



# The Greendaler Monthly April 2024

## Calendar for April 2024 – **FH & MVE & Both**

March Update:

**Saturday, March 23, MVE coaching 10:00am-4:00pm at EUCC, Dousman**

**Sunday, March 24, FH coaching 1:00-4:00 at EUCC**

*(Note that there is a modified FH Schedule in April)*

**Monday, April 1 – MVE Rehearsal at 7pm at EGL**

**Wednesday, April 3– Board Meeting from 7-8:30 via Zoom ←**

**Sunday, April 7– FH Rehearsal at 6-9pm at EUCC**

**Monday, April 8 – MVE Rehearsal at 7pm at EGL**

**Sunday, April 14– FH Rehearsal at 6-9pm at EUCC**

**Monday, April 15 – MVE Rehearsal at 7pm at EGL**

**Monday, April 22– MVE Rehearsal at 7pm at EGL**

**Wednesday, April 24– Board Meeting from 7-8:30 via Zoom ←**

**Monday, April 29– MVE Rehearsal at 7pm at EGL**

Coming in June: **Saturday, June 1 – Greendale Chapter Show, New Berlin West High School, 7:00pm**

## Brian Lynch – our Greendale Chapter President – June 2, 2023

**Road to Happiness** from his Facebook Page: I don't wear jewelry other than our wedding band, and I don't carry cards in my wallet. **EXCEPT** these two items. First, the 34-year membership card, arrived recently recognizing my membership in [Midwest Vocal Express](#) and [Forward Harmony](#), both of the Greendale chapter. As a hard-core barbershopper, I had never thought I would find myself in an all-voice chorus. Deciding that I oughtn't dismiss what I hadn't experienced, I committed to five rehearsals to get to the contest last Fall and discovered it's a great experience. There are a lot of ways to barbershop, and they're all good. I get a different kind of satisfaction in the all-voice setting, and I cherish it alongside the fantastic men's experience in MVE.



Second, my BHS staff service ring, to which I recently added a fifth stone marking more than 30 years working for the organization I love. What a long, strange journey since I arrived in Kenosha on this weekend in 1991! It has brought me hundreds of friends throughout the world, professional satisfaction, and most importantly, an incomparable family and home.

All this reflection and reminiscing combine at 7:00 tonight, when the lights come on a great show. Singing in a barbershop group isn't the only **road to happiness...** but it sure works for me.

## Interview of Matthew Hornbuckle as a New Member of the MVE

*Greendaler asks:* **Matthew**, what part do you sing in the MVE and how did you get your start singing in the barbershop style? Oh, which do you prefer: *Matt* or *Matthew*?

*Matthew says:* Hello Greendaler! I sing **bass** in the MVE!

I discovered barbershop in my senior year of high school. I was only in choir for the second half of my junior year when my choir director **Jake Oxley** (who sang in multiple quartets in the LOL District including one with MVE's own **Jim Lewis**!) introduced me to a tag. That tag



was "Smile!" Once I heard the chord ring at the end I fell in love! Also, **Jake** introduced me to **Vocal Spectrum** (my favorite quartet and probably most others as well.) Their song, "Go the Distance," really sucked me down a rabbit hole of barbershop!

I say I don't have a preference for my name, but, as I get older, I enjoy hearing **Matthew**. But either or is fine!

*Greendaler asks:* Well, **Matthew** works great as we already have both a **Matt Nagel** and a **Matt Post**. **Matthew** will distinguish you. How did you hear about the **MVE** and where do you live now?



*Matthew replies:* I currently live in **Dousman**. When I moved down to this area from **Antigo**, I searched the BHS website where the nearest chorus was. And there it was, the **Midwest Vocal Express**! I contacted the website and **Dylan Keegan** called me within a few hours mentioning rehearsal was on Monday, and then I showed up!

*Greendaler asks:* As you were growing up, where did you go to



High School? Did you sing in their choir? What other choruses or quartets have you been in?

*Matthew replies:* I graduated **Antigo High School** in 2016! I sang in their choir for my last year and a half of school! I was more of a band kid than I was choir.

