



2008 Calendar

Monday

7:30 Warm-ups
7:45 Polecat Songs/Tag Singing
8:00 CD & Christmas Songs
9:10 Meeting & Break
9:30 CD & Christmas Songs



November

3 Rehearsal
5 7:00 PM (Wed) Perform in Glen Ellyn
10 Rehearsal
16 Sing Downers Grove Library
17 **7:00 PM J. Connelly & Recording session**
20 7:30 PM Board Meeting

24 Rehearsal

December

1 Rehearsal
8 Rehearsal
11 Tech Rehearsal
12 – 13 Christmas Show

2009

January

24 – Installation dinner
25 – 31 Midwinter Convention

February

23 Joe Connelly & Recording session

March

16 Joe Connelly & Recording session

April

17 – 19 Spring Convention (sing as outgoing champs)

May

29-30 Tentative date for a retreat with Kevin Keller as coach

June 28 – July 5 – International (Anaheim)

September

25–27 Fall Convention (compete to qualify for International 2010 Philadelphia)

2010

June 27 – July 4 – International (Philadelphia)

West Towns rehearses every Monday evening, 7:30 PM on the 2nd floor of the Moose Lodge, 1030 Warren Ave., Downers Grove, IL 60515

2008 Illinois District Champions!

Performance

We have an opportunity to pick up \$400 on Wednesday, November 5th (7:00 PM) by having the small chorus sing for the First Congregational Church in Glen Ellyn along with one of our quartets. More details and a sign-up sheet coming up.

Jim Ahlgrim

Recording Venue

On **Monday, Nov. 17** we will be having a recording session at Emmanuel Episcopal church in LaGrange. What a wonderful facility! We are extremely fortunate to be able to use such a glorious location for our upcoming recording sessions. We will have Joe Connelly with us to assist and motivate us as we lay down the tracks. **Please note that we will be starting at 7:00 PM** so we can get as much done as possible.

We need to have as many singers as possible in attendance. We also need you to be **on time.** The liveliness of the facility necessitates that you be on time, as any extraneous noise will be heard on the recording. Opening of doors, walking on the tile floor, or any other noises will be picked up by the microphones. Please make every effort to attend and be on time. We could also use some members of POW! or other non-singing volunteers to watch the doors and make sure no one comes in while we are in the process of recording.

We have a wonderful opportunity, let's take full advantage.

As of right now, Live Till I Die, Opener, TTWY, Almost Like Being In Love, Never Go Wrong are the first songs planned for recording.

Craig Lancaster, Music VP

Peoria Pictures

The pictures from the Last Peoria contest are here. We ordered 12 prints for the guys that held their hands up at the time the pictures were taken. Please bring \$25.00 for each picture. The sooner the better. We need to settle up quickly. See me Monday night.

Ken Keever

Tickets, Ads, Posters, Puppies, and Rainbows

Hi everyone:

Okay, I shamelessly admit that I only put puppies and rainbows in the subject line to get your attention....wait! Keep reading!

I just wanted to remind you that we all need to do our part to make the Christmas show a rousing success. We've been singing great in rehearsals...now, we need to get people to the show to hear us!

So, please help do your part by asking your family, friends, co-workers, friendly strangers...anybody who loves music (which should be everybody) to come to our show.

Also, we're a bit behind in ads, and remember, we need to have ads sold before the the show dates so that we have time to put them in the program. If you can find one (1) (o-n-e) business or person or family, etc. to sponsor an ad; that would put us at a great ad-vantage!

Finally, thank you to those who took some posters last Monday to distribute to local businesses...but we still have more posters that need to go out. So, please, if you can pitch in some time and help get the posters distributed, that would be wonderful!

Thanks, Dave Shepherd dmswriter@comcast.net (630) 915-2096

Change to "We Need a Little Christmas"

The Leads and the Baris duet on the phrase "It hasn't snowed a single flurry" on their written parts. On "But Santa dear we're in a hurry," the basses join the leads on the melody line except for the last two words, "a hurry," The basses sing the low melody line and the leads jump up the octave as they've been doing. Tenors may join the leads on the melody if they wish. Four parts start again on "So climb down..."



Secret of Christmas

Hello, guys.

Last Monday's rehearsal segment on this song got me to thinking and into a bit of reminiscing.

My first WTC Christmas Show was, I think, in 1999 or 2000. I can still remember the thrill of that show.

The song that I recall having the greatest emotional effect on me was - and still is - The Secret of Christmas. It's not mentioned on our music, but "The Secret of Christmas was written by Sammy Cahn and Jimmy Van Heusen for Bing Crosby, and first performed by Crosby in his 1959 movie Say One for Me." Our arrangement was done by Jim Clancy for The Vocal Majority in 1978 and is performed on their Christmas CD entitled, appropriately enough, "The Secret of Christmas."

It is a singularly beautiful song and the Clancy arrangement does it great justice. No song we sing conveys the meaning of Christmas the way this one does, and it does it in multiple ways.

We owe it to our audience to share the beauty and emotion of this great piece of music. I don't think we've ever really done that, and our rehearsals on this song for the last two weeks prove this to me. We've never sung to our Christmas Show audiences what we heard from ourselves last night and a week ago. Joe T and Joe K brought some music out of us that has just simply not been there before. By insisting on the balance and unit sound they asked of us, they helped us to a new beginning on this song.

A week ago Joe T asked that the Lead section not flat the "naked" pickups in this song - the two "and may" pickups that have always been seriously flat. Last night, Joe K asked each of the other sections to sharpen their unit singing and, in essence, to re-think how they sing this piece. It made a huge difference, and made me hopeful that we can give our audiences this year and in the years to come an entirely different and more wonderful experience with this great song.

I hope also that we all understand that Joe K is trying his damndest to get us to rethink ALL of the songs we've sung for years, to make us not send that "Christmas card we've sent for years." Not that it's been bad, what we've done. It's just not been our best. We can't be happy with just mailing in that card. We're a lot better than that.

Thanks for listening. Again.

Ed McDevitt

