

This
Notes 4 U



The latest news and updates from River City Sound



PHOTO BY GORDON BILLOWS

Important Dates

Next Rehearsal Date:
Wednesday, October 25th

BOTY Awards Night:
Friday, October 27th

Chorus Vocal Coaching:
Saturday, October 28th

Music Committee
Wednesday November 1st

Executive Committee
Wednesday November 8th

Show Committee
Wednesday November 15th

Christmas Concert:
Saturday, November 25th

President's Musings

ROB SMITH

Time flies: one week until the awards banquet, chorus coaching next Saturday and five weeks until the Christmas show. The music sounds good at the rehearsals, even the 2 LTSB numbers from last year, The First Noel and Joy to the World, which we haven't sung for almost a year. I understand that the baritones are making a valiant effort to learn the off-beat rhythm in Mary's Little Boy Child. By far, the Bari's have the most challenging part in that number, and the question was raised whether to press ahead learning it or substitute something less complicated. The Baritones want to keep working on it, and it is one of the numbers Mark McLaurin will focus on next Saturday.

There are ongoing changes in my personal life. Our staff house for Philippine beekeepers who worked for us has now been sold and left for Garman yesterday.

There is some sadness in giving up this part of our lives. Similarly, as we add new selections to the chorus repertoire, we can't just keep all the old songs as there is a limited number we can stay current. Bridge Over Troubled Water and Hello Mery Lou are two we recently moved from. As I have said before, giving up songs we have enjoyed makes one a little sad, but there is excitement in learning new songs. Recently, the Beatles, "Something" has been proposed for LTSB, and Andrea found a nice 4-part arrangement with learning tracks. There is no final decision yet, but the feedback has been positive.



And now about Grey Cup Pool tickets. Every week, more go out as members sell what they have previously taken. I count 325 tickets left out of the original 1800. Some members may have been overly optimistic and will return some they have been unable to sell, but this is a perfect start with just over four weeks left until the big game. Please plan to return your sold tickets, money and any unsold tickets to me by November 15th. If you still need to do so, it will take me some time to get any tickets scratched off and organize them to make the winners easy to find on game day. Thanks. In Harmony,

ROB 🎵

More From Les

LES CREEK

I hope everyone has enjoyed the last few days of summer! As much as we'd like it to continue, we know that the seasons are changing, which means that the Christmas show is only 5 REHEARSALS away. We MAY book an extra rehearsal in the weeks before the show, but that will be determined in the next couple of weeks. We have tentatively booked the rehearsal space for Sunday, November 18th, from 1 to 3:30, but stay tuned to determine if this will be required.

I want to remind everyone to sign up for the coaching session on October 28th from 9 to 3 p.m. It will be a great learning experience with Mark McLaurin, and we will work on some of our Christmas songs. We will be providing lunch, so we need a reasonably accurate count of the attendees. Like the spring session, lunch will be sandwiches, salad, and cookies.

Also, that day, we want to bring our new risers into the rehearsal hall and take the old risers out to our trailer, so any help you can give with that would be greatly appreciated. It doesn't take long, but some carrying and hauling are involved.

One other note from the show committee and the producer: we may include Imagine in the show (this has yet to be determined), but it would be a good idea to review it in case that happens. I've included it in this week's sectional for a quick refresher.

Stay well, everyone, and see you Wednesday

LES 🎵

Show Details For The Ladies

DONNA BOYLE

Hello my fellow songbirds! Here is a list of costumes for the Christmas show. It contains details for our new members experiencing their first concert performance; yay!!

(continued on next page)

1ST HALF

- White top – long sleeve or 3/4 sleeve
- ◆ this can be a blouse, shirt, sweater, bearing in mind easy removal for costume change. ie:pulling over hairdos & makeup
- ◆ Black long skirt or black pants
- ◆ Colored scarf – provided by chorus
- ◆ Jewelry – gold earrings

2ND HALF

- ◆ Black sparkly tops
- ◆ Black long skirt
- ◆ Jewelry - Bling it up long dangle sparkly earrings
- ◆ Shoes – Black , closed toe
- ◆ Black stockings – pantyhose or knee highs

*****Please NO scented products*****

Makeup: Not complete stage make but heavier than you would typically wear. Under stage lights, we get washed out. You want to be seen from the back row.

