



## Bill Stob - 2012 Barbershopper of the Year

### Carrie's Cues

#### Special points of interest:

- Carrie's Cues
- Board Briefs

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Hello Gentlemen,

Two Monday practices until our Christmas show. The following



songs MUST be memorized by this Monday (NO sheet music on the risers): Holly Jolly Holidays; Carol of the Bells; Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree; Merry Christmas, Darling; Jamaican Noel, Jingle Bells, Mary Had a Baby, Rise Up Shepherd and Follow; and Silent Night.

We gave ourselves grades on some of the songs from Monday's rehearsal. Use these as a guide for what to practice most between now and Monday.

**Carol of the Bells**, Grade= D+ I sent a YouTube link for a great recording to practice with. Use it! That final key change has the potential to be very impressive. We need to nail it.

**Merry Christmas, Darling**, Grade= C. We still don't know all of the words. Leads, double check the rhythms of the melody. Trio, I need to hear more of a difference between a "doo" syllable and a "doot" syllable. Basses, so proud of how you are singing the downbeat words when you are alone. They

are so elegant. On p. 3, measure 35, we agreed to not breathe and to make the word "I've" a quarter note.

**Rise Up Shepherd**, Grade= B-. Ray asked me why we didn't speed up the sections on his verse. The answer- we started too fast. In order to speed up, we need to start a little more slowly. I know the "doo"s are boring, but find a way to make them exciting. Pull them like taffy and add a little crescendo to each one. Remember, we do not breathe after the 4th doo each time. When the chorus comes in singing our verse with the words, you'd better look darn excited about following that star.

**Holly Jolly Holidays**, Grade= B-. We need more personality on the Holly Jolly sections so that the middle Home for the Holidays section will contrast with us standing and singing sincerely. We are singing the rhythm wrong on p. 3, measure 44. "For the" is straight quarter notes, not dotted quarter-eighth. In the Holly Jolly sec-

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## Carrie's Cues continued

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tions, make gestures to express the following words or phrases: I don't know if there'll be snow; have a cup of cheer; say hello to friends; kiss her once for me; the tag (let the audience know when it's your special part Basses- Tis the Season, Leads- Oh there's no place, Tenors- somebody waits for you.

**Mary Had a Baby-** something was off with the tag. Please review it.

Most of last Monday's rehearsal was spent working on group songs. We welcomed the ladies of MCC, Caroline on the flute, Dave as our narrator, and David on the organ. Here are some notes about our ensemble songs.

**Most Wonderful Time-** while we can't sing softly because we won't be heard over the organ and orchestra, we will try to sing loud and less loud in this song. Loud on the refrains and less loud on the B sections "There'll be parties for hosting... (especially) scary ghost stories.." PLEASE practice notes on p. 5 of the vocal music, measures 192 & 193 for the chords on "long ago."

**Do You Hear What I Hear-** What's the hardest note of the scale to sing in tune? The 3rd note. 1-2-3. Guess how the verses start on this song? "Said the night" (1-2-3). The ladies are singing the 3rd note higher than you are. Let's show them we can sing that note higher and in tune. If you

don't have melody on this song, sing softer. Raise your soft palate high enough for the highest note of "Do You hear what I hear?" on the breath before the phrase. It's nearly impossible to raise the palate in the middle of a phrase. You must plan ahead. You NAILED this in the final verse. On p. 6, we are in unison for "the child, the child, sleeping in the night." We need to soften for the unison AND we need to soften again because the child is supposed to be SLEEPING. So two dynamic levels down for that phrase.

**Adeste-** 1st verse will be at a quicker tempo. Be ready for it! We will sing longer phrases so drop a syllable and take a breath in the phrase but do not breathe after four measures. We will take a breath between each "O come let us adore him." When we sing the word "Father", stress-release the word (louder and Fa and softer on ther).

**12 Days of Christmas-** we have made a cut to this song. Please mark your music accordingly. After verse six, we will jump to 12. In my music, that means cut from m. 73 on p. 5 to m. 158 in p. 10. Be careful on verse 1. That partridge is the only one that doesn't have an "and."

