



# The MVEer Monthly January 2021

## Happy 2021 January Calendar

**Mon. January 4** – *no rehearsal*

**Mon. January 11**- Zoom Rehearsal @7pm

**Mon. January 18** - Zoom Rehearsal @7pm

**Mon. January 25** – Zoom Rehearsal @7pm

### STAY TUNED

Exploration of alternative ways to meet are being investigated but are not set yet.

## Interview with Bryan Ziegler *(Phone interview December 29, 2020)*

**MVEer asked:** Bryan, you mentioned you have a new job. When did you start?

**Bryan said:** I started on December 14, about 2 weeks ago.

**MVEer asked:** What is this new job?

**Bryan said:** Singer. I am part of a small group of singers that create singing tracks for the firm **Choral Tracks** ( website: <https://choraltracks.com> ).



The firm has been around since 2012. **Nate Peplinski**, who sang with the MVE and in various quartets for our shows is their audio engineer.

**MVEer asked:** Isn't he a dairy farmer?

**Bryan said:** Well, I don't think so now. **Nate** and **Samantha** moved to La Crosse and he is an audio engineer. [Editor's Note: Samantha and Nate got married on November 7, 2020]



Dairy Rancher or Audio Engineer?

**MVEer asked:** What sort of songs are you singing for these tracks?

**Bryan said:** We have currently about 20,000 tracks recorded. We can do about 10,000 a year. We are working on doing the sheet music for **J.W. Pepper**.

**MVEer replied:** Wow, the *Wikipedia* page for **J.W. Pepper** says the firm started in 1876 and has the largest collection of sheet music at 750,000. And their webpage <https://www.jwpepper.com/sheet-music/welcome.jsp> even has a link right to your **Choral Tracks** firm.

**Byran said:** It is a combination of mostly church music and show choir music. I sing the bass and tenor parts. Others also sing parts at **Choral Tracks** and we all do various additional work on *Melodyne*, mixing, scanning, *finale* software, and other things.



**MVEer asked:** What is the *toughest song* you had to sing so far?

**Bryan said:** It was probably the one I did today. It is called "**Evening Meal**," from 2004, a slow prayer of song. It had cluster chords that were almost without a tonal center. To sing it as slow as was indicated for the tracks, I had to use a metronome to stop me wanting to sing it faster. In one part of the song as a bass, I sang in B-minor, but for the tenor part, the best way for me to think of the song was in B-flat major.

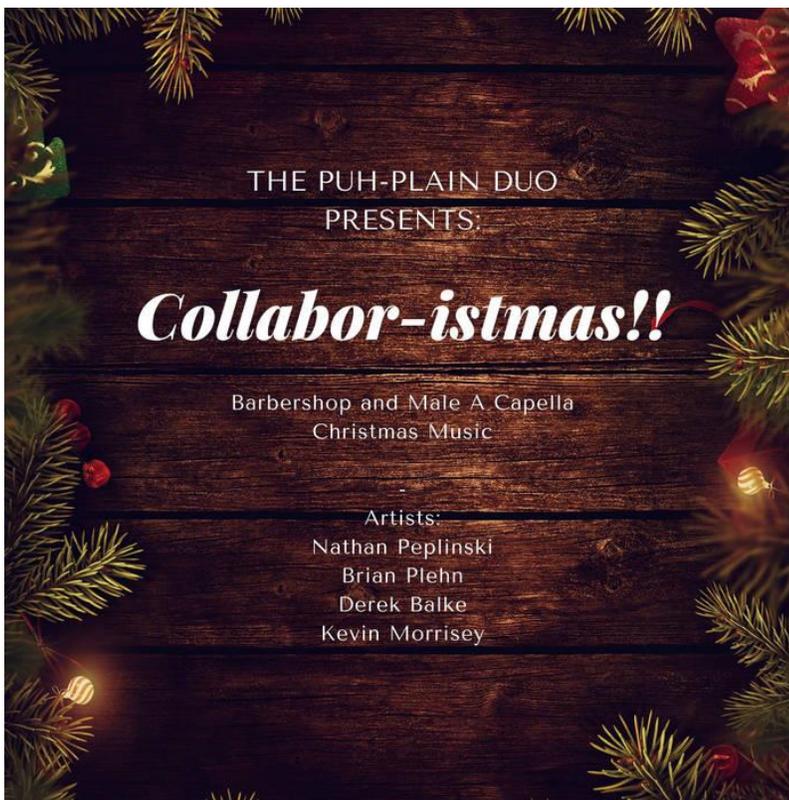
**MVEer said:** Wow, not sure I follow all that, but sounds like a challenge you are up to. Everyone in the MVE is used to singing tracks, but I'm in church choir that never used tracks. Who, then, is buying them?

