

THE MINNEAPOLIS COMMODORES

PRESENT THEIR 62ND ANNUAL SHOW MARCH 10, 2009



Special Guest Quartet: "OLD SCHOOL"

The 2008 International Bronze Medalist

and

The Gay Nineties, The Road Runners and Special Edition



GOTTA KEEP SINGING!

Director's Notes from Paul Wigley

Singing - one of the oldest and simplest forms of entertainment in existence; the one thing that everyone loves to do (or at least wishes they could do!). Singing is a musical activity that a human can do from the first cry at birth until the last breath of life. *Singing is life! When words fail, music speaks!* He who sings prays twice! There are so many expres-

sions about the life-force that is singing. This year's show features the very best of the Minneapolis Commodores...and their many years of singing...from days gone by right up to their most recent musical successes. We all know the joy that one experiences from singing together, and the many ways in which we celebrate so many different life-occasions through singing; new birth (and birthdays), graduation ceremonies, and weddings. We pay our deepest respects to loved ones...all with one universal activity- SINGING! The Commodores welcome all of you to share in our hobby, our passion, and our love as you enjoy "*Gotta Keep Singing.*"

Message from The Commodore President – Mark Ortenburger

“The Minneapolis Commodores, along with the many people who work so hard behind the scenes, welcome you to our 62nd annual show - *Gotta Keep Singing*. We sincerely appreciate your patronage because, in addition to letting us share our love of music with you, it allows us to provide continuing support to both The University Heart Hospital and the Harmony Foundation, the primary source of funding for Youth in Harmony educational programs.”

Message from the Show Chair – Dr. Hardin Olson

I want to welcome you all to the Minneapolis Commodores' 62nd Annual Show, *Gotta Keep Singing*. You will notice that this year there is no lavish set or clever theme. Indeed our aim is to recall in a modest way the original format of our early annual shows, that of the *Parade of Quartets*, before the evolution of the Barbershop chorus. A time when the music, not the spectacle, was paramount and unaffected by dazzling choreography or other visual embellishments. So sit back now and enjoy some of the old and many more of the new Barbershop sounds of the Commodores and their special guests. Thank you for coming and thank you so much for the generous support of the Minneapolis Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society.

Afterglow

For more Barbershop music by our chapter and guest quartets, good food, and other refreshments, plan to join us for our *Afterglow*, after the evening show, at *Grumpy's Bar & Grill*, about two miles south of Bethel at 2801 Snelling Avenue. Tickets are \$10.00 at the door.

GOTA KEEP SINGING!

Show Committee

Chairman	Dr. Hardin Olson
Director	Paul Wigley
Ass't Chairman/Director/Staging.	Gary Jacobson
Ass't Chairman/Director/Choreography (2010 Chairman) . . .	David Speidel
Special Advisor to the Chairman	Dr. Jim Richards
Technical Director	Judy Olson
Emcee/Script	Dr. Bob Dykstra
Tickets	Diana and Carl Pinard
Audio/ Visual	Jerry Pittman
Learning Tracks	Dan Smith
Marketing/PR/Program	Peter Jarnberg
Special Contributions.	Dan Slattery
Uniforms	Dan Williams
Guest Quartet Arrangements	Larry Nelson
Afterglow	Travis Wuttke
At Large	Vern Johnson, Jim Jorgensen, Glenn Retter

Special thanks to Barb Harvey for her efforts on the mailers and show program, to stage hands, Carol Smith and Russ Born, Kerry Baker and the staff at Bethel University, to those Commodores whose thoughts and suggestions contributed to the evolution of the original show theme, and to those who stood ready to help if called upon.



*For the Commodores ...
the year since our last annual show has
been filled with unmatched sadness. Six
of our members, five leads and a tenor;
were called to the great celestial
chorus. (The cynic would say, "So
what?" but we believers know that for
a brief moment the Lord just had an
overabundance of basses necessitating
balance in the treble clef.)
Rest easy, dear friends.*

Commodores Chapter Eternal

- Joe Houser
- Bill TeVogt
- Bill Hamre
- Clem Gronfor
- Gerry Gould
- Jim Ellington



Gay Nineties

The *Gay Nineties Quartet* from Montevideo, Minnesota, has been entertaining Barbershop audiences for 65 years and is still going strong albeit without any of the original members. They have made more than 5,000 appearances from New York to Pasadena, Calgary to Miami, and in 1969 and 1971 they made two USO trips to military hospitals in the Far East. It is often said of the *Gay Nineties* that they never won a contest but with their *rocking melodian* they never lost a show. (Oops, they are the 1995 LOL District Senior Quartet Champions.)

Gary Erickson – Tenor; Al Reesnes – Lead, Jim Tiede – Bari, Lester Bockes – Bass

Road Runners

The *Roadrunners*, all members of the Minneapolis Chapter, got together in early 1972. Armed with virtually no more than a four-song contest repertoire the foursome outscored 28 other quartets and won that year's LOL District quartet contest in October in Bloomington. From there the *Roadrunners* went on to become one of the LOL District's, and indeed, one of the Society's most popular comedy quartets.