Are you still with me? Good. This Monday is just us, no visitors or other groups. Let's use it to our advantage and really clean these songs. Let's make them all earn a grade of A. In order to achieve this, I need you to work and practice at home this week. Write the lyrics down. It's a good exercise for re-

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## Carrie's Cues continued

(Continued from page 2)

membering words. Pull out your music and sing through songs while looking at it. You may discover that you've been singing something incorrectly. Listen and sing along to the recordings that Don has sent, or the recordings on Groupanizer, or the You-

Tube recording of Carol of the Bells. As the saying goes, "you can lead a horse to water but you can't make it drink." Mark and Joe T. and I have led you to the water and the rest is in your hands. Make me proud on Monday, o.k.?

Carrie



## Downers Grove Library

Way to go guys! In spite of the reschedule from last week, we had a great representation at the library. Special thanks to Sid Peterson for emceeding the performance and doing such great job—not only entertaining the audience but plugging our Christmas show. "What are those dates again?" Thanks for bringing your computer Rob and selling show tickets after our performance. Quartets Mistletones and Seasoned Sound performed. Thank you to my wife Ellyn for covering for my mental lapse and rushing the flyers and business cards at the last minute, stuff I was supposed to bring but forgot. (I was impressed that quite a few of you had a supply of flyers with you—it means you are ready to spread the word of the show at a moment's notice. Be sure to resupply on Monday night.) And finally, thank you to Joe, Mark and Carrie for directing us. I received quite a few compliments on the chorus; one lady in particular said we had a nice blend!



## Christmas Show Attendance Requirements

The Music Team has set an attendance policy for people to appear on the Christmas show:	√	7-Oct	
	√	12-Oct	Blitz—Saturday
If you make 7 full rehearsals of the 10, there will be no question as to your level of preparedness. Less than 3 is unacceptable and you will not be allowed to perform on the show. Any number in between and your singing will need to be reviewed by your Section Leader or the Music Team. The Tech Rehearsal (Thursday) and Dress Rehearsal/Show (Friday night) are mandatory. Please do your best to attend as much as possible! We need you and are counting on you!	√	14-Oct	
	√	21-Oct	
	√	28-Oct	
	√	4-Nov	Combined Rehearsal
	√	11-Nov	
	√	18-Nov	Combined Rehearsal
		25-Nov	
		2-Dec	
		5-Dec	Tech Rehearsal: Thursday 7 PM
		6-Dec	Preview Performance: Friday 7 PM
	7-Dec	Shows (2): Saturday 2 & 8 PM	
	8-Dec	Show: Sunday 1:30 PM	
<b>Don Kaap</b> for the Music Team	√		

## Board Briefs



Here are some notes from the board meeting held Nov. 21.

Secretary: **Bob Nicodem** - Minutes from previous meeting were approved  
 Treasurer: **Tony Tumea** - Financial reports were presented and reported that while revenues from the Christmas show are close to the budgeted amounts, the costs are more than budgeted, particularly printing and advertising. Credit card and Tix.com fees are already over budget. Tony noted that we need to clear \$30,000 to cover our expenses for the year, mainly rent, director's salary and music.

President: **Jay Bentz** reported that **Don Davia** will be working on setting up an installation & awards night for Monday, Jan. 13. He also noted that the best way to have more fun in rehearsal is for everyone to spend more time at home learning and practicing the music.

Christmas Show: **Jon Hoekema** reported that the planning activities are going well. He and Dave Martin met with the Tivoli and went through the script to set up lighting and sound cues. The partnership with the Tivoli is now working very well. Although we added Roxy quartet, we're still working hard to keep the show to 2 hours and 10 minutes in length (including intermission). We're learning to use tix.com better but a few

problems have popped up that are being worked on. There is no accurate way to track sales by group (e.g. Midwest Crossroad) that would allow us to base part of their fee on "commission". We are working with a group that does ushering and will have their people covering all the aisles at the 3 shows. Their only fee is the ability to sit in the back during the performance. The Christmas show committee will be meeting on January 11 to brainstorm ideas for the 2014 show. Ticket sales, expenses, and many other issues will also be discussed.