As for choruses and quartets, I really didn't have much experience with barbershop choruses or quartets. I did participate in the **Next Generation** chorus at **Harmony University** 2016!

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



Matthew says: I currently am a delivery driver for **FedEx Ground**!

*Greendaler asks:* Do you have a family?

*Matthew answers:* Most of my cousins, aunts and uncle, and sisters live in Texas, where I was born and lived until I was 6. But my parents live in Wisconsin. I have 9 siblings all spread out. 3 sisters in Texas, 1 in Montana, 3 in Wisconsin, 1 brother in Wisconsin, and one currently stationed in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba with the US navy.



I also have a girlfriend who has a 5-year-old son, so that's my "little family," I guess you could say!

*Greendaler says:* What are some of your non-singing hobbies, interests, or talents outside of singing?

*Matthew replies:* So, as I've mentioned I was a band kid, so I play instruments outside of singing! I started playing trombone in 5th grade and then discovered other things I fell in love with along the way.

That being, the guitar and drums.

I marched a year of world class **Drum Corps** in 2017. Most of “my interests” involve mostly music! I’m not sure what most people’s music interests outside of barbershop are but mine could be thought a bit little peculiar as a barbershopper? I’m very much a big fan of **heavy metal**. So, it’s so funny to me that I pull up to rehearsal listening to something very dark, heavy, and screaming, just to go sing some tags and 4-part harmony with some pals on a Monday evening! There’s nothing better!

Greendaler says: I bet there are rap, banjo, and even opera aficionados in the chorus, so **Heavy Metal** fits in well.



Matthew mentioned he loves playing drums

**Matthew**, thank you for seeking out and finding the **MVE** and for your enthusiasm, already directing the chorus with **Keep the Whole World Singing**.



↑ **Matthew and Bryan directing *Keep the Whole World Singing* – March 4, 2024**

← **Mathew Hornbuckle’s first time at the MVE Rehearsal – January 29, 2024**



## Two Updates to Save the Date

1. The Schmitt Brothers performance originally set for July 20, 2024, has been moved to next year. We are on schedule for next year - always the 3rd Saturday in July, which is **July 19, 2025**, for those who plan things that far out.
2. The MVE Benefit performance on Friday, April 19 is cancelled.

## Look Who's Directing Forward Harmony! – March 10, 2024

**Bryan's** kids (Left to right: **Jackie**, **Hank**, and **Aiden**) lead **Keep the Whole World Singing**. They have a great teacher.



## Look Who's Directing the MVE! – March 11, 2024

**Matthis Murphy** is.





## Interview of both Sherry and Bob Bengsch of Forward Harmony

*Greendaler asks:* Thank you for being willing to be interviewed. I will ask questions, but either of you can answer as you wish. Let's start with where did each of you grow up and how did you two first meet? What year did you get married and was there a long engagement?

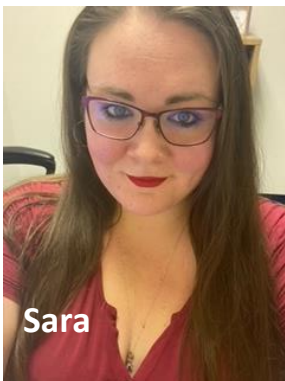
*Bob says:* I was born in Germany when my dad was stationed there in the Army, but I grew up in Waupun. I'll let Sherry tell you about the rest.

*Sherry says:* I grew up on a dairy farm outside of Waupun, the oldest of six girls.

Bob and I met in high school when we were in choir. We were friends then (his best friend was my boyfriend!) but lost track of each other after graduation and I went away to college. Fast forward eleven years and I moved back to Waupun for a job. Bob and I often talked when we ran into each other in the store where he worked, and he eventually asked me to be his date for a Valentine's Day party with his barbershop chorus, the **Ripon Harmony Kings**. The next week he invited me to go to the Madison barbershop chorus's show and we've been together ever since. We had a short courtship and engagement. Our first date was in February, we got engaged in April, and got married on August 12, all in 1988.

