



The MVEer Monthly

April, 2016

April's Busy Highlights



Cindy Hansen-Ellis – Performance Coaching on **Monday, April**

4. YouTube 2 minute interview:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fmSDRxzVrvI> or check out her

firm: Hansen Entertainment Productions Inc. at

<http://www.showscriptsonline.com/about.html>

Texas Roadhouse – Thursday April 7

(see article later in this issue)

Acapocalypse Youth Concert

Performance – on **Friday April 8**. Check out the Port Washington Acapocalypse FaceBook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/Port-Washington-High-School-Acapocalypse-1055850187762979/>. We are featured on

the poster along with Grammy winning LEVEL. Call time **5:30 pm**. More information to come by email, but family members can go to Port Washington High School on Friday at **6:30** to watch the show at: **427 W Jackson St, Port Washington, WI 53074**

An evening with **LEVEL**

Friday Night Showcase
Port Washington High School Auditorium
Friday, April 8th 7pm
Doors open at 6:30pm
Featuring Midwest Vocal Express and Port Washington's Limited Edition

General Admission: \$15
Tickets on sale in PWHS Office and Sentry

Spring Show with a Tour of Italy Dinner

– Come to our “Decades of Music” spring show on **Saturday April 23** at the Oak Creek Community Center, at 8580 S Howell Ave, Oak Creek, WI 53154.

- Cocktails at 5:30 pm.
- Dinner at 6:00 pm.
- Show at 7:00 pm.

Come and enjoy. Tickets \$30.

THE MIDWEST VOCAL EXPRESS
WISCONSIN'S PREMIER MEN'S A CAPPELLA CHORUS
PRESENTS
DECADES OF MUSIC!
SATURDAY APRIL 23RD, 2016
DINNER AND A SHOW

Center Stage Talent Contest – by Matt Nagel

The MVE received a warm reception at the **Center Stage Talent Show** on Tuesday March 1st. About 28 men were on stage to perform our Calypso Medley to benefit the St. Ann Center for Intergenerational Care's two campuses.

Competing acts included a teen operatic singer, the Marquette University women's collegiate a cappella group, a belly dancer, an interpretive dancer, a hip-hop dance troupe, a 14 year old classical pianist, and a duo playing accordion and clarinet.

One member was at the historic **Turner Hall** ballroom by 3PM that day to work with the stage tech crew for our performance, which was scheduled for about 7:30PM. Many of the chorus was there for a quick sound check just before the doors opened at 5:30PM. The open nature of the ballroom and the layout of the building did not allow for a good place to warm-up or practice. We worked a little bit between the halves of the show just before we went on stage.



Our performance received an enthusiastic, warm reception from the audience. One woman stopped a member as we were leaving the ballroom. She said that she thought our chorus should have won the competition.

The acts were judged by **John McGivern**, who has hosted an MVE show in the past, **Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel** writer and critic **Joanne Weintraub**, and last year's winner, 14-year old **Erica Lofton**.

The judges' winner (and a prize of \$1,000) was **Alicia Obiakor**, a 13 year old soloist who has been singing since she was 18 months old. After announcing the judges' winner the audience selected **The Band Hennes**, a four sister rock band as their winner (and a prize of \$500).

Editor's Note: Kudos to Matt Nagel for being our showrunner at 3pm for the contest!

Background on the New Uptune

– Mike Lietke

When we were searching to build a great contest uptune, we were looking for something that felt new and would have impact. There were also other technical criteria to show us in our best light, which caused some rewrites to improve our ability to perform it.



We landed on this combo around Christmas - after starting the search in July. Then we got **Patrick McAlexander** on board to arrange it as we discussed how it would take shape. The idea is to really "Broadway up" a contest piece. Such a treatment had been done in the past, thinking of some of the medalist performances of Alexandria Harmonizers and the Phoenicians, among others. However, the style of performance is not seen on the contest stage as much anymore, so we look to innovate while serving the past.