Music and Performance: **Don Kaap** talked about the DG library performance, along with ways to talk to men to recruit them. We are planning to do Singing Valentines and will plan on including the Valentine songs during rehearsals so guys learn them. This spring we will be having a cabaret instead of a regular show, the date is tentatively set for Sunday, April 6. There was a substantial discussion about learning tracks and how to get guys to learn music and new members up to speed as efficiently as possible. Dec. 19 is the music team's annual planning meeting.

Development/Membership: **Bill Stob** said we need to plan special activities for guest nights, the first of which will be January 20.

Other: Barbershopper of the Month was selected.



## SUPERCHARGING THE WEST TOWNS CHAPTER!! - Part 1

As promised, from my class at Harmony University this summer, here is a somewhat condensed version of the presentation made by the society to help chapters recruit and keep new members. Please read through this and try it out!! We have some excellent opportunities to meet new people and invite them to our BIG new member night coming up in January.

There are several segments to the presentation, the basic plan, the Cattle Call, The Invitation, The Follow UP call.

There are 8 basic steps:

1. Get out in the public and SING!!!!
2. Do your best to incorporate the Cattle Call Alternative during the performance.
3. Personally engage someone after the performance and invite them.
4. Get THEIR information! Have a card they can fill out their name and phone number and give back to you. Or at least bring paper and pencil so you can take notes.
5. Call and follow up!
6. When they show up, make them feel welcome. Find out who they are and their experience. Explain the typical rehearsal plan. What a "Tag" is, etc.
7. Get them up on the risers when it makes sense for them.

Some people may be intimidated to get up right away, and others might be upset to have to wait. You have to find their comfort level. Team them up with a singing buddy who can help them along.

8. DO NOT bring up joining in the first few visits. (We do have information if THEY ask for it.. don't bring it up if they don't.)

### The Cattle Call

The "Cattle Call" Alternative should be mentioned during every appropriate show.

"Ladies and gentlemen, I just wanted to mention something. Did you know that 70% of these men on the stage tonight did not sing in front of people before joining this group, and that the majority of them can't read music? These are guys that just sing around the house.. and look at how much fun they are having now performing for you! (Optional line) And aren't they doing a great job?!! "

What you've done is make singing very approachable with everyone that sings around the house. And now they are thinking... "Hey, I could do that!"

You now have people watching the show looking for ways to join, rather than not to join! As they begin to relate with someone on stage, they are already beginning to pick out their riser buddy!

Next week—The Invitation



# Ushers and other help needed for **A Holly Jolly Christmas**

Dear family and friends of The West Towns Chorus,

We all can help to make the Christmas show a big success again.

If you have time and are willing to spent a couple of hours before the show, we then can make this a hit for everyone.

Please fill out this form and

- Return it to Erik Roffelsen during a rehearsal, NO LATER THAN November 18.

- Or sent this information by e-mail to: [nelleke@innersource.com](mailto:nelleke@innersource.com)

My preference is to help out on:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Performance</u>	<u>Task</u>	_____
Friday, Dec. 6, 2013	7:00 PM		_____
Saturday, Dec. 7, 2013	2:00 PM	Hand out programs	_____
		Seat our guests	_____
		Sell cookbooks & raffle tickets	_____
Saturday, Dec. 7, 2013	8:00 pm	Hand out programs	_____
		Seat our guests	_____
		Sell cookbooks & raffle tickets	_____
Sunday, Dec. 8, 2013	1:30 pm	Hand out programs	_____
		Seat our guests	_____
		Sell cookbooks & raffle tickets	_____

Please arrive at the hall 1½ hours before the show starts. The dress-code is black and white and we provide a red cape for the ladies. We'll provide a red scarf for the guys. A week before the show I will contact you again with the schedule and additional information.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

We are also looking for **Christmas baskets for the raffle!!** If you can provide one or if you have material or cash to donate that would also be great; we will then assemble the basket. Please hand those to Erik Roffelsen during the rehearsals of November 18 or December 2.

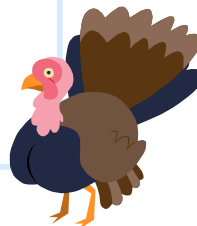
Let us know if you have time for one of more of these activities to make this event a success again.

