

This
Notes 4 U



Important Dates

Next Rehearsal Date:
Wednesday, November 8th

Executive Committee
Wednesday November 8th

Show Committee
Wednesday November 15th

Christmas Concert:
Saturday, November 25th

Music Committee
Wednesday November 28th

Seniors Concert: 2300 Ness Ave
Wednesday, December 6th

Seniors Concert: 165 Aberdeen Ave
Wednesday, December 13th

President's Musings

ROB SMITH

First, let me comment on the wonderful BOTY Awards banquet one week ago today. I'm sure all who attended had a wonderful time, Marg and I sure did. It was an excellent venue, with great food and fantastic entertainment. The good news is Ricki Miles has already booked us to be back there next year on Friday, October 25th. I want to congratulate all who won awards, especially the big one, BOTY. Len is undoubtedly a very worthy recipient.

Marg was very surprised and pleased to receive the Golden Apple Award. I was also honoured to bring home the Quartet of the Year Award. I counted eighteen times it has been awarded to Harlequin plus once to Mystique, the quartet Herold, Larry, and I was in with Vic Olafson in 1997-8. We joke about whose turn it is to take home the award and display it. I am

pleased to hear that some members are exploring new quartet possibilities. It is a wonderful experience, singing in a quartet, and I certainly encourage members to explore that.

At the Music Committee last Wednesday, we learned that Paul and Wendy have volunteered to organize the Learn to Sing Better program in the new year. The tentative start date is February 7th. It isn't too early to tell your friends and acquaintances that we will again be running that program. Wendy headed it up last time with Paul's help, and look how successful it was. Several present members learned about Barbershop singing through that program and others through LTSB in previous years.

It was great to get our new risers down to our rehearsal space and set up. We also got our old risers out to the trailer. They will be going to Prairie Spirit UC for our show and, hopefully, off to serve another choral group. The main hitch is that the elevator quit working due to "hydraulic fluid low," we had to carry the rest of the risers up and down the stairs. Jewel helped the "old guys" with this process.

Our Christmas show is now only three weeks away. The rehearsals have been going very well, and I'm sure we benefited from Mark McLaurin's coaching last Saturday. However, it isn't time to take our foot off the pedal learning the music. I burned a CD of the songs and played it in my truck while travelling back and forth to Winnipeg.

Next Wednesday, the executive will be preparing the 2024 draft budget. It will be brought to the membership for a vote before it is official. Registration is now open for executive members to attend the Leadership Training Academy in River Falls, Wisconsin, January 5-6, 2024. The chapter will assist with some of the costs. Just how much will be one of the decisions in preparing the 2024 budget?

I still have some Grey Cup Pool tickets, but about 1600 of the 1800 tickets are already in your hands or have already been sold, and the stubs and money returned to me. Please turn in all remaining tickets (sold or unsold) by Wednesday, November 15th.

ROB 🎵

More From Les

LES CREEK

We have 3-4 rehearsals before the show, but we are progressing well. I do want to commend all of the time and effort invested in making these songs come to life. I especially want to acknowledge the effort made by our newer members to learn these pieces in such a short period. You guys ROCK!!!

As you noticed from this week's schedule, we have not allocated any time for sectionals. Unless needed one, we will proceed with the run-through of the show songs, preferably in order, after we've reviewed the chores. Section leads: If you need a sectional, please talk to Larry and Jewel, and we'll make it happen.

The upcoming Leadership Training Academy, sponsored by the Land 'O Lakes district is scheduled for Jan 5 and 6 in River Falls, Wisconsin. I attended in 2019 and found it to be very informative and helpful. There are several opportunities for personal education in the vocal arts, as well as sessions that are geared toward helping new members of chapter boards. But you don't have to be a board member to attend any of the sessions. It is an excellent opportunity to meet others and to exchange ideas and success stories. In the past, interested members have carpooled.

