



The MVEer Monthly

May, 2016

May's Highlights

Mon. May 2 2016 – 7 to 10 pm	James Estes Coaching
Mon May 9 2016 - 7 to 10 pm	REHEARSAL
Tues. May 10 2016 – 7 to 9pm	Board of Director's Monthly Meeting Cheer On Our Quartets @ Division Contest in Manitowoc With Packerland . See below for more info from Bob Brey.
Sat. May 14 2016 – 8 am to 4 pm	
Mon. May 16 2016 - 7 to 10 pm	David Wright Coaching
Mon May 16 2016 - 7 to 10 pm	REHEARSAL
Sat May 21, 2016, 10 am to 6 pm	Steve Scott Voice Lessons
Mon. May 23, 2015 - 7 to 10 pm	REHEARSAL
Mon. June 6, 2016 – 7 to 10 pm	Cindy Hansen Coaching

Division Contest on Saturday May 14 – Bob Brey

Editor's Note: The MVE will not be competing, but we can cheer on our quartets.

Franciscan Center for Music Education and Performance in Endries Performance Hall on the campus of **Silver Lake College of the Holy Family**. Address: **2406 South Alverno Road, Manitowoc**, which is about 1 mile west of I-43 at exit 149. Stage opens at 8 am with the contest at 10 am.

Contest features 9 choruses, 20 quartets competing; evaluations for choruses should be done about 6 pm. According to Land O' Lakes policy the cost is \$15 per person. Light lunch will be available at the performance venue. Chorus rooms will be in the Silver



Lake College building. Shuttle buses are available for those competitors who cannot walk approximately one block. Adequate spectator parking to west of building. Asking competitors to park in college lot to east of college building. Google maps link below for campus and performance center. Calumet Ave. runs east – west

<https://www.google.com/maps/place/Silver+Lake+College/@44.0710708,-87.7464616,722m/data=!3m2!1e3!4b1!4m2!3m1!1s0x8803477c5bd50f4f:0xc2e74a2eb155f48b>

Feel free to call early evenings if you need more info. Bob Brey, 920-973-4472, rbrey1950@gmail.com

Interview with New MVE Member Jim Vandenberg

MVEer asks: Jim Vandenberg, 'um don't we have someone else in the chorus with that same last name, **Stephen Vandenberg**? I suspect a family relationship there somewhere. Tell us about that, please.

Jim replies: Over the twenty some years I have known Stephen, he has involved me in many exciting experiences. From very young on he has allowed me to participate in coaching soccer, watching him grow in Appleton Boy Choir, enjoy watching many high school plays and high school choir events. Now in true Stephen style he has encouraged me to be a part of a world class men's chorus and experience the opportunity of a lifetime to sing at the International level of competition in Barbershop Harmony. I am very blessed to have a son like Stephen in my life.



MVEer asks: We are so glad to have your baritone voice with our chorus, please tell us about your musical background? Were you in other bands, choruses, or quartets before?

Jim replies: Way back in high school I sang and played bass guitar in a little garage band. For the last twenty six years I have been a member in our church choir at Riverview Lutheran in Appleton. I have also been a member of the White Heron Choral.

I am currently a member of the **Fox Valleyaires** in Appleton and sing baritone in **North Shore Quartet**.

MVEer asks: Other than your singing skills, please tell us of any other of your other avocations or hobbies?

Jim replies: I am currently a member of the Appleton Breakfast Rotary Club and I am serving on the board of our condo association. I also serve on the Multi-Language Publications Committee for the WELS Board of World Missions.

MVEer asks: The readers of this newsletter want to know more about you. For example, what do you do for a living?



Tenor - **Joel Krueger**; Lead - **Lynn Kopitzke**; Bass - **Smyte Smithlin**; Baritone - **Jim Vandenberg**; **North Shore Quartet**, Jim is the tallest!

Jim replies: After graduating from UW-Whitewater with a BBA I worked for a couple of companies on the west coast. I eventually returned to the Fox Valley. I now own a small printing company in Appleton. **Custom Printing, Inc.** is an offset and digital print shop. We specialize in printing business cards to books.

