



The MVEer Monthly

July, 2015



MVE Heading to Pittsburgh

Singing 21st in the chorus contest on Friday, July 3rd, the Midwest Vocal Express will hold nothing back on both our romantic ballad and our sassy and unregretful up-tune. For a picture gallery of the 28 Choruses see: <http://www.barbershop.org/pittsburgh/pittsburgh-chorus/>



If you are not going to Pittsburgh, watch the webcast either on July 3 or watch on Wednesday, July 1 for **Midnight Croon** (singing #41 of 53) by going to; <http://www.bhswebcast.com/>

Cheer on **Ashley York, Tim Zielke, Josh Umhoefer**, and **Jake Umhoefer** in the first round and hopefully on the next two rounds reaching for the gold! Go Midnight Croon: <http://midnightcroon.wix.com/midnight-croon>



An Interview with New Member Clinton Dodds

MVE'er asks: Clint, what part do you sing and tell us a bit about your musical background. We know you are musically inclined, because your email is musicallyinclined1@gmail.com.

Clint replies: I chose that email address when I was a vain little college kid, so forgive my past arrogance. Haha! I have a large enough range to sing all but the lowest bass notes, but my timbre, tone, and training tend best toward singing **lead**. Plus, I sometimes forget the words, which means I kinda have to be a lead, right?

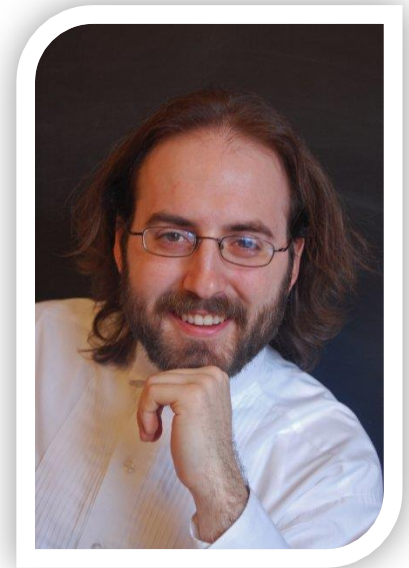
I graduated in 2009 from the **University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign** with a BM in Musical Theatre Vocal Performance. My primary focus for music has always been Musical Theatre, though I do absolutely love close-harmony and *a cappella* music. I also play trumpet, bass guitar, and some piano. Favorite composers are Mozart, Beethoven, Rachmaninov, and some of Tchaikovsky's later stuff. Favorite composer that's still living is Eric Whitacre.

I've performed in community theatres as well as semi-professional theatres around Illinois and in Eugene, Oregon. Some favorite roles I've played are Tevye in **Fiddler on the Roof**, the Duke/Dr Carasco/Knight of Mirrors in **Man of La Mancha**, God in **Children of Eden**, and the barbershop quartet lead in **Music Man**.

I competed at internationals in '05 and '06 with my collegiate barbershop quartet, **Tesseract**, taking 17th and 14th, respectively. I sang with the **Illini Statesmen** barbershop chorus during those years. When I lived in Oregon, I sang with the **Cascade Chorus** barbershop chorus and had a quartet, **Beryllium4**, though we never went anywhere with it.

My forte is ballads and power ballads, and I love tags!

MVE'er asks: Love those tags. But are you from around here? Tell us about your family.



Clint replies: I'm originally from just south of Champaign, Illinois. Born and raised, and even attended college there. In 2011, I moved to Eugene, OR to be with my partner, **Katie**, and lived there until 2014. She then moved here to the Milwaukee area last May and I followed in June. My family all live in and around Champaign, Illinois. My mom works for the police department, my dad works for the post office, and my step-mom is a



registered nurse. I'm the oldest of 5 kids; me (31 years old), Josh (29 y/o), Brice (23 y/o), Kenzie (18 y/o), and Dawson (17 y/o). Josh is apprenticing to be an electrician. Brice just became a delivery driver for FedEx Ground in Champaign. Kenzie just graduated high school and is going to college to be a singer just like me! Dawson (the smartest of the five of us) is looking at something science-related and just took 11th in State for track and field. My partner, **Katie, is a volcanologist** (someone who studies volcanoes), but is currently working marketing for her mom's business, Cielo, in Brookfield.

MVE'er asks: Aside from close harmony singing, do you have other hobbies or interests you'd like to tell us about?

Clint replies: My first love is Musical Theatre, and always will be. Outside of close-harmony singing and singing in general, I'm also a huge nerd. I love video games, tabletop RPGs (think Dungeons and Dragons), board games, card games, SciFi and Fantasy novels, comic books, superheroes, etc. I love pretty much all of the stereotypical nerdy stuff.

I am also a huge fan of anything remotely resembling art of any form. I love oil painting, acrylic painting, watercolor painting, macramé, stitching, drawing, origami, paper airplanes, etc. I'd say that if it's remotely artsy, I have either tried it already, or want/plan to.

I have too many hobbies and interests to count! So many interests, so little time!

