

GNUsNews

Volume 10 # 7

December 2005

Happy Holidays from The Great Northern Union



The **Great Northern Union** had their fall show at Bethel University, November 19th. With a line up consisting of 3 District Champion quartets, the current International Quartet Champion and a top 5 International Chorus, it was one of the best shows ever put on by the GNU. The theme this year was 70's music and included songs like John Denver's Annie's Song, Chicago Medley, Seven Bridges Road, The Doobie Brothers' Listen to the Music and James Taylor's That Lonesome Road. Performing with the Great Northern Union were 2003 LOL district quartet champions, **Nouveau**, 2004 LOL district champions, **Quest**, 2005 LOL district quartet champions, **After Midnight** and the 2005 International Champions, **Realtime**. In addition, a 14 student co-ed a cappella group from Macalester College called **Scotch Tape** opened each show.

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2006 A Year of Excitement!

What an amazing end to an amazing year. Our Season Finale Show at Bethel was a huge success. We received many compliments from

people who said it was our best show yet. Singing to a full house, presenting a wide variety of quality music, and hosting some excellent guest groups were a few of the things that made it so great.

You have already seen our 2006 season calendar so you know what's in store. The Great Northern Union will be performing with such talented groups as the Luther Norsemen, Metropolitan Boys Choir, Vocal Spectrum, and Cantus. A new season of concerts means more new repertoire. We have some exciting pieces in the works including sacred, folk,



contemporary, choral, Broadway, and of course the best barbershop arrangement of the year, arranged especially for the GNU! Yes, I'm talking about the one you have been memorizing. If for some reason you have not received or heard it yet, make sure you get it along with the others so you are ready to hit the ground running on January 5th.

I want to thank you for your continued dedication toward excellence in this venture. It has been amazing to watch this chorus grow in so many ways. It has truly been an honor to be your director for another year. I look forward to even greater things in 2006.

PETE



GNUs News



It was great to see many of you on Sunday for the Vikings game. It was my first Vikings Anthem and even though all 70 guys weren't able to attend, I had a blast. It was awesome and we brought 65,000 to their feet! (okay they were already standing, thanks Pete) The timing of the fireworks was awesome and I look forward to performing the anthem again at the Timberwolves game in March with all of you next time!

The Timberwolves game brings me to the 2006 GNU calendar.

I will answer questions about the calendar the first couple of weeks back from our break, but here are a couple items that should have your immediate attention. There are already planned mirror sessions. You will need to choose which night will be your night...yes everyone needs to pick a night to attend mirror sessions on a regular basis. This is to minimize the presentation cramming up to performances and contests. (no surprises) So pick your day; Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday night and commit now. More details of where and when will be coming out shortly...but what I can tell you is we will attempt to make it as consistent as possible.

One more note to bring to your attention are the extra planned rehearsals. Please play special attention to these dates. You will see that we have canceled rehearsal the two weeks after International and spread those dates throughout the year. This is another way we can accomplish some of the key GNU growth plans we



want to achieve while at the same time give Pete and Scott a more consistent chorus when we get together for rehearsal. (70 guys every rehearsal is the goal for 2006)

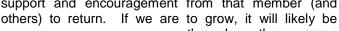
There is one thing I will ask of everyone. Please incorporate this calendar into your 2006 family and work calendars as soon as possible. It's taken a lot of work to put this together and while it's not perfect, the dedication we need from each individual to deliver on our expanded 2006 Concert Season, Anthem Season and Contest Season...we need to be very prepared. We have a very unique opportunity in 2006 that I can't remember GNU ever having in its history. That is an opportunity to deliver "A" level performances in front of all types of

audiences; collegiate, choral, classic a cappella, sports fans (basketball, baseball and football), BHS fans, Sweet Adelines, and more. I bet when you add it all up we will sing for more than 100,000 people in 2006. Isn't that what it's all about?

Carpe Diem!!! Keep up the great work and I can't wait for January!