MVEer asks: We'd like to know a bit about your family and friends. Where did you grow up and have you have family (other than Stephen) in the area?

Jim replies: I am a native of Appleton and **June** is a Hodag from Rhinelander (though we don't hold that against her). My wife June and I will be married for 30 years this summer. We have three sons Andy, Alex and Stephen. Andy is living in the Appleton area, Alex is currently in Minnesota. We have been blessed with six grandchildren.

MVE says: Jim, thanks so much for making our chorus even stronger. The whole community of the MVE family and friends welcomes you as one of our newest members.

Five Tips of Running Choirs – Source Groupanizer

<https://www.groupanizer.com/blog/5-choir-management-tips-change-your-routine>

Editor's Note: *I think we do all of these five things already!*

Running a choir practice can be a difficult task. When you're not trying to promote your choir and plan performances, you're rehearsing your choir to make the most out of practice times that are shorter than you'd like them to be. Sometimes, switching up the rehearsal routine can do wonders when it comes to engaging singers. Trying something new can also be a great learning experience. Here are some ideas for challenging your choir during rehearsal:

1. Bring in a guest conductor

A blog called *My Useful Tips* demonstrates the benefits of singing with another director. Because singers are unique individuals, they can benefit from different teaching styles. While your methods may be great for most members of the choir, it can often be helpful for your choir to perform under someone else's baton. Conductors can learn by watching other rehearsal and conducting styles, as well. A new conductor may even introduce choirs to styles of music they have never heard before, which provide another unique learning opportunity.

2. Collaborate with another choir

It can be a fun experience to sing as part of a larger group. Creating a bigger sound can be empowering, but it can also be a good lesson in getting voices to blend. Sometimes smaller groups have difficulty achieving a uniform sound. With the power of many voices together, this is often less of a problem. However, new challenges arise, such as getting everyone to sing on rhythm and improve diction. Just like bringing in a guest conductor, joining forces can provide insight into other ways singing groups can improve as a whole.

3. Have them change seats

Whether you sit in part sections or not, it can be useful to change up the seating arrangement to give singers a fresh perspective. When singers get accustomed to hearing the same voices, they can fall into a rut. Switching things up, particularly going from sections to mixed seating, can provide a new challenge, as well as provide greater insight into the full sound of the chorus. Have them focus on creating a blend and listening to the sound of the full group.

4. Break into small groups

Sometimes large groups can benefit from breaking into circles for small group practicing. The conductor can move around between the different groups, helping them practice individually. In the meantime, these groups can rehearse

themselves. Being required to run through a mini rehearsal on their own can help them master music comprehension as well as gain collaborative skills. The better the choir works together, the better they will sing together.

5. End on a good note

Total Choir Resources suggests finishing the rehearsal on a happy note. Rather than going up to the last minute working through a particularly difficult section, leave 10 minutes at the end of a rehearsal to run through a piece that your choir likes and knows well. This helps to keep optimism and humor high, reminding your group why they're there in the first place - because they love to sing!



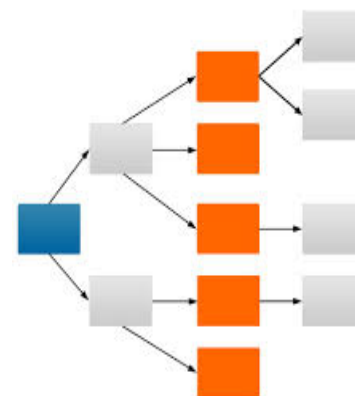
A Facelift to Groupanizer

You will notice some changes to Groupanizer that occurred on April 12th. Groupanizer is now more mobile friendly. The Dashboard features our Calendar for the month and then Events. It also changed a few of its menus and submenus. This tutorial highlights changes:

<https://support.groupanizer.com/node/main-menu>

This tutorial highlights changes on the Public Site side:

<https://support.groupanizer.com/node/knowledge-how-edit-your-public-site-using-menu>.



