



July Calendar

Mon. June 29 Zoom Rehearsal & **Steve Scott!** 7pm Bryan Z. sends out links

Tue. June 30 Tom Weber invites you to a social at the Brass Tap @ 7:30pm 7808
W Layton Ave, Greenfield

Mon. July 6 Zoom Rehearsal @ 7pm

Mon. July 13 Zoom Rehearsal @ 7pm

Mon. July 20 Zoom Rehearsal @ 7pm

Mon. July 27 Zoom Rehearsal @ 7pm

Tue. July 28 Zoom **Board Meeting** @8pm – other members welcome, just ask Jim
Franklin for the link



Our Barbershop History –

Dick Marcus & Brian Lynch

The **Barbershop Harmony Society** currently has offices in **Nashville, TN**, but our BHS Headquarters was at **6315 3rd Avenue in Kenosha**, Wisconsin when Dick first joined our chorus. Our director back then, **Russ Foris**, worked there. Former MVE members **Jim DeBusman, Ev Nau, Chris Carlson, Scott Hoge, Rick Spencer**, and

current member **Brian Lynch** and many others I can't recall worked at our headquarters in Kenosha. It gave our MVE chorus a leg up by having so many barbershop luminaries coming close to our chorus and interacting with us.

The mansion was right on Lake Michigan, with 7 bedrooms (offices for us) and 8 bathrooms. The **Alford House** is a Tudor Revival mansion designed by Richard Phillip, who built works from 1916 through the mid-1920s and has historical houses and structures listed in the *U.S. National Register of Historic Places*.

Walter Alford was the vice-president of the **Nash Motor Company** whose best-known car was the **Rambler** mass produced in Kenosha starting in 1902. The Alford House was built beginning in late 1928 and finished by 1930 in the Great Depression at a cost of \$350,000 and some say \$500,000. It is a two-and-a-half story Tudor has a slate tile gable roof. It sold in June 2020.

The Zillow ad says, "Recently sold: **\$2,000,000**. Experience luxurious living at its best! This unprecedented lakefront Tudor Revival estate was designed by Richard Phillip in 1928 & meticulously updated & restored to perfection. Beautifully situated on 1.42 acres overlooking Lake Michigan w/ approximately 157.5 feet of beachfront, this home is ideal for gracious entertaining & comfortable family living. Grand in every way but not overwhelming, enjoy the warmth & elegance of the sun-filled rooms with amazing lake views. Interior features include a newer slate roof, fabulous new high-end kitchen, luxurious master suite, en-suite bedrooms, hand carved millwork & marble details, intricate stone mantles & high plaster relief ceilings. Steps from downtown & Southport Marina, this home is nothing short of magnificent! A once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."



How did this Mansion come to the SPEBSQSA, now the BHS?

It was purchased for only \$75,000 in 1957. They moved into the mansion in 1958. Brian Lynch said the beautiful Persian Rung in it (that is still there) was probably worth \$75,000 itself. In the 1970s, expanding space needs for printing and merchandising led to the purchase of a strip mall that was about a mile away from



Harmony Hall. The Society occupied half the building and rented out the remainder. After the sale of Harmony Hall in 2003, the Society consolidated operations in the Sheridan Building. The Society moved to its new home in Nashville in August 2007.

But old buildings need upkeep. By the early 2000's, studies were going on as to the cost of refurbishing our beautiful, aging Mansion. Estimates were in excess of \$1 million. The Society sold it in October 2003 and consolidated activities into the Sheridan Building in Kenosha. So, Kenosha was our Headquarters, but the lovely Alford Mansion was sold.

What to do next?

Dick joined MVE in 2003, and the Headquarters building was being sold. I remember and Brian knows that there were several



options. One, promoted by Greendale barbershop enthusiast, **Roy J. Reiman**, of Reiman Media, who was publishing Reader's Digest and the many magazines, wanted it to in Greendale. He didn't get his wish, but Mr. Reiman helped the MVE by setting up a restaurant called **Harmony Inn** dedicated to music in Greendale, which has since become **Joey Gerard's Supper Club**.



There were various contenders, remembers Brian Lynch, including Atlanta, Miami, and of course **Music City** (Nashville). Nashville won out. It took some time, but headquarters moved from Kenosha to downtown Nashville in 2007.

Tour video: <https://youtu.be/kvxAb-NWYHY>



Two Photos from Brian Lynch:

While there are plenty of glamour shots

of the building, my favorites are of the **September 2003 wedding** of longtime Quartet Registrar **Lani Dieter** to **Reuben Batke**, a Barbershopper whom she had met at Harmony U. Happiest of days!



I always knew I would be the last one out of Harmony Hall. This photo was indeed from **our very last night there**, where we had a few final drinks and a few final tags. Later, after the Society relocated to Nashville, I was the last person out

of the Sheridan Building, too. **Pictured:** skinny **Brian Lynch**; **Darryl Flinn**, executive director; **Scott Hoge**, IT manager and former MVE member; **Rick Spencer**, youth outreach and former MVE member. ■

Notes on Artistic Singing – Dick Marcus’ notes from Dusty’s talk

On June 22, at our Zoom rehearsal, the MVE had the opportunity to meet and talk with **Dusty Schleier**, who currently serves on the Board of Review for the **Performance Category**. Dusty has been a Certified Judge since 2007. Dusty has directed many choruses over the years. He has been the Director of the two-time International Medalist, **Music City Chorus** since 2012.



His topic for us last week was on **artistic singing**. He especially advocated one-on-one teaching to promote artistic singing, but we can do this in our sectionals or other smaller groups. Singing training helps also to protect our voice by learning good techniques.