Foundation: full coverage foundation, darker than natural skin tone on face & neck area

Blush: Rosy cheeks, not a dainty blush.

Eyeshadow: preferably earth tones, purplish tones

Lipstick: Red

Mascara: at least two coats to upper and lower lashes

- ◆ Apply eyeliner
- ◆ Apply eyebrow pencil

Don't wear your costumes to church. We are given time to dress. A detailed timeline will be provided once the show lineup is set.

ROUGH AGENDA FOR CONCERT DAY

- ◆ Morning – show run through
- ◆ Lunch
- ◆ Get dressed
- ◆ Warm-up
- ◆ On stage

Not a lot of time for dressing, so apply your makeup at home. Also, bring your supplies for a touch-up. Hand mirrors are handy as well. If you have any questions, give me a shout. My bark is worse than my bite.

DONNA B.🎵

Land O' Lakes "Family Reunion"

GORDON BILLOWS

The Land O' Lakes (LOL) Family Reunion Convention in Minneapolis was a GREAT SUCCESS with over 700 attendees, including 375 contestants from 15 choruses and 26 quartets (male, female, mixed, and youth). However, this was much more than a contest. It included the All Chapter Chorus, a Tagatorium, Quartet clinics, NexGen quartets, Festival performances, nine Saturday night hospitality rooms, the Showcase Dinner and show with nine Association of District Champion quartets and a celebration of Happiness Emporium's 50th Anniversary.

The LOL District BOTY, Hall of Fame, and Lifetime Achievement awards were presented. The contest results and award recipients can be found on the LOL website: <https://loldistrict.org/2023-fall-convention>.

Eight people from Winnipeg attended the Convention - Linda and Art Gross, Charlie Siegel, Andrea Leader, Les Creek, Paula and Gordon Billows (missing Brian Blakley). Charlie and Art joined the All-Chapter Chorus for several songs.

Last year's attendees had an opportunity to earn their Pole Cat 1 pins. This year, LOL introduced the Pole Cat 2 pin which is unique to LOL. They gave out fifty this weekend. Andrea and Gordon both earned the new pin!

The District's Parade of Checks, supporting various charities of choice, returned this year at the House of Delegates meeting. Five chapters participated, and the River City Sound Chapter presented \$1125 for Sing Canada Harmony.

Attending the District Convention may just become an annual affair for some members. It's worth the trip to make new friends, meet old friends, and enjoy good Barbershop Harmony and hospitality. And yes, we all stopped at Clearwater, MN (mile 178) for decadent pastries!

GORDON 🎵

TIC-TOC aka “TICKET TALK”

BRIAN METCALFE

I must admit that I thought the first seven characters in the above title might capture some of our reader’s attention. If not you, then perhaps your grandchildren who may create or watch TiKToK movies on this “viral video platform that has grasped the entire world’s attention.”

Those who want to get to the bottom line quickly need to know that my “Ticket Talk” is about tickets for our upcoming “A Traditional Christmas” performance on November 25.

Here are some points that may help you acquire tickets and work with potential patrons:

- ◆ Please email me at bkmetcalfe@shaw.ca anytime before Wednesday noon, and I’ll give you your tickets at rehearsal that night.
- ◆ You are encouraged to take more tickets than you need if you can sell extras. You may always return funds in a cheque format and unsold tickets to me before the Wednesday, November 22 deadline.
- ◆ This year, there will not be an evening performance.
- ◆ The afternoon show begins at 2:30 p.m., and the doors will open with rush seating at 1:30 p.m.
- ◆ Adult tickets purchased from any chorus member are \$25.00.
- ◆ Eventbrite.ca allows adults to purchase tickets online. Unfortunately, Eventbrite.ca has raised their service cost per ticket by \$2.96, so online adult tickets now cost \$27.96.
- ◆ This year, two ticket numbers are displayed in the bottom corners. Somebody will rip the tickets in half on entry, and a draw will be made for two free tickets to our Spring show on Saturday, May 11, 2024.
- ◆ Following our tradition of supporting local charities, we will contribute to Harvest Manitoba this year. Please encourage patrons to bring a “Tin For The Bin” on entry to our performance.

