



The MVEer Monthly

May, 2017

May's Highlights

Mon. May 1 2017 - 7:15pm **Rehearsal**

Mon. May 8 2017 - 7:15pm **Rehearsal**

Mon. May 15 2017 - 7:15pm **Coaching!**

Mon. May 22 2017 - 7:15pm **Rehearsal**

Mon. May 29 2017 - 7:15pm
No Practice
Memorial Day



Mark Hale – Music Coach on **Monday, May 15**. He is back from his March 6th coaching visit to guide is to sing even better.

An Interview with New MVE Member Zach Rolfs



MVEer asks: Zach, we are so glad to have your experienced Baritone voice in the chorus. How did get into singing?

Zach replies: Thank you! I enjoyed being in High School plays and musicals, but I found the guys getting the best parts in musicals were in high school choir. I joined choir as a junior at Mounds View High School just north of the Twin Cities in Minnesota. The summer before my senior year and



throughout my senior year I was part of the **All State Choir in Minnesota**. We even performed at Orchestra Hall in Minneapolis.

MVEer asks: How did you get involved with barbershopping, Zach?

Zach replies: The collegiate Barbershop Harmony Quartet winners came to my High School's choir when I was a Junior. Four of us formed a quartet (I sang

tenor) in **3 Out of 4 Quartet**, since it always seemed like we practiced with one or another having to miss practice.



MVEer asks: Zach, where did you go to college?

Zach replies: **St. Olaf College** in Northfield, MN, where I majored in Chemistry, with emphasis on Analytical Chemistry that involves fine measurements graduating in just three years. (*EDITOR'S NOTE: Both of us started to sing the waltz-like St. Olaf's tune **Um Ya Ya**: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EdXjTyr-BS4>)*

Zach continued: I also did the equivalent of a minor in music and sang all three years in the St. Olaf's Choir <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DsVnvN3EVxY>).



MVEer asks: Outside of music, what are some of your other interests or hobbies?

Zach replies: Aside from Chemistry and barbershop, I guess I would say board games like Dominion or card games such as 500. [[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/500_\(card_game\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/500_(card_game))]

MVEer asks: What are you doing now?

Zach replies: I am in my second year of a Ph.D. Program in Chemistry at the University of Wisconsin – Madison. I work as a bioanalytical chemist, determining what's in a protein sample and how much. *EDITOR'S NOTE: Zach's email is: zrolfs@wisc.edu*

MVEer asks: What singing did you do at Madison, Zach?

Zach replies: First, I sang for a while with a co-ed group called the **Madrigal Singers**, but my heart was in barbershop. So I joined the **Capital Chorus** in



December 2015 and sing in a quartet with both **Patrick McAlexander** and **Matt Record**, who also sing with the MVE. Our current quartet name is **Chord-tastrophe**).

was in called **Perfect Pour**.

MVEer asks: Great. Love to hear you sometime. Tell us about your family, Zach?

Zach replies: I was recently married to the beautiful and



talented, Hannah Besonen. We were married last summer and I couldn't be happier.

Hannah and I went to K-12, undergraduate (*um yah yah*), and now graduate school together. We were in different friend groups, though, and didn't spend time with each other until our senior orchestra capstone project in 12th grade where we were required to learn another instrument. I had already learned violin/viola/bass, and wanted to learn

something different from the cello. Hannah played oboe and wanted to learn a string instrument, so we paired together and started dating the day before graduation. I graduated a year early from St. Olaf and we dated long distance which was feasible with skype and the 4-5 hour drive, but not as comfortable as the 2



minute walk we were accustomed to at St. Olaf. We've been happily married since August 20th, 2016.

I am the oldest of four brothers (my brothers are 20, 18, and 12). I am 23. At least three of us sing, so yes, we could form a quartet sometime I guess. My mom and dad and youngest brother live just north of the Twin Cities. This picture includes my brothers and my parents, as well as Hannah and me in the middle.

MVE asks: We are so glad that you are with us, Zach.

