



The MVEer Monthly December 2020

December Calendar

Mon. November 30 - Zoom Rehearsal @7pm

Mon. December 7- Zoom Rehearsal @7pm

Mon. December 14 - Zoom Rehearsal @7pm

Mon. December 21 – ***MVE Virtual Holiday Show & Zoom Watch Party @ 7pm***

Friday, December 25 is ***Christmas Day***

Mon. December 28 – likely a day off, but watch for news from the P-team



MVE Christmas Show is Virtual this Year

Christmas Memories with the Midwest Vocal Express

Join us on Zoom on **Monday, December 21, 2020** at 7pm

**Relive the best of the best of Christmas past and
enjoy newly recorded songs by:
After Hours and *Midnight Croon***



Stay tuned for login information and a chorus Watch Party

The Cleveland Public Auditorium – Dick Marcus

Tom Weber reported to us on the virtual FAM trip some information about International next summer. Let's talk about the massive venue.

[Public Auditorium and Conference Center](#)

[| City of Cleveland](#)

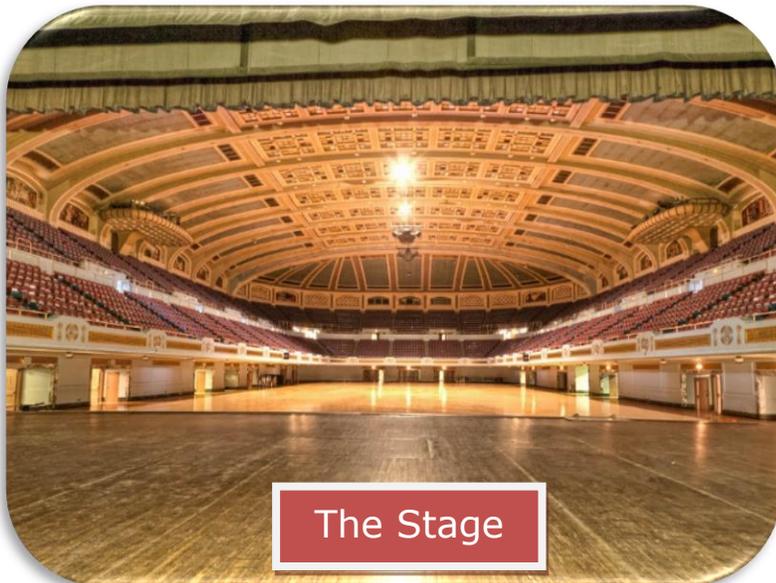
Public Auditorium and Conference Center

500 Lakeside Ave.
Cleveland, Ohio 44114

The Public Auditorium and Conference Hall (*or now known as the **Huntington***

Convention Center of Cleveland and people often just called it **Public Hall**) is conveniently located in the heart of downtown Cleveland, surrounded by first class hotels and restaurants and within walking distance of several entertainment and

sightseeing venues. It is only fifteen minutes from Cleveland Hopkins International.



It was completed in 1922 in the neoclassical style, almost looking like a fortress or a bank. When it opened, with seating for 11,500, it was the largest structure of its kind in the world. (Maybe hyperbole, but that what [Public Auditorium - Wikipedia](#) says.)

With 15 meeting rooms accommodating groups from 10 to 700, this venue is popular for fundraisers, conventions, conferences, weddings, and exhibitions. The performing arts area of the Public Auditorium was constructed in the grand opera tradition and features a spacious 21,780 square foot registration lobby, a **10,000-seat auditorium, the 3,000-seat Cleveland Music Hall and 600-seat Little Theater**. Parking is within a short walking distance and the facility is well-served by public transportation.



A Christmas Story – The 1983 Movie by Dick Marcus



Scott Schwartz and Peter Billingsley in *A Christmas Story*. (Photo: Warner Bros.)

If you watch “**A Christmas Story**,” again this season, where nine-year-old Ralphie faces school bullies, triple-dog-dares a kid to put his tongue on the flagpole, pay attention to the **downtown scenes** which were filmed in **Cleveland**. I know, I was living in Cleveland in 1979-1985. While the movie is supposed to be a town in Indiana, the buildings in 1983 looked very much like a 1940’s city. The large department store where Ralphie visits Santa Claus was the magnificent 12-story **Higbee’s Department Store**. My wife Kandy worked at Higbee’s in Cleveland, but in an outlying mall. Sadly, the store closed in January of 2002.