- ◆ A digital form of Andrea’s amazing “Santa Claus” poster is included with this issue of Notes 4 U or sent as a separate email message so you can attach it to any email invitations that you send out.

Now go and email me at bkmetcalfe@shaw.ca requesting tickets for family, friends and a few extras!

Take care & keep smiling :-)

BRIAN M 

Great Plains Harmony - Fargo Chapter Show

GORDON BILLOWS

Great Plains Harmony is presenting their Fall Concert Series on Friday, November 3rd (7:00) and Sunday, November 5th (3:00). They are offering their friends a discount code (BBSFriends) so they can get 20% off their Eventbrite e-tickets. Adults pay \$15 US or \$13.47 with the discount. For show and ticket information, go to - <https://greatplainsharmony.org/>

GORDON 

Getting Getting To Know ... Donna Boyle

DONNA BOYLE

I grew up on a farm in SW Manitoba with an older sister, a brother, and a younger sister. I was my brother’s sidekick in most activities (some good and some not-so-good). His nickname for me was “Kemosabe” (which older readers will know was how his sidekick, “Tonto,” referred to the “Lone Ranger.”) I attended Grades 1 – 8 in a one-room country school and then moved on to high school in Boissevain. I grew up doing all the farm stuff, learning to drive a 5-ton grain truck and emptying the combine on the run. It was an excellent incentive to drive well, so the grain went in the box and was not poured over the cab. I took my Driver’s test in my brother’s ‘65 Pontiac Parisienne, a 4-door, hardtop with Hollywood mufflers. Totally impressed with the guy doing the test! We rode

horses (and cows), and each had our assigned daily chores. My chores were feeding the pigs and feeding the chickens. I was involved with 4-H, learning how to sew, how to engage in public speaking, choose a topic and demonstrate the how and why of said topic. I was also involved in sports, including playing baseball with school teams, curling and skating.

My family was pretty musical, playing various instruments, including piano, violin, banjo, guitar and horns, so I was surrounded by music all my life. I took piano lessons for ten years, playing for church services and school concerts. I started singing in the church choir and school choirs. I enjoyed harmonizing with my Dad and singing hymns.



I graduated from high school and immediately started what was to become a 37-year career with Scotia Bank. I worked in many branches in Winnipeg and in many different bank areas, starting as a teller and ending my career as a loan officer. Working in the cash cage, I met my husband, Brian. He worked for Loomis Armored Car and delivered the money to the bank. We have been married for 28 years. He has a son who lives in Salmon Arm, BC and a daughter who lives in Winnipeg. I enjoyed working with many customers and met many interesting and colourful characters along the way. After I retired from the bank, I decided to start another career that combined two of my favourite things: flowers and golfing. I have ordered, planted, and cared for the flowers at Bel Acres Golf Course for 18 years. So once the flowers are all given their tender, loving care, I go golfing.

Brian and I have enjoyed many trips to Mexico, basking in the sun. We flew to Mazatlan after our wedding, went to our favourite restaurant for a drink upon arrival and learned how to do the Macarena. That was the new dance of the year. I went on a golf trip with a friend to Mesa, AZ. and happened upon a great house rental, so I flew home and informed Brian we were going to Arizona for a month. That started 15 years of Snow-birding. We eventually bought our trailer in a retirement park and absolutely enjoyed all the park activities.

My sister had talked me into joining the Sweet Adelines with her, and thus began my love for Barbershop singing. I sang with the Sweet Adelines for twenty years until Snow-birding took over my winters. I learned great songs, met incredible people, and enjoyed singing on the competition stage (fun, fun bus trips).

We sold our Arizona property in 2019 and returned to Manitoba's winter reality. I then needed something to keep me occupied, so I decided to check out River City Sound, and as they say, the rest is history.

DONNA B. 🎵

River City Sound Awards



BARBERSHOPPER OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Barbershopper of the Year (BOTY) award was originally the Vern Leatherdale Trophy. Vern Leatherdale was the first WGC director, directing the chorus from 1948 to 1959. The BOTY Award was first presented in 1955 to Charlie Brennan. The silver BOTY pin was presented at the same time. The original document describing the Vern Leatherdale award criteria has been preserved and is part of WGC/RCS archives. The criteria changed over the years, but the intent to recognize the Barbershopper of the Year has remained.

