



## **CHECKMATE Competed in the International Senior's Championship!**



Congratulations to our own International Seniors Quartet, who competed in Daytona Beach. **Dave Baxter, Jim Franklin, Brad Charles, and Harry Hanson**, who won the **Land O' Lakes District** bid to be the LOL Senior Quartet. And they did great!!! Read more below.

**Midwinter Convention** in Daytona Beach, Florida: February 7-12, 2023

### **Jim Franklin says:**

First, some background on **Checkmate**: We were all members of the MVE when we formed in 1995, won the **LOL District quartet championship in '96**, performed lots of chapter shows around the Midwest for 5 years, then retired.

We stayed good friends and vowed that if we could still sing when we were eligible to compete as Seniors, we would "get the band back together."

We just returned from competing at our 2nd International Senior Quartet competition at the

Midwinter convention in Daytona Beach, FL, where we moved up 7 places from where we were seeded to finish 11th place. We feel good about the progress we've made, and appreciate the coaching we got from **Bryan Z** and **Mike L**.

The Midwinter experience has all the fun and excitement of the summer International convention and contests that we attend and compete in, except that it is attended by hundreds instead of thousands of people. It's got a cozier feel, shorter contests, but more shows (this year included **GQ**, **Vocal Spectrum**, **Throwback**, **First Take**, and **Quorum**).

**The Next Generation Junior** (Youth) groups are tremendous. It's a big commitment for a High School choral programs to travel and compete (as we know), so you see the best. Some were performing custom arrangements, and two of the top groups performed directorless.

When we weren't walking on the beach or singing tags, we dined with our wives and made some new friends. We serenaded our wives at a lovely Italian restaurant; overheard and complimented by a table of five ladies next to us, we were emboldened to sing for them, and learned that they were widows who gathered and dined monthly. Of course, we sang a medley of Sinatra songs. Great fun!

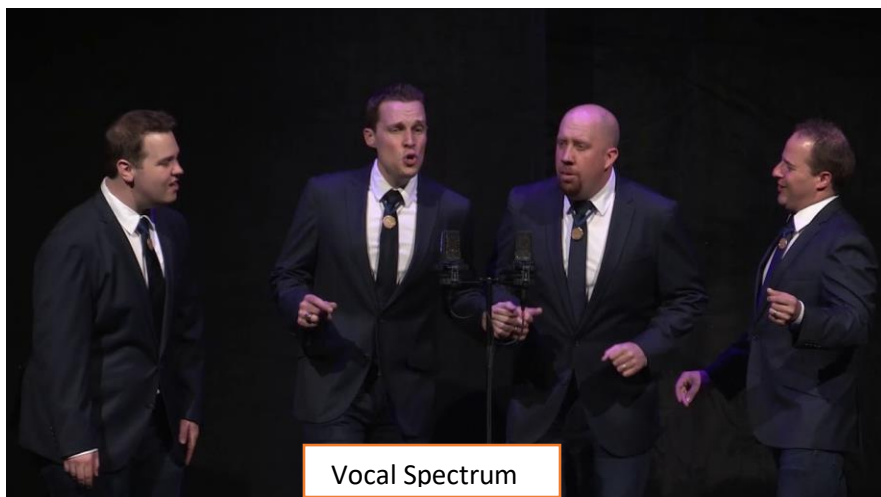


Now, on to 2024 Midwinter: New York, New York (Jan 10-13). Follow them on Facebook at: [Checkmate Quartet | Facebook](#)



## Coaching by Eric Dalbey on March 26 & 27

Both **Forward Harmony** and the **Midwest Vocal Express** get the great coaching from **Eric Dalbey**, the lead of **Vocal Spectrum**.



