

This
Notes 4 U



The latest news and updates from River City Sound



PHOTO BY JUDY MANNES

Important Dates

BOTY Awards Night:

Friday, October 27th at 6:30 p.m.

Chorus Vocal Coaching:

Saturday, October 28th at 9:00 a.m.

Next Rehearsal Date:

Wednesday, November 1st

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

“Over the Ground Lies a Mantle of White”: so starts Winter Wonderland. We have been waiting for many things, but maybe snow wasn't one of them unless you are a skier or a snow machine fanatic. Well, here it is. When I let our dog out about 5:30 this morning, the ground was white, and he pranced about as if he hadn't seen it before, or maybe because it was an old friend who had just returned. Our extended fall was nice while it lasted. Today, I plan to change the vehicles to winter tires and put away the Miata for the season.

Tonight is the BIG night of our annual schedule, the AWARDS banquet, BOTY. I realize not all of you can attend, but I expect those who do will have a great time despite driving difficulties getting there.

Tomorrow is the chorus coaching session with Mark McLaurin. Here's where things get a little tricky. The Montana low (not Colorado), according to John Sauder, which delivered the snow, apparently delivered more of it south of the border. Larry emailed Mark last evening, and Les emailed him this morning.

We just received his email that he plans to be on the road by 2:00 p.m. to join us this evening. He'll let us know if there is a change. As Les said on Wednesday, we will notify you if there is a cancellation and rescheduling of the coaching. Otherwise, we hope to see you at the church by 9:00 tomorrow morning, ready to work on Mary's Little Boy Child & Rock and Roll Christmas.

I still have some Grey Cup Pool tickets. See you tonight and again tomorrow.

Thanks. In Harmony,

ROB 🎵

More From Les

LES CREEK

Hi everyone. I hope you can all dig yourselves out in time for the BOTY and the chorus coaching session.

I've been in touch with Mark McLaurin, who lives in Grand Forks, and he will be leaving around 2 p.m. today (Friday) and will let us know if he is having any issues with travel. If he does, we will postpone the coaching session to another time. We will let everyone know, hopefully this evening, if it is canceled. IF YOU DO NOT get an email that the session is canceled, assume it is taking place.

We also planned to swap the risers on Saturday, but given the weather and the road conditions, I want to postpone that to Wednesday evening. For those of you who can help with this, please come for about 6:20 Wednesday. There is a music committee meeting on Wednesday at 5:30, but I'd like to wrap it up by 6:15 to allow for the riser swap.

From now to the Christmas show, I will leave it to the section leads to determine which songs need the most work in sectionals, and Larry and Jewel will manage the chorus repertoire section.

Please pay attention to the choreography that Gayle has detailed in N4U and practice at home.

We are getting to the short strokes, everyone, so let's make this show a great one!

LES 🎵

Show Promotion Through Email

BRUCE WILTON

In my email to my circle of friends and associates promoting the Christmas Show, I have included the following paragraph to give our supporters another option. I encourage those who market through email to include this paragraph in their email.

For those of you who are unable to attend the show on November 25th, you still have an opportunity to support River City Sound and the work we do with local charities. River City Sound is a registered charity, so that we can issue tax receipts upon receipt of donations. Click on the link below, which will take you to our donation page. <https://www.rivercitysound.ca>

BRUCE 🎵

Heralds of Harmony Monster Mash!

GORDON BILLOWS

For over 15 years, Paula and I spent our winter vacations in Florida, not only to enjoy the 30 + degree temperatures, wonderful beaches and attractions, but also to visit BHS and SAI chapters and attend their shows. One of our favourite chapters was in Tampa - the Heralds of Harmony. For their 75th Anniversary in 2020, director Tony DeRosa and Clay Hine teamed up to produce the Heralds' version of MONSTER MASH! Every year, this is a "must watch" video for us and one that we frequently share with family and friends. Enjoy!

[The Heralds of Harmony Present: Monster Mash! - YouTube](#)

GORDON 🎵

Show Details For The Ladies

DONNA BOYLE

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

NO SCENTED PRODUCTS

MAKEUP

Not stage makeup but heavier than you typically wear. Under stage lights, we get washed out. You want to be seen from the back row. There's only time to dress, so apply your makeup at home. Also, bring your supplies for a touch-up. Hand mirrors are handy as well.

