



# The Greendaler Monthly November 2023

## Countdown to December 16<sup>th</sup> – Let's Invite Singers



### Now's your chance!

Perform with the Midwest Vocal Express and/or Forward Harmony Choruses for:  
*A Swingin' Little Christmas*  
Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup> 7 pm  
Pewaukee High School  
No commitment necessary





**Midwest Vocal Express**  
Men's Barbershop Chorus



Monday nights, 7 pm starting October 16 • Elm Grove Lutheran School, Elm Grove



**Forward Harmony**  
All-Voice Barbershop Chorus



Every other Sunday night, 6 pm starting October 22 • Emmanuel UCC, Dousman

Email [membership@mve.org](mailto:membership@mve.org) for music & more details

[www.mve.org](http://www.mve.org)

## SWINGIN' LITTLE CHRISTMAS

Saturday, December 16th | 7pm | Pewaukee, WI

[www.mve.org/swinginlittlechristmas](http://www.mve.org/swinginlittlechristmas)



## Congratulations to Greendale for Winning in the LOL District

For the second time in two years, the Land 'O Lakes District was dominated with its top two chorus winners from the **Greendale Chapter**. Last year, **Forward Harmony**, won with **MVE** in second. This year, **MVE** won, with **Forward Harmony** in a close second, with the third place several points lower. **Forward Harmony** won for mixed harmony chorus champion, and friend of Greendale's chorus, **Capitol Chordsmen**, won the most improved chorus award.



### *Chorus Finals*

1. **Midwest Vocal Express - Greendale, WI**
2. **Forward Harmony - Greendale, WI**
3. Great Plains Harmony - Fargo-Moorhead, ND
4. Commodores - Minneapolis, MN
5. Great Northern Union - Hilltop, MN
6. Fox Valleyaires Chorus - Appleton, WI
7. West Central Connection - Willmar, MN
8. **Capitol Chordsmen - Madison, WI**

Indeed, the three choruses warmed up together early on the morning of the contest on Friday, October 13, 2023.



With **Brian Ziegler**, the director of all three choruses, got us ready while standing on two chairs.



First to compete were the **Capitol Chordsmen**, then **MVE**, and then **Forward Harmony**.







Before the contest, **Brian Ziegler** asked the first timers to sing in a contest with the **MVE** to come forward along with the founding members of the **MVE** from 1989. They were **Jonah Jaeger**, **Steven Theo**, **Jim Franklin**, and **Walt Ziegler**. *You guess who were the new competitors and who were the founding members!*





After the contest, the choruses were asked at different times to go to rooms devoted to get our "evals" from the judges. The judges' comments were especially useful this year. Here is a photo with **Steve Tramack**, Musicality Judge from Nashua, New Hampshire in the MVE's eval room.



Galaxy S22 Ultra

To watch the two songs from the MVE go to: [Midwest Vocal Express \(wetransfer.com\)](https://www.wetransfer.com)

## **Congratulations to Chapter Quartets at District**

**By Request Quartet** won the women's quartet contest at the district.

**Lakefront Quartet** came in sixth, winning many fans.



**L-R By Request:** Jennifer Johnson, Jane Richard, Mary Fitzgerald, & Angie Williams. **Lakefront:** Max Muta, Dylan Keegan, Derek Balke, & Brian Plehn

**Checkmate Quartet** qualified for the **Seniors Quartet Championship**. Instead of warm Florida, they get to drive to **New York City** for the Midwinter, January 9-14, 2024. Perhaps, they are already on the road to NYC? Or, perhaps, they are on the road to a Badgers game? Congrats, **Checkmate**. Go Checkmate!

L-R Dave Baxter, Jim Franklin waving, Brad Charles, and Harry Hanson.



### **Calendar for November – FH & MVE & Both**

**Monday, Oct 30 – MVE Rehearsal at 7pm at EGL**

***Tuesday, Oct 31 – Halloween!!!***

**Wednesday, Nov 1 – Board Meeting from 7-8:30 via Zoom**

**Sunday, Nov 5 – FH Rehearsal at 6-9pm at EUCC**

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

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

**Sunday, Nov 19 – FH Rehearsal at 6-9pm at EUCC**

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

**Wednesday, Nov 22 – Board Meeting from 7-8:30 via Zoom**

***Thanksgiving is on a Thursday, Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup> this year!!! \****

**Monday, Nov 27 – MVE Rehearsal at 7pm at EGL**



***\* The last Thurs. in the month, but FDR moved it up when it hits on Nov. 30 for more time to shop,***



## Interview of Jeannette Schupp of Forward Harmony

*Greendaler asks:* **Jeannette**, what part do you sing in **Forward Harmony**? Also, how did you get started singing?