Zach Closes My great pleasure! It is a huge kick to sing with and **Be MVE** with you all.

Building Our Christmas Show Database – Jake Umhoefer
jake.umhoefer@gmail.com

We can build our audience for the Christmas Show with your help. I want to create and update our database for Senior Centers, Retirement Communities, *etc.* But I can't do it alone. I NEED your help to make this happen.

If you pass by a senior center, or have one near you – stop, call, email, and gather this information for me....

- 1 - Name of Facility
- 2 - Address
- 3 - Phone Number
- 4 - Contact Name for "Outside Activities Director" or like person that coordinates those things.
- 5 - That person's direct phone and email
- 6 - If they know, how long in advance before a show they need in order for that facility to plan to do an outside trip for a show. (3 months, 6 months, 9 months?)

If you can help me with this basic information, we will assemble will constantly hit these centers per their instruction to try to get on their schedule to bring *hopefully* busloads of prospective patrons to our show.

I can't build this list alone. I need your help. Will you re-dedicate yourself to the MVE and help by getting me some information? I challenge each of you to bring me 2 of these by rehearsal on May 15th! Who's with me help start now to make this Christmas show the biggest and best we've seen in a long time? We don't say this enough anymore....Proud to be MVE.

Knowing Barbershop Specialized Terms Taken from:
<http://www.barbershop.org/intro-to-barbershop-learning-the-language-of-barbershop/>)

Likely, you know **all** the words in barbershopping, but here is a lexicon to see if you might enjoy reviewing them, even including woodshedding.

Afterglow - Party after a chapter meeting or show that can include more performances or just casual singing.

Barbershop seventh - The cornerstone chord of the barbershop style, consisting of the root, the major third above, the perfect fifth above, and the minor seventh above, as in a chord consisting of F, A, C, E-flat

Bell chord - A musical arranging device in which a chord is sung as a succession of notes by each voice in turn.

Fifth-wheeling - Joining in without invitation when a quartet is singing; a breach of manners. Wait for the quartet to finish. Only then do you ask if you can sing along.

Frank H. Thorne Chapter-at-Large - An "international" chapter for men who are not active in a specific chapter.

Gang singing - Informal group singing. Sometimes, also slang for poor quality singing.

Overtones - Tones of higher pitch that are present in every musical sound and whose presence determines the quality of the musical sound. Chords locked in tune and proper volume relationship “ring” with reinforced overtones.

Patter - A verbose variation on the theme of a refrain as in “Down By the Old Mill Stream”, also jokes and emcee work between songs.

Ping - Focused, bright ringing sound.

Swipe - A progression of two or more chords sung on a single word or syllable; hallmark of the barbershop style.

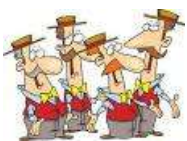
Tiddly - A brief ornamental embellishment heard in one voice part while the others hold a chord, as simple as a repeated two-note pattern and often sung by the baritone part.

VLQ - Very large quartet (octet or larger) or mini-chorus, if you will.

Woodshedding Impromptu quartet singing without arrangements; singing by ear. Watch a basic lesson by Paul Olguin as he explains woodshedding to the **Oscar Mayer Weiner** song (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yUW_Y8Eei-8).

(For more terms, see: <https://racingcitychorus.org/about/barbershop/barbershop-glossary-a-acronyms.html>)

A Quartet Joke



As soon as the new quartet completed its song, the audience screamed ‘**Once More! Once More!**’ The quartet obliged and sang the song again. They couldn’t believe it when the audience screamed for them to sing it again. This was then repeated another ten times!

Then quartet overjoyed at the response from the audience thanked them and asked them why they were so interested to hear the same song again and again. One of the people in the audience replied, ‘we wanted you to improve it, now it’s much better.’

A Bass Joke

Q: How many basses does it take to change a lightbulb?

A: None. They're so macho they prefer to walk in the dark, bang their chests with their fists, and growl “arrghhh!”