If anyone is interested in attending, please let me know, as we will apply for a grant(s) that will help offset some of the cost. We have to have our grant application in by Dec 1, so please let me know ASAP if you are interested and plan to attend. The cost of the conference is \$75 US and includes five meals. Hotel rates can be over \$100 US per night. There is a hotel that is very close to the campus, but it will probably fill up quickly, so we should book rooms as soon as possible. Full details, as well as course descriptions, are in the latest Pitch Piper, which can be found on the Land O' Lakes district website.

Also, regarding scheduling, we have two performances booked in December, Wednesday the 6th and Wednesday the 13th, so we'll not be having rehearsals that night. Both are 1-hour performances, and we'll sing the best of the show music at them. So mark your calendars accordingly.

See you Wednesday! LES 🎵

Rock And Roll Christmas Choro

GAYLE

As we ran out of time to rehearse this on Wednesday, I'm sending it out to all chorus members who plan to perform on the Christmas Show. Please look at your music and follow through the bars.

PAGE SEVEN

Bar 69-72: No change; the same clapping after each "Rock and Roll Christmas".

Bar 72: "Rock and Roll now." Stop!

Bar 73: "Just like we used to know." Raise arms to the front, palms up. "To know" - bring arms down to sides.

Bar 76: while basses sing "Rock and Roll Christmas," the chorus will lean in, just like we do in "Little Star."

Bar 77: When we sing "Go," we come out of the lean and straighten up. We hold this "Go." until the end of the song while the basses sing "Go Santa Go," and yes, even though we are holding the note, we will do the spread on their "Go Santa Go."

Thanks for going through this at home before Wednesday.

GAYLE 🎵

Rock and Roll Christmas 7

66 San - ta, go, go, go. Let's have a
67 come on, San - ta, now, go, go, go.
68
69 rock an' roll Christ - mas, rock an' roll Christ - mas, rock an' roll Christ - mas,
70
71 Christ - mas,
72
73 Stop clapping Raise arms to front, palms up
74 just like we used to know.
75
76 freely chorus leans in straighten up then spread
77 Go!
78 rock an' roll Christ - mas. Go, San - ta, go!

Christmas Party and Afterglow

DONNA BOYLE

Celebrate our fantastic Christmas Show with some drinks, food and more singing.

WHEN: November 25th
 WHERE: ANA Unit 283 3584 Portage Avenue
 TIME: 5:00 - 10:00 pm
 WHO: Members, significant others, friends
 COST: \$26 per person

Please advise me of any food restrictions at sign-up. E-transfer accepted: dbboyle@mymts.net Please use exact cash, if possible. Cheques payable to River City Sound. Please sign up by November 13th, as I have to notify the caterers. If you have any questions, please get in touch with me.

DONNA B 🎵

Two Upcoming Performances

LEN PALUCK

Seniors Concert: 7 pm, Wednesday, December 6, Metropolitan Kiwanis Courts, 2300 Ness Ave.

Seniors Concert: 5:45 pm, Wednesday, December 13, Holy Family Home, 165 Aberdeen Ave.

HFH is a confirmed booking, and I expect to get Kiwanis confirmed this week (they picked December 6), so I've prepared two sign-up sheets for rehearsal. Both shows are one-hour Christmas concerts. So that means we get to use our Christmas songs for at least three performances. Members will get complete info at rehearsals.

LEN 🎵

"A TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS" – TICKETS & TRICKS

BRIAN METCALFE

Who needs a show ticket? - This important question was asked of me by a newer chorus member. Performers in our Christmas show on November 25th do not need to purchase a ticket. Family and friends who come to see you perform must acquire a ticket. Children 12 and under don't need a ticket and will be admitted by the ticket-takers at the front entrance to the Prairie Spirit United Church. Since all tickets are rush seating, advise friends and family to arrive early, when the doors open at 1:30 p.m., so that they can get the best seats for our 2:30 p.m. performance.

How to get Christmas show tickets?

