



The MVEer Monthly

March, 2017

Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts - Spring Concert

19805 W Capitol Dr, Brookfield, WI → Buy Tickets at <http://www.mve.org/>

Now THAT'S FUNNY!
100 JOKES IN 100 MINUTES!
APRIL 22ND 2017
2:00 PM & 7:30PM
 AT THE FAMED
SHARON LYNNE WILSON CENTER

HEART 2 HEART WITH FEATURED PERFORMANCES BY: **The Committee**

<http://www.wilson-center.com/exterior/> Aerial Footage of Mitchell Park & Sharon Lynne Wilson Center

619 seats (421 on floor, 198 in balcony)



March Calendar in Brief

Monday, Mar 6 2017 – **COACHING with Mark Hale** ▶
7:00 pm

Monday, Mar 13 2017 - **Rehearsal**
7:15pm

Tuesday, Mar 14 2017 - **Board Meeting**
7:00pm

Monday, Mar 20 2017 - **Rehearsal**
7:15pm

Monday, Mar 27 2017 - **Rehearsal**
7:15pm



Mark Hale, MVE Installer at our Banquet on January 7, 2017

Singing Valentines 2017 Recap – Derek Balke and Sarah Nagel

Derek writes: "It was a great time setting up the singing valentines this year since it hadn't been done for a few years. The highlight was for singing for "George" an elderly gentleman in hospice at Oconomowoc. But I'll let the quartet tell you more about that.

I can't say enough how much joy we bring to the area but also the experience of seeing the faces of the people we sing to!



QuarterNotes gave 11 in person valentines along with 6 virtual (emailed) valentines. We netted over \$550!

A great big thank you to **Sarah** for helping with this; she basically she ran it.

To **Harry Hanson** who ran the sound, lights, video, and put together and let us use his makeshift studio in his shop to record the virtual valentines.

Then to **QuarterNotes** quartet: **Randy Will, Matt Nagel, Bob Bartkowiak, and Bruce Vitale** who put on over 200 miles in one day going from 8:30am to 7:30pm. This wouldn't have happened without your support! You guys Rock!

It was fun to talk to the guys throughout the day. They definitely left me in "stitches"... and yes you can defiantly add those two songs to your repertoire. You should know them both by heart now!!

An Uncharacteristically Gorgeous February Day for Singing Valentines – Randy Will

Performing Singing Valentines for the public never fails to be a great experience. This year was no exception for our quartet, the **Quarter Notes**, consisting of **Matt Nagel** (lead & navigator), **Bob Bartkowiak** (bass & chauffeur), **Bruce Vitale** (Bari - who went straight from chorus rehearsal to third shift, then to sing with us the next morning from 7:30 am until 8:30 pm) and me (**Randy Will**) as tenor, we performed eleven paid gigs (and a half dozen impromptu ones) throughout the Milwaukee area this past Valentine's Day.

On an uncharacteristically gorgeous February day, we witnessed tears of joy, hugs & kisses, shy smiles and teenage giggles, & generous collaboration with volunteer photographers to record the occasion with phone photos (and a few videos of their own). I think we hit just about every local Colectivo coffee shop for refueling stops along the way (not to mention wowing the baristas with our chord ringing).

We had the great privilege of singing for many family & friends of our own chorus members, including **Tom Weber's** daughter-in-law to be, **Matt's wife Ann**, **Dick Marcus' friend Jan**, and **Scott Gandswindt's Dad** during their Dart Ball league (who, BTW, sings a mean bass...why aren't you in a quartet??).

The most memorable and moving experience of our day occurred in an Oconomowoc hospice. We performed both traditional SV songs for a wonderful gentleman named **George**, who, although bedridden, sang along enthusiastically to both! When queried, the 93 year-old revealed he had sung tenor with a (unofficial) barbershop quartet at one point in his life.



Then, as we crooned Mary Lou for his requested encore, we saw his feet bouncing in time to the music under his Packer blanket! His wonderful sense of humor and positive acceptance of his situation inspired us all.

