

This  
**Notes 4 U**



*The latest news and updates from River City Sound*



## Important Dates

**Next Rehearsal Date:**  
Wednesday, November 15<sup>th</sup>

**Show Committee**  
Wednesday, November 15<sup>th</sup>

**Extra Rehearsal**  
Saturday, November 18<sup>th</sup>

**Show Run Through**  
Wednesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>

**Show Setup at Prairie Spirit**  
Friday, November 24<sup>th</sup>

**Christmas Concert:**  
Saturday, November 25<sup>th</sup>

**Music Committee**  
Wednesday, November 29<sup>th</sup>

## President's Musings

ROB SMITH

As I'm sure Les will remind us, there are only two Wednesdays and maybe a Saturday rehearsal before the big show. Only one Wednesday, Nov 15th, left to return your sold and unsold Grey Cup Pool tickets to me. I count only 180 tickets (10%) that have yet to be distributed, and I hope to sell some of those myself. All those are the 2nd series, meaning the winning tickets from the 1st series are all out. If we end up with a few winners among the unsold tickets from series 2, we will do very well financially, but otherwise, we will still do quite well for the chapter's finances. Thanks to all who have sold so many tickets already.

At last Wednesday's executive meeting, we welcomed new members of the 2024 executive team, Sharon and Bonnie. Brad, who is taking over as the '24 treasurer, has already attended our meetings as a

Member at Large. One significant part of the meeting was making decisions about our 2024 financial priorities and forecasts so Brad could draft next year's budget. Hopefully, with Bruce's help, he will present the draft budget to our next meeting on Nov 29th. The executive will put the budget forward for a membership vote in January. Brad reported that our present financial position is relatively healthy, but much will depend on how well the Christmas show does.

We also discussed the Leadership Academy on January 5th & 6th at River Falls, Wisconsin. There are several classes specific to executive positions, but many other classes are suitable for barbershoppers. Registration is \$75 US, but as Gord said Wednesday, that includes most of the meals while there—usually, those attending carpool and share hotel rooms. There is special barbershop room pricing at two nearby hotels. I'm including the class schedule below, but I have scanned the many pages I received by mail and can forward them to anyone interested. Depending on how our budget shakes out, there may be some subsidy from the chapter for those attending. Unfortunately(?) I fly to Cuba on Jan 5th, so I cannot attend. In harmony,

ROB 🎵

2024 LOL LEADERSHIP ACADEMY- CHORD COLLEGE Student Schedule			
11:30 – 12:20 pm - Lunch – Riverside Commons			
CLASS #	CLASS TITLE	INSTRUCTOR	ROOM
Friday Jan 5, 2024 12:30 – 2:00 pm - 90 Minutes classes			
10101	Bringing A Song To Life	Jay Althof	
10102	The Basics of Vocal Pedagogy	Scott Perau	
10103	Moving With Freedom in Performance	Scott Kvigne	
10104	Membership Guest Night Ideas	Gary Schmidt	
10105	Planning for Successful Chapter Shows	W Ogburn/M Berglund	
10106	Youth Barbershop In Schools	Justin La	
Friday Jan 5, 2024 2:15 - 3:45 pm - 90 Minute Classes			
10201	Chorus Repertoire: Share Session	Scott Perau	
10202	Forming & Directing a Mixed Chorus	Scott Kvigne	
10203	Leadership In Volunteer Organizations	Jay Althof	
10204	How to Bring Barbershop to Your Community	Joe Cerutti	
10205	New Member Recruitment & Retention	Gary Schmidt	
10206	What Churches Chapters Have In Common	Larry Lewis	
10207	District/Chapter Liaisons Preparation	Jim Rasmus	
Friday Jan 5, 2024 4:00 - 5:30 pm - 90 Minute Classes			
10301	Warmups and Vocal Techniques	Scott Perau	
10302	Be The Best Performer You Can Be	Scott Kvigne	
10303	The Barbershop Paradox	Jay Althof	
10304	Generating Grassroots Financial Support	Joe Cerutti	
10305	How to Welcome & Keep Your Guests	Jim Rasmus	
10306	Harnessing Social Media for Youth	Justin La	
Friday Jan 5, 2024 5:30 – 6:30 pm – Dinner – Riverside Commons			
Friday Jan 5, 2024 6:30 - 8:30 pm General Session & Mass Sing – Kinnic Theater			

