



The MVEer Monthly

April, 2015

Interview with new MVE member Cody Whitlock

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

Cody replies: I fell in love with choral singing at the age of 7 with the Bloomington-Normal, **Singing Y'ers Boys Choir**, performing across the state of Illinois, America and Europe. In college, I was lucky enough to sing with the University of Illinois comedy octet, "**The Other Guys**" which has been singing at the school since the 1960s. After graduation, I joined the **Sound of Illinois Barbershop Chorus** and competed in the 2005 Illinois District competition where my quartet won the **Novice Quartet Championship**. Upon moving to Chicago that fall, I joined the regional Harmony Sweepstakes Champion, "**Fiveplay**," which is shown in the photo above. Over the past 8 years, we had some unique opportunities including singing in dozens of national radio spots for Coors Light.



MVEer asks: Aside from your great singing talents, what are some of your other hobbies or interests?

Cody replies: I try to golf as often as I can. The goal this year is to play 50 rounds... off to a slow start. Thanks Wisconsin.

MVEer asks: We all are more than what we do for a living, but readers of this newsletter want to know more about you. What do you do at work?

Cody replies: I manage CDW's local Advanced Technology branch office. My office serves Milwaukee's Enterprise businesses with technology product sales, technical consulting, and services delivery and engineering.

MVEer asks: The MVE is not only the guys singing with you on the risers, but the wider support of our family and friends. Tell us where you grew up and if you have family in the area.

Cody relies: Growing up in central Illinois, I don't have any family locally, but my girlfriend **Kelly** is originally from Brookfield. We met in Chicago a couple of years ago and she moved back to the MKE area when I accepted my current position here last summer.



MVE says: Thank you Cody. On behalf of the whole MVE family and friends, we welcome you as you help us tell stories with song.

The Midwest Vocal Express
Wisconsin's Premier Men's A Capella Chorus
Presents:

Whose Tag Is It Anyway??

Featuring **Vocal Spectrum**

A NIGHT OF MUSIC LAUGHTER & ENTERTAINMENT

Saturday April 25th
2:00 PM & 7:30 PM
LIVE from the Historic
Humphrey Scottish Rite Theater
790 North Van Buren Street,
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

MVE
MIDWEST VOCAL EXPRESS

Tickets Available Now
Call: 414-367-7097
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Email: Tickets@mve.org

Advance tickets to the bonus Twilight Show in the Mahogany Lounge are available. Order early and save \$5.00

Great Show on Saturday April 25 – Vocal Spectrum and the MVE at the Humphrey Scottish Rite Theater. Get your tickets now. Afterglow preshow ticket prices are low at \$10. More at the door. Get them from Scott Ganswindt.



Afterglow->
Theater ->



Vocal Spectrum

Vocal Spectrum has been singing together since 2003. The members of the quartet come from various musical backgrounds, from classical vocal training to jammin' in rock-n-roll bands. These four young men, who graduated from Lindenwood University in St. Charles, Missouri, all majored in different fields of study. Vocal Spectrum was originally formed as a one-time educational quartet to sing for a local high school and has never stopped singing since!



All members of the quartet sing with the **Ambassadors of Harmony** (2004 + 2009 International Chorus Champions). In July of 2004, Vocal Spectrum won the 2004 International Collegiate Quartet Contest held in Louisville, KY. And on July 8th, 2006 won the coveted International Barbershop Quartet Contest – becoming the first quartet in history to win all 3 possible medals (Collegiate Quartet, Men's Quartet, and Chorus Medal).



Left to right in the oval photo is **Jonny Moroni** (Baritone who has coached the MVE several times), **Tim Waurick** (Tenor), **Eric Dalbey** (Lead), and **Chris Hallam** (Bass).

What's My Voice Type? Edited from <http://choirly.com/whats-my-voice-type/>

Opera is not the same as barbershop; nevertheless, many of the terms used to describe voice types of operatic voices play similar roles in barbershop. Your voice type is not only a matter of looking at your vocal range, but at a number of different characteristics.