Happy Holidays! Marty Monson **GNU Performance VP**

A frequent comment over recent years has been the value we would gain if we could put more singers on the risers, not only for contests. but for all appearances. The society has published survey data which shows that most members attended their first rehearsal as the result of an invitation from a member, and subsequent





The President's Corner

support and encouragement from that member (and

through the same Each of us process. should ask ourselves many potential how members we have invited, and what was our follow up for each of guests. our (The Membership VP usually implements a follow up procedure for each auest, but I think we need more than that.)

We have a number of members who have recruited successfully over the years (as reflected in the "Man of Note" awards.) Our top recruiters are the following (Note that some have belonged to other chapters as well, and not all their recruits have been to GNU. Also, most are long-time members.) They are listed in descending order by number of recruits. Bruce Gray (22), Norm DeCarlo (18), Doug Chapman (17), Larry Walsh (16), Bill Lydecker (15), Judd Orff (13), Peter Benson (12), Loring Harrop (11).

I am sure that each has a strategy used to recruit. Ask one or more of them how they have done it, and if hear an approach that suits you, try it.

Bethel...What A Show!

What a special day at Bethel University we had on November 19, our chorus performed in our biggest concert event of the year wrapping up or official concert season for 2005.

It was by most assessments, a very special show, complete with multicolor lighting effects which enhanced the 70's show theme. We owe much of the staging to the talents of GNU member Mr. Wally Brink, who did an admirable job of managing much of the production. He came to us with this professional background, and now he has put that talent to good use for the benefit of our appreciative audiences.

We must again mention the marketing prowess of member Mr. Loring Harrop, who has begun to jettison us into fame within our community by finding venues and choral experiences for men who love to sing. Loring's efforts were evident with placards, posters, and plans for a new concert season 2006, which will again bring the excitement of a Capella music to some new venues. He also captured audience comments from a questionnaire. This is valuable in assessing customer satisfaction and how to plan future events.

Jim Higgins spearheaded a great campaign to gather additional ads for this year's show program, and the cooperation of many members to sell these from some of our major businesses around the area was evidenced in this colorful brochure. It is now up to each of us to patronize these fine folks, and to use this success as impetus to obtain more support.

Judd Orff's stellar performance as Master of Ceremonies was the usual congenial engagement with the audience which so definitely helps to convey chorus appreciation for attendance. We are privileged to have him in our camp.

There are also countless other men and women who played key roles in this largest production of the year. Indeed each member holds a piece of the responsibility and the credit for the success this year. And now, led by the inimitable Mr. Pete Benson, we continue the rocketride to further success on our climb to recognition within our community and as well as within our society.

Are **you** along for the ride? What, exactly, is your personal plan to assist Pete and the rest of our incomparable leadership team to reach the next star level? Most assuredly, there is a slot for your talents, over and above musical performance. Please tell the administrative staff that they can count on you.







A big thanks to Tom Arneberg for taking a good portion of the Bethel show photographs

What a line up of talent at the Bethel show beginning with our MC, **Judd Orff**, (pictured below). Judd always does a fantastic job for us at the podium. Quartets **After Midnight**, **Quest** and **Nouveau** (pictured right top to bottom) each showed why they all have hit the top in the Land 'O Lakes Dsitrict. And of course, **Realtime** gave us a taste of International Champion caliber singing. Many audience members said it was the best show to date for the GNU.

In response to some pictures Tom Arneberg sent out to the Evergreen District, Judy Burri, the mother of Realtime's tenor, Tim Broesma said "I was there for that show, and I have to say it was one of the best shows I have attended in years. Everything about it was well done, and your chorus was amazing. Thanks to the whole chorus for treating Tim Broersma's Mom and Uncles and Aunts so well, we were treated like royalty. It will be a memory I will cherish for many years."











2006 marks the 20th anniversary of the **Great Northern Union** and our first four-part concert series. Visit www.gnunion.com or e-mail tickets@gnunion.com for details or to order.

