

## **Great - *Shining City on a Hill* Spring Show at Nathan Hale HS**



Photo by Sarah Nagel, May 10, 2014

### **Interview with New MVE Member Chuck Stearns**

**MVEer asks:** We are so happy to have you, Chuck, as a strong lead singing with us in the Division contest in Stevens Point and on our Spring Show. Will you let us know about your singing background?

**Chuck replies:** I was very active as a singer when I was young...church choirs, high school chorus and a small *a cappella* group. I sang in my college (Case Western Reserve University) *Case Men's Glee Club* for four years, but when I went to graduate school (MIT) I got involved with other things, and so it had been quite a while for me before I came to MVE in January.



**MVEer asks:** Chuck, what other hobbies or interests do you have besides singing?

**Chuck replies:** I play golf (not very well), and do some woodworking. I've run one marathon and three half-marathons. I enjoy watching baseball games (fueled by living for four years a 10 minute walk from Fenway Park), and have been to games in 26 different major league baseball parks.

**MVEer asks:** Please let us know a bit about your work and your family.

**Chuck replies:** GE Healthcare (Medical Systems back then) brought me to Milwaukee 24 years ago, and I've been here ever since. I work in new product engineering on PET/CT scanners. My wife, Jennifer, works downtown. We have two children (William and Madeleine), one out of college and working in Washington State, and one in college now.



Chuck, Jennifer, and William taken in Osaka, Japan during William's term abroad

**MVEer says:** On behalf of all the MVE, we are very pleased to have you as one of our newest members.

### **Outback Steakhouse Results and Beyond** - Jake Umhoefer

I am over the moon and smiling from ear-to-ear. Thursday night, May 22, was a great success at Outback Steakhouse. The turnout was amazing, singing was shared, and great fun was in bloom. It is with great joy that I inform all of you that due to your efforts with promoting our fundraising events, we were able to raise \$545 in revenue to the chorus funds. The restaurant manager stated to me that it was very, very successful compared to others he has done in the past. He was amazed at how packed we made the place and graciously invited us back as soon as we would like to go back.

Onward and upward, let's look forward to our next event on

**Tuesday, June 17, 2014 will be Boston Market!** From this event, we will receive 15% of the profits gained back to us. I

have several positive feelings about working with **Boston Market** for several reasons. The most important one, and best way for us to get bang for our buck, is that we can go to ANY of the 4 locations below and get credit. The first one I call "home base." Those who would like to gather and socialize with the chorus to please go to that one. However, if you have friends, family, co-workers that live closer to another location listed - it would be easier to convince them to go there instead. For this one, we do not need a flyer – we just need you to announce to the cashier that your order will be for the **Midwest Vocal Express fundraising benefit**.



### **Approved Boston Market Locations:**

"Home Base" is 2678 S 108<sup>th</sup> Street, West Allis, WI 53227;  
or 5470 Port Washington Road, Glendale, WI 53217;  
or 3511 South 27<sup>th</sup> Street, Milwaukee, WI 53221;  
or 18340 W. Bluemound Road, Brookfield, WI 53003.

## The Degrees

The Degrees are a **Cudahy High School Quartet** that stole the hearts of the audience at the Spring Show that happened to fall on prom night. So, they brought their prom dates to the show all in formal wear, who cheered them on. The guys are: Darius Sander on the left, tenor; Mark Bitzan, lead next; Sean Stillman, bass; and Brett Gish, baritone. All but Brett are seniors and all earned 1\* at their district solo/ensemble. They got some great coaching, not only from their director and MVE member **Brian Plehn** (or Mr. Plehn to them) but also from **Kim Vaughn** when she coached our chorus. And, they still got to the prom after the show!



*Pictured from left to right: Darius, Mark, Sean, and Brett.*





**Forward** A new quartet, featuring MVE's **Jim Ansay** as lead entertained the audience with *Ragtime Joe*.

From left to right the members are: Jeff Meyer – tenor; Jim Ansay – lead; Jim Olmsted – bass; Mike Olson – bari.

Jim Ansay writes: "Our quartet was formed about four months ago. We have already given four performances besides the MVE show with two more already scheduled for this summer. The

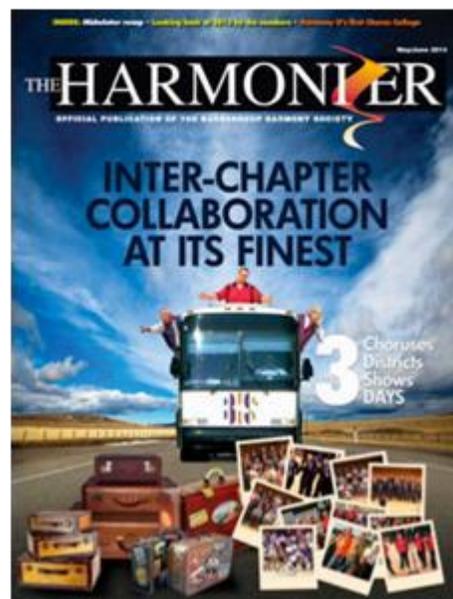
three other guys are members of the **Capital Chordsmen**, the Madison chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society. It was an honor to perform on the MVE show as well as the afterglow and we thank everyone for the opportunity."

**B/3W Tour** Our tour last summer with Central Standard and Sound of Illinois is featured on **The Harmonizer**. Watch for Mike Lietke's article in it.

**Rob Mance**, director of Central Standard chorus in Kansas City, will again be coaching us in June and giving private vocal lessons. Rob's musical background is impressive. He grew up in Montreal, Canada, obtained a Music Degree from **McGill University** in that City; a Master's at Westminster Choir College at



**Princeton University**, and is now working toward a Doctorate on a full scholarship at **Kansas University**. He directs Central Standard and a church choir as well.



For private lessons with Rob, talk with Josh Umhoefer.

Sunday, June 8 from 1-5 pm is MVE Coaching with Rob.

Monday, June 9 from 7 to 10pm is MVE Coaching with Rob.



## *High Point*

*Harry Hanson*

*Mike Ziegler*

*Bob Wozniak*

*Darryl Cremer*

## *The Brass Tacks –*

*Brian Plehn*

*Derek Balke*

*Justin Fermenich*

*Craig Schaefer*





**"Spring Fever"** – John Biltz, Jim Schmidt,  
Gerry Feldman, and Bruce Vitale