

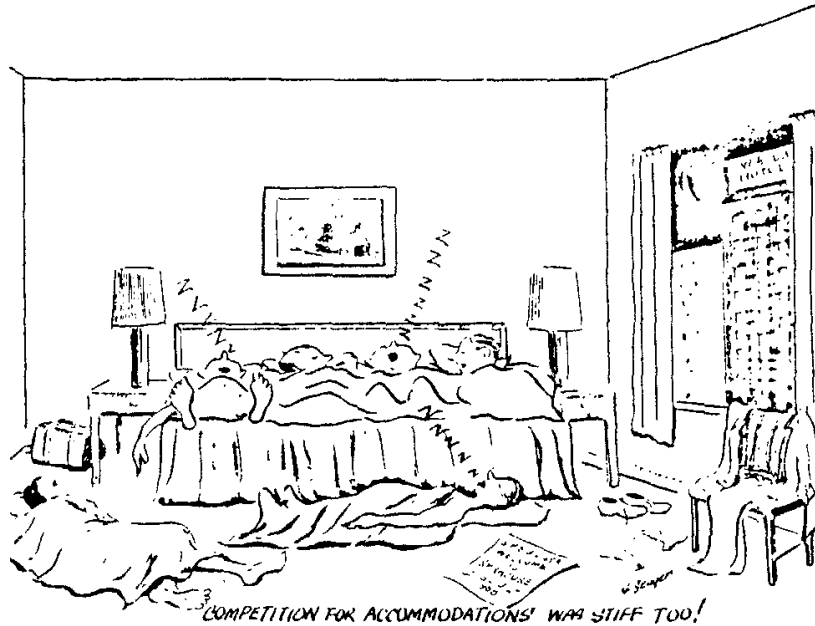
Erik Roffelsen 2022 Barbershopper of the Year



September Birthdays

- 3: Bill Burt
- 9: Erik Roffelsen
- 14: Sid Peterson

Activity	Sept. 18, 2023
Physical Warm-ups	
Vocal Warm-ups	
Other	Contest prep & Videos of last week's run-through
Other	Raffle and Keep the Whole World Singing (Eb)



There is a board meeting scheduled for this Thursday, September 21, 7:00 PM at **Bob Nicodem's house**. Board meetings are open to all members of the chapter but if you wish to come as a guest, please let President Jim Brown know so he can plan accordingly.



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Hi Guys,

Thank you for your hard work and attention on Monday. The songs are really coming together. I have a LOT of info to share so I sent it in pieces for it to make the most sense.

First:

General notes for both songs from Monday night

Here we go.....

We are doing a lot of things right. Woohoo! Now we are getting picky about other things.

-For **Your Song**, vocally, we need to grow **any** long note that we have. Many times our notes are stagnant.

-BASSES- we spent some time going over the two different "I hope you don't mind" sections. In one, you sing lyrics, in the other you sing ah's. Please make sure you know which is which.

- For all we decided the "you're in the" would get softer and softer. Leads, crescendo "the" so that your "world" isn't too soft when the other voices drop out.

- Think about staying high on the pitch, especially in the intro.

- Think about staying high on the pitch, especially in the intro. LEADS, our first notes for the 1st and 2nd verse are consistently under pitch "**It's** a little bit funny" and "**If I** were a sculptor"

- We need to remember the 1vs3 sections in this song. For the big moment, save some volume for after the leads sing "these words"

- Even when you're looking at our "visual" soloists, please keep an eye on the conducting so we stay together.

- Joe Cerutti talked about performing a caricature of yourself in this ballad so that the emotions and gestures would carry "beyond the footlights." Do you see that in the videos?

-For **Can't Buy Me Love**, we need to take advantage of any longer notes that we have and make them grow.

- We are forgetting shadow vowels when we do the choreography

- There are only a few places where our movements need to be precise/crisp. When you watch the video, see if they look crisp to you.

- BASSES- be sure you are solid on the two choruses. The first chorus starts low and goes up, NO key change. The second chorus starts high and goes down. If you are not sure of your notes, please lip sync those places, or get yourself sure of the notes.

- All, please watch me for the cutoff on beat 3 just before the Beatles bit.