Tenor – Ron Thomley, Lead – Ron Stong, Bari – Dwight Mennenga, Bass – Norm Wolfe



Special Edition

Special Edition won the 1984 LOL District Champions. They took particular advantage of their lead's striking resemblance to a certain well-known *Bonanza* family patriarch. Their humorous western harmony spoofs and their contagious "Cartwright Family" routine had audiences chuckling throughout the area.

Tenor – Larry Daby, Lead – Glenn Aronson, Bari – Dave Speidel, Bass – Jim Barloon

Happiness Emporium

Every now and then, in quartet singing, four guys who have been vocalizing in other groups for years find their musical paths crossing - and something special happens! The *Happiness Emporium* was formed in December 1972. In the spring of 1973 they qualified for the International quartet contest and finished 23rd. That fall they won the LOL District Championship and at the International Contest in 1974 finished in the top ten. A year later in Indianapolis they became the 1975 *International Champions of Barbershop Quartet Singing*. The rest is history.

Tenor – Bob Dowma, Lead – Rod Johnson, Bari -- Rick Anderson, Bass – Jim Foy



Old School

It is noteworthy that each of the members of *Old School* is a “Barbershop Brat”.



Tenor, Kipp Buckner, at the age of 14, joined the *Louisville Thoroughbred Chorus* at which time his father, *Ken*, was one of its directors. (Ken also sang with the well-known *Citations* quartet and with the *Barons*, the 2003 International Seniors Champions). Kipp has become a Barbershop icon in his own right winning two International gold medals with the quartets *Interstate Rivals* in 1987 and *Gas House Gang* in 1993. He also has earned the gold with the *Thoroughbreds* and the *Ambassadors of Harmony* choruses. Kipp lives in Louisville with his wife, Kimberly, two children, Kila and Keegan, and two dogs, Moufette and Louelle.



Lead, “Awesome” Joe Connelly, another of the *brats*, still sings with his dad, Mike, in *Way Back When*, a *Dixie District* quartet. Joe cut his teeth listening to Mike sing baritone with the oft-medaling *Roaring Twenties* and soon was quartetting himself, beginning a harmonic journey during which he has earned the reputation as arguably the “best Barbershop-quartet lead singer ever” and at the same time capturing three International gold medals with the *Interstate Rivals* (1987), *Keepsake* in 1992, and *Platinum* in 2000. When not winning gold medals Joe coaches quartets and choruses all over the globe. He makes his home with his wife, Gayle, in Falls Church, Virginia.



Bass, Joe “Bass Beast” Krones, is from a Barbershop family and has perhaps the unique distinction of directing a Barbershop chorus in which both his father and son sing. Joe started his quartet career at age 16 and was directing a chorus at 21. Currently he directs the *West Towns Chorus* (Chicagoland West Sub-urban Chapter). A talented singer, Joe sang in *Cheers*, a 2003 International-finalist quartet and no fewer than five district championship quartets. He lives in Peoria, Illinois, and is available for quartet and chorus coaching.



Baritone, Jack Pinto, also qualifies as a *Barbershop brat* but details of his early life were not forthcoming. Suffice it to say, Jack currently directs the *Brothers In Harmony Chorus* in Easton, Pennsylvania, and is quite active as a coach. He has the reputation of being a great utility player, having the ability to sing all four parts well. He earned an International bronze medal with *BSQ* and in addition to a number of other quartet appearances has directed several times on the International stage. Jack lives in Hamilton, New Jersey.

GOTTA KEEP SINGING!

Pre Show Entertainment: The Dixiedores

*Clarinet/Banjo - Fred Richardson, Cornet - Randy Grist,
Drums - Cindy Schlicht, Trombone - Wes Hatlestad,
Banjo - Bob Dowma, Bass - Jim Richards.*

Sweet Adeline Happy To Be Here

*Tenor - Bob Dowma, Lead - Paul Wigley
Bari - Rick Anderson, Bass - Jim Foy*

Whatever Happened to the Old Songs Chorus

Sitting On Top of the World Chorus

Hello Mary Lou Chorus

Everything Old is New Again Easy Listenin'

*Tenor-Jeff Vander Plaats Lead - Dan Slattery
Bari - John Carlotto Bass - Rod Vink*

Java Jive, River of No Return Special Edition

*Tenor - Larry Daby Lead - Glenn Aronson
Bari - Dave Speidel Bass - Jim Barloon*

Beach Boys Medley Chorus

Can You Feel the Love Tonight Chorus

Gospel Medley Four Seasons

*Tenor - Rollie Neve Lead - Dan Smith
Bari - Rich Ongna Bass - Tom Dahlen*

Turn Your Radio On. Sounds of Renown (VLQ)