Tickets can be acquired in the following ways:

- 1) Email Brian Metcalfe (bkmetscalfe@shaw.ca) before noon each Wednesday, and he will provide you with an envelope with your tickets at the next rehearsal.
- 2) Those who wish to purchase tickets online (\$27.96) may search Eventbrite.ca or enter this address: <https://a-traditional-christmas.eventbrite.ca>
- 3) Anyone may purchase tickets at the door with cash or cheque (made payable to River City Sound)

How many tickets have been distributed?

As of November 3rd, **only 236 tickets have been distributed**. Furthermore, not all of those tickets are sold. With the capacity of Prairie Spirit United Church being about 450, if all our distributed tickets were sold, we would only fill about half of the sanctuary with our one show. Based on these statistics, all chorus members must do their best to sell as many tickets as possible.

Why does Brian request that you email him in advance with your ticket needs?

Those who know Brian understand that he is very "*analytical*." Some might suggest that his outlook is much more focused on the first four letters of the previous word in quotes :-). Brian spends long hours creating spreadsheets and accurately recording ticket distribution to track sales and balance sales perfectly.



However, Brian needs to work better under pressure when ticket requests are made in the limited time during rehearsal. Many things can go wrong when rushing. So Brian prefers to work at home, at his leisure, to prepare ticket envelopes in advance. This attention to detail and need for accuracy was fostered when Brian was first asked to manage ticket sales within our chorus and at the door of the 2015 Christmas show. On the show date, Brian felt there was a lack of accountability in the ticket distribution and sales at the door. Brian took it upon himself (with the help of Larry Bredesen) to establish a more accountable process. He created a 14-page resource entitled "Christmas Chorus Ticket Sales Protocol," available in the River City Sound website archives. Over the past eight years, our ticket distribution process, fund balancing, and walk-up ticket sales at the door have improved dramatically, and our chorus members have worked hard to keep Brian sane.

(Continued on next page)

What process should be used for returning ticket sales funds and unsold tickets?

This year's "A Traditional Christmas" performance is three weeks away. Note that **the Christmas ticket sales deadline is Wednesday, November 22nd**. At this rehearsal (or any rehearsal prior), all ticket revenue (which we hope is large) and any returned tickets (which we hope are small) must be turned into Brian Metcalfe in an **envelope** together with a cheque(s) made payable to "River City Sound." Brian would appreciate it if each person provided an envelope containing your name, the number of tickets received, the number of tickets sold, and the number of tickets returned (if any). Indicate the sales total value on the outside of the envelope and convert all-cash sales to a personal cheque, which you enclose in the envelope. With all the tasks that need to be accomplished at this last rehearsal before our show, Brian will appreciate your support in this manner. Take care & keep smiling :-)

BRIAN M 🎵

75th Anniversary Annual Awards

GORD BILLOWS

BARBERSHOPPER OF THE YEAR

Len Paluck



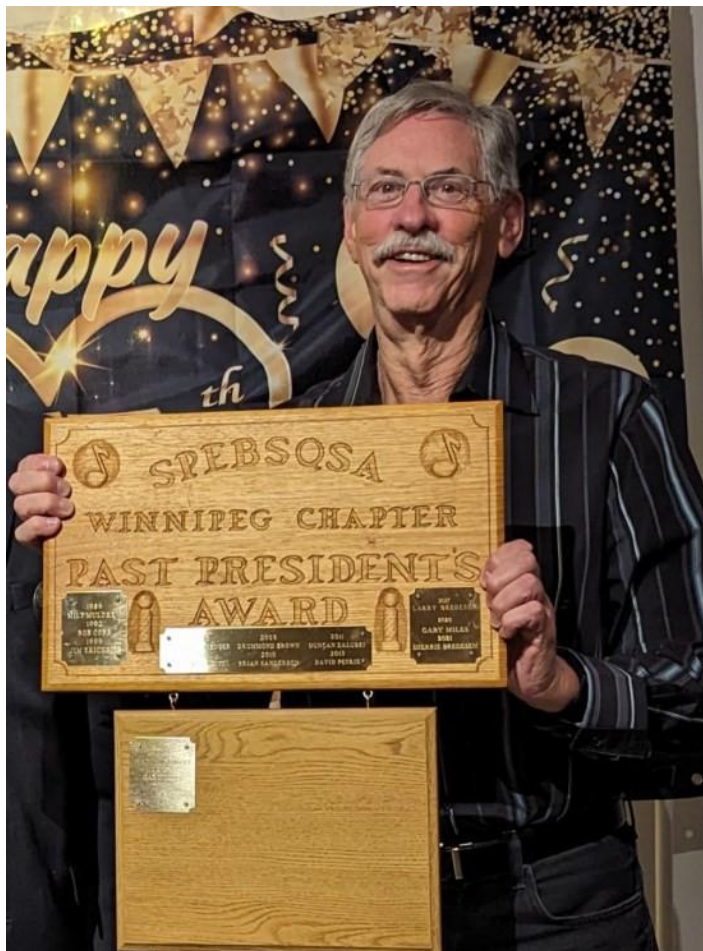
QUARTET OF THE YEAR:

