christmas Concert. The song was "I Wonder As I Wander," and I remember feeling nervous, but I practised and was able to perform successfully. I continued to sing in the school choir and had roles in school musicals, where I played the part of Lady Thiang in "The King and I" and Nancy in "Oliver."

In Grade 6, the music teacher encouraged my parents to enrol me in private singing lessons. My parents signed me up, and I had my first lesson. I remember thinking my teacher was very elderly (probably only in her 60s) and quite strict. She had two cats who loved to sit on my shoulders while I waited for my lesson. She insisted I sing solos in four categories at the Manitoba Music Festival every year. I also started preparing for

singing exams and studying music theory, history and harmony. I can't honestly say I enjoyed performing at the Music Festival; getting up on the stage alone and singing before an adjudicator who was busy writing notes and peering at you over their reading glasses was so intimidating. I think everything on my body was shaking, even my teeth! I sang in the Festival for eight years, passed Toronto Conservatory singing exams up to Grade 9, and helped teach preschool music until I was 17.

I auditioned for the Winnipeg Philharmonic Choir in 1981 under the direction of Barry Anderson. I was a 2nd soprano and loved the amazing harmonies and wonderful voices. I sang with the choir until 1983 when I moved out of the province.

While living in Moose Jaw for three years and then Victoria for eight, I sang in Church Choirs. It was a great way to meet new people who loved music like I did. In 1993, I returned to Winnipeg and rejoined St. Mark's Choir. I was often asked to sing at weddings, funerals and special occasions.



In September 2022, I saw an ad in the Herald about a Learn to Sing Better Program with the River City Chorus. Barbershop was one kind of singing I'd never tried and always wanted to. I came to my first practice and really enjoyed it. Everyone was welcoming and friendly, and I loved

the music. I completed the program in November and became hooked after participating in the Christmas Concert. It was so much fun! In January, I auditioned to sing “Can You Feel the Love,” and the rest is history.

Another one of my passions is coaching 5-pin bowling with Special Olympics. In February 2020, I coached a provincial ladies’ team, and they won a gold medal at the Nationals in Thunder Bay. What a wonderful experience! I am coaching another team who will compete at the February 2024 Nationals in Calgary. Volunteering for Special Olympics has been such a rewarding experience. I definitely get more out of it than they get out of me!

Alessandro (Al) and I have been married for 24 years (both our 2nd marriages), and we have four daughters, Megan, Cara, Holly, and Alyssa, plus six grandchildren: Jacob, Ben, Sophie, Tristan, Audrey, and Avery. Besides music, I love bike riding, 5-pin bowling, cross-country skiing, travelling, and spending time with my grandchildren.

SUSAN 🎵

Lost In The Stars Movements

GAYLE WHARTON

Please carefully read over the next page describing the choreography for this song. The purpose is for us to spend some time at home getting familiar again with this great song. Maybe print yourself a copy, and then you’ll have it to keep. Please spend some time before Wednesday. Most of us have performed it, so it should only need refreshing.

Thanks!

GAYLE 🎵

Upcoming Birthdays

Donna Boyle
October 7th

Doug Buffie
October 28th



LOST IN THE STARS - Presentation Plan

From Sherrie Bredesen

STAR POSITION - Baritones and Tenor stand toward, and look toward, their LEFT

Basses and Leads stand toward, and look toward, their RIGHT

Turn into your Star Position Direction but make sure you are able to see the Director out of your peripheral vision.

(OPEN) heads are up

(CLOSED) heads are down (reverently)

BASSES move to OPEN POSITION as they sing the first note

BARITONES move to OPEN POSITION as they sing the first "Oo-oo-oo"

LEADS move to OPEN POSITION at the next "Oo-oo-oo"

TENORS move to OPEN POSITION at the third one.

ALL SINGERS MOVE INTO **CHORUS POSITION** at the end of that phrase, just before the words start.

STRONG FOOT PLACEMENT - "NOW a MAN" Place outside foot FORWARD, followed by the other foot so that you are facing directly "down the tiles" towards the audience

CROUCH INWARD - knee bend as you lean towards the center on "Little stars"

STRAIGHTEN AND SPREAD OUT TO SIDES - hands at your sides on "Big stars"

CIRCLE NOTE MOVE - use outward hand(downstage hand) to "draw" a note head, moving from down at your side outward and back to your side and then straight up in a strong move to represent the "stem" of the note on "Blowing through the night!"

TRICKLE DOWN HANDS - hands trickle down from straight up, all at different times and rates but be down before the Bass posting note "Stars...."

FINAL STAR POSITION (open) - Basses assume their star position on their Post note "Stars"

Baritones move with the next "Oo-oo-oo", then the Leads and finally the Tenors

At the ending of the final note, all heads will assume the CLOSED STAR POSITION

Rehearsal Timeline - October 11, 2023

by Les Creek

6:55 to 7:05	Physical warmup
7:05 to 7:25	Vocal warmup
7:25 to 8:05	Sectionals Silver Bells Winter Wonderland Mary's Little Boy Child Off the Page Now Lost in The Stars O Holy Night
8:05 to 8:45	Repertoire Review Rock and Roll Christmas Mary's Little Boy Child Light One Candle Silver Bells Jingle Bell Rock Lost in the Stars Winter Wonderland Peace, Peace O Holy Night
8:45 to 9:00	Chapter Meeting and break
9:00 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 18		First Noel (2022 LTSB version) Mary's Boy Child Lost in the Stars Silver Bells O Holy Night Winter Wonderland	Now	First Noel Light One Candle Perfect Lost in the Stars Jingle Bell Rock R & R Christmas Peace Peace Silver Bells Mary's Boy Child
Oct 25		Joy To The World (2022 LTSB Version)		
Oct 27		BOTY (Barbershopper of the Year) Awards - See Gary for Tickets on Wednesday!!		
Oct. 28		Coaching session with Mark McLaurin – confirmed – time 9 am to 3pm at St Andrews church		



2023 Chapter Executive



President: Rob Smith
Executive VP: (vacant)
Past President: (vacant)
VP Membership & Chapter Devel: Rosanne Labossiere-Gee
VP Music & Performance: Les Creek
VP Marketing & Public Relations: Becki Ammeter
Secretary: Sharon Sankar
Treasurer: Brad Trupp
Chorus Manager: Len Paluck
Board Members at Large: Herold Driedger, Susan Altomarem, Brian Blakley, Bonnie Robinson

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: Larry Hunter, Jewel Casselman
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 Draw: Norm Silverberg
Awards Banquet Chairs: Gary Miles, Ricki Miles
Grey Cup Pool Chair: Rob Smith
Historian: Gordon Billows
Historian Assistant: **Need Volunteer**
Notes 4 U Editor: Andrea Leader
Refreshments: Len Paluck **Need Volunteer**
Sing Canada Harmony: Gordon Billows
Sunshine: Charlie Siegel
Wardrobe: Charlie Siegel
Women's Wardrobe Committee: Becki Ammeter, Donna Boyle
Website Maintenance: 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**