Thank you.

Contact person for ushering and baskets: Nelleke Roffelsen 630-307-2662 during daytime, 630-540-0240 in the evening, cell 630-696-2752 or e-mail me at [nelleke@innersource.com](mailto:nelleke@innersource.com).

## November 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30



## November 2013

- 25 Rehearsal
- 28 Thanksgiving Day
- 30 Sat.—8 am—11 am  
Setup at Tivoli

## December 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

## 2013

- Dec 5 Thur—Tech Rehearsal
- Dec 6 Fri—  
Preview Performance
- Dec 7 Sat—2 PM Show
- Dec 7 Sat—8 PM Show
- Dec 8 Sun—1:30 PM Show
- Dec 9 Mon—Rehearsal/party
- Dec 28 Sat—8 am—11 am  
Takedown at Tivoli



## January 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

## 2014

- Mar 8—St. James
- Jul 25 Friday—Cougars Game  
"Christmas in July"



**PITCH Editor** Bob Nicodem

Illinois District BETY winner in 2008, 2009 & 2010

18W109 Claremont Dr. Darien, IL 60561

email: RNicodem@comcast.net

Work: (708) 735-8164

Cell: (708) 337-3895



The views and opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the official views of the Chicagoland West Suburban Chapter aka The West Towns Chorus

## 2013 Board

President Jay Bentz  
 Music VP Don Kaap  
 Chapter Development VP Bill Stob  
 Program VP Bill Haselberger  
 Marketing VP Tom Erwin  
 Treasurer Tony Tumea  
 Secretary Bob Nicodem  
 Member-at-Large Dick Clark  
 Past President Jack Fagan  
 Emails Board@WestTowns.org  
 MusicTeam@WestTowns.org  
 Sunshine Care Person Dick Brown

PO Box 1005  
 Downers Grove, IL 60515  
 Phone: 630-201-5544  
 E-mail: info@WestTowns.org  
 www.WestTowns.Org



West Towns rehearses every Monday evening, 7:00 PM at Horizon Community Church in the Meadowbrook Shopping Center, 2129 63rd Street, Downers Grove, IL 60516.

We invite men who like to sing to come visit us and join us in song and fellowship.

### Music Team

Director: Carrie Marcotte  
 Asst-directors: Mark Betczynski & Joe Tomecek  
 Music VP: Don Kaap  
 Section Leaders  
 •Bass: Bill Stob  
 •Baritone: Mark & Joe  
 •Lead: Dave Shepherd  
 •Tenor: Trenton Ferro  
 Ex-Officio (President): Jay Bentz

Members only:  
<http://WestTowns.Groupanizer.com>

# Happy Birthday

## Kevin Westburg Monday, 11/25

**THINGS THAT IT TOOK ME OVER 50 YEARS TO LEARN: Dave Barry, Nationally Syndicated Columnist** (Submitted by Carrie Marcotte)

- ◆ *Never, under any circumstances, take a sleeping pill and a laxative on the same night.*
- ◆ *If you had to identify, in one word, the reason why the human race has not achieved, and never will achieve, its full potential, that word would be "meetings."*
- ◆ *There is a very fine line between "hobby" and "mental illness."*
- ◆ *People who want to share their religious views with you almost never want you to share yours*

*with them.*

- ◆ *You should not confuse your career with your life.*
- ◆ *Nobody cares if you can't dance well. Just get up and dance.*
- ◆ *Never lick a steak knife.*
- ◆ *The most destructive force in the universe is gossip.*
- ◆ *You will never find anybody who can give you a clear and compelling reason why we observe daylight saving time.*
- ◆ *You should never say anything to a woman that even remotely suggests that you think she's pregnant unless you can see an actual baby emerging from her at that moment.* 🎵

## 2013 Barbershoppers of the Month

December	November
October Don Kaap	September Mark Johnson
August Tony Tumea	July Jay Bentz
June Jay Elliott	May Bob Nicodem
April Mark Betczynski & Joe Tomecek	March Vern Moore
February Dave Martin	January Rob Siebert