We all agreed we received far more from this effort than we gave. I hope the MVE will continue this tradition, so more of our members can share in this tremendous experience.

Try a Little Tenderness: Some Background History – Dick Marcus

The song was written by **Jimmy Campbell** and **Reg Connelly** (who were British music publishers and a songwriting team (1920s and 1930s). Primarily lyricists, they generally worked in collaboration with composers.

For this song, they worked with **Harry M. Woods** for the music. Harry Woods was born in North Chelmsford, Massachusetts. Despite the fact that he was born with **no fingers on his left hand**, Woods' mother, a concert singer, encouraged him to play the piano. Woods earned his Bachelor's degree at Harvard University, supporting himself by singing in church choirs and giving piano recitals. After graduation, he settled in Cape Cod and began life as a farmer. He was drafted into the Army during World War I; it was there that he began cultivating his talent for songwriting. After his discharge, Woods settled in New York City and began his successful career as a songwriter with Al Jolson in 1924 and his biggest hit was in 1926, when he would become legendary on Tin Pan Alley with his song, "**When the Red, Red Robin (Comes Bob, Bob, Bobbin' Along)**".

Harry M. Woods



Ray Noble Orchestra



It was first recorded on December 8, 1932, by the **Ray Noble Orchestra** (with vocals by **Val Rosing**).

Both **Ruth Etting** and **Bing Crosby** recorded it in 1933. Bing's version starts as if he is talking, as only Bing can do. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JmRiHVmPZB8>)/ Revised "sock it to you" version by Otis Redding was popular in 1966 and then also **Three Dog Night** released one in 1969. (Otis' version: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UnPMoAb4y8U>).

Some reviewers of this song have been surprisingly harsh. One critic says it is "just a courting lesson." See The Awl at <https://theawl.com/how-try-a-little-tenderness-got-its-soul-and-lost-it-f945224e8fe6#.t7uelqqkt>, which includes the original 1932 **Val Rosing**-version. It also includes **Sam Cooke** and **Aretha Franklin**'s versions as well.

But when we view our song as our Grandfather giving advice to us, it transforms it from just being a "ballad of manors," as The Awl calls it, to a song that offers hints and suggestions to us. Hearing kind, grandfatherly or avuncular hints, makes this song so much more. It is filled with it the most frequently sung word in the whole piece, which is "tenderness."

Not Too Late for Hoops Mania – Cody Whitlock

Here's a real quick and easy way to generate sales ONLINE!

1. Go to: <http://www.charitymania.com/register/Y7017>
2. Complete the form – an email will be sent to you
3. Activate your personal page from the email. Even **Tom Weber** was able to do it all by himself. You can too.
4. Upload a photo if you like, but most importantly, copy the link to your personal page and send it to the folks listed below.

If you have any issue with this process, please call me and I'll be glad to help at Codywhi@cdw.com. Hoops Mania is a blast, man. Woo hoo!



Mark Hale Coaches on March 6 (with background info the *Masters of Harmony* Website, with photos added by the Editor)

Mark Hale joined the **Masters of Harmony** as its music director in April 2000. Then 33, he had already amassed 15 years of directing experience with two choruses in Kentucky, and been a district quartet champion in 1987 and 1995. His introduction into the Barbershop Harmony Society, however, began in 1983 when he was just a high school sophomore in Kentucky, shortly after his participation in a school production of *The Music Man*. At age 16 Mark joined the local **Mammoth Cave Chapter** and his nine-year relationship there allowed him to experiment with arranging and directing.