**Bryan said:** My dad's church choir doesn't use them either. But school districts, churches, and others use them, much like we do, to learn our parts. This time of COVID-19 has not hurt sales of our tracks at all.

**MVEer asks:** How many tracks can you produce in a day?

**Bryan said:** About twenty.

**MVEer said as well:** Though we liked going to MOD Pizza after singing in Oak Creek, it is great that you are using your musical training. You are a great director, Bryan. Here's to a sensational New Year of 2021 for you and for our chorus.



## Collabor-istmas!!

Out for Christmas 2020, our MVE colleagues **Brian Plehn, Nate Peplinski, Derek Balke,** and **Kevin Morrissey** have produced a new recording of 12 great Christmas songs. Get it a [bandcamp.com](http://bandcamp.com) and click below for a sneak listen for free. Donations are accepted at bandcamp. You'll be glad you listened. Great songs, guys.

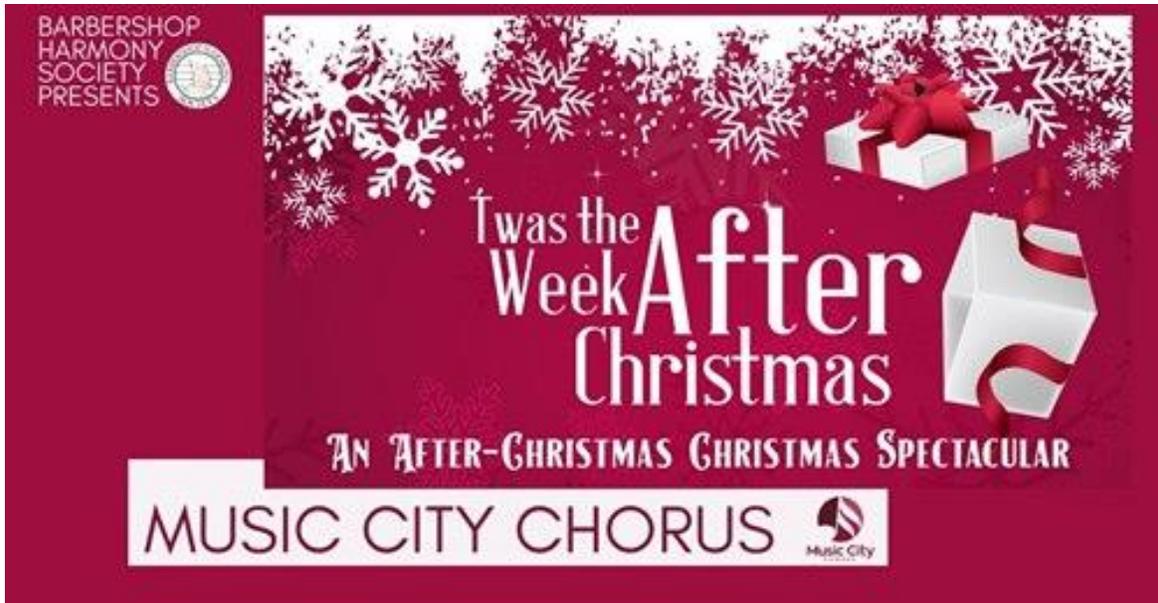
[▶ Collaboristmas! | Brian Plehn, Nate Peplinski, Derek Balke, Kevin Morrissey |](#)

[Puh-Plain Duo \(bandcamp.com\)](#)



## **Barbershop Harmony Website Fun - Dick Marcus**

Go the non-member side of the BHS website: <https://www.barbershop.org/> If you **scroll down** there are fun things to listen to there, including our own **Christmas Memories** show.