Saturday Jan 6, 2024 7:30 - 8:15 am Breakfast – Riverside Commons			
CLASS #	CLASS TITLE	INSTRUCTOR	ROOM
Saturday Jan 6, 2024 8:30 – 12:00 noon – Office Specific Core Classes			
20101	President	Grant Warning	
20102	Secretary	Tim Schubbe	
20103	Treasurer	Lowell Bennes	
20104	Membership/Chapter Development VP	Gary Schmidt	
20105	Music & Performance VP	Joe Cerutti	
20106	Chorus Directors/Ass't Directors	Scott Perau	
20107	Barbershop Smorgasbord	Scott Kvigne	
Saturday Jan 6, 2024 12:00 noon - 12:50 pm Lunch – Riverside Commons			
Saturday Jan 6, 2024 1:00 – 2:30 pm – 90 Minute Classes			
20201	Warmups & Vocal Techniques	Scott Perau	
20202	Forming & Directing A Mixed Chorus	Scott Kvigne	
20203	Leadership In Volunteer Organizations	Jay Althof	
20204	New Member Guest Night Idea's	Gary Schmidt	
20205	Generating Grassroots Financial Support	Joe Cerutti	
20206	What Churches Chapters Have In Common	Larry Lewis	
20207	Youth Barbershop in Schools	Justin La	
Saturday Jan 6, 2024 2:45 – 4:15 pm – 90 Minute Classes			
20301	Bringing A Song To Life	Jay Althof	
20302	Moving With Freedom in Performance	Scott Kvigne	
20303	Chorus Repertoire: Share Session	Scott Perau	
20304	How to Bring Barbershop to Your Community	Joe Cerutti	
20305	How to Welcome & Keep Your Guests	Jim Rasmus	
20306	Planning For Successful Chapter Shows	W Ogburn/M Berglund	
20307	Harnessing Social Media for Youth	Justin La	
Saturday Jan 6, 2024 4:25 - 4:45 pm Closing Session – Kinnic Theater			
Saturday Jan 6, 2024 4:45 - 5:30 pm Dinner – Riverside Commons			

## Christmas Show Day Schedule

9:30	Stage crew, quartets, narrators arrive
	Final stage dressing
	Final microphone setup
9:45 - 10:15	Quartet vocal warm up
10:15 - 11:00	Quartet sound check
10:45	Chorus arrive at church
11:00 - 11:15	Narrator sound check
11:15 - 12:15	Vocal warm up & show run through
12:15 - 1:00	Lunch
1:00 - 1:30	Dressing
1:30 - 2:15	Brief vocal warm up and hydration
2:15	Ready at stage entrance
2:30 - 4:30	Performance
4:30 - 4:50	Greet friends and family
4:50 - 5:10	Group photos
5:10 - 5:45	Tear down, equipment lighting etc.
5:45	Afterglow





## More From Les

LES CREEK

It's getting closer!

Only two regular rehearsals left, plus the extra one on the 18<sup>th</sup> (2-4pm). That said, I am so impressed with how everything has come together. You have all accomplished a lot over the past few weeks!

Again, this week, we'll not have designated sectional time unless requested. Instead, we'll have the specified choreography time following the vocal warm-up and run through the show music in order again.

I'm assuming that we will have a complete show run-through on the 22nd, which includes:

- entering and leaving the risers
- all quartets singing in the scheduled slots
- all choreography and dancing
- MC introductions and dialogue

The show day is on page two (previous page)

We will set up risers on Friday night (the 24th), set up the sound system and possibly lighting and do some stage decoration. The risers will already be at Prairie Spirit, so we don't need to haul them. Your help on Friday evening would be appreciated. We don't expect this part of the setup to take more than an hour or two.

Thank you to everyone who has worked hard to make this show happen! There are a lot of tasks that people have 'stepped up' to take on. Your efforts are evident and greatly appreciated.

As to December rehearsals, we have performances booked for the first 2 Wednesdays (the 6th and the 13th), so there will not be any rehearsal on those evenings. We will not rehearse on the 20th or 27th but return on Jan. 3rd.

Again, I'd like to ask that anyone interested in attending the Leadership Academy in January contact me as soon as possible so that we can apply for grants to offset some of the costs, book rooms, register, etc.

See you Wednesday.

LES 🎵

## Important Message from Producer

LARRY HUNTER

Show. I must emphasize that if any of our members wish to be on stage for the show, they MUST attend all the remaining rehearsals. Otherwise, the music committee can ask those individuals to demonstrate that they can perform all the songs in the show package.

In the past, we required all members to attend the last six rehearsals, but I missed that mark this year!

This requirement is to ensure everyone on stage knows the words, the notes AND the choreography. If one person does not know the words or the choreography, then all eyes from the audience will be on that person. It happens all the time.

Thank you!

LARRY 🎵

## Last Day for Afterglow Sign Up

DONNA BOYLE

Last day for sign up is November 15<sup>th</sup>. 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](mailto: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 🎵



## November 11th Remembrances

BRIAN METCALFE

Thanks to Larry Bredesen, I am reminded of the power of music on each Remembrance Day. Larry shared the following story with our chorus about an incident he experienced many years ago when he worked for Veterans Affairs in Winnipeg.

