

**CONGRATS!**  
**2008**  
**Barbershopper**  
**of the Year**  
**JOSH**  
**UMHOEFER**

# Expressions!

A publication of the  
**Midwest Vocal Express**

**Vol. II Issue I**  
**February 2009**

## UP & COMING!

<b>Singing Valentines</b>	<b>Feb. 13</b> <b>Feb. 14</b>
<b>Valentine Sweetheart Show</b>	<b>Feb. 15</b>
<b>Milwaukee Bucks Game</b>	<b>Feb. 20</b>
<b>Coaching With Kim Hulbert</b>	<b>Feb. 23</b>
<b>Quartet Club</b>	<b>Feb. 7</b> <b>Feb. 28</b>
<b>Coaching with Russ Foris</b>	<b>March 16</b>
<b>Quartet Club</b>	<b>March 14</b> <b>March 28</b>

## Valentines Show Repertoire

- Who Will Buy
- Orange Colored Sky
- Flying Sinatra
- Armed Forces Medley
- Beautiful Savior
- Teen II
- Penguin's Lament
- Cross the Mason Dixon
- Puttin' on the Ritz

## Thank You Mr. President . . . a Message from Larry Lewis

The following is excerpted from Larry's State of the Chapter Address given at the Installation Banquet on Jan. 3.

From my perspective, the state of the MVE is pretty darn good.

2008 was an interesting, exciting and challenging year—to say the least. Like families and individuals, we had our ups and downs—more ups than downs, though!

The best part of our downs is that we learned and grew from them. I dare say that [every member] learned more from their mistakes than their successes. I know I have.

It's the down times that show our real character. Our parade was rained on a couple times, and we grieved a bit and cried a bit.

But that's OK, it's normal. Besides, crying is a way of showing on the outside how we're feeling on

the inside. And it's what's inside that really counts, because that is where we determine where to go in the future.

We've worked hard on our singing. Grant, the assistant directors and section leaders, along with some good coaching, have us singing better than we ever have.

Our Spring and Christmas Shows were outstanding. Sharing our hobby with other guest performers on stage gives our shows variety and audience appeal. Wasn't it fun to stand on those risers knowing we were helping change people's lives? Songs like *Beautiful Savior*, *The Armed Forces Medley*, *Believe*, and *Man with the Bag* did it for me. And the Penguins! I can't wait to do it again at our Valentine Show at the Wilson Center Feb. 15.

Our marketing and public relations plans are a never-ending

wonderment to me. I hope everyone understands and appreciates the important relationship that's been established with Roy Reiman. Jim Labelle in particular has worked hard to cultivate that relationship.

Two generous grants from the Reiman Foundation have allowed us to do lots of things, and also helped us secure additional grants: the Wisconsin Arts Council, and a CAMPAC grant from Milwaukee County.

We continue to grow our mailing list, and have begun talks with several area organizations—the latest of which is the Skylight Opera Theatre.

Perhaps the biggest expansion of the MVE brand is right in Greendale, now dubbed the "Barbershop Capitol of the Midwest." The Harmony Inn restaurant opened Dec. 2, 2008 and has been doing a great business. There isn't another chapter in the *(continued on page 2....)*

## Cue the Quartet Club . . . A Report from Bo Gibson

Saturday, Jan. 17, the MVE's QC held its first meeting at the Harmony Inn.

Jim Labelle has arranged to have the MVE Room available for all rehearsals. This venue gives the QC opportunity to sing for the Inn's patrons and promote our art form and chorus to the public. To that end, the QC sang in two

dining rooms to much applause while promoting our Singing Valentines fund-raiser.

Bill Kilbourne and I were excited by the great 15-man turnout on a lousy weather day. We handed out music kits and worked on *Heart of My Heart* and *Wild Irish Rose*.

All were involved in "tag" quartets/octets. From what we heard, we should make our goal of two new Valentines Quartets.

Thanks to Jim Schmidt, Steve Johnson & Lips for sharing their expertise & mentoring newbies Mark Ranum, George Sonnentag, & Dick Marcus (who even sang lead—albeit inadvertently. Typical Bari!)

## Musical Notes . . . Thoughts from Dave Bittrich

Dave originally wrote this in May 2008, but it seems appropriate at this time. . . .

I had the pleasure of attending a concert at the Sharon Lynn Wilson Center for the Arts that featured Cantus, a nine-member professional men's a cappella group from the Twin Cities.

I spent the evening with my arm hair raised, and was moved to tears on several occasions by the beautiful, powerful sound of only nine men, delivered with seemingly effortless perfection. Our lives were truly changed by this performance.

I was introduced to Cantus through a co-worker whose fifth-grade son auditioned for and was awarded a half-day workshop with them. I was asked to tag along, since she was aware of my involvement with the MVE, and thought I might be interested.

