



The MVEer Monthly

March, 2016

March Highlights

St. Ann Center Talent Show at Turner Hall Ballroom –Tuesday, **March 1**, at **Turner Hall Ballroom, 1040 N. 4th Street**. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. with the show starting at 6:30 p.m. **SINGERS:** Bring your signed forms that Josh sent you in an email 2/25/16.

Saturday, **March 12** from 10 am to 4 pm – **Coaching by Jeremy Conover**, a **Certified Singing Judge**. In the photo with his quartet **Jam Session**, he is second from the left singing lead.

Jeremy Conover has a background in Jazz and Blues and has jammed 'til dawn in Blues Clubs in Chicago, Memphis, Kansas City, and St. Louis. Apparently Jeremy hasn't figured out which part to hang onto in Barbershop, with 5 District Quartet Championships on 3 different voice parts across 4

different districts. He was bass with **Afterthought** in 2002 in the Cardinal District and bass also with **The Arrangement** in the Sunshine District in 2006. In 2010 he was baritone with **The PURSUIT** in the Sunshine District and also lead in 2012 with **½ Ton Pickup**, in the Carolina District. His is lead in **Jam Session**, the 2014 winner of the Johnny Appleseed District. Jeremy currently serves as the primary vocal performance coach and original founding member of the **Kentucky Vocal Union**. He works as an Operations Manager for the Sunnywood Collection. He lives in Middletown, NY with his wife, Jen, and two kids Riley and Chase.

Jam Session



Recap on a Great Guest Night



February 8 was Guest Night. We had, count them, 12 guests!

Kudos to the guys who brought friends and first time guests and urged former members to come. Double kudos to **Derek Balke** who championed the event.

Interview with New MVE Member

Tom Rogina

MVEer asks: Tom, it was great seeing you working with kids at the MVE performance at the **McDonald House** near Children's Hospital in December. We are so glad to have your lead voice with our chorus, please tell us about your musical background? Were you in other bands, choruses, or quartets before?

Tom replies: First of all, let me express how pleased I am to have recently been accepted into the MVE family.

From my very first practice in November of last year, everyone has been friendly, supportive, and encouraging.

The genesis of my musical background started with my family. All four of us kids and both of my parents seriously studied a musical instrument. I chose the trumpet at my earliest opportunity in 4th grade and continued to play and perform (jazz, orchestral, solo & ensemble) through my senior year in college. From a vocal standpoint, my experience is limited to several junior high and high school musical productions and two years of participation with an all men's chorus in college at the **University of Wisconsin - LaCrosse**.

MVEer asks: The readers of this newsletter want to know more about you. For example, what do you do for a living?

Tom replies: After 42 years of service, I am recently retired from **Central Steel & Wire Company**. I held several management and executive positions with them over that span of time. For my last three years, I was the Director of Sales, but am equally proud of my contributions in product /inventory management, metallurgy, and the thirty years I spent as General Manager of all sales and operations at the Milwaukee facility.

MVEer asks: Other than your singing skills, please tell us of any other of your other avocations or hobbies?



Anne, Tom, and Dominic



Tom replies: With regard to learning more about me other than my working background, I enjoy active participation a number of recreational sports including golf, mountain & road biking, paddle sports like kayaking, canoeing and rowing, snowshoeing, and both alpine & Nordic skiing. As an example, I recently competed in the **2016 American Birkebeiner** ski race, which is a thirty-four mile race from Cable WI to Hayward, WI on February 20th.

MVEer asks: As the guys on the risers are like a gang of raucous brothers, we want to know a bit about your family and friends. Where did you grow up and have you have family in the area?

Tom replies: I am a native Milwaukeean. We lived on the south side of the city until my father moved the clan into a new home in Brookfield in 1956. I went through the Elmbrook school

system and graduated from UW-LaCrosse in May of 1973.

My parents have passed. I still have an older sister living in Berkeley CA., another in Elburn IL., and a younger brother in Anchorage AK. My wife, **Anne**, and I currently live in Oconomowoc. My only daughter, **Elizabeth**, also lives in the Milwaukee area with my eighteen month old grandson, **Dominic**.

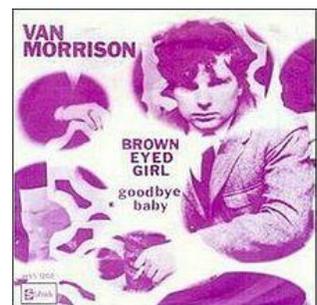
I have continuously lived in the Milwaukee area since December of 1973 including a sixteen year stint right here in **Greendale** from 1986 until 2002. It was back then, when serving as the Chairman of the **Village of Greendale Public Celebrations Committee** that I learned of a talented men's chorus group called MVE with which I am happy today to be part of.

MVE says: Tom, thank you so much for making our chorus even stronger. The whole community of the MVE family and friends welcomes you as our newest member.

Tom says: Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this interview for the newsletter.

Brown Eyed Girl – Classic Van Morrison

Brown Eyed Girl is a song by the Northern Irish singer-songwriter **Van Morrison**. Written by Morrison and recorded



in March 1967, it was released as a single in June 1967 on the Bang label, peaking at No. 10 on the *Billboard* Hot 100. It featured the Sweet Inspirations singing back-up vocals and is considered to be Van Morrison's signature song. "Brown Eyed Girl" has remained a staple on classic rock radio, and has been covered by hundreds of bands over the decades.

Originally titled ***Brown-Skinned Girl***, Morrison changed it to "Brown Eyed Girl" when he recorded it. Morrison said of the original title: "That was just a mistake. It was a kind of Jamaican song. Calypso. It just slipped my mind. I changed the title." "After we'd recorded it, I looked at the tape box and didn't even notice that I'd changed the title. I looked at the box where I'd lain it down with my guitar and it said 'Brown Eyed Girl' on the tape box. It's just one of those things that happen." It has also been stated that the song was about an inter-racial relationship and Morrison changed the title to "make it more palatable to radio stations."

Jessie's Girl – Classic Rick Springfield

"**Jessie's Girl**" is a song written and performed by Australian singer Rick Springfield. It was released on the album *Working Class Dog*. The song is about unrequited love, and centers on a young man in love with his best friend's girlfriend.



Upon its release in the United States in 1981, the song was slow to break out. It debuted on *Billboard's* Hot 100 chart in March but took 19 weeks to hit No. 1 reaching that position in August, one of the slowest climbs to number one at that time. It remained at No. 1 for two weeks and would be Springfield's only No. 1 hit. The song was at No. 1 when **MTV** launched on August 1, 1981. *Billboard* ranked it as the No. 5 song for all of 1981. The song also peaked at No. 1 in Springfield's native Australia and later won Springfield a **Grammy Award for Best Male Rock Vocal Performance**.

Springfield was taking a stained glass class along with his friend Gary as well as Gary's girlfriend. He initially wanted to use the actual name of the friend he was singing about, but instead decided to go with a different name — "Jessie". Gary was wearing a T-shirt with the name of football player **Ron Jessie** on it and changed the name from Gary to Jessie, then recorded the song.

Springfield says that he does not remember the name of the girlfriend, and believes that the real woman who inspired the song has no idea that she was "Jessie's Girl." Rick told **Oprah Winfrey**, "I was never really introduced to her. It was always just, like, panting from afar." Springfield told *Songfacts* that Oprah's people tried to find her, and they got as far back as finding out that the teacher of the stained glass class had died two years previously and that his class records were thrown out one year after his death. In 2006, it was named No. 20 on VH1's "**100 Greatest Songs of the 80s**".