All together **your voice type is a result of the following vocal variables:**

- **range** – the notes your body can produce
- **weight** – light voices, bright and agile; heavy voices, powerful, rich, and darker
- **tessitura** – part of the range which is most comfortable to sing
- **timbre** – unique voice quality and texture
- **transition points** or *passaggio* – points where you change from chest, to middle, to head register. Many voice placement coaches in barbershop use the register change location as a very helpful in deciding type.
- **vocal registers** – how extended each register is.
- **speech level** – speaking range

This month, let's feature the tenors. Brian Plehn, reading this, wanted to note that "type" is not exactly the what section you are placed in, as some bases in falsetto tenor. If anyone has question about their true voice type, Brian is happy to give you a voice test.



Tenor is the highest male voice type you will find in a typical choir. Though it is the voice type with the smallest range, it barely covers 2 octaves from **C3 to B4**, tenors are the most sought after choir singers for two major reasons.

The first reason is that there aren't as many men singing in choirs to begin with. The second reason is that most men, singers or not, fall under the baritone voice type. A true tenor has a high tessitura, above the middle C4, and uses a blend of head resonance and falsetto, as opposed to falsetto alone.

Many a baritone will try to use this technique to classify as tenor and some will be successful; you'll know who they are because of their red faces when trying to sing the high notes in the tenor melodic line.

Eating out opportunities with the MVE

One of our most successful eating-out money-making events in 2014 was at **Outback Steak House** near 76th street in Greenfield (7401 West Barnard Avenue, Greenfield, WI 53220).



Plans are being worked out for **Tuesday, May 5** at Outback Steak House, but confirmation of that date is not final. Stay tuned for emails from **Scott Ganswindt** on this fun time together.

Division Contest 2015-May 16 at Greendale High School by Josh Umhoefer

I want to provide you with a quick reminder for an event on our calendar – the **Division One Contest** on May 16th.

The MVE is charge of running the entire contest, and we will be performing for the audience as mic-testers at the beginning of the contest. We will be performing "My Romance" and "You Took Advantage of Me".

Typically the contest starts around 10am, and we'll be the first ones on stage. As soon as we have the proper information, I will send out an email regarding when chorus members will be expected to be at Greendale High School.

Are we officially competing? No, but the judges will be scoring our performance, and we will be given an evaluation/explanation following the contest, so we know what to work on for international.

We have had a handful of members ask: "If I'm not going to International, should I perform at Division?" Here's my answer: YES!

The leadership has gotten a lot of requests for us to perform more. This is a wonderful performance opportunity! When we have a new audience to show our stuff to, it's a chance to practice our skills, an opportunity to unify as a group, and this is an amazing experience we can do together, right here in Greendale.

Plus, if you're planning to compete with the MVE at District Contest in the fall, there's a good chance we'll be singing at least one of these songs!

This has been on the calendar for some time, so I hope everyone has cleared part of the day (morning to early afternoon) for this event. It is important for you, for me, and for your fellow riser mates.

With performances in mind – please make sure you've set aside the evening of Wednesday May 27th. We will sing our contest set at Cudahy High School - Brian Plehn's school is putting on a performance, and we've been asked to sing, as well.

Thanks, guys! Josh

April 2015						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
March 29	March 30 Practice 7PM	March 31	1	2 Lead/Baritone Duet 7:30	3	4
5	6 Renée Porzel Coaching 7PM	7	8 Board @ St. Luke's 6:45pm	9	10	11
12	13 Practice 7PM	14	15	16	17	18
19	20 Practice 7PM	21	22	23	24	25 Spring Shows and Afterglow
26	27 David Wright Coaching 7PM	28	29 Lead/Tenor Duet 7:30	30	"When I heard a quartet ring, I couldn't stop grinning from ear to ear and no one else listening could either."	