



# The MVEer Monthly

January 2018

**Calendar** - No practice on **New Year's Day**.

Monday, January 8	Rehearsal	St. Luke's at 7:15pm
Monday, January 15	Director Audition Music Rehearsal	St. Luke's at 7:15pm
Saturday, January 20	Installation and Awards Banquet	(see article p. 4 below)
Monday, January 22	Director Audition Music Rehearsal	St. Luke's at 7:15pm
Monday, January 29	Director Audition Music Rehearsal	St. Luke's at 7:15pm

## **Two Messages from Incoming President Derek Balke**

December 24: To all my MVE brothers and your families,

As I watch the snow very lightly fall for a small chance of a truly white Christmas, I wanted to tell you how proud I am to sing with you all each and every week. You all have a special place in my heart.

With that, give your families an extra close hug this Christmas and cherish the time you have together. Merry Christmas to all.

For the joy of song, Derek

December 31: Gentlemen,

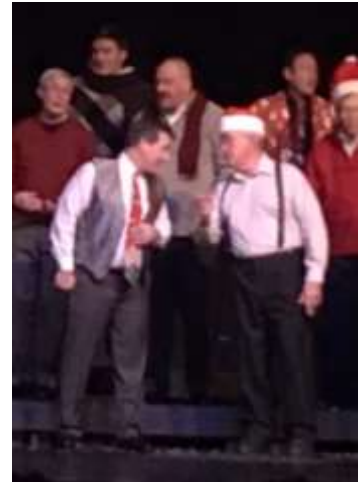
While we are on this last day of 2017 and looking back on what we have accomplished in this past year, we will be looking forward to 2018 and the challenges and the hurdles we will need to overcome. It's a new year, a fresh start, a time to put things in their proper place and tackle all our challenges head on!

I look forward to getting back on the risers with each of you to tell my own story through song. In your jubilation this evening (over the Badgers victory), raise a glass to your brothers in song. I'm proud to be one of you.

Derek



**Our Great Christmas Show at the Saber Center for the Performing Arts** – Dick Marcus



We sang two shows called, "What the Dickens?!" on a beautifully decorated stage of the Saber Center in Franklin on December 9. Both the audience and the all of us on the risers loved our new venue.

Thank you to the performers in our production: **Daryl Cramer, Matt McClellen,**



**Tom Rogina, Mark Trevor Ranum, Harry Hanson, Ann Nagel, One Minute to Midnight, The Company, The Milwaukee Handbell Ensemble, the 51<sup>st</sup> Street Quartet, the Frosty and Rudolf VLQ's, and our star "Ernie Scarolli"** performed by **Ryan Simonsen**. Let's give special thanks also to both our Interim Director **Brain Plehn** and Assistant Director **Patrick McAlexander**. Photos courtesy of Chang Liu.

**Photos from the VA Hospital** – Bob Fichtner

One of my favorite performances each year is singing at the **VA Hospital**. Here we are as we warm up for our annual caroling outing at the **VA Hospital** after our weekend Christmas shows. After the performance, many went across the street for our afterglow at the **4<sup>th</sup> Base** on National Ave. to continue our Christmas cheer.





**MVE Installation Banquet** on Saturday, January 20, 2018

Saturday January 20, 2018. Klemmer's Banquet Center, at 10401 W. Oklahoma Ave. Milwaukee, WI 53227

Cocktails at 6PM; Dinner at 7PM; Awards at 8PM; for \$30 per person.

Dinner includes choice of Filet Mignon or Salmon Filet, garden salad, potato, vegetable, rolls, ice cream and beverage.

Please click here > [2018 Installation Banquet](#)

Please fill out the form and submit it by Thursday, January 11th.

Dinner includes choice of Filet Mignon or Salmon Filet, garden salad, potato, vegetable, rolls, ice cream and beverage.



## **What is Installation?** – Dick Marcus

The Chapter elects officers each fall to serve for the ensuing year. Our Installation recognizes our brothers in song who will serve us. We also agree in the installation to have them direct, instruct, teach, and shape us into the chorus we know we are and can be.