On Remembrance Day, Larry took a small chorus to Deer Lodge Hospital to sing to the veterans. Those in attendance were in various states of mental and physical health, and some were brought down to the auditorium by nurses or their family members. In particular, Larry noticed an elderly veteran seated in a wheelchair, with his wife standing behind him with her hand resting tenderly on her husband's left shoulder. Both his hands were in his lap, and he was obviously in his "own little world."

Larry's group performed several songs, and as they started singing "The White Cliffs of Dover" (a popular WW II song), the aged veteran moved his right hand to cover his wife's hand on his shoulder. When the song finished, he withdrew his hand, placed it back in his lap, and returned to his "own little world."

Following the choral performance, the veteran's wife thanked Larry profusely, telling him that her husband had been in his "own little world" and had not recognized or spoken to his wife for several years. The singing of "The White Cliffs of Dover" brought him back to reality for a minute or two to acknowledge his wife's tender touch before slipping back into his "own little world."

This remembrance story demonstrates the power of music so well, and I thank Larry Bredesen for sharing it with us.

Every Remembrance Day, I remember a powerful experience I witnessed when cycling through Europe. I captured this event in my first video creation, which I uploaded to YouTube while teaching. I trust you will find this video entitled "Are Two Minutes Too Much To Ask?" at <https://tinyurl.com/4s7mhurd> as powerful and meaningful as I do.

Take care & keep smiling :-)

BRIAN M 🎵



## Jeff Taylor: a Winnipeg Golden Chordsman!

GORDON BILLOWS

Rob Smith called my attention to page 56 of the Sept/Oct 2023 edition of The Harmonizer. The "Goodbye, My Friends" tag was written by Jeff Taylor in 2015. Jeff sang with our Winnipeg Golden Chordsmen from 1982 to 1989. He graduated from the University of Winnipeg in 1985 with a BA in Music and later earned his master's and doctorate in the US. Jeff and I were assistant directors under Rube Batke in 1986. Jeff and I met at various BHS Conventions, and he was always interested in hearing about his Winnipeg riser-mates. Our last meeting was at the 2019 International Convention in Salt Lake City.

Our 1986 show program states that "Jeff hopes to make music his profession," and he did!

The Harmonizer's write-up about some of Jeff's accomplishments since starting his Barbershopping career at 14 is worth a read. He has 3 International Gold Medals and served as a Music judge for 30 years. Congratulations to Jeff Taylor – a former member of the Winnipeg Golden Chordsmen. Perhaps we can learn Jeff's "Goodbye, My Friends" tag at a rehearsal!

"Goodbye, My Friend" tag pdf

[https://www.barbershoptags.com/tags/Goodbye\\_my\\_friends.pdf](https://www.barbershoptags.com/tags/Goodbye_my_friends.pdf)



## Getting to Know ... Donna Strong

DONNA STRONG

Donna Strong is passionate about making music and loves to perform. She began in grade school with violin lessons, later adding the flute. Being part of the concert bands and orchestras throughout her school years is among her most cherished memories of that time. She started singing with the Holiday Choir at her workplace in 2004, which she enjoyed for 12 years until she left the company. In 2015, she discovered the joy of singing Barbershop when she joined the Sweet Adeline Assiniboine Chorus as a lead. She found her people! Determined to sing every song in the upcoming spring show, Donna learned and memorized 12 songs in 8 weeks! In 2017, she was asked to join a newly forming 12-women a cappella group, True Harmony.

As one of only four leads, the pressure was on to know her music! Donna continues to enjoy singing with this group of talented women. She joined RCS in September of 2022, adding to the challenge of being a tenor. It's a challenging task for a lead!



In 2016, at a joint men's and women's chorus workshop, her life was forever changed when she met Brian, who became her husband six years later. They love making music together. Singing together in RCS is a highlight in their life.



Donna has two daughters, a stepdaughter, a son, and three grandsons, and is a very proud mom and Nonna.

Her other hobbies include gardening and travel. The joy of discovering new landscapes and the magic of exploring the unknown feed her soul. Some of her favourite places are Hawaii, Italy, and the Caribbean. She is proud to say she has been in every Canadian province but one to date. Her extensive travel bucket list includes living like a local in various European countries and Central and South America!

She turned her passion for travel and her 30+ years of event management into her own business, "Going Strong Travel and Events." She loves creating perfect travel adventures for her clients or designing smooth and successful events for personal or business occasions.

DONNA 🎵





# Rehearsal Timeline - November 15-22, 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	<b>Choreo rehearsal</b>
	Rock and Roll Christmas
	Lost in the Stars
	Jingle Bell Rock
7:35 to 8:45	<b>Show music in order</b>
	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

## 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](http://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**