Ralphie’s Christmas wish is for a Red Ryder Carbine Action 200-shot Range Model air rifle. But to make it come true, he’ll need to convince his parents that he won’t *‘shoot his eye out.’* Merry Christmas, Ralphie.



Branding History – Dick Marcus with additions by Mike Lietke

We got our charter on March 29, 1989. While our chorus was practicing together before that date, 2020 is officially our 31st Year. Organizations like ours have our mottos, by-laws, our purpose and mission statements, and our outward reaching ways to tell our story to the rest of the world in our name, website, YouTube

videos, Facebook pages, and flyers and newsletters. One intriguing outward reaching insignia is an organization's **logo**.



We've had lots of logos. Our earliest logo was four guys singing in a quartet. I joined in 2003, and this was the logo on the first MVE shirt I bought.

Mike Lietke remembers the origins of this logo. He said, "My brother **Doug**, who went to school for graphic design, created the singing tux men logo sometime in the **mid-1990s**. I recall that Doug told the

chorus something like: *'This shows what we do. We sing; and we are different from other choruses in that it isn't straw hats and spats. It is classy, and it can be modern.'*"

Sometime around **2003** or so, we started using a newer logo featuring the MVE designed (and all the rest) by **Tim Zielke**. This one included two colors (red & black) with a tuxedo and bow tie. Our chorus was competing on the International stage, and the logo was refreshed for Portland (2002, The Waiter's Set) and Montreal (2003, Green Army Men Set).



As holidays and our costumes evolved, so did our logo. Tim designed this Christmas-themed version of the logo featured a gnome for our **December 2014** Christmas Show.

As we had modified our logo for Christmas already, it was a natural to have something ready for **Spring Show in 2015**. That show was at the Humphrey Scottish Rite building with the theme, *"Whose Tag is it Anyway?"* A comedy-tragedy version of our logo was used. It changed the spelling of "a cappella" from our oldest logo and added one of our mottos: *Storytelling Through Song*. [Other mottos were *The Mighty MVE*, & *30 Years of Story Telling*, and others].



our logo continues evolve and be refreshed for the times.

For our **Christmas Show in 2016**, our logo became even simpler featuring the word "Christmas" in it. The tie remained in it as well.



For our Christmas Traditions show in **December 2018**, a slimmed down version of our logo appeared, now with a green tie as we were using green, red, and blue ties. With a Christmas cap and snow, we were ready for the season.

Our most recent **2019-2020** logo was updated again to feature our 30th Anniversary. As we can see, our outward face to the public shifts with time, seasons, and styles.



One thing is for sure, we love our **Midwest Vocal Express** in all of its innovations.

District-Wide Virtual Christmas Show

Two of the songs will be by the MVE. Watch on Saturday, December 12th.

There is a six minute preview soundtrack for everyone at: https://youtu.be/9rgz_VPNksY



Need Some MVE Christmas Gifts?

Buy some great MVE hats, just \$15. Contact Dick Marcus at marcus@uwm.edu or call him at 414-510-7731. If you want several hats, well, maybe we can arrange something. We also have Christmas music for \$15 and DVDs for \$25. An MVE Christmas.





If you buy stuff on Amazon, either with a Prime account or regular account, buy it on <https://smile.amazon.com> instead and put the **Midwest Vocal Express** as your designated charity. The MVE has already earned **\$522** from your purchases. With COVID, we'll be doing more online shopping this season. **Help your chorus as**

you shop!

Ten Dad Jokes for Christmas

1. **What do you call an elf who sings?**
A wrapper!
2. **What kind of bug hates Christmas?**
A real humbug!
3. **What's red, white, and blue at Christmas dinner?** *A sad candy cane!*
4. **What do you get if you cross an apple and a Christmas tree?** *A pineapple!*
5. **What do you call people who are afraid of Santa Claus?** *Claustrophobic!*
6. **What's a parent's favorite Christmas carol?** *Silent Night!*
7. **What do you call a greedy elf?** *Elfish!*
8. **What happened to the thief who stole an advent calendar?**
He got 25 days!
9. **What's the difference between the Christmas alphabet and the regular alphabet?** *The Christmas alphabet has Noel!*
10. **What do you call Santa when he runs out of money?**
Saint Nickel-less!