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Next:

- 1) On **Monday 9/18**, I won't use the "mandatory," word, but it would SO wonderful if we had perfect attendance. :)
- 2) If you'd like, you may bring the shoes you are planning to wear and/or a shirt and tie (but **not THE** shirt and tie, let's keep those clean for the weekend) to get used to performing in dress clothes.
- 3) We will begin with
 - physical warmup
 - vocal warmup-you will be given an opportunity to mentally sing and go through your choreo for both songs on your own. I did this last week and the week before, but not this past Monday. This is a good way for you to get the cobwebs out before our first run-thru. And yes, it will sound and look like chaos. That is OK. Practicing this will help us when we need to do it before our performance at the convention.
 - We will run the set. Both songs. We will see how well we can execute it without a lot of rehearsing beforehand. This will mimic our day on Saturday.
 - We will make corrections and we will run reps. In one of our reps, we will give you earplugs to wear. This will help you practice singing the same way, even when you can't hear each other on the very dry stage in the auditorium.

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- 4) On **Saturday, 9/23**, your WEST TOWNS schedule is:
 - 10:30-11 AM rehearsal in the lower ballroom at the Bloomington Center for the Performing Arts.
 - Lunch and costume change on your own.
 - 11:57 AM meet in the ballroom again.
 - Pattern begins at 12:00 Noon
 - Our performance is at 12:31 PM
 - Winners will be announced back at the hotel after the Quartet finals Saturday night.
- 5) Videos of Monday night's performances are coming through a service called pcloud.com Please check to make sure that it doesn't end up in a junk folder.

Your link is ready – 1st run-through:

<https://transfer.pcloud.com/download.html?code=5ZgMpGVZdwvAuqQ0CCLZ7RGwZvH3f8INWkuVhKt2yrwlgjh95j41X>

The files will be available for download until Wed, 20 Sep 2023

Your link is ready – 2nd run-through:

<https://transfer.pcloud.com/download.html?code=5ZOCpGVZdwvAuqQ0CCLZ7RGwZwa0dQL0t3f0WDyW9JLidR8TgjKV>

The files will be available for download until Wed, 20 Sep 2023.

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You made it to the final section!!! In this part you will find:

- 1) Vocal and choreo notes for Your Song, take 1
- 2) Vocal and choreo notes for Can't Buy Me Love, take 1
- 3) Vocal and choreo notes for Your Song, take 2
- 4) Vocal and choreo notes for Can't Buy Me Love, take 2

Please, please, please know that I think we are doing a fantastic job. The following notes are me looking at the videos with a critical eye. These are things that will catch an audience's (or judge's) eyes and ears. Let's really work to put our very best on that stage.

Carrie

Video notes from 9/11/23

Your Song, take 1

VOCAL	CHOREO
Intro "doo's" sound sluggish	Did we take 1 or 2 steps forward while singing the 1 st chorus?
Lead's flat on the starting note (the 3 rd of the chord) for vs. 1 and vs. 2	Were we all "down the tiles" on the big "AH" moment? Shoulders squared toward the wall?

VOCAL	CHOREO
Sync issues on vs 2 "but then again no"	Did we perform as caricatures, so that our gestures and emotions carried over the footlights?
Unsynced "s"'s in "this is your song" m. 45	
Leads should sing "hah" to start the tag instead of "how"; Leads need to cut off the "s" together after "life is" in the tag	
Can't Buy Me Love, take 1	
In intro, basses' 2 nd "bye" should be "bah" to keep it from going flat	Did we all "open" our engagement ring boxes at the same time?
Need to sing "EEE" in "ring" and "thing"	Did we all get the head move on time for the first "money"? Did we all turn to the front on time for the second "money"?

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VOCAL	CHOREO
Missing the shadow vowel after “well-ll”	Did we all freeze for the Beatles bit?
Basses- are you singing bright & forward on your featured measures? “I tell you true”; “I’ll shout it”; etc.?	Did we all crouch for “tell me that you want the kind of things” during the “party” verse?
Losing forward momentum on “true” and “give” (in “I’ll give you all I’ve got to give if you say you’ll love me TRUE” etc	TAG: Did the chorus move towards the center of the risers during the 1 st “Can’t buy me love/Buy me love”? (Hint: Big no. I didn’t see anyone move toward the center for the first one.)
Basses- did you sing the 1 st chorus notes correctly? The 2 nd chorus notes?	TAG: Did the chorus pal around in the center for the 2 nd “Can’t buy me love/Buy me love”?
	TAG: Did the chorus move forward for the 3 rd “Can’t buy me love/Buy me love”?