After the nine men worked with 150 fourth, fifth & sixth-graders, they gave a brief, informal lunchtime concert for the students, parents, and teachers.

Cantus had 150 grade-school boys transfixed. I was impressed by the quality of singing they brought out of the boys (did I mention there were 150 of them?) and the intense level of focus they drew out.

Part of Cantus' stated mission is to encourage young boys in particular that singing can be fun-and cool. I was so excited to hear this message from a

professional a cappella group, I picked up two tickets for their show the following night.

There are four reasons I'm relating this story:

-If you ever get the chance to hear Cantus perform, don't miss it! It was an exceptional performance that was truly life-changing, in the manner we talk about every week.

-The Wilson Center for the Arts is phenomenal venue for singing! I'm excited to sing in such a tremendous space for a truly discerning audience.

- I was inspired & encouraged to hear of another professional men's ensemble out there who support & encourage young men to sing as our society does, and are willing to give generously of their time & talents.

- Every week we emphasize our terrific goal of changing the lives of our audience. There are days, however, when I'm trying to learn a difficult section of a new song, or struggling to recall whether my hands go in or out during the "black & white" segment of the uptune, or not singing to the level I know I should be. Then, its; easy to lose sight of our goal to affect the audience in a positive way.

Sitting in the audience listening to Cantus reminded me why we work so hard on each phrase, vowel, move, etc. The

audience is rewarded by getting our best; knowing you are able to provide someone with that moving experience is most definitely worth it.

So, thank you Cantus, for reminding me what it's like to be an audience member who is truly moved by an outstanding performance. I am inspired and reinvigorated to give this gift to our audience!

### 2009 Board of Directors

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### Mr. President . . . continued from page 1

world that has a place like this. MVE quartets sing regularly, to the delight of dining patrons. Be watching *The Harmonizer* for an article about this special place. Then the rest of the Society will know!

Of course, all this comes with a commitment from the MVE. We need to keep those quartets singing on a regular basis, and I know Bo Gibson is working on a program in which

everyone can participate called the Quartet Club. You know you like singing in a quartet-or have always wanted to-so make yourself a resolution to GO FOR IT!

Lastly, I want to thank the 2008 Board, the PTeam, and the general membership for working together to make the MVE such a special group. I have always be-

lieved the best chapters are the ones that are strong musically and administratively. My goal has been to encourage these two functions to work hand-in-hand. I think we have made excellent progress, and we'll continue in the same manner in the coming year.

I'm excited about 2009-and I hope you are too!

## All the Right Moves... Coaching from Paul Wolfe

Here are the staging notes for *Who Will Buy* introduced at our 1/26 rehearsal:

**Beginning**-Full performance, selling the message of the song, facing Grant

**m.17-19**-3-Step shift to face the audience (down the tiles); step 1 with outside foot on "See, step 2 with inside foot on "at", step 3 with outside foot on "lei" of "leisure"

**m.25-27**-Starting on "Keep," bring both hands up to chest level on a smooth phrase move, end move by clenching fists at chest level on "trea" of "treasure"

**m.29-31**-On "last" blast open fists & bring arms back down on smooth phrase move; arms are back at sides on "long"

**Middle of verse**-Full performance, selling the message of the song, facing out towards the audience

**m.37-38**-Starting on basses "I'm" (rest for top three parts), bring outside hand up to mid-chest level, smooth movement all the way through; closed fist, with thumb nearest the body at top, landing on "I"

**m.39-41**-On "swear" blast open fist with palm facing outward; smooth phrase move to bring arm/hand down to side; arm back at side with a stance reset on Basses' "Me" (rest for top three parts)

**Rest of Verse**-Full performance, selling the message of the song, facing out toward audience

**Beginning, second time**-Full performance, selling the message, facing audience

**2nd time, m.2-5**-"Sunburst" move with both arms; prepare on "this", then explode both arms up, with palms facing forward, on "Won" of "wonderful"; smooth phrase move to bring arms down; arms back at sides on basses'"Such" (rest top 3 parts)



**2nd time, m.6-7**-"Headphasing" starts with head turning slightly left on "you", then returning to straight-ahead position on "ne" of "never"

**Rest of Verse**-Full performance, selling the message, facing audience

### CODA

**m.54-56**-Shift gaze slightly upward, as if looking at the sunny sky; start tilting head on "be", move smoothly & arrive on "sun" of "Sunny"

**m.61-65**-Prepare arms on "where is the"; bring head back to straight-ahead position & start sweeping arm movement on "man"; arms sweep outward, palms up, stomach level; continue move all the way through to...

