



## The MVEer Monthly

November 2021

### Together Again – Christmas on Saturday, December 11, 2021

We are back in **Greendale High School** at **2pm on Saturday, December 11**. We are celebrating being together again, we have that as our theme this year. Come join **Midwest Vocal Express** and the amazing **Milwaukee Handbell Ensemble** (<http://www.milwaukeehandbells.org/>) for songs of the season and songs celebrating being back again together. Set off your holiday season in style by enjoying the songs and music of Christmas with us on December 11.



### Light the Square in Oak Creek on Wednesday, December 1

We will sing in the **Christmas Tree Lighting in Oak Creek** once again. Stay tune for our timing. It will be our first public performance in a while!  
<https://www.oakcreekwi.gov/visitor/events/holiday-celebrations/holiday-tree-lighting-ceremony>



## **Congrats to Nate Peplinki & Coulee Classic – Barbershop Quartet**

Many of us know **Nate Peplinki** (far right) who has been an MVEer. He is also in a quartet with his groomsman **Derek Balke** and **Brian Plehn (One Minute to Midnight)** and many of you got to know his wife **Samantha** in Mexico at Derek and Sarah's wedding. He and Samantha are also expecting a baby girl in mid-January.

Nate was a dairy farmer while he was in our chorus, but has moved west in Wisconsin; hence, the name **Coulee Classic** for his quartet (tenor **Colin Stevenson**, lead **Matt Curtis**, bass **Allen Pruitt**, and baritone **Nate Peplinki**) in the La Crosse area. **Bryan Ziegler** stays in close contact with **Nate** as they both are employed by Choral Tracks LLC. [Nate added: *Nate is Bryan's superior and don't you forget it. Z.*]

**Coulee Classic** won the men's quartet championship on October 16, 2021 with a fine average score of 77.1, in their first public performance. The quartet is excited about the growth ahead of them and about the opportunity to represent the Land O' Lakes District next July in Charlotte.

## Congrats to Lakefront – an MVE Barbershop Quartet

Congratulations to **Lakefront Quartet**, alphabetically: **Derek Balke** (bass), **Dylan Keegan** (lead), **Brian Plehn** (tenor), and **Matt Post** (baritone). This new quartet won the Eastern Region of LO'L District, won *in spirit* as the Novice Quartet, and came in fifth place overall.

We got to hear them sing at rehearsal before the District Contest outside in the parking lot at the Elm Grove Lutheran School just when a basketball game was ending in the gymnasium. Despite the distraction of cars and people driving away, the guys sang great.



**Matt Post said:** It was actually my first time competing in a quartet as well! It only took me 4 years since joining the chorus to finally get a quartet together for district. So technically, Lakefront would have won Novice

quartet champion because we had two first time competitors (Dylan and me) but we didn't register our quartet correctly so we didn't win hahaha. In addition to taking 5th place overall we were the East region champion as the highest scoring quartet from the east region of LOL district.



Overall, it was so much fun getting to compete. For our first

time, I was pretty happy with what we scored and it was super helpful to get one on one evaluations with some of the judges. It made me very excited to keep competing again in the future!



**Dylan Keegan added:** It was great to get up on stage as a quartet. We also performed for several hospitality rooms. I felt much more comfortable and confident performing as a quartet by the end. The whole experience was fantastic.

A holiday-themed poster with a dark blue background and a red border. At the top, three colorful Christmas ornaments (blue, yellow, and red) are hanging from a string. Below the ornaments, the text reads: "The Midwest Vocal Express & the Milwaukee Handbell Ensemble" in white, followed by "Together Again" in a large, light blue, cursive font. The date and time are "December 11, 2021 at 2 PM", and the location is "Greendale High School at 6801 Southway, Greendale, WI". At the bottom, there is a white snow-like shape with holly leaves and berries. Below this, the text says: "Tickets will be on sale from MVE members, or <https://www.mve.org/shop>, or phone (1-414-367-7097) starting Nov 5."