Your Song, take 2

VOCAL	CHOREO
Are we taking the opportunity to grow through long notes?	Are we being caricatures? Do our emotions and gestures reach the video camera???
Basses- “now” needs more “ah” in it (“nah-ow”)	Did we all take 1 to 2 steps forward for the first chorus? (After the visual solo verse)
Are we balanced 3vs1 for the bass solo, “so excuse me forgetting,” during the “ah’s”?	Did we all turn and sing “down the tiles” at the big “AHs” with our shoulders squared toward the wall?
Basses- wrong notes in the tag “you’re in the”	
Tenors- 3 rd on the very last “world” chord not in tune	

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Can't Buy Me Love, take 2

VOCAL	CHOREO
Basses, are you bright enough on your solo lines? ("I tell you true," "and only you," "I'll shout it")	Were both "money" moves crisp?
Basses- someone tried to take the key change early in this run	TAG: did we move toward the center of the risers for the first of the three "Can't buy me love/Buy me love"s at the tag?
All- our key change chord on the last "no" in m. 58 didn't tune on this run	

Contest Photos to buy

Bill Burt sent out a picture order form on 9/13. If you want to buy a picture from our Illinois District Convention performance, please print that out, and turn in the form and payment at rehearsal on Monday.

Further to Bill's email re the chorus pics, we are required to consolidate the individual orders into a single order on my credit card, so I only need your name, email address, your photo selection(s), and total price of your order (due me) excluding shipping (on me).

I'll bring some copies of the order form to the next 2 rehearsals for anyone who forgets and please note that I need your order by the end of rehearsal **on the 25th** and your \$ upon delivery of the pics or sooner.

I take:

- Cash
- Check
- Zelle - dhmelvin2@mac.com
- Venmo - Daniel-Melvin-10

Daniel H. Melvin

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West Towns	District Contest Prep
BHS Membership up-to-date	If you pay monthly, make sure your Sept. payment is in If you pay annually, double check your membership expiration date. If in doubt, call BHS in plenty of time
Register for Illinois district convention	https://www.eventbrite.com/e/illinois-district-of-the-barbershop-harmony-society-fall-convention-2023-tickets-680547003407
Costume Complete	Black dress pants (not tux) Black dress shoes (not patent leather tux shoes) Black socks 1 of the following: Dark Purple shirt with matching tie Light Purple shirt with matching tie White shirt with the specific purple tie, matching others Gray shirt with matching tie (Zach sent the link last week)
Music Ready	Know your strengths and areas of concern. If there are measures of either song that you are iffy on, then either go over them until you are no longer iffy, or utilize your 60/40 plan. Don't forget to have fun!
SP (Choreography) Ready	Summaries were sent out on 8/17 Repeat it until you can execute it comfortably Don't forget to have fun!
Lodging	Double Tree is sold out. Contact Bill Burt if you still need lodging.

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Here is the list of this year's Christmas songs.

Act One

Red indicates a new song.

- *A Holiday Road of Carols*
- Jingle Bells (Yuletide Favorites)
- The Christmas Song (Chestnuts Roasting)
- *What Can You Get a Wookiee for Christmas*
- Winter Wonderland Hokey Pokey
- *When A Child is Born*
- **VLQ:** *O Christmas Tree*
- 12 Days of Christmas

Act Two

- *Opener: O Little Town of Bethlehem (K. Keller)*
- Mary Did You Know
- Joy to the World
- **VLQ:** While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks
- *Still, Still, Still (K. Keller)*
- Silent Night (Clancy V1)/Peace Peace
- Adeste Fideles (Raycroft)

Christmas Show: *A Very West Towns Christmas*

Saturday Dec. 9 **8 AM – Tech Rehearsal**

(break for lunch on your own before the show)

Saturday Dec. 9 **1:00 PM – Call Time**

Saturday Dec. 9 2:30 PM – Show Time

Sunday, Dec. 10 **1:00 PM – Call time**

2:30 PM – Show Time

Huizenga Auditorium

Capacity 599

School will provide risers and a choir shell

Timothy Christian Schools

188 W. Butterfield Road

Elmhurst, IL 60126

Costume: *Black shoes, black socks, black pants (not tuxedo pants), official white/ light purple/ dark purple/ or gray shirts – each with specific matching ties.*

Pricing TBD

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Greetings, Gents and Lady!

Again this year we are inviting men who like to sing to join our Christmas chorus. Below is an invitational letter that you can share with men--family members, colleagues, acquaintances, former and inactive members of West Towns, others--who like to sing. As noted in the letter, there is no pressure to continue on with West Towns Chorus after the Christmas Shows--although they certainly are invited to do so.