*Jeannette says:* I sing lead.

Like many of us, I sang in chorus in high school. The grade school that I attended did not have any organized musical activities other than singing in church. After I graduated high school, I was looking for something to do other than just go to school and work. I found out about **The Badger Bells** when a quartet from the chapter (**Silhouettes in Sound**) was on a local TV show. It piqued my interest, and I attended a rehearsal in Waukesha. That was right around the holidays. When we returned in January there were a lot more ladies and it was announced that the Badger Belles and Villagairres (from Menomonee Falls) were merging to become **Crosstown Harmony**. I was one of the first members that was not associated with either of the former choruses.

*Greendaler asks:* What are some of the other choruses and quartets you've sung with?

*Jeannette replies:* I currently sing with **Crosstown Harmony**. After singing with Crosstown Harmony for several years, a group of us left to form a new chorus called **Milwaukee Skyline**. Our debut performance as a chorus was singing in a **MVE Cabaret**.



Chorus to become **Milwaukee Showcase**. In 2014 Milwaukee Showcase blended with **Crosstown Harmony** and I came full circle, so to speak.



I also sing with my church choir in addition to being a cantor (leader of song) at **St. Martin of Tours**. We also have a small handbell ensemble that was formed during the pandemic when we were not allowed to have a choir at masses.

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

*Jeannette says:* I am the Finance and Accounting Manager at zizzl. We are an employee benefits consulting and technology company located in the Third Ward of Milwaukee. [Home - zizzl health](#) I've been with them about 4 and ½ years. I currently live in **New Berlin**, but I grew up in West Allis. I am single and have no children.



*Greendaler asks:* What have you most enjoyed singing with **Forward Harmony**?

*Jeannette replies:* Oh my gosh, where to start. From that first rehearsal last August, I knew we had something special going and was and continue to be excited and very fortunate to be a part of it. Our church choir is a mixed voices group, but there's just something special about **Forward**. I love the richness of barbershop experience that each and every member brings to the chorus and also I love that we draw from such a wide geographic area. I relish the wide variety of music that we are doing and such great arrangements. We are so fortunate to have **Bryan** as our director. I learn something new each rehearsal.

Above all I have enjoyed the couple of opportunities to perform with this amazing group of singers on the Christmas and Spring shows and at Delafield this past summer. The ultimate experience for me (as I'm sure it was for many of us) was to be on the **International Stage in Louisville**. I have always wanted to attend a BHS convention and to be able to attend my first one as a competitor is definitely one of the highlights of my barbershop singing experience.

*Greendaler says:* Thank you, Jeannette. Your experience and love of singing gives joy to the whole chapter.





***Guess*** How Many **International Quartet Champions** were members of the LOL District & were at contest in October?

*The answer:* There were **5 LOL champs** in Bloomington, MN.

**Don Lamont**, Bari - **Four Teens** (1952) pictured here with **Bryan Ziegler**.



**Bob Dowma** (Tenor), **Rod Johnson** (Lead), **Jim Foy** (Bass) (with associate baritone Rick Anderson) - **Happiness Emporium** (1975).

And of course, **Bryan Ziegler**, Bari - **After Hours** (2018). Some photos of the 1952 **Four Teens** were posted at the contest and are shown below. For more fun info on the 19- & 20-year-old winners see: [Four Teens - Barbershop Wiki Project](#)





## **An Organ Needs a New Home**

An Oak Creek, Wisconsin organ born in 1978 seeks a new owner. She wants someone to love her. You transport her. She is 45" wide and 24" deep. Contact **Linda Casaletto** 847-212-6438 (cell) [casa1928n@gmail.com](mailto:casa1928n@gmail.com)



## **Fun Photos from District** – Andrea Patnode



## Interviews with Joe Biwer and Steven Theo

*Greendaler asks:* I understand you knew each other for some years and are friends. How did you know each other and how did you find the **Midwest Vocal Express**?



Joe Biwer and Steven Theo

*Joey answers how they knew each other:* **Steven** and I were acquainted in high school sharing a bond over football and choir. The more time we spent together in these activities, the more we learned of our similar interests which helped us become great friends. (*Editor's note: Arrowhead High School*)



*Steven answers how they found out about the MVE:* **Joe** found out about MVE through singing tags at his local bar one night with **Mathis Murphy** as he had sailed with him during the summer.

**Mathis** invited **Joe** to come to one of the practices and **Joe** reached out to me since he knew that we both were interested in getting back into singing in a choir but didn't know where to start. We both showed up for the first meeting after the July performance and we realized it was something we could be a part of and succeed in.