*Greendaler asks:* Tell us about your family?

*Sherry says:* We have a son, **Adam**, and a daughter, **Sara**.



**Adam's Family: From left- Brody, Brianna, Bailey, Carissa, Karley, Jennifer, & Adam**

**Adam** is married to **Jennifer**, and they have five kids: **Carissa, Karley, Brody, Bailey**, and **Brianna** (the last two are identical twins who Bob still can't always tell apart). Adam works for Tenneco Inc. and **Sara** just graduated with a PhD in Psychology; she's working as an adjunct professor for several different universities and is engaged to **Gus**.

*Bob adds:* The only thing that helps me tell the twins apart is that **Brianna** wears glasses and **Bailey** doesn't.

*Greendaler asks:* If you don't mind our asking, **Bob**, help us to understand a bit about your mobility challenges.

*Bob says:* I had a stroke in June of 2022 which left my right arm and leg paralyzed. I can feel them but can't move them at all. I'm doing therapy. I'd love to be able to walk again, but we don't know if that will happen or not. The occupational therapist doesn't think I'll be able to use my arm or hand again. I want to thank my lovely wife for everything she does for me.

*Sherry adds:* **Bob** has such a great attitude and has accepted this situation much better than I have. We're very blessed because we were told that most people who have strokes in the area of the brain where his was can't swallow or speak, but he is able to do both. We're so thankful for that and the fact that although he has lost some volume, he is still able to sing. I don't know what he would do if he couldn't!

*Greendaler asks:* Speaking of singing, how did both of you get started in singing? What parts do each of you sing in **Forward Harmony**?

*Sherry says:* I have loved to sing since I was very young and sang in choir in junior high, high school, and college. I have sung in church choir, for weddings, funerals, and so on and currently sing on the worship team at church.

My first barbershop quartet was in high school. Years later, the lead from that quartet asked me to sing with her in a quartet again, and I have sung in women's quartets off and on for years since then. One of those, **Un4Gettable**, competed internationally about 30 years ago. I have sung with women's choruses out of Watertown and Plymouth, the **Ripon Harmony Kings**, and now, in addition to singing **lead** in **Forward Harmony** I also sing **tenor** with the **Winnebagoland Chorus** out of Oshkosh.



Un4Gettable – Sherry, Amy, Emily, & Jane



4 Bits of Fun – Doug, Bob K, Bob B, & Rob

*Bob says:* I sang in choir in junior high and high school and in high school I sang in a barbershop quartet. Four years later my buddy, who I had been in the quartet with, came back from the service and asked if I'd like to "sing that barbershop stuff again." Then he told me there was a barbershop chapter about twenty miles



from us and I joined the **Ripon Harmony Kings** and stayed with them until they folded two years ago. I sang with **4 Bits of Fun** quartet for over 30 years. The highlight was placing 10th place at the **Land of Lakes District** competition. I sing **bass** in **FH** and with the Oshkosh **Winnebagoland** barbershop chorus.

### Bob's LOL District BOTY in 2021

– Sarah and most of Adam's family came from Minnesota to see Bob receive his award.



*Greendaler asks:* Are either of you retired or where do you work? And where do you live now?

*Sherry says:* I was an educator for 35 years and in that time, I taught every grade from Pre-K through eighth except for fourth. I retired from full time teaching in 2016.

I am currently an Adjunct Professor for **Trinity International University**. In this position, I teach English at the Fox Lake Correctional Institution where inmates from around the state come to earn a bachelor's degree in biblical studies. After they graduate, they transfer to other correctional institutions around the state and work as mentors, chaplain's assistants, Bible study leaders, and so on. It is a wonderful program and I love working with the men in it.

*Bob says:* I retired from **Menards** where I worked for almost 20 years. I worked in the yard, was a contractor rep, and was the assistant manager of the building materials department when I retired. Before Menards I had worked in construction for many years. We live in Waupun.

*Greendaler asks:* Have you pets or grandchildren you want to tell our readers about?



