



The MVEer Monthly

June, 2017

June's Highlights

Mon. May 29 2017

MEMORIAL DAY – no rehearsal

Mon. June 5, 2017 - 7 to 10 pm

REHEARSAL

Mon. June 12, 2017- 7 to 10 pm

Cindy Hansen Coaching

Tues. June 13, 2017 – 7 to 9 pm

Board of Director's Monthly Meeting

Mon June 19, 2017 - 7 to 10 pm

REHEARSAL

Mon June 26, 2017 – 7 to 10 pm

REHEARSAL & **Send-Off**

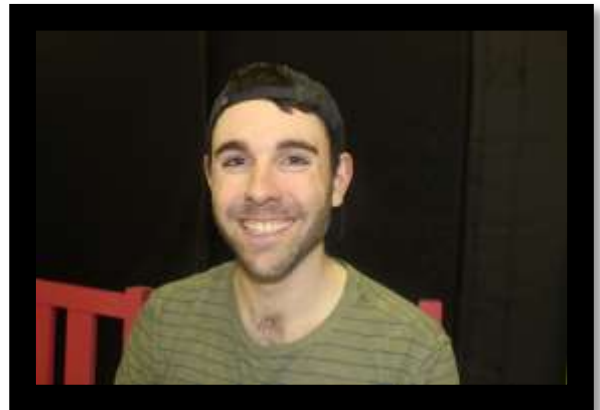
MVE Family and Friends invited to the send-off performances.

Rehearsal 7:15-8:15pm;
Performances
8:30-9:30pm

Interview with New MVE Member Matt Record

MVEer asks: Matt, we are blessed to have your great lead voice with us. What is your past experience in singing?

Matt replies: I have singing since fourth grade in school all the way through high school in Berlin, New Hampshire (**Ber'** lin is pronounced like they do in *New Berlin* southwest of Milwaukee). Yup, it's a colossal town of maybe 8,000 people just an hour drive south of Canada. Wisconsin winters are not a shock to me.



In High School, I was in an *a cappella* group we called **Shockappella**, a mixed-voiced *a cappella* group that continues on today. We definitely were NOT Sockappella from the **Pitch Perfect** movie, but we did sing *a cappella*.

MVEer asks: Did you also sing in college?

Matt replies: I went to **Bates College** in Lewiston, Maine, where I majored in Physics and graduated in 2014. In college, I sang *a cappella* with the **Bates**

College Deansmen. After graduation, I worked for a year in Boston as a software tester at **Taxware** in 2014-15.

MVEer asks: Have you hobbies beyond barbershopping? Do you shoot up rockets and calculate where they land using physics?



Matt replies: I sometimes tool around with my acoustic guitar. I like board games such as *Innovation*. But you'd mostly find me following my New England sports teams of the Patriots, the Celtics and the Red Sox.



MVEer asks: Matt, what do you do for a living?

Matt replies: I am a software tester. I work at **Johnson Health Tech** in Cottage Grove, WI.

MVEer asks: How'd you land in the middle of Wisconsin, near Madison?



Matt replies: My girlfriend is **Anne**, since we both were at Bates College. She is in her second year of a PhD in biochemistry at the University of Wisconsin – Madison. So I'm in my second year in Wisconsin (2015-17).

MVEer asks: Any singing in Wisconsin other than the MVE?

Matt replies: I also sing with the **Capital Chordsmen** in Madison, just like **Zach Rolfs**

and **Patrick McAlexander**, also MVE members, as well as **Dennis Haight** as our bass. The four of us are also in a quartet called **Chord-tastrophe**. → → →

I got my start in barbershop by attending a **Youth and Harmony Explosion** camp in 2010. So thanks to all the great work of the BHS, you made a barbershopper out of me!

MVEer asks: Can you tell us about your



Chord-tastrophe (L-R) Patrick, Matt, Dennis, and Zach, killing it on and off stage.

New Hampshire family? And how old are you Matt?

Matt replies: My parents are Ann Elise and Dan Record back in Berlin, New Hampshire. I have a great sister, Kathryn, who is three years younger. I'm 24.

MVE says: Matt, thanks for joining us on our journey together. We are much better with you as part of our MVE Family.

Matt says: It's a blast singing with the MVE. I am so happy to be part of the team! (EDITOR'S NOTE: Matt's email is matt.record21@gmail.com)

Las Vegas 2017 Wahoo! We're going to Vegas in July.
<http://www.barbershop.org/lasvegas/>

International Chorus Contest Friday July 7, 10am - 9pm PDT at Axis Theater

The International Chorus Contest has become known as one of the greatest shows on earth by all who have experienced this incredible event. Choruses from all over the world pull out all the stops in this often mind-blowing display of extremely high-level singing and entertainment.