But we do more than elect officers. We also recognize those who have done extra work, by being exemplary in service, song, and dedication. The most coveted award is the **BOTY**, *Barbershopper of the Year*, which are decided by the past "Bow Tie" winners. The BOTY receives both a plaque and a mug. All of the past Bow Tie winners at the Installation greet their newest inductee into this special status.

Other popular awards are the **Rookie of the Year** and the **Russell A Foris Director's Award**, both given by our Director. A special oil can is given to the **Do It Award Winner**, who just seems to be there to "do it" whenever and whatever is needed to be done, which is decided by last year's Do It winner (Harry Hanson, last year).

Come to the beautiful and delicious dinner at Klemmer's Banquet Hall and come to join in our annual festivities of installation. Reconnect with our wide MVE family and friends, reflect on our past, and begin to look forward to 2018 and beyond.

## **Your Chapter Officers for 2018 are:**

**Derek Balke** - President  
**Steve Johnson** - Immediate Past President  
**Dick Marcus** - Secretary  
**Jim Ansay** - Treasurer  
**Harry Hanson** - Music VP  
**Jim Franklin** - Marketing VP  
**Tom Weber** - Membership VP  
**Randy Teutschmann** - Member At Large  
**Tom Rogina** - Member At Large

## **Awards to be given at the Jan 20, 2018 Banquet:**

**Barbershopper of the Year** (BOTY) – last year, Cody Whitlock  
**Rookie of the Year** – last year, Tom Rogina  
**The President's Award** – last year, Jake Umhoefer  
**The Do It Award** – last year, Harry Hanson  
**The Russell A Foris Director's Award** – last year, Derek Balke

**List of Past Bow Tie (BOTY) Winners by Year** – Cody Whitlock was our BOTY last year, given in 2017 for 2016.

There have been twenty-eight Barbershoppers of the Year presented, a few of which are multiple award winners. This year will be the 29<sup>th</sup>. The B.O.T.Y. Plaque was first presented to the MVE by Bill Kilbourne in 1996. As our list swelled, a larger replacement plaque was provided by Matt Nagel in 2013. Here are our BOTY winners and their year:

Harry Hanson, 1989	Harry Hanson, 2003 (two time winner)
Bill Kilbourne, 1990	Jim LaBelle, 2005
Dave Speidel, 1991	Dan Fenske, 2006
Peter Little, 1992	Rich Kirwin, 2007
Jim Franklin, 1993	Josh Umhoefer, 2008
Mike Lietke, 1994	Tim Zielke, 2009
Bob Krantz, 1995	Scott Ganswindt, 2010
Chuck Crary, 1996	Steve Johnson, 2011
Tom Weber, 1997	Matt Nagel, 2012
Mike Lietke, 1997 (two time winner)	Jim Schmidt, 2013
Russ Foris, 1999	Tim Zielke, 2014 (two time winner)
Larry Hanson, 2000	Jake Umhoefer, 2015
Brad Charles, 2001	Cody Whitlock, 2016
Chris Carlson, 2002	<b><i>Who's Next</i></b> in 2017?

The “next *Bow Tie* goes to...” we will learn on installation dinner and awards night.

**MVE Highlights from 2017** – Dick Marcus

Each year has new experiences and opportunities. We had excellent coaches for our performance and singing this year including multiple visits from **Cindy Hansen-Ellis** and **Mark Hale**.

The chorus performed on the **International Stage** in Vegas in July 2017. We had some first-timers on the International stage (at least first time with the MVE): **Patrick McAlexander, Matt Record, Zach Rolfs, and Jacob Lambert**.

Some old favorite events happily returned in 2017, as the Chorus sang in the **Musical Mondays** in Lake Park and sang the **National Anthem** for the Brewers.

We also won the **District Contest** in October 2017. Cody Whitlock led us to several successful money-raising contests called Hoops and Football Manias.