*Sherry tells us:* To quote Bob, "We have five lovely grandchildren." **Carissa** and **Karley** are both young adults with jobs, and **Brody** is a sophomore in high school where he plays football, is active in the select choir, and is involved in the drama department. He just found out that he has been selected to sing with the **Wisconsin Ambassadors Choir** and they will be going on a two-week singing tour of Europe next summer. He is so excited! **Bailey** and **Brianna** are seventh graders and are also involved in choir and drama.

*Bob adds:* We're trying to talk the three who like to sing into coming and singing with **Forward Harmony**, but they're all busy with school, and **Brody** has a job and works every Sunday night.

We have two chubby, spoiled cats, a brother and sister named **Sunny** and **Bella**. They keep us laughing.

Greendaler says: What are some of your non-singing talents or interests?

*Bob replies:* I love old cars and I have a '57 Chevy which I restored and used to take to car shows. I used to do a lot of work on cars, building projects, and just working with my hands. I can't do that anymore, but when the weather is nice, I like sitting outside and interacting with people in our neighborhood. The little boy next door will bring his tools over and try to "fix" my wheelchair or the ramp. He and his little sister come over a lot to ride their bikes down the ramp too.



**Bob's Pride & Joy, his all original 1957 Chevy Bel Air 2-door hardtop**

*And Sherry replies:* Besides spending time with my grandkids, which is my absolute favorite thing to do, I am an avid reader. Living within walking distance

of the library and a used bookstore is very dangerous for me! I'm also an aspiring novelist, but I don't have as much time to write as I would like. In addition, I enjoy serving in various capacities at church, walking, doing counted cross stitch, and I'm learning Spanish.

*Greendaler asks:* What has amazed you most as a member of **Forward Harmony**?

*Sherry says:* I love our sound and the emotion that everyone brings to the music. It is obvious that everyone really delights in bringing their best selves to our performances.

*Bob adds:* **Bryan!** I was the LoL District contest stage manager for 25 years and watched him grow up. To sing under his direction is great.

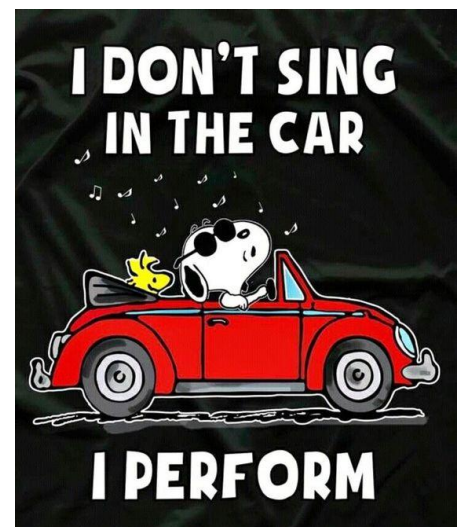
*Greendaler comments:* I love your evocative emails of [honeydo@charter.net](mailto:honeydo@charter.net) and [sbtimetoteach@charter.net](mailto:sbtimetoteach@charter.net). Can you say something about humor and your lives together?

*Sherry replies:* **Bob** had his own construction business, **HoneyDo Repairs**, so he used that for his email address. It often gets a chuckle and comment when he gives it to someone. I have been a teacher my entire adult life, so it has always been time to teach for me.

Humor has been a big part of our life together, but I find it to be especially important since Bob's stroke. As you might imagine, it has been a challenge adjusting to our new normal, and I try turning to humor to keep from feeling sorry for myself or getting depressed. It's easier to stay positive when you can find or create humor in a stressful situation.

Greendaler says: **Sherry and Bob**, thank you for this great interview. We want to help you both stay positive. Your passion adds to **Forward Harmony** and you help demonstrate the great **Vision** of the Barbershop Harmony Society of **Everyone in Harmony**.

### **Humor Corner:**



**WHY MUSIC?** Suggested by **Matt Nagel**, shortened and bolding items by the editor. This is a welcome address to freshman parents at **Boston Conservatory**, by **Karl Paulnack**, a pianist, and director of music division at **Ithaca College**.