In 1990, Mark joined the **Louisville Thoroughbreds** chorus and soon became a member of its music team. His interests in directing and arranging grew even more, and in 1992 he became a founding member of the **Louisville Times** chorus, which he directed through 1999 and on four occasions led the 30-man group to the top ten at International. In 2001, a year after joining the Masters, he won an **international quartet gold medal** as the lead singer



Michigan Jake, 2001 Winner in Nashville

of **Michigan Jake**, and followed that up the next year by directing the MOH to its fifth international chorus championship (Portland, 2002). The success continued unabated for another decade, with further championships in Salt Lake City (2005), Anaheim (2008), and Nashville (2011). In early 2012 Mark announced he would be retiring as the MOH music director after the chorus's "swan song" appearance



the following July in Portland. At a special chorus luncheon the next day, Mark was inducted into the **Masters of Harmony Hall of Fame**—only its 10th member. At that same convention the

Barbershop Harmony Society honored Mark with the **Joe Liles Lifetime Achievement Award** for directorship, an award given "as a way to honor . . . those who by their demonstration of lifelong commitment to the Barbershop style by raising the standards of excellence have, through their leadership, helped us move forward."

Following his "retirement" from the MOH, Mark took time to recharge his barbershop batteries and reflect upon what the future might hold. He intentionally



kept a low public profile, but his interest in barbershop remained as keen as ever. On January 1, 2015, Mark became the new



music director of the acclaimed and multi-time bronze medalist **Sound of the Rockies** chorus in Denver, Colorado. Based upon Mark's past, exciting musical times indeed lie ahead for the Mile High city and chapter!

Darryl Cramer's 50 Years as a Barbershopper – Mike Lietke

Darryl Cremer joined our Singing Society before Woodstock. He was singing a tremendous baritone before "One small step for man" equaled "One giant step for mankind." On Monday, February 20, we had a special treat in that our Riser-mate was announced as having been a member of our singing Society for 50 years.

I called time-out for a moment to draw a bit of extra applause for the man, whom many know as a champion baritone (**Mavericks**, 1978 LOL Champs with **Jim Franklin**



High Point, Harry Hanson, Mike Ziegler, Bob Wozniak, & Darryl

and **Harmony** - 2001 **International Seniors champs**). Others know him as a capable administrator, having served many capacities in the chapters to which he has belonged, including heading up one of our director search committees. We all know him as friend.

When you see him, please shake Darryl's hand and thank him for helping keep this stuff together that we love to do so much. These men are the bedrock upon which we build our foundation.

He joins other current Greendale Members **Frank Marzocco, Bo Gibson, Duane Enders, Lou Jaeger, Gary Thiel,** and **Harold Ziegler** in the fifty year club. They are all beaten by **Bo Gibson's** current 65 years of membership.

Now That's Funny! – Mike Lietke

I had sent out an email a couple of weeks ago with a little bit of detail about our spring shows on April 22 (2 and 7:30). "**Now That's Funny**" will exercise both the laughing and groaning muscles from the part of the curtain. Headlined by one of the great mixed quartets of our day - our friends **Heart to Heart** – it promises to be a much-remembered day.

This year's theme is modeled after the yearly "Joke Show" of **Prairie Home Companion** when **Garrison Keillor** was the host. Think of it as 100 jokes in 100 minutes. If you are not familiar, that greatly-anticipated show was incredibly rapid-fire, short hitter jokes. They are often times themed (a section for knock-knocks; blonds; etc...).

Our guys will emcee from the inside - no hired mouthpiece this year. The thought is to leave the mics and the lights essentially hot, and have short vignettes of guys approaching the mic in groups of 2-4 and rattling these things off until it is time for the next song.

John Donehower has already crafted two drafts of the script, and now we need YOU. Sign up in singles and groups if you want to deliver a group of these jokes. There will be early-bird practices for the delivery (and you must take direction – it may not be your particular style of *jokecraft* to go as fast as we want here, but it is critical to the show's theme).

Similarly, we will be asking in the next couple of weeks for volunteers to do certain things for the



show, including contacting seniors groups, and a dedicated effort to call our former and lapsed members to not only come to the show, but bring somebody they normally would not have thought to bring.

The goal is a 50% increase on the show ticket sales from last year, and it will take all of our efforts to pull it off. Please let me know where you slot yourself in this effort. The only wrong answer is "I'll just show up and sing."

Excited yet?

A man walks into a bar with a set of jumper cables under his arm...