In July of 2004, **Vocal Spectrum** won the 2004 International Collegiate Quartet Contest held in Louisville, KY. And on July 8th, 2006 won the

coveted **International Barbershop Quartet** Contest – becoming the first quartet in history to win all 3 possible medals (Collegiate Quartet, Men's Quartet, and Chorus Medal with the **Ambassadors of Harmony**). Vocal Spectrum received the honor of being inducted into the Central States District Hall of Fame.

**Eric Dalbey** has been singing barbershop since 1999. Eric's first barbershop experience was when a fellow member of his high school ensemble (**Jonny Moroni**, the bari in Vocal Spectrum) heard him sing, he walked right up to Eric and asked him to sing a barbershop tag. Once he found out that Eric could hold his part, they formed the first barbershop quartet at Westminster Christian Academy High School.

Eric has sung in many vocal groups eventually joined **Vocal Spectrum** in 2003. Eric double majored in Vocal Performance and Biology from Lindenwood University. He graduated from Covenant Theological Seminary, where he



completed his Masters degree in music and worship. For the past dozen years, Eric has been an adjunct professor of music at Webster University and Missouri Baptist University. He went back to grad school (Fontbonne University, class of 2021) and I am now a **speech-language pathologist** and I direct a youth mixed chorus called **The Recruits Chorus**. [The Recruits Chorus | St. Louis MO | Facebook](#) Eric and his wife, Elizabeth, have two wonderful daughters that keep them busy!

## **Ryan Vanselow** –

FB post by Lori Vanselow (edited for the Greendaler Monthly)

One of the graduation requirements at Ryan Vanselow's school (**Kettle Moraine School for the Arts and Performance**) is a senior portfolio project. For his project, Ryan

(pictured on the left) arranged some **Stephen Sondheim** songs into a barbershop quartet style. After spending many months working on the arrangement, he gathered 3 other guys to perform one of the pieces. These are not just any 3 guys, though. The common link is that they are all Main Street alumni, including MVE's **Matt Post**. But they are much more than that. Ryan has looked up to these 3 so much, and they have all had a huge impact on him as he was growing up. It was hard for him to contain his excitement as they all got together to work on his arrangement!



These guys are so talented! They had one rehearsal last week, and then they did an audio and video recording last night. Next month they will perform it live at a school event. I'm so grateful to them for lending their time and talent to this project, but even more thankful to them for being such fantastic role models to Ryan over the years!!

## **Interview with New MVE Member Ryan Vanselow**

***Greendaler asks:*** Ryan, what are the names of the other 2 in that quartet pictured above to the left of you and Matt Post? And what is Main Street that Lori talks about?

The other two in the quartet are **Jon Turner** and **Ben Bartos**. I've grown up looking up to both of them and it's been a pleasure to work with them!

I've had the joy of being a part of **Main Street Song and Dance Troupe** for almost as long as I've been alive haha. Before I was old enough, my sister was a part of it for most of her high school career. Main Street is a show choir that is based out of Menomonee Falls filled with 12-18 year olds from





all over the southeastern Wisconsin area. We perform a variety of music and various venues such as Summerfest, State Fair, and more.

**Greendaler asks: Ryan, we are happy to have you as our newest member and Baritone. The FB post on you says you are a senior at Kettle Moraine School for the Arts and Performance. Tell us about your musical interests?**

I originally started out in musical theatre. I was around 8 years old when I did my first production of *Oliver* where I played the Artful Dodger and from there sparked a love for music. I spent the next decade performing in all sorts of different musicals and performing opportunities all around the southeastern Wisconsin area. For a while, I had an interest in going on and continuing

acting as a career but in the past couple years I've realized that my true passion is in technology and music.

**Greendaler asks: What are the Sondheim songs you are arranging for barbershoppers?**

At **Kettle Moraine School for Arts and Performance** one of the graduation requirements is to put together a senior portfolio project that summarizes all you have learned over your 4 years. I chose to arrange two songs into the barbershop style. One is being performed live at my school, and the other I'm recording all just myself by stacking my voice using special software. It's truly been a passion project and a joy to work on and it's been an absolute pleasure to work with **Matt Post, Jon Turner, and Ben Bartos** on it. We're singing *Somewhere*, from *West Side Story* for the four of us. While most think of Leonard Bernstein for the music, actually Stephen Sondheim wrote the lyrics. The other Sondheim song is *Being Alive* from *Company* that I've arranged for myself.