Let me talk a little bit about music, and how it works.



The first people to understand how music really works were the ancient Greeks. And this is going to fascinate you; the Greeks said that **music** and **astronomy** were two sides of the same coin. Astronomy was seen as the study of relationships between observable, permanent, external objects, and music was seen as the study of relationships between invisible, internal, hidden objects. Music

has a way of finding the big, **invisible moving pieces inside our hearts and souls** and helping us figure out the position of things inside us. Let me give you some examples of how this works.

One of the most profound musical compositions of all time is the Quartet for the End of Time written by French composer **Olivier Messiaen** in 1940. Messiaen was 31 years old when France entered the war against Nazi Germany. He was captured by the Germans in June of 1940, sent across Germany in a cattle car and imprisoned in a concentration camp. He was fortunate to find a sympathetic prison guard who gave him paper and a place to compose. There were three other musicians in the camp, a cellist, a violinist, and a clarinetist, and Messiaen wrote his quartet with these specific players in mind. It was performed in January 1941 for four thousand prisoners and guards in the prison camp. Today it is one of the most famous masterworks in the repertoire.

Given what we have since learned about life in the concentration camps, why would anyone in his right mind waste time and energy writing or playing music? There was barely enough energy on a good day to find food and water, to avoid a beating, to stay warm, to escape torture - why would anyone bother with music? And yet - from the camps, we have poetry, we have music, we have visual art; it wasn't just this one fanatic Messiaen; many, many people created art.

Why? Well, in a place where people are only focused on survival, on the bare necessities, the obvious conclusion is that art must be, somehow, **essential for life**. The camps were without money, without hope, without commerce, without recreation, without basic respect, but they were not without art. Art is part of survival; art is part of the human spirit, an unquenchable expression of who we are. Art is one of the ways in which we say, "I am alive, and my life has meaning."

On September 12, 2001, I was a resident of Manhattan. That morning, I reached a new understanding of my art and its relationship to the world. I sat down at the



piano that morning at 10 AM to practice as was my daily routine; I did it by force of habit, without thinking about it. I lifted the cover on the keyboard, and opened my music, and put my hands on the keys and took my hands off the keys. And I sat there and thought, does this even matter? Isn't this completely irrelevant?

Playing the piano right now, given what happened in this city yesterday, seems silly, absurd, irreverent, pointless. Why am I here? What place has a musician in this moment in time? Who needs a piano player right now? I was completely lost.

And then I, along with the rest of New York, went through the journey of getting through that week. I did not play the piano that day, and in fact I contemplated briefly whether I would ever want to play the piano again. And then I observed how we got through the day.

At least in my neighborhood, we didn't shoot hoops or play Scrabble. The first organized activity that I saw in New York, that same day, was singing. People sang. People sang around fire houses, people sang "**We Shall Overcome**". Lots of people sang **America the Beautiful**. The first organized public event that I remember was the Brahms Requiem, later that week, at Lincoln Center, with the New York Philharmonic.

The first organized public expression of grief, our first communal response to that historic event, was a concert. That was the beginning of a sense that life might go on. The US Military secured the airspace, but recovery was led by the arts, and by music in particular, that very night.

From these two experiences, I have come to understand that music is not part of "arts and entertainment" as the newspaper section would have us believe. It's not a luxury, a lavish thing that we fund from leftovers of our budgets, not a plaything or an amusement or a pass time. Music is a basic need of human survival. **Music is one of the ways we make sense of our lives**, one of the ways in which we express feelings when we have no words, a way for us to understand things with our hearts when we can't with our minds. ...

If we were a medical school, and you were here as a med student practicing performing appendectomy surgeries, you'd take your work very seriously because you would imagine that some night at two AM someone is going to waltz into your emergency room and you're going to have to save their life.

Well, my friends, someday at 8 PM someone is going to walk into your concert hall and bring you a mind that is confused, a heart that is overwhelmed, a soul that is weary. Whether they go out whole again will depend partly on how well you do your craft. ■

