



# The MVEer Monthly

December 2012

*The Midwest Vocal Express*  
Male A Cappella Chorus

Presents: **Christmas is in the Air!**



With special guests:  
*Alleluia Ringers*  
*Bell Choir*

**Saturday, December 8<sup>th</sup>**  
2:00pm and 7:30pm

**NEW LOCATION**  
**Pitman Theater**  
Alverno College  
3431 S. 39th Street  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

**Ticket Info**  
Tickets start at \$18  
**EARLY BIRD SPECIAL**  
Buy before November 22 and save  
Student tickets only \$5

For more information and to order tickets  
call **888-240-4426**

**Top events** for December include: (1) Holy Hill in Hubertus, WI VLQ on Dec 2; (2) our excellent *Christmas is in the Air!* on Dec 8 held at the Pitman Theater of Alverno College this year and (3) our December 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Installation and Awards Banquet.



**Annual Installation and Awards Banquet.** 6:30pm cocktails, 7pm dinner and 8pm installation at **Carl's Catering** at: **5110 West Loomis Road**, Greendale, WI on a Monday night (**December 10<sup>th</sup>**) Come and cheer in our newest *Barbershopper of the Year*, *Oil Can*, and of course install our new great board. Steve Johnson will send out ticket pricing soon. Come and bring guests!

**The 2013 MVE Board:** President: **Mike Lietke**; VP Membership: **Tom Weber**; VP Marketing: **Randy Will**; VP Music: **Tim Zielke**; Secretary: **Fred Graskamp**; Treasurer: **Bret Kelso**; Member at Large: **Craig Schaefer**; Member at Large: **Jim Schmidt**; Immediate Past President: **Bob Fichtner**.

**Holy Hill in Hubertus VLQ on December 2:** Mark your calendars to come to the **free** 3pm show of an MVE VLQ of 12 to fit the small stage at Holy Hill.  
<http://hartlandcommunityband.com/community-band-performances.html>. Opportunity to sell our Christmas Concert on December 8<sup>th</sup> at an honored event. Bring a friend to see a great MVE VLQ on December 2. VLQ members have a 1:30 call time.

Hartland Community Band  
Jack Schulte, Director

**Christmas Concert at Holy Hill**

Sunday, December 2, 2012  
5:00 PM

**FREE ADMISSION**

Upper Church  
Holy Hill National Shrine  
Hubertus, Wisconsin

Special Guest  
**MVE** Midwest Vocal Express

## **An Interview with Joe Pulvermacher**

**MVEer asks:** Joe, you've been our Mr. Synchro and we know you've done solo performances at Miller Park of the National Anthem and God Bless America, how did you get started in singing?



**Joe replies:** My passion for singing began very early. Growing up, my Dad would get my brother and me together to teach us three-part harmony (Gatlin Brothers, Everly Brothers, Spirituals, etc.). I remember, when I was about 7, the first song we performed in front of people was *I Believe in Music* by Mac Davis- my Dad sang the verses and we all sang the chorus (to this day, that song will get stuck in my head... and I'll smile). My brother and I really enjoyed the attention (I know, it's hard to believe). The power of music strengthened our family.

Another moment I'll remember always was a spontaneous one. One day, my brother and I were shopping with Dad at the local Sentry. We were walking down the freezer aisle and one of the condensing units was buzzing. My Dad stopped, grabbed my brother and me, and taught us the other three parts to the pitch that was provided by the freezer. So, if you are ever walking through your local grocery store and see a family with their heads in the freezer, give them time, they are probably just waiting for their baritone to get it right.



**MVEer asks:** You are Battalion Chief of the Oak Creek Fire Department. What is the most satisfying part of being in fire and rescue?

**Joe replies:** Anyone who remembers 1970's era TV shows remembers *Emergency*. Firefighter/ Paramedics Johnny Gage and Roy DeSoto were an inspiration to an impressionable 5 year old. I am living out the dreams of my youth. I realized early on that I might not be able to fix everything. But, I can try to make somebody's bad day a little better. Making a difference is the most satisfying aspect of my work.

**MVEer asks:** We know you're a proud father of two lovely daughters and a beautiful bride. Tell us something about your family.

**Joe replies:** "Jenny and me go together like peas and carrots." And my girls are like "a box of chocolates... you never know what you're going to get."

Life is a whirl wind right now. Sometimes it's hard trying to find the right balance. We are very busy and trying to take it all in. Jenny teaches yoga, works part-time, and is the main coordinator at home (not always by choice). The girls (Maya and Chloe) are active with dance, chorus, piano, basketball, soccer, and school. I'm very proud of them- and I'm very lucky.



**MVEer asks:** The chorus enjoyed helping out on the send-offs for the Honor Flights a number of times. How did your connection with the Honor Flights for WWII veterans get started?

**Joe replies:** My involvement with **Stars and Stripes Honor Flight** evolved as a friend of mine invited me to participate in a send off. They needed firefighters to help load and unload WWII vets as they were leaving for and returning from their trip. I'm moved by the support and the gratitude that is expressed on every flight.

When MVE sings during the send-off, it's impressive to see exactly how compelling music can be. The MVE changed lives... every time.

Every flight is a vicarious moment for me. My two grandfathers were WWII vets and they did not live long enough to see their monument. When I see the reaction of their brothers in arms, I'm certain that the experience would have been just as enjoyable for Grandpa Joe and Grandpa Ernie.

**MVEer:** Thanks, Joe. You are a man of many talents. (See Joe sing *God Bless America* at Miller Park on 9/11/12 at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QZHnY7zQhXs&feature=share>)

December 2012						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Nov 25	Nov 26 MVE practice at 7pm	Nov 27	Nov 28	Nov 29	Nov 30	1
2 Holy Hill, Hubertus, WI – VLQ	3 MVE Practice at 7pm	4	5	6	7	8 Christmas is in the Air! Concerts at Alverno College
9	10 6:30pm Annual Installation and Award Banquet	11	12	13	14	15
16	17 MVE Practice at 7pm	18	19	20	21	22
23	24 No Chorus Practice	25 	26	27	28	29
30	31 New Year's Eve  No Chorus Practice	Poem of the Month: <i>When your old wedding ring was new</i> , And each dream that we dreamed came true, I remember with pride how we stood side by side, What a beautiful picture you made as my bride! Even though silver crowns your hair, I can still see those gold ringlets there. Love's old flame is the same as the day I changed your name, When your old wedding ring was new. By Roy Keys, SPEBSQSA				