Vern Leatherdale was active in many service and fraternal organizations. He was a Past President of the Kinsman Club and a member of the K 40. Vern was a member of the Kiwanis, the St. Andrews Society, and the Carlton Club and was long associated with the Barbershoppers S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A. He was a Northern Light Prince Rupert's Masonic Lodge No.1, King Edward Preceptory, Khartum Shrine Temple, and Motor Patrol member.



DOROTHY CASSELMAN LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Heather and Larry Hunter established the Dorothy Casselman Lifetime Achievement Award (DCLAA) in 2002 in honour of Harold Casselman's wife, Dorothy Casselman. Heather designed the award and the individual award that the recipient kept. Dorothy was a strong chapter supporter, a former member of the women's auxiliary and a very involved singer. The Dorothy Casselman Award recognizes deserving twenty-plus-year members who continue to contribute significantly to the chapter and have a lifetime of

involvement in singing. The award is similar to the BOTY and recognizes the long-term supporters of the chapter. It is there not to replace the BOTY but to be in addition to it. The first DCLAA recipient was Dorothy's husband, Harold "Cass" Casselman.

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Rookie of the Year Award is presented at the annual awards dinner to recognize the involvement of newer members. The purpose of this award is to provide encouragement and reward to new members within two years of the date of the awards banquet for their exemplary service to our chapter. The award's point system takes in all aspects of participation in the chorus. The original award was hand-carved by Jack Webster. The organization and award criteria were established by Les Gurr and Claude Main in 1968 and first presented in 1970 by Doug Swain. A new Rookie of the Year plaque, with updated criteria, was approved at the 2004 Past Presidents annual dinner.



QUARTET OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Quartet of the Year (QOTY) was initially called the J. J. Connor Quartet Achievement Award. This copper-tooled award was gifted to the Winnipeg

Chapter by inmates at the Stony Mountain Penitentiary in appreciation of the chorus performance held there. The award was established in 1963 to honour Winnipeg Chapter quartets. The quartet with the most performances in the year initially won the award. The Pine Tones were the first recipients. In 2005, the award criteria changed to a point system that considered the number and type of performances, participation in administrative and musical events at the local and district level and the event complexity.



PAST PRESIDENT'S AWARD

The Past President's Award is presented to a long-time member who has contributed to the chapter over many years but has never received the BOTY award. It is an occasional award and is not presented every year but only when the Past Presidents judge that there is someone who merits it.

THE GOLDEN APPLE AWARD

A non-chapter member presents the Golden Apple Award. It is in recognition of outstanding support to the Winnipeg Chapter. Morley Bernstein and Earl Golden recommended and donated this award in 2012. The chapter executive will determine the award recipient.



ATTENDANCE AWARD

The Attendance Award recognizes the member(s) in each section with the best total attendance at rehearsals, performances and Chapter events in the previous 12 months. Norm Silverberg has presented this award at the annual awards event since 2007.

GORDON 🎵



Rehearsal Timeline - October 25, 2023

by Les Creek

6:55 to 7:05	Physical warm-up
7:05 to 7:10	Vocal warm-up
7:10 to 7:25	Choreo rehearsal Rock and Roll Christmas Lost in the Stars
7:25 to 8:05	Sectionals Mary's Boy Child Joy To The World – 2022 version First Noel – 2022 version Winter Wonderland Silver Bells Imagine
8:05 to 8:30	Repertoire Review - as needed O Holy Night Rock and Roll Christmas Mary's Little Boy Child Joy to the World – 2022 version First Noel – 2022 version Light One Candle Silver Bells Jingle Bell Rock Lost in the Stars Winter Wonderland Peace, Peace Imagine
8:45 to 9:10	Chapter Meeting and break
9:10 to 9:55	Repertoire Review (continued)
9:55	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 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
Nov 1		Joy 2022 First Noel 2022 Other as needed		all Christmas songs

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: 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: Larry Hunter, Jewel Casselman
Tenor Section: Becki Ammeter, Andrea Leader
Lead Section: Chris Magas, Charlie Siegel
Baritone Section: Len Paluck
Bass Section: 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**