December brought us a pair of ***What the Dickens?!*** shows in Franklin High School. It also brought a Christmas tree-lighting event in the center of Oak Creek and an annual trip to the **VA Hospital** to wind up our year by helping others through *Storytelling through Song*.

## Director Auditions in January 2018

**January 15, 22, and 29** are set for auditions for our three director finalists. Be ready to sing: If I Can Dream; Try a Little Tenderness, and Sing, Sing, Sing. We have one practice more on January 8<sup>th</sup> to get ready for our directors.

Mike Lietke reminds us:

- **If I Can Dream** is a *great* piece of music... and it is rangy for the leads and let's the basses sing like basses now and again. It is the best kind of difficult - especially the unusual tunings in the verse. At the same time, once the piece gets going into the choruses, there are big, fat barbershop chords galore, and the patterns are easier to anticipate and follow. The pulsing 12/8 feel of the song really drives this thing. Make sure you are feeling that roll and not feeling it in 4 to get the most out of it.
- The Key Change in **Try a Little Tenderness** needs a couple of things: Basses to feel like they need to settle down a little farther in their move that makes the key change; the baritones to feel that their note - though the same on paper - raises slightly as they go from the 7th to the 3rd of the chord; and the leads and tenors to release the tone with no pressure.
- **Sing Sing Sing** had no business coming off as well as it did with the numbers and lacking some of the voice parts during the 7 part chords. It is obvious that we like this song a lot. Now we just need to take some time to refresh it and *not assume that we know it*. In fact, I challenge you to take fresh eyes at it and find 4 places in the piece where you either need to learn correct notes, or places where you need to take a healthier approach to artistically perform the notes.

## A Joke or Two on Baritones

Why did the chicken cross the road?

To get away from the baritone section rehearsal.

What did the baritone get on his IQ test?

Drool.

What do you call a baritone with half a brain?

Gifted.

What's the range of a baritone?

About ten yards, if you've got a good arm.



## News on Groupanizer and Google –

Dick Marcus



With the costs of Groupanizer continuing to rise and the usefulness of blogging or chatting seemingly very low on Groupanizer, the Board has voted in 2017 **not** to continue Groupanizer and instead go with Google as a free alternative.

Your Groupanizer site stopped on December 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

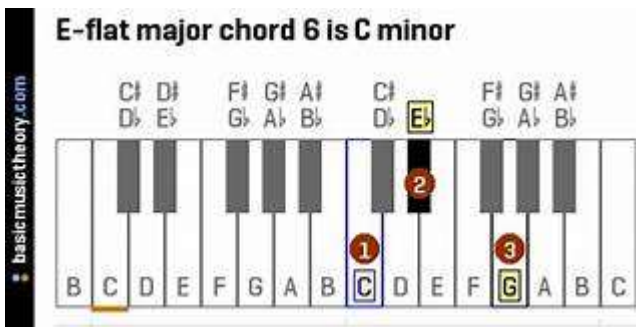
**Bob Fichter** will be giving us more information on our new, free alternative via Google.

Google will include a calendar and music sharing abilities to learn your parts. It will also include an address book.

Stay tune to your email on learning the easy steps to get to our new sharing MVE site for members and our guests.



**Middle C, E-flat and G go into a bar** – music theory humor beginning in C-minor.



**C, E-flat and G** go into a bar. The bartender says, "sorry, but we don't serve minors."

So E-flat leaves, and C and G have an open fifth between them.

After a few drinks, the fifth is diminished and G is out flat.

F comes in and tries to augment the situation, but is not sharp enough.

D comes in and heads for the bathroom saying, "Excuse me. I'll just be a second."

Then A comes in, but the bartender is not convinced that this relative of C is not a minor.

Then the bartender notices B-flat hiding at the end of the bar and says, "Get out! You're the seventh minor I've found in this bar tonight."

→ Sure it's an old joke, but sometimes they are worth retelling.