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

Show Wardrobe For The Men

CHARLIE SIEGEL

1St HALF

- ◆ White long sleeve shirt
- ◆ Black tux pants or regular black dress pants
- ◆ Coloured scarf - Wear the red or multi-coloured scarf, or if not the Chorus will provide
- ◆ Black shoes

2ND HALF

- ◆ Black tux - jacket, pants
- ◆ White long sleeved shirt (Not Tux white shirt)
- ◆ Red bow tie
- ◆ Red cummerbund
- ◆ Black Shoes

River City Sound

A TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS

SHOW SONG ORDER

RIVER CITY SOUND	Rock & Roll Christmas Silver Bells Jingle Bell Rock
HONEYCOMB	Need a Little Christmas Scarlet Ribbons
RIVER CITY SOUND	Winter Wonderland
TREBLE IN PARADISE	Let It Snow Little Toy Trains
HARLEQUIN	Merry Christmas Chopsticks Winter Snow Medley
RIVER CITY SOUND	Mary's Little Boy Child

INTERMISSION

RIVER CITY SOUND	Joy to the World The First Noel Light One Candle
HARLEQUIN	Hallelujah Let There Be Peace
RIVER CITY SOUND	Lost In The Stars O Holy Night Peace, Peace / Silent Night

WE NEED MORE BASS

Why Do We need So Many Basses?

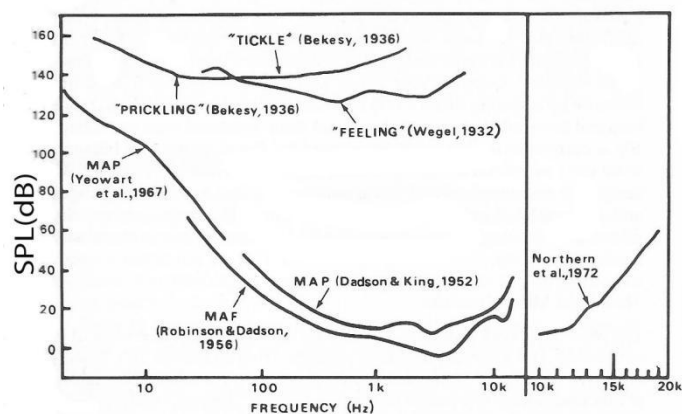
BRIAN BLAKLEY

Barbershop Harmony guidelines suggest that 40% of chorus members should sing bass. Why so many? Perhaps they like the bass sound or a bass foundation for music, or perhaps they like basses as people – it could happen! Maybe, but a default assumption of the Association for Equality of Voice Parts (AEVP) suggests that equal numbers of each part would be the fairest. (OK, I made up the AEVP). Anyway, a partial reason for basal inequality might rest in the science of human hearing. I will attempt to explain.

The objective minimum energy level at which we humans can hear called the threshold, varies across sound frequencies. Frequency is the number of vibrations of sound per second and correlates with what singers call pitch. Lower frequencies are of lower pitch. As it turns out, lower frequencies, i.e. bass parts, require higher energy levels to achieve the intensity for sound to reach the threshold for hearing.

You can confirm this yourself. Whatever your part, sing a note in the middle of your range with energy and enthusiasm. Sounds good, huh? Now, with the same energy, as far as you can tell, hit the lowest note in your range. Is it as loud? It shouldn't be. Even though you are using the same energy, the lower sound is not as loud as the higher sound, so we need to have more singers to do it. Increased energy is easily achieved if electronic amplification is used, but that is cheating. Human hearing thresholds are lowest (i.e. hearing is most sensitive) between 2,000 and 5,000 Hertz.

For reference, middle "C" on the piano, called C4, vibrates at 262 Hz. C3, an octave lower, vibrates at 131 Hz. Bass parts often go as low as C2, which vibrates at 65 Hz. Typical speaking voices are in the range of 85 to 180 Hz for men and 165 to 225 Hz for women.



Objectively measured thresholds of normal human hearing (called MAF and MAP here). Note that lower frequencies require more sound energy or sound pressure level (SPL) to be heard. "K" means 1,000, so 1K means 1,000 Hz. At very high intensities, we can feel sound as well as hear it. From: Gelfand, S. *Hearing: An Introduction to Psychological and Physiological Acoustics*. Publ. by Marcel Dekker, New York 1990. ©Used with permission.

Other questions could be addressed with "sound" data. Why do the bass sounds persist longest when you walk away from a loud party? If one voice sings and another equal voice is added, why doesn't it sound twice as loud? These questions could be addressed in the future if there is interest.