We know that we are not just singing but we are **Communicating Something**; we are celebrating, encouraging, showing empathy, in short, we are persuading the listeners to our way of seeing things. We are **Intentional** in our communication; in that we know what we are trying to do. We try to be **Present** in our message and eliminate the many annoying distractions that race through our minds. And we want to **Be Honest** in our expressions and communications.

Dusty listed seven simple ways to show authentic communications that we already know about but can use for **Artistic Singing**.

1. **Color or Vocal Fold** – this is our tone, our brilliance, or breathiness
2. **Dynamics** – either intimate or expression to whole room
3. **Crescendo** – taking people on a ride with us
4. **Decrescendo** – moving toward the more intimate
5. **Accent** – used to show importance and emphasis
6. **Legato and staccato** – change up the pace to smooth and to dramatize
7. **Articulation** – our lips, teeth, tongue used to help make the sounds understandable and meaningful

Newer to me was the topic of **Subtext**. We know that sometimes inuendo and subtext permeates our spoken conversations with "other meanings." So too does our singing often have subtext: What I really am saying?

Under the topic **Tools & Tips**, Dusty asks us to find deeper layers of communication in our singing, not just occasionally on stage, but every time you sing. We aren't just matchy-matchy; we are chorus of authentic voices and singers. When we each sing well and with artistry, we see each of us and hear each of us.

In our exercise of **Artistic Singing**, we watched and commented on such amazing singers as **Jennifer Hudson** singing *Memory* from *Cats* and **Ray Charles** singing *Georgia on My Mind*. But, the biggest takeaway for me was his stress that we each must be artistic and honest in our performance and singing and even when we are different, the whole is even more beautiful than the parts.

AIC GOLD – On July 3rd

Midwest Vocal Express friends and family, it is time to register for the **THIS IS THE MOMENT** free livestream of the **Association of International Champions** broadcast of 10 great quartets, including our own **Bryan Ziegler's After Hours** Quartet. On Friday, July 3 at 6:30pm ET (that's 5:30pm in Milwaukee). Register at this site:

<https://watch.aicgold.com/>

Watch: Signature, Forefront, Interstate Rivals, Crossroads, Instant Classic, OC Times, Storm Front, After Hours, Main Street, Masterpiece, and Vocal Spectrum. Free, but you must register.



Men of the Mighty MVE - Jim Franklin, Chapter President

Looking forward to sharpening my singing skills with **Steve Scott tonight**. Hope to see you virtually!

I've owed you the results of our survey but wanted to pair it with some fresh *Guidance from the Barbershop Harmony Society*. Sorry it took so long. The Society updated their COVID Guidance this weekend (link below) and the survey results are further below.



Because you're all smart guys (insert Baritone joke here), you probably know what I'm about to say: COVID is gonna be around for a while longer. Singing in person in a large group for a lengthy time is risky behavior. Our MVE survey results show that we have a wide range of risk tolerance among our

guys. As a chapter and whole chorus, virtual rehearsing is our safest choice until things improve. We will continue to monitor the situation, learn from new research, hope for new breakthroughs and declines in new infection rates. Your Board and Pteam are open to your thoughts, PM any of us at any time.

I'm encouraged and thankful that MVEers who are looking to scratch their personal BBS itch are doing so in smaller groups with like-minded MVE brothers while respecting the risk tolerance levels of others. Grab a beer and a laugh with Tom Weber 2moro night at the Brass Tap. Gather some tag-singing friends for a safe, outdoors tag quartet. Phone a friend, reach out to fellow MVEer and swap some stories. Or, seek out some resources to sing and learn on your own. Did you know that you can sing along with the Polecats for free? Learn a new part or three?

[harmonize-at-home-sing-the-polecats](#) See you tonight!

[COVID-19-Interim-Guidance-for-BHS-Ensembles-and-Singing-Communities-v0.8.pdf](#)

Six pages, but here is an important section of it:

General Guidance for All Singing Communities

1. Evaluate the Risks - Many factors will affect your ensemble's decision to rehearse, so educate yourself with science and facts before you decide to get together. Some of the risks include: age, health status, underlying medical conditions, exposure to other individuals, local infection rates, and more.

2. Be Flexible - Depending on your situation, it may not be possible to gather for rehearsal immediately. If you do decide to get together, develop an action plan for your group and stick to it. As more details are learned about COVID-19, your action plan may change.
3. Be Responsible - If you feel sick, stay home. If anyone in your immediate family is at higher risk, be overly cautious. If there's a chance you've been in close contact with someone who might be infected, self-isolate and monitor your own health closely.
4. Sing Outdoors - Continue enhanced physical distancing, stand in a straight line, and keep the wind at your back.
5. Wear Masks - Singing may be more difficult while wearing a mask, but a mask will decrease the risk of droplet and aerosol spread.
6. Shorten rehearsals - Singing together for a shorter amount of time will reduce the possibility of exposure.
7. Cleanliness - Disinfect surfaces that are touched often and wash your hands regularly. Don't share sheet music, water bottles, pencils, or other rehearsal-related objects.
8. Learning Tracks - If in-person rehearsal is simply not possible, you can use learning tracks to introduce new music or polish existing repertoire while keeping singers engaged.
9. Virtual Rehearsal - Stay connected with your ensemble by hosting virtual rehearsals and meetings.
10. Virtual Performance - Consider creating and sharing a virtual performance of your ensemble.
11. Singing indoors is not recommended at this time - The results of the University of Colorado study that are expected in late July will allow us to offer more detailed information.



We come out to serenade
all first time Zoom users
for their rehearsals.