I'm a fairly nerdy, artsy guy. A big kid at heart.

MVE'er asks: Where do you work and what do you do there?

Clint replies: I work at **FedEx Ground**. I run the Linehaul department, meaning that I'm in charge of the drivers that pull trailers to/from large shipper locations and the trailers that move to/from other station locations around the US, as well as all of the logistics that come out of that. I also can deal with Hazmat packages, International packages, damaged packages, and packages that were shipped with incorrect address information. These are just some of my duties.

MVE'er says: Clint, we are so glad you joined us and will be joining us in Pittsburgh in our contest.

Clint replies: Thanks for letting me join you! I first saw your chorus in either '05 in Salt Lake City or '06 in Indianapolis (or both). I think you did the army man set. Then I saw you in Portland, OR in 2012 with the gnome set. I was excited to join MVE when I found out I was moving to Milwaukee!



Clint as High School Senior

International Sets by the MVE going back in time by Dick Marcus (with help from Bob Fichtner, Harry Hanson, and our FB page: <https://www.facebook.com/notes/midwest-vocal-express/mves-appearances-at-the-barbershop-harmony-societys-international-convention-con/381825760657>)

Our appearance in Pittsburgh is the 14th time the MVE has performed on the International Barbershop Harmony Society stage. Let's take a look back at what the chorus has done in the past.

Most recently, *we were 15th Place*, in Portland, Oregon at the International BHS Chorus contest on July 6, 2012 with the **Gnome Garden** set; *8th Place*, in Philadelphia, PA at the BHS chorus contest on July 3, 2010 with the **Synchronized Swimming** set; *14th Place* in Anaheim, CA at the BHS chorus

contest on July 3, 2009 with the **Bond** set; 12th Place in Nashville, TN at the BHS chorus contest on July 2, 2008 with the **Penguins** set; 7th Place in Denver, Colorado at the BHS chorus contest on July 6, 2007 with the **Pinocchio** set; **5th Place Bronze Medalist** in Indianapolis, IN at the BHS chorus contest on July 7, 2006 with the **Fish** set; 10th Place in Salt Lake City, UT at the BHS chorus contest on July 9, 2005 with the **County Fair** set; 8th Place in Louisville, KY at the BHS chorus contest on July 3, 2004 with the **New Dads** set; **5th Place Bronze Medalist** in Montreal, Canada at the BHS chorus contest on July 5, 2003 with the **Green Army Men** set; **5th Place Bronze Medalist** in Portland, OR at BHS chorus contest on July 6, 2002 with the **Waiters on Broadway** set; 7th place in Nashville, TN at the BHS Chorus contest on July 7, 2001 with the **Tin Roof Blues** set; 8th place in Kansas City, KS at the BHS chorus contest on July 8, 2000 with our **County Fair** set; 9th place in Anaheim, CA at the BHS chorus contest with our first **Tin Roof Blues** set on July 3, 1999.

Our set this year hasn't officially been given a name, but my vote would be our **Romance** set, but others think it is the **Grey, Black, and Blue** set.

Three Great Months at Chili's for Fundraising

– Scott Ganswindt



Similar to the last three months of 2014, beginning in July and ongoing through August and September, are set up with several local **Chili's Grill & Bar** locations for fundraising. This means if you want to go on a random Friday for lunch, or Sunday afternoon, or Saturday night -- go for it! They will all qualify. During this whole time, we will get a 15% kickback on all food and alcohol sales when we amass enough purchase. We will also have an official gathering at the West Milwaukee location south of Miller Park in August, date to be provided later.

Performance at Cudahy High School on May 27, 2015 – Backstage Photos

by Randy Will and commentary by Dick Marcus

In preparation for going to International, the MVE went on the stage at **Cudahy High School's auditorium** to sing our set without benefit of sound check.

Going on a new stage is exactly what will happen in Pittsburgh on July 3rd. **Brian Plehm**, Director of Choirs at






Cudahy High School, arranged to have the MVE sing as guests during their end of the school year concert before about 300 musicians, choir members, and their parents.

Well, they loved us. We got standing ovations after **both** of our songs in our set. This is inspiration for us to do the same in Pittsburgh. Thank you **Brian** and Cudahy High School for giving us this performance preparation.

For more on **Brian Plehn** see:

<https://sites.google.com/a/cudahysd.org/cudahy-hs-choirs/the-director>

July 2015						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
June 28	June 29	June 30 College Quartet Contest	1 Midnight Croon sings about 6pm in the Quartet Contest	2 MVE 7-10pm Kings Garden 1-3-- Ballroom level 2 nd Floor and guys in the Front Row meet earlier at 6:30pm	3 MVE 9:30-10:45am Brigade-- Ballroom level 2 nd Floor & 2:45pm Kings Garden 1-3 Dressed & Makeup done! Performance 5:28pm	4 
5	6 No practice	7	8 6:45pm MVE Board Meeting	9	10	11
12	13 No practice	14	15	16	17	18
19	20 No practice	21	22	23	24	25
26	27 7pm Rehearsal	28	29	30	31	