**m.66-67**-Bring arms back down to sides, beginning on "cheap"; arms back at sides on rest before "half"

**m.69-77**-Prepare outside arm on Lead pickup "Who will", then sweep outside arm up from side all the way to head, where your pretend hat is; your body shifts forward, then up & back to follow the movement of your arm; arm/hand reaches your hat & grabs the brim on basses' "I'm" (rest for tenor/bari, leads holding through); in a continuous smooth

motion, bring arm/hand down, sweep upward; arm/hand is back down at your right side before...

**m.78**- on basses "Me," reset body to energetic singing position, facing audience (rest for top 3 parts)

**m.82-83**-Starting on "What," bring both hands up to chest level on a smooth phrase move; end move by flipping palms upward ("what am I supposed to do?") at chest level on "do"; prepare for next move on "to", then...

**m.84-86**-Sweep both hands back down in front of body, palms facing inward; this starts on "keep" & continues smoothly until arms reach sides on "must"

**m.87-88**-March in place, starting with left foot on leads' "who" (rest other 3 parts); march continues until...

**m.89**-A 2-step reset to energetic singing position; first step with left foot on first note of "buy"; second step on second note of "buy" (leads hold note through)

**m.92**-Rock straight back, bringing body over inside foot (which should be slightly staggered behind you) on the second note of "will" (leads are holding their note)

**m.93-94**- Starting on the "b" of "buy" raise both arms from sides in smooth continuous motion for the duration of the final chord; grow body outward & up to match arm movement; hands are angled, as if holding a big bowl; hold movement till Grant's cut-off; Grant will then bring chorus back to an energetic stance.

Memorize, practice at home, & repeat as needed!

Expressions is a publication for the members, family & friends of the Midwest Vocal Express Male A Cappella Chorus.

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Please direct any comments, inquiries, or content suggestions to [Randy.Will@mve.org](mailto:Randy.Will@mve.org).

The MVE is the Greendale, WI Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society dedicated to providing its members, audiences & community with:

- Entertainment Excellence
- Education in this unique American Musical Style
- Altruistic Service

[www.mve.org](http://www.mve.org)

888.240.4446

# Midwest Vocal Express

MALE A CAPPELLA CHORUS • GREENDALE, WI

## Celebrating our 20th year!

Founded in 1989, the Midwest Vocal Express male A Cappella chorus performs a wide variety of songs including:

- Traditional Barbershop Favorites
- Show Tunes
- Spirituals
- Popular Music

Headquartered in Greendale, Wisconsin, and made up of singers from across the Southeastern region of the state, the MVE is known for the best in family entertainment and their "legendary" theatrical presentations on the International Contest Stage of the Barbershop Harmony Society.

Rehearsals are at 7:00 pm every Monday evening, St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 6705 Northway, Greendale, WI. Visitors are always welcome!

The MVE is supported in part by a grant from the Wisconsin Arts Board, with Funds from the State of Wisconsin & the National Endowment for the Arts.

Additional support provided by Milwaukee County CAMPAC, Bostik Corporation, Harley Davidson, and the Harmony Inn.

## Who is this Guy . . . ? MVE Member profile

**Nickname:** Feathers (High School)

**No. of years with the MVE:** 14

**Family & Friends:** Hopefully lots! 3 sons, 3 grandchildren

**In my previous life, I....** was probably a Cowboy

**Biggest project you're currently working on (outside of MVE):** Secretary, Kettle Moraine Golf League

**Favorite quote:** "There's more than just a pretty face here."

**Favorite Book and/or Movie:** *High Noon*

**Favorite sports team (pick a sport, any sport):** Packers (DUH!)

**Favorite Beverage:** Brandy Manhattan

**Choose One :**

**Razor – Electric or straight edge?**  
Straight Edge

**Breakfast – scrambled eggs or over easy?** Over easy

**Tailgating – Burger or Brat?** One of each!

**Movies – Batman or Spider-Man?**  
Batman – don't forget Robin!

**BHS – Vocal Majority or Ambassadors of Harmony?** Vocal Majority

**Apparel – Crocs or Mocs?** Crocs – a gift for the grandkids

**MVE – Spring Show or Christmas Show?** Christmas

**Dessert – Kopp's or Culver's?**  
Culver's – you can always find one

**Tech – Mac or PC?** PC

**State Teams – Univ. of Wisconsin or Marquette?** UW

**Hygiene – bar soap or body wash?** I use both now

**Vacation – Cozumel or Yellowstone?**  
Any place warm!

**BHS Contest – Montreal or Indianapolis?** Montreal – greater time, greater sight-seeing

**Additional hints:** I was probably a cowboy because I grew up watching westerns with Roy Rogers, Gene Autry, Johnny Mack Brown, John Wayne & Gary Cooper at the movie house every Friday.

**Think you know this guy?**

**The first MVE member to personally provide the correct name of the profiled member to Randy Will wins a free drink at the bar!**