**Greendaler asks: Tell us a bit about your family and where you've lived?**

My family and I grew up around the New Berlin/Brookfield area. I have a brother and sister both of which have graduated college and are off living their lives. My brother went to UW-Whitewater and current lives in Illinois. My sister currently lives about 20 minutes north of the Twin-Cities in Minnesota. Both graduated high school when I was at a very young age so I grew up almost like an only child.

**Greendaler asks: As you look ahead to a career, what are your hopes and goals?**



I'm currently planning on going into a double major in both Computer Science and Music. I don't know quite where I want to go yet but I am planning on going out of state to experience a little bit more of the world. I'm hoping to end up with a full-time job in Computer Science and teach music in my free time to keep me sane.



**Baritones:** Bruce Vitale, Tom Weber, Chad Ohlendorf, Matt Post, and Ryan Vanselow



### **Woo-hoo: It's A Girl!**

**Jackie Kostichka** and **Aaron Davis** announced the wonderful news as a duet singing, *We Lov-a You*.

A huge congratulations from the Greendale Chapter. The new baby girl is sure to be both a singer and a dancer. Check out the song at:

[https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=pfbid037Th64LUYx3HTBqSmjmK1NMBdfmxBFoubHrMoooE4rC8XoSLoddwHcwGZBMnhsx4NI&id=100000009713146&sfnsn=mo&mibextid=6aamW6](https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=pfbid037Th64LUYx3HTBqSmjmK1NMBdfmxBFoubHrMoooE4rC8XoSLoddwHcwGZBMnhsx4NI&id=100000009713146&sfnsn=mo&mibextid=6aamW6)

## Forward Harmony - Songs to know

And so it goes  
Into the unknown  
It's today  
Joshua fit the battle of Jerico  
New years medley  
On the street where you live

## Midwest Vocal Express - Songs to know

And so it goes  
Back in business  
Can't fight this feeling  
I won't dance  
I'll walk with God  
Joshua fit the battle of Jerico  
Mairi's wedding  
Polka medley  
Sit down you're rockin' the boat  
Tin roof blues  
Wedding dance medley



### Basses

Top row – Scott Ganswindt,  
Jim Lewis, & Dick Marcus

Middle row – Jim Franklin,  
Mathis Murphy, & Chip  
Hartmann

First Row – Brian Lynch &  
Walt Ziegler

## Louisville 2023 – Best & Cheapest Restaurants



For upscale dinning, just a block away from The Galt is **Jeff Ruby's Steakhouse** at 325 W. Main Street when you want a 'steak night out.'



Or right near that **Down One Bourbon Bar & Restaurant** at 321 W. Main Street for Street Food with 4.5 stars and drinks.



Or, try **Jockey Silks Bourbon Bar** at 140 N 4<sup>th</sup> St. 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor – West Tower for pizza, pub & wine bar.

### For lower-priced food:

Quite near is **White Castle** at 105 E Market Street [5 blocks from the The Galt, a 10 minute walk]



and **McDonald's** at 420 E Market Street. [9 blocks from the The Galt, a 16 minute walk]

A little farther is **Lee's Famous Recipe Chicken** at 2925 Brownsborro Rd. [4 miles or an 8 minute drive from The Galt]

# MOD PIZZA.

**What:** fundraiser at Mod Pizza. **When:** all day- Sunday, March 26  
**Where:** MOD Pizza 1676 Old School House Rd, Suite 103, Oconomowoc, WI 53066 **How:** when placing your order, please show the cashier the code **MODGIVES20** on the next page or even mention this fundraiser to get credit!





