

This
Notes 4 U



The latest news and updates from River City Sound



PHOTO BY MARY LATHAM

Important Dates

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| Extra Rehearsal at St. Andrew's
255 Oak Street
Saturday, November 18 th | 2:00 |
| Final Run Through at St. Andrew's
255 Oak Street
Wednesday, November 22 nd | 6:55 |
| Show Setup at Prairie Spirit
207 Thompson Drive
Friday, November 24 th | 7:00 |
| Concert at Prairie Spirit
207 Thompson Drive
Saturday, November 25 th | 10:45 |
| After Glow at Anavets
3584 Portage Avenue
Saturday, November 25 th | 5:45 |
| Music Committee
255 Oak Street
Wednesday, November 29 th | 5:30 |

President's Musings

ROB SMITH

From the multiple advertisements arriving in our daily paper and in the mail, it's hard not to know next week is Black Friday. I checked Dr. Google. The term may go back to the 1800s, but it took off in the 1950s when factory workers took off "sick" after the American Thanksgiving, which falls on a Thursday. Police also used it to describe the traffic congestion and hoards of shoppers starting their Christmas shopping. It seems to be the transition into the Christmas Season. I did my part this morning by ordering a new laptop to replace our ancient desktop computer. Now I won't have any excuse for all the typos, maybe?

Talking about errors, I was a little embarrassed on Wednesday to discover I was singing the wrong note at the start of Joy to the World. The tenors go up 1/3 on the tune-up and then return to the pitch pipe's tone

for our first note. I had burned a CD of our Christmas music and played it 100s of times as I travelled in my truck. Was I always singing the wrong note? I checked what I sang against the learning track this morning and sang the correct note. Did I “fix it” so quickly? Was it only on Wednesday that I was wrong? I don’t know, but it shows that we can go astray and continuing to rehearse our music is essential.

Now, something about Covid. Marg and I had our flu and Covid shots a couple of weeks ago. Today, she was invited to a private home where a bunch of “church ladies” gather to visit with a former member returning from BC. That lady just discovered that the friend she is staying with has tested positive for COVID-19. What to do? Marg is going with her mask. They will sanitize their hands and socially isolate. What is an acceptable risk these days? Last year, Brian M came down with COVID-19 and couldn’t attend one of the shows he had worked so hard to prepare for. Let’s hope Covid doesn’t strike any of us this year.

The rehearsal is tomorrow, Saturday, 2-4, and then the Grey Cup on Sunday. I count only 160 unsold Pool tickets, and I may sell some of them tonight and tomorrow. Thank you all for your work selling tickets, and a special thanks to those who scratched the grey dots off the ticket stubs. It will be interesting to get them all sorted out on Sunday and figure out the winners. I will let everyone know as soon as possible. In Harmony,

ROB 🎵

More From Les

LES CREEK

Hi everyone! Just a quick note today with a few items:

1. The extra rehearsal is on Saturday the 18th, from 2 to 4. Please arrive early as we must set up the risers and other things. Your help is GREATLY appreciated.
2. The regular rehearsal on Wednesday is a complete, non-stop run-through of the show with all quartets, so please be aware that we will be spending most of the evening on the risers. This is an excellent opportunity

to test the comfort of the shoes you plan on wearing on the 25th.

3. On the 25th - bring your own lunch!! There are a couple of fast food places nearby if you don’t want to pack a sandwich, but we must keep to the schedule.

4. On Friday night, it would be helpful to have some bodies to help us set up the risers and sound system, set up the lobby, and help decorate the space. We plan on being there about 7, so your help would be GREATLY appreciated.

and lastly,

5. After the show on the 25th, we will have time to greet family and friends and take a few chorus photos, BUT we also have to take down the risers (we will be storing them at the church that day, so we don’t need to load the trailer), take down the sound system and decorations, and restore the church. Again, many hands make light work, so please stick around and help us. This will allow us all to get to the Afterglow in a reasonable time and still have some energy to socialize and sing a song or two.

and lastly #2

Thank you all so much for all the help you have given us over the past weeks, for all the patience as we work through the show and the new music, and for being so willing to participate fully in this great hobby of ours. Again, you are all GREATLY appreciated.

LES 🎵



Deadline for Christmas Ticket Sales: November 22nd

BRIAN METCALFE

Thanks to the effort of chorus members in selling tickets to our performance of “A Traditional Christmas,” **Please return all your ticket sales at either tomorrow’s Saturday rehearsal or no later than our Wednesday, Nov. 22 rehearsal.**

Please help me by enclosing your sales in a sealed envelope with the following details on the outside.

- .. Your name
- .. Number of tickets taken
- .. Number of tickets sold
- .. Amount of cheque(s) payable to River City Sound
- .. Number of tickets returned, if any

Chorus members can still get tickets from me on or before Nov. 22 if they give me a cheque for the equivalent number of required tickets.

Please note that I will only process all cheques after our show.

Thanks again for your support.

BRIAN M 🎵



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

Show Day Wardrobe

Don't wear your costumes to church. We are given time to dress.

The ladies' wardrobe – first half white shirt, black pants/skirts and black closed toe shoes with coloured scarf. Second half sparkly black top, black skirt.

The men's wardrobe - first half is white long sleeve shirt, black pants and shoes with coloured scarf. Second half it's tuxedo jacket and pants, white shirt, red bow tie, red cummerbund and black shoes.