So what's the deal on

Season Passes? It's *really* good: \$50 buys a ticket for each show, including a seat in the \$30 section of the 7PM concert in November. So, basically, buying a Season Pass is like getting into two concerts free. The catch is that this won't be available after March. Substitutions can be



made for the 7PM ticket in November, but the price stays the same (it's already a bargain). No exceptions. \$50 gets admission to see The Luther Norsemen, Metropolitan Boys Choir, Cantus Vocal Spectrum and LOL's finest competitors (not to mention SAI Int'l competitors) at the best venues in town. There's no better deal for someone who enjoys great singing.

Collegiate Concert (Norsemen & MBC) March 18, 7PM at St. Andrew's in Mahtomedi \$15 at the door, \$12 in advance

Tickets now available on line or through Bob

On To Fame (Int'l quartet and chorus competitors) June 24, 7PM at EPPAC in Eden Prairie \$15 at the door, \$12 in advance Tickets now available on line or through Bob

Classic A Cappella (Cantus)

September 16, 7:30PM at St. Olaf Catholic Church in Mpls \$20 at the door, \$16 in advance

Season Finale (Vocal Spectrum)

November 18, 1PM & 7PM at BGH, Bethel U in St. Paul Reserved Seating (\$10 - \$30, 20% discount for advance purchase)

Happy New Year, from the GNU Marketing Team

Loring Harrop Marketing Team The Great Northern Union Chorus Leaders In Men's A Cappella Performance <u>Marketing@gnunion.com</u> http://www.gnunion.com/

Grandfather-Father-Son Chorus slated for Indy

The beloved family-singing event returns for the 2006 international convention.

Share the big stage with your family! The Grandfather/Father/Son Chorus will perform on the main stage in the Conseco Field House during the convention.

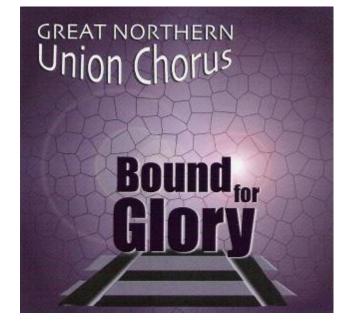
Tom Metzger, bass of **Realtime** and his father Charlie, bari of seniors medalist **Antique Gold** will

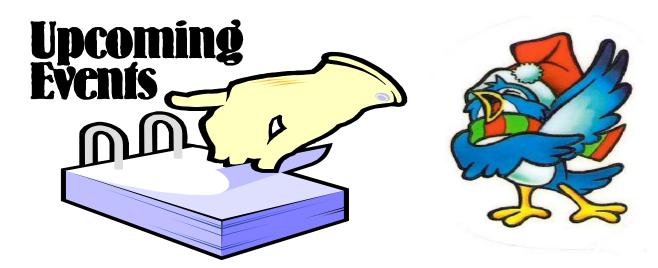


share directing duties. Those Metzgers know about family singing; with brother Mark (Realtime bari), they sang with Charlie in international semi-finalist **Counterpoint**.

A \$15 fee for each singer will cover shipping sheet music and part-predominant learning tapes in advance, and a performance shirt to be distributed at Indy. The rehearsal will be between 3:30 - 4:30 pm on Friday, July 7th

The chorus will be limited to 200 singers. Deadline for sign-up will be May 15th. Sign-up will soon be on the Society's website, but until then, contact Jim DeBusman event coordinator via his email: <u>idebusman@barbershop.org</u>





January 5, 2006 !st rehearsal of the new year

January 14 & 15 Chapter Officers Training Seminars (COTS)

January 15 Performance at St Andrew's in Mahtomedi

January 28 Spouse Appreciation Dinner

February 11 Mark Hale Coaching

February 14 Singing Valentines



Midwinter webcast delivers best in barbershop

Tune in to the best in barbershop from the 2006

Midwinter Convention in Sacaramento.

You'd have to travel from Bangor to Baja to hear all five medalist quartets – but we'll bring them straight to your living room next month. For as little as \$25 for the whole magilla!



Yep—we're going to webcast the entire works from the 2006 Midwinter Convention, and your all-events pass will only cost \$25 if ordered in advance.