# RAISE SOME DOUGH

## JOIN MOD IN SUPPORTING

**ORGANIZATION NAME:** MIDWEST VOCAL EXPRESS/FORWARD HARMONY

**FUNDRAISER DATE:** March 26, 2023

Bring this flyer in or order online through the MOD app or website and use the provided coupon code and MOD will donate 20% of your bill to support their great work!



**ADDRESS:** 1676 Old School House Rd, Suite 103  
Oconomowoc, WI 53066

**FUNDRAISER CODE:** MODGIVES20

Offer valid only on the date(s) and at the MOD Pizza identified on this flyer. Offer valid for dine-in, take out, or delivery when ordered through MOD app or website only. For online or in-app orders, please use the code provided. For delivery, customer must live within delivery boundary. Only non-profit organizations and non-profit schools are eligible to participate in the MOD fundraising program. MOD will donate 20% of food and beverage sales to the organization. Tax, gift cards and retail sales are excluded from the donation. Offer void if flyer is distributed in or near the restaurant.

For more information about fundraising, visit <https://modpizza.com/fundraisers/>

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## Calendar of Scheduled March Events – **FH & MVE**

**Sunday, February 26 – FH Rehearsal at 6-9pm (NEW TIME) at Emmanuel United Church of Christ (EUCC)**

**Monday, February 27, 2023 – MVE Rehearsal at 7pm at Elm Grove Lutheran (EGL)**

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

**Monday, March 6 – MVE Rehearsal at 7pm at EGL**

**Sunday, March 12 – FH Rehearsal at 6-9pm at EUCC**

**Monday, March 13 – MVE Rehearsal at 7pm at EGL**

**St. Patrick's DAY – Friday, March 17<sup>th</sup>**

**Monday, March 20 – MVE Rehearsal at 7pm at EGL**

**Sunday, March 26 – FH Rehearsal with Coach Eric Dalbey at 6-9pm at EUCC AND the Mod Pizza Fundraiser Day**

**Monday, March 27 – MVE Rehearsal with Coach Eric Dalbey at 7pm at EGL**

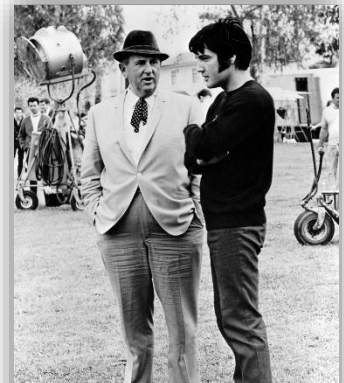
**Tuesday, March 28 – Board Meeting from 7-8:30 via Zoom**

**Greendale Charter Anniversary – Wed, March 29<sup>th</sup> & Bryan's B/D!**



## Why you should see the newest Elvis movie (2022) – Dick Marcus

When the MVE did our International Barbershop Society set that included, “**If I Can Dream**,” cover of the **Elvis Presley** song first performed on his 1968 TV special after both the assassinations of the Rev. Martin Luther King and Bobby Kennedy, we had no idea that the special was supposed to be a cheery Christmas-time thing. The drama over **Elvis** (Austin Butler) and his shady manager, **Colonel Tom Parker** (played by Tom Hanks), and the demands of the network executives comes alive in this movie.



The real Colonel Parker & Elvis

We found it on Spectrum as a pay per play for \$6.99, cheaper than buying tickets at the movie theater. While “Rotten Tomatoes” gives it a fan-favorite 77% score, Judy and I liked it, but we wouldn’t want to see it again. Yet as a part of our performance history, the full story behind the surprise song, “**If I Can Dream**,” makes it an MVEer must see.

<https://youtu.be/2LTPOB4INcE> Salt Lake City **MVE Performance** in July 2019

<https://youtu.be/E7qiVgLjjiyo> **Elvis** (2022) trailer