BRIAN BLAKLEY, MD PhD FRCS

Upcoming Birthdays

Art Gross
November 6th

Dean Jenkinson
November 7th

Wendy Lamont
November 17th



GETTING TO KNOW ... JEWEL CASSELMAN

JEWEL CASSELMAN

My love for music started at a young age, sitting on my Dad's (Cass') lap and listening to him sing Barbershop. I really liked to hear the rumble of his voice while he snuggled me. My Mom, Dorothy and my Dad were always singing in the house. There was music all around me from the time I was born. We listened to the radio, played records, sang around the piano, and often, Dad would have barbershop quartet practice at the house.

I grew up mainly in rural Manitoba, moving from Rivers to Winnipeg to Neepawa and back to Winnipeg. I am the middle daughter of three. Both of my sisters and I studied music throughout our schooling years. I started on the violin when I was six and took lessons for 11 years, completing my Grade 7 violin Royal Conservatory Exam and winning several trophies. I took piano lessons from grade 6 – 11. I played flute and piccolo in the high school band in Neepawa and later taught myself to play the guitar, ukulele, and all of the recorders. There are still other instruments I would like to learn to play, like the Chapman Stick.

From a young age, I loved to sing and perform. I remember singing "Good Night Irene" because that is my middle name. I would stand on a stool or the coffee table and sing to the group of friends that Mom and Dad had over at the house. I sang in church choirs from grade 3 on and now sing in the Westworth United Church Choir. I also sing with a community choir called Joie de Vivre. I have sung in many different choirs over the years but have never sung Barbershop. So, this is all new to me in the sense of singing but familiar because of the many shows I have listened to. Since I was old enough to attend, the only Barbershop shows I missed were when I was out of the city to participate in a conference. I even brought my 8-month-old daughter to one show as my babysitter canceled and attended the show only a few days before my second daughter was born. I was even lucky enough to participate in a show in the 1980s as part of the Trolley Song.



After high school, I attended Red River Community College and received my diploma as a Health Record Technician. I worked as a statistician and medical secretary at the Health Sciences Centre for seven years. I finally decided to follow my passion for music and children and received my education degree from the University of Winnipeg in 1988 and haven't looked back. I have worked in four schools in four different school divisions, spending the last 17 years at Lakewood School in St. James-Assiniboia. I taught a Music for Children Orff program through the U of M Preparatory Studies Department for over 20 years. Each July, I teach the Orff Certification program at U of M, where I teach teachers how to teach recorders in the classroom. I have had an amazing career as a music teacher and have loved every moment.

During my teaching career, I have always had children's choirs. My choirs were usually Grades 1 and 2, Grades 3, 4, and 5 and a few years of Grades 6, 7, and 8 choir. These choirs are lots of fun to work with. The kids are eager to learn and to please their teacher. They love to sing all music styles and participate in various concerts and performances. They have received numerous gold standings at the Winnipeg

Music Festival and a few trophies as well.

This is my first time working with an adult group of singers. There are some differences and similarities. Your voices are much more diverse and mature. You sing in parts on purpose (and because the music reads that way), but like all of my choirs, you are all a lot of fun. I am very excited to be working with River City Sound. My Mom and Dad would be very proud of the full circle that barbershop music has taken for me.

I am the mother of two beautiful daughters, Adara and Emily. I raised these girls on my own from a young age. They both love music, and Emily is also singing in a choir. I am very excited to let you know that I will be a Gramma in February for the first time. Adara is due on February 9, 2024. What an exciting time!



I sit on several music committees, both provincial and national, and enjoy quilting and crocheting in my spare time. I love to spend time with my family and my partner of four years, Barry, while cooking, going for walks, snuggling with my dogs, Oscar and Flynn, playing board games, and doing puzzles. I look forward to doing some travelling in the future. In 2025,

Barry and I plan to travel to Paris and London.



One last final thing. I just retired in June from a very fulfilling 35-year career in music education. In March of 2023, I received the prestigious MusiCounts Teacher of the Year Award for Canada. I was very honoured to receive this award from MusiCounts, an amazing charitable organization that helps put instruments into the hands of many children across Canada. YES, I will bring my JUNO into a rehearsal.



JEWEL 🎵

Rehearsal Timeline - November 1, 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 Little 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>
Nov 8		Joy 2022 First Noel 2022 Other as needed		all Christmas songs
Nov 18 2:00		Extra chorus rehearsal IF NEEDED – depends on our progress on the songs		
Nov 25		Christmas show – day schedule coming soon.		

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 and Brad Trupp
Chorus Manager: Len Paluck
Board Members at Large: Herold Driedger, Susan Altomare, Brian Blakley, Brad Trupp

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**