Please initiate this invitational process in time for the prospective participants to get our Christmas blitz on their calendars--**Saturday, Oct. 7, 9:00 a.m.- noon**--as well as rehearsals beginning Monday, Oct. 9.

Trenton Ferro for the Music Team

CHRISTMAS CHORUS

Inviting all men who like to sing!

You are invited to participate in the West Towns Chorus Christmas Shows as part of the Christmas Chorus. You will be asked to learn music for the first half of the show (and our rehearsals will be planned so that you can leave, if you wish, after we have practiced these numbers. Music for the second half of the shows will be practiced later in the evening.)

However, you may stay longer and learn more if you wish.

We rehearse every Monday evening from 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at Horizon Community Church, 2129 63rd St., Downers Grove, IL 60516.

Here are our expectations if you plan to join us:

- Prospective participants in the Christmas Chorus should attend the Christmas blitz on Saturday, Oct. 7, 9:00 a.m.- noon, at Horizon Community Church (address below).
- Begin attending regular rehearsals on Monday, Oct. 9. Participants need to attend at least six (of nine) rehearsals.
- Participants may choose to learn songs for the first half, the second half, or both halves of the show.
- You will be expected to attend our dress/tech rehearsal, Saturday, December 9, 8 a.m., at Huizenga Auditorium, Timothy Christian Schools.
- There is no expectation that you will join WTC; however, you certainly are welcome to do so. Otherwise, we will look forward to your participation again next year.

Here is what you need to know about this year's West Towns Christmas Shows:

- Saturday Dec. 9, 8 a.m. – Tech Rehearsal (break for lunch on your own before the show)
- Saturday Dec. 9, 1:00 p.m. – Call Time Saturday Dec. 9
- Saturday Dec. 9, 2:30 p.m. – Show Time
- Sunday, Dec. 10, 1:00 p.m. – Call time
- Sunday, Dec. 10, 2:30 p.m. – Show Time
- Location: Huizenga Auditorium, Timothy Christian Schools, 188 W. Butterfield Road. Elmhurst, IL 60126

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Pricing TBD

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West Towns Chorus

Chicagoland West Suburban chapter
P.O. Box 1005
Downers Grove, IL 60515
Phone: (630) 201-5544
www.WestTowns.org
Email: info@westtowns.org

Visit us on our website: www.WestTowns.org

2023 Board

President Jim Brown
Music VP Bill Burt
Development & Membership VP Tony Emerson
Program VP Frank Glas
Marketing VP Zach Gibson
Treasurer Tony Tumea
Secretary Bob Nicodem
Member-at-Large Don Davia
Past President Ron Welch

Email

Board@WestTowns.org
Sunshine Care Person Don Davia
Librarian Daniel Melvin
Uniform Eric Roffelsen
Historian Joe Tomecek

Rehearsals are every Monday at
Horizon & on Zoom unless otherwise noted

2023

9/4 Monday **NO Rehearsal** – Labor Day
9/5 Tuesday **Makeup Rehearsal**
9/22-23 District Convention—plan on at least Friday & Sat.
9/30 National Anthem Chicago Steel
Call Time **5:30 pm**
10/7 **Christmas Blitz 9 am – noon**
11/12 2PM Downers Grove Library – call 1 PM
12/9 Christmas Tech Rehearsal – 8:00 AM
12/9 Christmas Show – 2:30 PM
12/10 Christmas Show – 2:30 PM
2/16/2024 7PM Naperville Library Valentines

The Music Team usually meets the second Thursday of each month 7:00 PM, at Horizon or using ZOOM. Board meetings are scheduled for the third Thursday of each month 7:00 PM at Bob Nicodem's house or Horizon

Music Team

Director: Carrie Marcotte
Asst-directors: Mark Betczynski & Joe Tomecek
Music VP: Bill Burt

Section Leaders

•Bass: Jim B.
•Baritone: Mark & Joe
•Lead: Mark Servos
•Tenor: Trenton Ferro, Sid Peterson

Email

MusicTeam@WestTowns.org

Join Zoom Meeting Topic: WTC rehearsal: Time: Mondays 07:00 PM Central Time

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81780296722?pwd=dTJHd2V5WWhYOHAydVhQQkVxUjJSdz09>

Meeting ID: 817 8029 6722 Passcode: 213478 One tap mobile: 1 312 626 6799,,81780296722#,,,,*213478#(Chicago)
Dial by your location 1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago) Meeting ID: 817 8029 6722 Passcode: 213478