Axis Theater in Vegas in Planet Hollywood

The AXIS (also known as **The AXIS powered by Monster** for sponsorship



purposes, also referred to as the **AXIS Theater**) is a mid-sized auditorium with 7,000 seats located at the **Planet Hollywood Resort & Casino** on the Las Vegas Strip. The venue hosts a variety of events from charity benefits, concerts and award shows. It is used frequently for the beauty pageants : Miss Universe, Miss America, and Miss USA.

Our view from the stage of **The Axis**

Since 2007, the auditorium has been the home to **Justin Timberlake's** annual concert to benefit the Shriners Hospitals for Children. In 2011, it was voted as one of the "**Best Concert Halls & Theaters in Las Vegas**". The AXIS theatre is now home to headlining residency shows such as **Britney**: Piece of Me (2013–2017); **Jennifer Lopez**: All I Have (2016–present); and **Backstreet Boys**: Larger Than Life (2017).

What Does It Feel Like to Sing Baritone? By Fred Kanel, Blog Post, 10/30/2013 and later in the *Huffington Post*.

The short answer is that baritone is the hardest but most interesting part and singing it in a group of any size is great. Singing it in a quartet is fantastic!



The barbershop parts

The melody is sung by the lead; he's the center of the audience's attention when a quartet is singing. The tenor is above the lead, often singing the kind of harmony that people improvise in casual group singing. The bass sings the low notes, often dramatically low ones at the end of phrases. The baritone sings between the lead and the bass, singing notes that people aren't normally aware of but that are essential. This makes the baritone part sung alone sound strange because it doesn't match either the melody or the normal harmonies that people are used to hearing.

What I thought singing baritone would be like



When I was around barbershoppers at their conventions and tried to do casual group singing, it was evident that baritone was the part my vocal range was best suited for. But I hated it and thought it was a terrible part to have to sing. It wasn't melodic; it jumped around from place to place, often with funny intervals between successive notes; it had lots of accidentals (*i.e.*, sharps, flats, or naturals marked in the music). It seemed to me that the part was made up of the "garbage notes" that *somebody* had to sing and so were given to the baritone. (I later learned that barbershoppers actually joke that baritones have to sing the notes nobody else wants!)

What singing baritone is actually like

When I finally joined a barbershop chorus and started really learning my part instead of trying to sight-read it on the fly, my outlook changed. Once all those accidentals became second nature I realized that they were what gave the real flavor to the song and made it interesting - like the seasoning in the stew. Barbershop music frequently uses a special kind of chord, called a **seventh chord***, which has a distinctive sound. This chord is very similar to most chords in "normal" music (called tonic chords) except that tonics and sevenths differ by exactly one note. And that note is often sung by the baritone, so his voice is the one that *makes* it a seventh - without him it's just a tonic.

Once I learned my part to the chorus' repertoire, I really took pleasure in singing a part that not everybody can sing but that is so vital to the barbershop sound.

What singing baritone in a quartet is like

Now I sing baritone with two different quartets. In a chorus, your errors of commission or omission will probably not be noticed; in a quartet there's no hiding place. Not only do you have to know your part completely but you have to be able to blend it in perfect synchrony with the other three voices. (Details can await a separate question.) My quartet practices about seven hours a week to continue to improve in these areas.



Although doing this right adds to the challenge of quartet singing, that extra effort is more than outweighed by our sheer joy at hearing the music we create and seeing its effect on our audiences. Usually that's happiness and delight but on more than one occasion we have watched people cry at particularly moving passages in our songs. The baritone in the quartet has the pleasure of giving the music the nuances of its special sound and the awareness that he is *the* guy who's doing that.

The joy of singing barbershop

At barbershop conventions before I started singing, I would watch four guys get together in a restaurant or a hotel lobby and open their mouths and create this amazing music out of nothing but their four voices. I couldn't stop grinning from ear to ear and no one else listening could either. Now that I sing in barbershop quartets, I actually *am* one of those four guys who light up people's lives that way. It's an amazing experience and I can't recommend it highly enough.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/quora/what-does-it-feel-like-to_b_4178185.html

***C - Dominant Seventh Chord** – is illustrated below. C-E-G is a major triad and the **Bb** is the seventh. If you played a C instead of Bb, the two C's would be exactly an octave apart. Try playing the chords both with a C and then with a Bb and see which sounds more interesting! I bet you smile when you hear the seventh chord. You could be a barbershopper.