*Greendaler asks:* What are your musical or stage backgrounds:



**Steven** says: I have been singing my whole life whether that be in church or for choir and throughout elementary school all the way to the end of high school. I always participated in the school shows in



elementary and middle school as well.

**Joe** says: From preschool all the way through high school, I participated in choir almost every year. Singing was my one hobby that I enjoyed outside of athletics. Christmas and Spring choir shows were the extent of my stage performances until I joined **Arrowhead's Broadway Company** where I sang and danced with my talented friends in the "Musical Theater Nights" show.

## Joe Biwer

*Greendaler asks **Joey Biwer** several questions:* Joey, after Arrowhead HS, where did you go to college, what did you study, and what are you doing now?



*Joe replies:* I was in the class of 2023 at the **University of Wisconsin-Whitewater** and studied Finance (emphasis in investments) and Information Technology. One of my accomplishments was being hand selected to join a team of 10 students to manage a \$1 million large cap equity portfolio for the University's **Applied Investments Program**. I now work in Hartland at Corporate Valuation Advisors as a Business Valuation Analyst.

*Greendaler asks **Joey**:* You are a **Lead** in the chorus. How does being a lead fit in with your life and personality?

**Joey** says: In football and sailboat racing, my two positions are quarterback and skipper. With that, singing lead in MVE feels natural to me because the men singing the three other parts make my job easy by being incredible performers, just how I rely on my teammates in sports.

*Greendaler asks **Joey**:* You just participated in your first District Contest. What most impressed you about the experience?

**Joe** says: Aside from how incredible the feeling was while on stage with the group, one experience that impressed me the most was listening to the judges in the feedback rooms. I thought it was incredible how knowledgeable each judge was and how well they were able to communicate their notes to the group.

*Greendaler comments:* Thank you **Joey** for having **Ben Stefany** as a roommate at the contest. You were most kind to offer to help another barbershopper.

## Steven Theo

*Greendaler asks **Steven Theo** several questions:* **Steven**, after Arrowhead, where did you go to college, what did you study, and what are you doing now?



A Theo Family Selfie

*Steven says:* After graduating from Arrowhead in 2019, I went to **UW La Crosse** where I studied Communications with a minor in Leadership development. I graduated last spring, and I am currently pursuing a career in public relations.

*Greendaler asks **Steven**:* I know you are a great **baritone**. Baritones fill in the missing notes and thus it is often viewed as the most complex of parts. How does I know this is an odd

being a baritone fit in with your life and personality? question.

**Steven says:** After being a descant in grade school and singing higher than even the girls, I thought I had my niche carved out in terms of singing.

After a bit of maturing early in high school, my voice came crashing down to singing tenor for the remainder of high school choir which I enjoyed quite a bit. However, when it came to singing barbershop for the first time, I was a lead and I thought I would just stay as that, but there came a time a couple years later where I needed to sing baritone and I just stuck with that.

I think it goes to show that singing **baritone** and filling in that “missing note” fits in line with where I have been in life in terms of having to adjust and fit in where I can. Life rarely goes how we expect it to most times and being able to adjust and find that “missing note” has served me well so far.



Steven and Joey after a HS Concert



*Greendaler asks **Steven**:* Great answer, thanks. The LO'L District Contest was your first one. What most impressed or surprised you about the whole experience?

***Steven** answers:* I would say the level of care that is shown at every level of the whole weekend. You might have had groups that were better than others (MVE and Forward) but that had nothing to do with the passion that was shown from every single group I was able to watch perform. Everyone was there because they loved to perform and the support we received from everybody was so awesome. I can't imagine what international will be like. I am very much looking forward to more competitions in the future.

*Greendaler ends the combined interviews:* Thanks to **Mathis Murphy**, you are both making the **Midwest Vocal Express** and **Forward Harmony** stronger and better in every way. We are so glad you are **Greendalers**.

### **Humor Corner and More:**

"Why did they let the turkey join the band?"  
"Because he had his own drumsticks."

"What did the turkey say to the turkey hunter on Thanksgiving Day?" "Quack, Quack!"

"Why did the farmer have to separate the chicken and the turkey?" "He sensed fowl play."

"What happened to the turkey that got in a fight?" "He got the stuffing knocked out of him!"



### **Barbershop Harmony Chime**

Our new Barbershop Harmony Chime created by Woodstock Chimes is tuned to the harmonies of a barbershop quartet which includes a lead melody note, a high tenor harmony, a bass fundamental harmony, and a baritone note that completes the chord. This classic-style chime plays notes that will keep a melody ringing!

But, at **\$86**, it ain't cheap. For music and other stuff go to: [Barbershop Harmony Society](#)