*Tenors - Luther Romo Dick Riemenschneider
Leads - Gordy Aumann Rollie Neve Dan Williams
Baris - John Carlotto Jim Erickson
Basses - Curt Brekke Mark Ortenburger Bob Ostergaard*

I Love to Tell the Story Chorus



Together Happiness Emporium

*Tenor - Bob Dowma Lead - Rod Johnson
Bari Rick Anderson Bass - Jim Foy*

Dueling Banjos. Grandmas Beaus

*Tenor - Mike Stump Lead - Merrill Miller
Bari - Bob Griffith Bass - Jim Richards*

Roadrunner/Running Wild, Old Love Letters

. Roadrunners
*Tenor - Ron Thomley Lead - Ron Stong
Bari - Dwight Mennenga Bass - Norm Wolfe*

Meet Me In Rose Time, Rosiie Chorus

Time After Time Chorus

Minstrel Montage Chorus

Intermission: The Dixiedores

"Gay Nineties"

"Old School"

Commodore Chorus

Bare Necessities

When You Wish Upon A Star

Keep the Whole World Singing

ON TO FAME!

As they both prepare for the 2009 International Chorus Contest, July 3, 2009, in Anaheim, California, the *Commodore* and *Great Northern Union* choruses will present a joint concert, *On To Fame*, at the Ted Mann Theater on the University of Minnesota West bank campus on **Sunday, June 14, at 3:00 p.m.** For tickets call: **Carl and Diana Pinard** at **(612) 927-9363**.

STEPPIN' OUT in 2010!

The Minneapolis Chapter's 2010 annual show, **Steppin' Out**, will be presented at Bethel University's Benson Hall on **Saturday, March 20, 2010**. The featured guest quartet will be *Storm Front*, 2008 International quartet finalists. Assistant Director David Speidel has been appointed as the 2010 Show Chairman.



Vision Statement

The society, in association with other a capella organizations worldwide, is committed to enriching the musical lives in every generation and community through the lifelong benefits of a capella harmony singing.

Harmony Foundation

The Harmony Foundation is the official charity of the Barbershop Harmony Society. The Society's charitable mission is to preserve our musical heritage through the support of vocal music education in our schools and communities.

Call **(800) 876-7464 ext 8447** for donation, gift-planning or sponsorship information.

Booking the Chorus

We would be delighted to sing for you! Enjoy our tunes, old and new. Whatever your entertainment requirements might be, we can design a package to fit your needs. You will find our novel brand of showmanship and ringing harmony a refreshing change. **Peter Jarnberg (651) 552-5351** or **peter.jarnberg@gmail.com**.

Do you like to sing?

We welcome all men of good character who love to sing. Come and check out this energetic, dynamic group of men and start out on a path to new and exciting musical adventures. Whether you are an experienced singer who can sight-read music, or you just like to sing in the shower, join us for an evening of fun and the fellowship of Barbershop harmony. We rehearse **Tuesday evenings at 7:30p.m.**, at **House of Prayer Lutheran Church, 7625 Chicago Ave. S, Richfield, MN 55424**.

www.minneapoliscommodores.org

JOIN THE FUN!



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SPONSOR

The Minneapolis Commodores Chorus

**A Member of the Barbershop Harmony Society
A non-Profit organization**

The Minneapolis Commodores have for 61 years been supporting the Minnesota Medical Foundation's Centers for Cardiac Research in the amount of nearly \$400,000. More recently the Society's Youth In Harmony campaign, promoting scholastic music programs has been added to our philanthropic efforts.

In addition the Commodores are raising funds to cover travel expenses for the trip to the International Barbershop Chorus Competition in Anaheim, California, this coming July. Your tax-deductible sponsorships will provide support for these special endeavors. Sponsors may designate in which of the above causes they wish their funds to be used. Sponsors names/businesses will appear in subsequent publications.

Thank you for your generous support!

Individual Sponsor		Business Sponsor	
Platinum Level	200 <input type="checkbox"/>	Platinum Level	250 <input type="checkbox"/>
Gold Level	100 <input type="checkbox"/>	Gold Level	125 <input type="checkbox"/>
Silver Level	50 <input type="checkbox"/>	Silver Level	75 <input type="checkbox"/>
Bronze Level	25 <input type="checkbox"/>	Bronze Level	50 <input type="checkbox"/>

All individuals will be listed in our Annual Show Individual Sponsor report.

Name:
Address:

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Make Checks out to:
Minneapolis Commodores

Mail to:
Peter Jarnberg
3614 Oak Creek Terrace
Vadnais Heights, Mn 55127
Call the cell # and leave a message
651.503.6632

A copy will be sent to you for your tax records.

All business sponsors will be listed in our Annual Show Business Sponsor report, asking for our members to patronize your businesses.

For a \$350 sponsorship, we will list your business name as a sponsor for the chorus in our year round promotions.

Name:
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