Harlequin (Rob Smith, Larry Hunter, Herold Driedger, Paul Bullock)



PAST PRESIDENTS' AWARD:

Gary Miles



**DOROTHY CASSELMAN LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT
AWARD: John Latham**



**GOLDEN APPLE AWARD:
Marg Smith**



**ROOKIE OF THE YEAR:
Andrea Leader**



**ATTENDANCE AWARD:
Len Paluck, Rosie Labossiere,
Les Creek, Rob Smith,
Bruce Wilton, Brian Strong**



GETTING TO KNOW ... KAREN JANTZEN

KAREN JANTZEN

I was born into a musical family. My Dad had met my Mom while acting as interim choir director at her church. She was a pretty alto in the front row, and he couldn't stop teasing her. I was born in Phoenix, Arizona, while they were on a Christian Service assignment, so I had many caregivers in my first few years who still reach out to us occasionally! We moved back to Canada, in the Niverville area, when I was three, and my Grandparents became my "babysitters" while Mom and Dad were working. Grandma was always humming or singing as she did her chores. We soon moved to Crystal Springs Hutterite Colony, where Dad took on a teaching position. Mom assisted, as well as commuting to work in Steinbach. Once again, I had many caregivers, and I often gave them the slip so I could drive my trike over to the school. They would find me sitting on Dad's knee while he was trying to teach grades 1-8! In the evenings, many folks would gather at our place to sing – goofy songs, serious songs, learn harmonies, whatever the mood led, so there was always singing in our home.

Dad played piano and accordion at that time. Later, he added autoharp, which is his primary instrument now. My sister, Melody, joined us during our time at the colony. After I attended grade one under my Dad's watchful eye, we moved to the "town" of Niverville. We were there for only one year before we moved to Thompson, where Dad started his pastoral career. We spent only one year in Thompson, where my brother Conrad was born, before moving to Ontario, where my family would settle for 12 solid years. We were always singing at home while we did chores, when we were happy, when we were sad or when we were travelling. We did a lot of driving. My sister pointed out recently that Mom used music as a behaviour modification tool, and she was so good at it I never caught on!! If we kids were starting to scrap in the car, she would start a song, and soon we were all singing instead of poking or grumping or whatever we had been planning on disruptively doing!! We would go to personal care homes as a family and give short services to the

residents. Songs interspersed with Bible verses and a few uplifting words from Dad. We'd pile in the car to visit the "Grandpas and Grandmas ." Mom loved to say, "We have three children, and 2 of them are in personal care homes." (My brother is an administrator in a personal care home in Saskatchewan, and I work here in Winnipeg.) We attribute it to those early years of singing for the Grandpas and Grandmas!