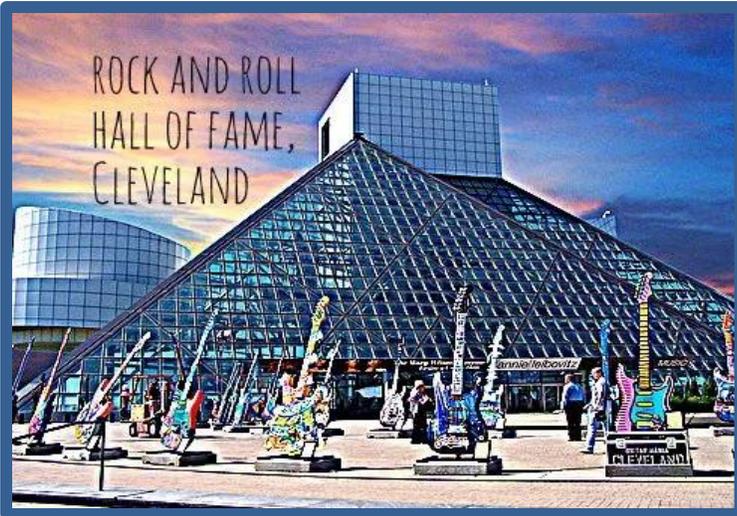
One in particular may interest MVEers. **Patrick McAlexander** and the **Music City Chorus** has a fun event for you called, **'Twas the Week After Christmas**. You can click <https://youtu.be/YkDneldAD0k> for the YouTube video of it. Also, check out at about **39** minutes for **Midnight Croon**. *Croooooon!!*



## **Rock Hall of Fame Museum**

When going to the **International Barbershop Convention** in Cleveland around late June and early July, you may wish to go north from the Public Auditorium (or the venue) to Lake Erie to see the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. [Welcome to the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame | Rock & Roll Hall of Fame \(rockhall.com\)](http://www.rockhall.com) Ohio has just passed a bill to fund an expansion of the Rock Hall of Fame, so I hope that construction doesn't deter our enjoyment. The next pages have some photos from Lake Erie and from the shore to give the size and scale of the museum.

Ticket prices are \$28 for Adults and \$18 for kids 6-12 in early July 2021. Tickets can be purchased even now at: [Rock & Roll Hall of Fame](https://www.rockhall.com) — [Rock & Roll Hall of Fame](https://www.rockhall.com) ([rockhall.com](https://www.rockhall.com))



## **New Year's Eve Humor 2020**



My wife still hasn't told me what my New Year's resolutions are.

"I promise not to make any bad jokes for the rest of the year." — A dad on New Year's Eve

A New Year's resolution is something that goes in one year and out the other.

If 2020 was a person, I'd sue him for pain, suffering and lost wages.

May all your troubles last as long as your New Year resolutions.

This New Year's I resolve to be less awesome since that is really the only thing I do in excess.

My New Year's resolution is to break my New Year's resolutions. That way I succeed at something!

Every year on New Year's Eve, when everyone's counting down the final 10 seconds to ring in the new year, I get up off the couch and stand up. I stand up and raise my left leg and just leave it raised for a little while until the countdown finishes and midnight strikes, so that I always start the new year off on the right foot.

New Year's is just a holiday created by calendar companies who don't want you reusing last year's calendar.

My New Year's resolution is to help all my friends gain 10 pounds so I look skinnier.

I was going to quit all my bad habits for the new year, but then I remembered that nobody likes a quitter.

I love when they drop the ball in Times Square. It's a nice reminder of what I did all year.

My resolution was to read more so I put the subtitles on my TV.

An optimist stays up until midnight to see the new year in. A pessimist stays up to make sure the old year leaves.

If you're born in September, it's pretty safe to assume your parents started out the New Year with a bang!

What happened to the Irish man who thought about the evils of drinking in the New Year? He gave up thinking.

My brother's New Year's resolution is to move out of my parents' house. You'd think after 49 years, he'd try another one.

An iPhone and a firework were arrested on New Year's Eve. One was charged and the other was let off.

**Happy 2021! Here's hoping this one will be better than the last — which is a pretty low bar to clear, if we're being honest!**