The new architecture is essentially a tree diagram lying on its side, where you click a choice like EVENTS and it branches out into different routes as you click on them.

Note that chorus friend and Coach **Sean Devine** is now **VP of Sales for Groupanizer!**

Interview with New MVE Member Smyte Smithlin

MVEer asks: Smyte, well, that is an interesting name! How did that name come about?

Smyte replies: My dad played baseball and some team members called him smite.



MVEer asks: Thank you for adding to our rich bass section. Can you please tell us about your musical background? Were you in other choirs, bands, or quartets before?

Smyte replies: I sang in a Catholic boy choir for four years in grade school. Big cathedral. Cool church. If you get to Sioux Falls, S.D. visit St. Joseph Cathedral you will be impressed by its size and beauty. I also played in in my H.S. band.

I didn't pick up singing barbershop until 2000. I soon found out that I'd wished I had started barbershop earlier. I have sung in several quartets.

MVEer asks: Besides singing, what are some of your other hobbies?

Smyte replies: I've tried most of them. I jump in hobbies hard and usually get my fill then tire of them. This crazy hobby is simply the best. Wow!, what a life changer! I never experienced anything close to it before or since.

I love dogs. Pretty much all dogs. Funny, when I meet someone who is walking a dog, I talk to and address the dog first and can't remember much

about the owner but almost every detail about the dog. Strange? Maybe I just like dogs better than people. (;-o)

MVEer asks: What do you do for a living, Smyte? The readers of this newsletter want to know more about you.

Smyte replies: I owned a software development company called **Spectrum Software, Inc.** and developed custom business software applications for over 40 years. My son joined me around 15 years ago. This expanded into a custom calendar business: **CreatePhotoCalendars.com**. I retired from all of that when I sold the business to my son mid-year 2015. Since then, I've become semi-retired but I still do custom work part-time for a longstanding client. IMO retirement is way over-rated.

MVEer asks: Where did you grow up and have you have family in the area?

Smyte replies: My home town is Sioux Falls, S.D. I moved to Winneconne in 1980. I always wanted to live in the country and was able to accomplish that in 2003. I have two sons and a daughter living in the Fox Valley area. My wife, Linda,

grew up in Kaukauna. I have two older sisters who have lived in California most of their adult lives.

MVE says: Smyte, the whole community of the MVE family and friends all welcome you as one of our newest members. We are so glad to have you.

Smyte answers: The pleasure is all mine. You guys are a world class chorus. When I heard you sing *A Whole New World* which you only had for 3 weeks, it blew me away! I wanted in!

Voice Lessons with Steve Scott

Academic Qualifications • PhD in Vocal Pedagogy, The University of Kansas (expected graduation fall 2016) o Research focus: acoustics and biophysics of barbershop singing; barbershop history; choral acoustics; alignment/posture • MMus in Choral Conducting, The Ohio State University • MA in Vocal Pedagogy, The Ohio State University • Singing Health Specialization, The Ohio State University • BME in Choral Music Education, The Utah State University



Barbershop Qualifications • SNG judge • Principal Voice Coach and member, **Central Standard**, 2015 BHS 3rd place bronze medalist chorus • Director emeritus, Voices of America Chorus • Longtime coach and Youth in Harmony clinician • Harmony University faculty member • BHS Member since 1991

We have opportunities to get world-class vocal training on the weekend of Friday, May 19 through Sunday, May 21. Sign up with Josh for lessons.

End with Barbershop Humor – ribs at all four parts

How does a lead change a light bulb? Well he just holds the bulb and the world revolves around him. (*Sorry leads, but if the shoe fits?*)

If you took all the tenors in the world and laid them end to end.... It would be a good idea. (*Sorry tenors, hard to find good tenor jokes, you guys are too valuable*)

How do you get a baritone to stop singing? Give him a sheet of music. (*Not really true of our baritones though*)

"Hey you're a bass - How late does the chorus sing?" "Oh, about a half a beat behind the director." (*Alas, sometimes this occurs*)