In Spragge, Ontario, we adjusted to very rural life. Our closest neighbour lived half a kilometre away, but we lived IN a church building beside the Trans-Canada Highway, so there were always people around. My Mom was the queen of unexpected visitors! She could whip up a meal for as many as were present in no time ... AND everyone was ALWAYS invited to stay. There was nowhere else to go!!! HAH! The most famous day was Mom frying five pounds of hamburger. Dad asked why. She said, "I don't know. Just feel like I should." Then she baked bread and said, "I really don't need to bake bread. I still have several loaves." The next day, twenty unexpected guests showed up throughout the day. She made spaghetti and meat sauce. Easy peasy! People would get a tour of our tiny home and church, built out of mining barracks left behind when the mines in Algoma Mills shut down.

We would likely take a tour of the yard, where there was a beautiful creek, a lovely forest, a large rocky hill to climb if people were limber, and a beaver dam if they were interested in watching the activity at dusk. And there was music. We would sing. We would invite the guests to sing. We would play games. Our little

church would host special singing groups and ask the people from the surrounding communities, as we were central.

There was much cooperation between the little churches in the area, and it was an amazing place to grow up. We were encouraged, as children, to use our talents, big or small, to contribute to the community. When I was in high school, I directed our Christmas musical. We had so many preschool children on stage that I became an “extra” to herd them from space to space, prompt their lines on stage, and sing with them. What a hoot! I was also involved in school productions and band. Every summer, I attended camp and assisted in whatever capacity was needed to “pay my way” for my week at camp, which meant there was a lot of music contribution there, too.



After high school, I attended Winkler Bible Institute for two years, enjoying dorm life, singing in choir and small groups, and using my skills on the clarinet and piano in chapel. They were challenging health years as my headaches, which had started my last year of high school, were increasing, but I had good support, and I was able to advocate to keep the music, which was the one thing that kept me getting up each morning.

Then, I went on to Nursing School at the U of M. The headaches persisted and increased. Once again, I sought support from the faculty for accommodation, which I received. Able to stretch my four years into five, I persisted and got my BN. During this time, I continued singing as much as possible, singing with the non-auditioned university choir and later with the Winnipeg Philharmonic Choir until I had to start doing evening shifts. Then nursing and soon family became my focus for the next seventeen years until I was able

to take an evening a week “for me.” I joined the Assiniboine Chorus in 2007. Journeys Quartet followed in 2009. From there, I added Honeycomb, Leather and Lace, Unique, True Harmony, Nurses Choir and River City Sound during Covid when all we could do was virtual. I hope to see you in person more often soon! When I am not at work, I am singing somewhere!

KAREN 🎵

Handbell Ringing Concert at Chapel Lawn

JEWEL CASSELMAN

After my performance at BTOY, people were asking when they could hear my bell quartet Ring Out perform. We are having a concert on December 3rd, at 2:00 p.m. at Chapel Lawn (4000 Portage Avenue). This is a free will donation concert with all proceeds going to the Winnipeg Christmas Cheer Board. I would love to see you at the performance.

JEWEL 🎵

Ring Out!
 A CHRISTMAS HANDBELL
 RINGING CONCERT
 Sunday, December 3
 2:00pm
 Chapel Lawn Funeral Home
 4000 Portage Avenue
 Winnipeg MB
 All donations to
 Winnipeg Christmas
 Cheer Board

Rehearsal Timeline - November 8-22, 2023

by Les Creek

6:55 to 7:05	Physical warm-up
7:05 to 7:10	Vocal warm-up
7:10 to 7:35	Choreo rehearsal
	Rock and Roll Christmas
	Lost in the Stars
	Jingle Bell Rock
7:35 to 8:45	Walk through show music in order
	Rock and Roll Christmas
	Silver Bells
	Jingle Bell Rock
	Winter Wonderland
	Mary's Little Boy Child
	Joy To The World – 2022 version
	First Noel – 2022 version
	Light One Candle
	Lost in the Stars
	O Holy Night
	Peace Peace
	Imagine
8:45 to 9:05	Break and Business Meeting
9:05 to 9:45	Show Walk through (continued)
9:45	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 15,23		none unless needed		all Christmas songs
		First Noel 2022		
		Other as needed		
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**