



Louisville 2023 – The Galt House

GALT HOUSE HOTEL TRADEMARK COLLECTION BY WYNDHAM



- 140 NORTH FOURTH STREET , LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY 40202
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A stay at the **Galt House Hotel** places you in the heart of Louisville, steps from Actors Theatre of Louisville and 4 minutes by foot from KFC Yum Center. This **4-star hotel** is 0.4 mi (0.6 km) from the **Kentucky International Convention Center** and 0.5 mi (0.7 km) from Fourth Street Live!.



Outside pool is perfect in July 2023. Views of the Ohio River. It is our BHS Headquarters Hotel.





Interview of both Ann Elizabeth-Nagel and Matt Nagel

Greendaler asks: Ann and Matt, you are both Founding Members of **Forward Harmony** and Matt is a long time member of the **Midwest Vocal Express**. Ann Elizabeth, I think you've been a barbershopper with other choruses and quartets. What are they and how did you get started in singing? What part do you most like to sing?

Ann replies: I don't remember ever not singing. I sang so many songs as a little girl and loved learning new ones. As soon as I was old enough, I joined my church choir, at age

10. I sang pretty consistently in church choirs until June of 2020 when our church closed. I also sang with a folk trio, called **Sweet Diversity**, in the late 90s and performed with them for about nine years. We recorded two CDs together. After that, I did solo performances with my guitar, singing songs I had written and a few covers. I recorded a CD and an EP of my original songs.



My first experience singing Barbershop was at a BHS International competition in the lobby of a hotel room after midnight. The director of a chorus from Great Britain was teaching a group of us all four parts of Queen's song, *Fat Bottomed Girls*. I learned the tenor part and was one of a few women singing with about 75 men. It was crazy fun!

One weekend, years later, after hearing Matt absolutely kill the song, *Vehicle*, by the Ides of March, at karaoke, I realized how much his voice had improved from singing with the Midwest Vocal Express and how much fun he was having. I told him I wanted something like that too. He told me about the **Melodeers**. A couple of days later, he went with me to watch a **Melodeer's** rehearsal. I auditioned three weeks later.

While I have sung a mix of harmony and melody most of my life, in the **Melodeer's** the lead section was the best match for my vocal range. In **Forward Harmony** I sing lead but have to just mouth the words when the part gets too low



for me. I seem to be a high lead and a low tenor in **Forward Harmony**. What is that? A Lea-nor?

Greendaler asks: Matt, you have been a member of the MVE or how long? You are lead. How did you get started singing as well? What other choruses or quartets did you sing with?

Matt replies: I've sung with the MVE

since March 2009. I didn't meet my man of note until after my first rehearsal. Ann had talked with **Ashley York** in a group lunch on a Friday. Ashley said he sang with a group that met in Greendale on Mondays. I was looking for a different outlet for my singing from church. It was like I was being double-dog dared not to travel the five minutes from home to see what it was about!

Previously, I had been singing with our church choir that had started in 1998. Ann took over directing that choir in 1999. Ann and I sang "The Prayer" (composed by David Foster *et. al.* and sung by Celine Dion and Alberto Bocelli) for our Christmas Eve service that year. We got married about two years later. We sang "The Prayer" at every Christmas Eve service for 20 years.

I've had the good luck to perform with **Easy Days** quartet for two summers while their lead (and MVE's first director) **Frank Marzocco** was out sick. I can't begin to tell you how much those 50 or so performances helped my on-stage frame of mind!

I've also had about a half dozen or so of my own quartets that I have sung with.

Greendaler asks: Ann, how did you and Matt meet and how long have you've been married?



Ann replies: I heard Matt singing one day after church and suggested he join the choir. He did. We were friends for 4 years, singing together twice a week at choir practice and the Sunday service. He started carrying my guitar to my car for me after I had a shoulder injury and we often chatted while standing by my car. I realized I was in love with him when I saw him in the audience while singing with **Sweet Diversity** at Irish Fest. We dated for 2 years after that, and have been married for 20 years. He's my best friend!

Greendaler ask: Matt, this is the *Greendaler Monthly*, but where in the world do you and Ann Elizabeth live? Have you any pets?

Matt replies: We actually live IN **Greendale** with our two Cavapoo dogs, **Chloe** and **Henry**. Both are Covid puppies which came about a year after our first two dogs passed away.



Greendaler asks you both: What do you do for a living?

Ann replies: I design software for banks. I love how challenging and collaborative the work is. I enjoy making the screens and workflows simpler and clearer. Before that I was a technical writer.

Matt replies: I'm the Controller (main accountant) for three divisions of a manufacturing company in West Milwaukee. I will have been there for 23 years just after we return from Louisville this summer.

Greendaler asks: What has this opportunity to sing together in **Forward Harmony** meant to you?

Ann Elizabeth replies: I'm so happy to be able to sing with Matt. Singing a duet with him at church was the catalyst for us falling in love. I also think it's exciting to be in at the beginning of BHS accepting women into the society and really enjoy the mix of men's and women's voices.

Greendaler asks: Matt, you blow the Pitch Pipe for the MVE. How'd you get that gig? How long have you been doing that and are you similarly blowing it also for Forward Harmony?

Pitch Pipe Matt answers: I think I started blowing pitch for the MVE in 2010 because our electronic pitch pipes were dying and I offered mine to be used. I was given the job because it was my pipe. **Josh Umhoefer** switched us to using the Tombo pipe after our 2012 International set.

Bryan accepted my pitch blowing services for **Forward Harmony**, though **Jennifer Johnson** also helps out.

Greendaler comments: There is plenty of research showing that life-long singing in groups and also marriage helps you stay healthier and live longer. But do you think this extends to being married as well as singing together as well?



Ann replies: Yes, I do! Singing with Matt brings me such joy. One of the songs we sang together in church was the Disney song A Whole New World, and that's where singing with Matt takes me. While I don't stand next to him, I enjoy sharing the **Forward Harmony** adventure with him!

Greendaler says: Thank you Ann Elizabeth and

Matt. You both are key lynchpins in **Forward Harmony** and the **Midwest Vocal Express**. You add great voices and joy to both choruses. Thank you.



Calendar of Scheduled February Events – FH & MVE

Sunday, January 29 – FH Rehearsal at 7pm at Emmanuel United Church of Christ (EUCC)

Monday, January 30, 2023 – MVE Rehearsal at 7pm at Elm Grove Lutheran (EGL)

Monday, February 6 – MVE Rehearsal at 7pm at EGL

Sunday, February 12 – FH Rehearsal at 7pm at EUCC

Monday, February 13 – MVE Rehearsal at 7pm at EGL

VALENTINE'S DAY – TUESDAY, February 14th

Monday, February 20 – MVE Rehearsal at 7pm at EGL

Sunday, February 26 – FH Rehearsal at 7pm at EUCC

Monday, February 27 – MVE Rehearsal at 7pm at EGL

Tuesday, February 28 – Board Meeting from 7-8:30 via Zoom

Humor Corner – Oh no! Not Valentine Puns.

"How can you get arrested on Valentine's Day?" "For stealing someone's heart."

"What did the paper clip say to the magnet?" "I find you very attractive."

"What did the stamp say to the envelope on Valentine's Day?" "I'm stuck on you!"

"Why didn't the skeleton want to send any Valentine's Day cards?" "His heart wasn't in it."

"What's Cupid's favorite band?" "Kiss!"

"What did the scientist say to her valentine?" "I think of you periodically."

"How can you tell when a squirrel is in love?" "It goes nuts!"

"What did the calculator say to the pencil?" "You can count on me."

"How did the telephone propose to his girlfriend?" "He gave her a ring!"