DONNA / CHARLIE 🎵



Makeup

This is stage makeup and heavier than you typically wear. Under stage lights, we get washed out. There's only time to dress, so apply your makeup at home. Bring your supplies for a touch-up.

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: Apply at least two coats to upper and lower lashes.

- ◆ Apply eyeliner
- ◆ Apply eyebrow pencil

Rock and Roll Choreography

GAYLE WHARTON

Hi chorus. Thanks for performing so well last Wednesday. All our work on choreo is paying off! Reminders:

Beginning: Be prepared for the "Rocks".
FOCUS SOLELY ON LARRY FOR THE CUE.

Just a reminder about the ending of Rock and Roll Christmas. Please grab page 7 and we'll talk through it.

Following our clapping section

The basses sing "We'll have a"

This gives us a few seconds to think ahead and be prepared for the ending.

On the first "go" (we have a note move) while basses sing "Rock and Roll Christmas" on that note move, chorus will lean to center keeping your body straight so we don't lose our good posture.

Release on next "go" back to chorus position and finally, when Basses sing their big "Go Santa Go" we start our spread to outsides. No sooner or it will not fit.

Listen to the basses for the correct timing.

Arms end up just slightly higher than shoulder.

GAYLE 🎵



Getting to Know ...Bonnie Robinson

BONNIE ROBINSON

I grew up in River Heights with my parents and my three brothers. I have one son, Daniel, who is 25, and a sweet little dog, Teddy, who is 2. (Daniel is sweet, too!)



I am very fortunate that my family has always supported music education. My grandparents bought us a piano, and at age 8, I began taking lessons. I continued studying piano right through university. My parents encouraged my love of music, and they bravely endured many recitals and concerts over the years. By the end of high school, I passed my Toronto Conservatory grade 9 piano exam.

In junior high, I played cello in the Grant Park Intermediate Orchestra. Our music teacher encouraged us to borrow and try out various instruments, so I tried trumpet, bass clarinet and trombone. I was attracted to the sound of the

trombone and played it in the Senior Orchestra for many years afterward. I passed the Toronto Conservatory grade 10 trombone exam. Although Grant Park had (and still has) a robust choral/musical theatre program, I did not participate, as I didn't think I could sing.



I studied trombone and piano in the Music Education program at Brandon University School of Music. Choral singing was required, so I sang in the University Chorale and loved it! Participation was required for two years, but I continued in Chorale for all four years. I graduated with a Bachelor of Music and was honoured to receive the Silver Medal for Music Education.

For a year after university graduation, I travelled with "Up With People," playing trombone in the band and doing some singing and choreography. We had to memorize the show in a month and then perform it for a year in 88 towns and cities throughout North America. (My memory was much younger then!)

I started and finished as an elementary music specialist in my teaching career. In the in-between years, I taught primarily grades 1 and 2 and Early Years Exposure French. I loved incorporating music into my teaching.

After retiring from teaching, I worked for five years at Ikea in Smaland, the children's play area. Then, for three years, I was a member of the lay clergy team at Shaarey Zedek Synagogue. There, I helped lead daily services (much singing) and taught Hebrew reading

skills to children to prepare them for formal study for their Bar or Bat Mitzvah.

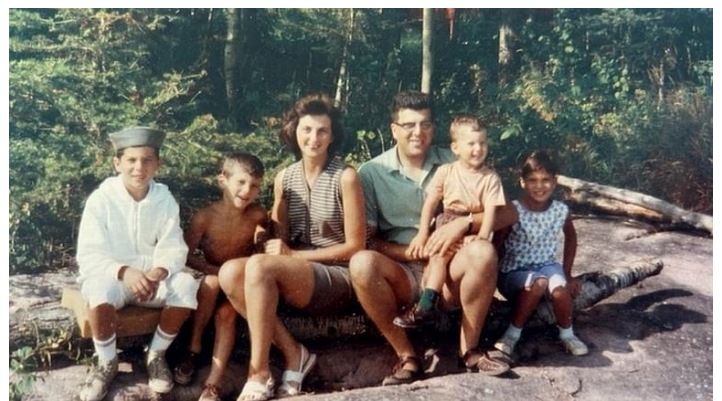
Also, after retiring, I started to learn to play the ukulele and continue to be challenged and enamoured by it.

In addition to music, I have always loved writing and art. Two years ago, I published a children's book, "Super Cat Saves the Day." It was one of the many stories I wrote for my grade 1 students in the 1980s and finally published in 2021. It's for sale at McNally-Robinson.com and on Amazon, but I give it to my friends for free. Just ask. As a child, I took art classes at Forum Art Institute and have enjoyed creating ever since. I am an amateur, but I love making something from nothing.

Since July of this year, Teddy, my 2-year-old Havanese, and I have volunteered in the Winnipeg Humane Society's Therapy Dog Program. We have visited a daycare centre, a Seniors' residence, a family transition centre, and military personnel and are now part of the WHS "See Spot Read" program. We visit a local library once a week, where Teddy and I listen to children read to help build reading skills and confidence.

I discovered River City Sound quite by accident. I saw the article and pictures in the Free Press this past May and decided to attend the Spring Concert. I spoke to Rosie on the phone. She was friendly and explained that, after the concert, I was welcome to sit in on a Wednesday rehearsal. Well, I LOVED the concert and knew I wanted to be a part of something great! I showed up the following Wednesday and just stayed. So, here I am. I love it. Thanks to all for being so welcoming.

BONNIE 🎵



Rehearsal Timeline - November 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	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

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**