We gave Broadway intense consideration, because the genre gives us songs that demand strong, audience-targeted performances, and deep character and story development. Our ballad this year is also very "Broadway". As to the music in it...

The Intro

The intro is a means of tying both songs together in a common theme. First you are looking for the **Good Times**, and then you find them as we all party to the end. It alternates in the beginning from grabbing our attention to showing the character has some blues that won't let him go (*i.e.* "get off [his] lawn.")

I wrote all of the lyric and suggested part of the melody line, including the Hey there and say there sections, as well as the cascade section.

Show Me Where the Good Times Are

This is a song known only to barbershoppers. It was from a little-seen musical of the same title, which ran off Broadway for 29 performances in 1970. The writers are not especially renowned in the Theater World.

Barbershoppers somehow picked up on it, though, and it was recorded by quartets and choruses since. (See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L4oEWHh3XWw>)



Let's All Meet at the Waukesha Texas Roadhouse – Scott Ganswindt

The Midwest Vocal Express is having our next eat out fundraiser on **Thursday, April 7**. We will be enjoying an evening of good food and good fun at the **Texas Roadhouse** in **Waukesha**. The address is **2513 Plaza Ct. Waukesha, WI 53186** ph: 262-798-7427.

There was a flyer I sent to you (and is appended at the end or as an attachment). This is something you need to present to your server when you are seated. Let's make sure that we tell our families and friends



who have always been willing to support us. The only thing that is keeping them from doing so is our failure to tell them about it.



The Midwest Vocal Express "ACAPOCALYPSE" at Port Washington High School, 427 W Jackson St, Port Washington, WI by Josh Umhoefer

This is a HUGE event. We have the opportunity to perform for hundreds of students and faculty members from around the state, all whom are interested in a cappella music. PLUS, legendary a cappella pioneer Ben Bram will be in attendance. Check out <http://www.thebenbram.com/>

Acapocalypse on April 8th, 2016

MVE Arrival Time: 5:30pm (Please plan ahead to be here on time)

MVE Sound Check: 5:40-6:00pm

Showtime: 7:00pm

Show order:

1. UW Madison "Fundamentally Sound" – 15 minutes
2. MKE School of the Arts – 15 minutes
3. MVE – 20 minutes
 - a. Song Order:
 - i. **Calypso Medley** (soloists: John Biltz & Mike Lietke)
 - ii. **A Whole New World**
 - iii. **Sing, Sing, Sing**
 - iv. CROON: Rose Colored Glasses, Everybody Loves Somebody, A Foggy Day
 - v. **Early American Medley** (Quarternotes, HighPoint, 7th Sun w/Josh on lead)
4. Port Washington "Limited Edition" – 15 minutes
 - a. Intermission
5. LEVEL – 45-60 minutes

Attire:

- "Black and Gray" that we used for International and District Last Year.
 - Mix & Match with Chorus Blue Ties:
 - Colors: Gray, Charcoal, Black (no white or other colors)
 - Use Dress Pants, Dress Shoes, Vests, Dress Shirts, Jackets, etc.
 - The look should be "dressy" and "unified" but not "matched".
- Please bring your planned uniform to rehearsal Monday if you haven't worn this with us before.

FUNDRAISING NIGHT!



Midwest Vocal Express

Thursday, April 7th

5:00PM - 10:00PM

10% Donation Night

Support this cause by presenting this invitation to the listed Texas Roadhouse® location and Texas Roadhouse® will donate 10% of your total food purchases to the fundraiser!



(262) 798-7427

2513 Plaza Court
Waukesha, WI

FUNDRAISING NIGHT!



Midwest Vocal Express

Thursday, April 7th

5:00PM - 10:00PM

10% Donation Night

Support this cause by presenting this invitation to the listed Texas Roadhouse® location and Texas Roadhouse® will donate 10% of your total food purchases to the fundraiser!



(262) 798-7427

2513 Plaza Court
Waukesha, WI