Feast your ears on this:

Friday, January 20, 2006, the Association of International Seniors Quartet Champions performs, featuring The Most Happy Fellows. Then in the evening, have the opportunity to hear the third through fifth place medalists from Salt Lake City (Metropolis, Riptide and OC Times) perform in concert.

The next afternoon, January 21, there's the excitement of the **Senior Quartet Contest**, and then in the evening the chance to hear the gold and silver medalists from Salt Lake City (**Realtime** and **Max Q**) and the **AISQC Chorus** entertain you in a show setting! (<u>Stay on top of</u> the schedule -- www.barbershop.org/ID_025410)



Hear GNU's **Aarps A Chord** in their Seniors International Contest debut via WEBCAST

The webcast will be available for \$25 if purchased by Friday, January 6. After that, the price will be \$30 both

sessions. An audio-only stream will be available at no charge.

PLUS! Saturday night will feature a special, high-quality video stream, so you will be able to preview the Indy webcast quality! Great for a midwinter party on your TV set!

IMPORTANT: Advance sales will determine whether the webcast takes place. If there is insufficient participation by January 6, 2006 and it appears that production costs will exceed the income, the webcast will not be broadcast.

Sign up now, and spread the word. Your credit card will not be billed until we are sure that the webcast will take place!

The GNU is fortunate to have several new members.



Here are a few of them.



Gary Little, lead, from New Prague, MN

Members: Get to know "em

Lee Shelton, tenor, from MPLS, MN says "Thanks to everyone for making me feel welcome. And let me just say--with all due respect to my proud Southern heritage--that I'm happy to be a part of "The Great Northern Union."





David Boyd, bass, from Shoreview, MN says "What a thrill to be singing in GNU! AND singing under the direction of Pete Benson is a major added bonus! l'm happy to represent the chapter by singing with Nouveau (2003 LOL District Champs!). Also. I hope to be singing with both the chorus and the guartet on the Int'l stage in Indy!"

Award of Harmony 2005

Two selfless members in our Greater Minneapolis/St.Paul Area won the Annual **Award of Harmony** presented by Great Northern Union. Harmony Award Chairman, Dan Vander Ploeg, and President Bill Lydecker, presented each of the recipients with a plaque at the Annual Show in Benson Great Hall.

Honored for their individual efforts in creating their own brand of Harmony in the community are: Mr. Mike Tikkanen, nominated by Chuck McKown and Ms. Kathryn Clarys, Nominated by Judd Orff.

Mike Tikkanen

Mr.Tikkanen is a businessman; the CEO of the Minnetonka based Packard Group, a business brokerage, but he has put his passion and talents into helping abused and neglected children for over eight years. He was first inspired to do so when he heard about the guardian Ad-litem program in Hennepin County at a Toastmasters meeting. He then joined the program as a volunteer.

Mike began to see the failures of the system that was supposed to aid these children. Now he also does public speaking on the subject to raise awareness, and has written a book, "Invisible Children", which is a chilling account of the problems and his steps to address them.

He is also starting a program called **"pianos for kids"** (http://www.piano-forkids.com), which coordinates the donations of pianos and other musical instruments to abused and neglected children. Many times, music is the most striking way to reach these kids.

Kathryn Clarys:

When the children of Lily Lake Elementary School in Stillwater put on their annual musical, they cannot put the play on for their classmates. Every one of the 700 students is involved in the production. Students audition for the lead singing parts; all performers must memorize the music and choreography. Students come early to practice. Parents, staff and other community members help with costumes, staging, sound systems, and video production. Productions have included "The Wizard of OZ", "Annie", "Oliver", and "Johnny Appleseed." This year will be "Alladin".

Presenting over all this madness is Kathryn Clarys, vocal music teacher at the school. Kathy makes singing and performing fun for her students. She has a volunteer choir of 80 students, and they rehearse at 7:15 a.m., once a week. (The kids must really enjoy it to get up that early!)

Coordinating, organizing, coaxing, promoting... the entire school is organized into a harmonious whole by this energetic musician. Congratulations, Kathryn



Above, Kathryn Clarys receives the Award of Harmony from last years recipient Bea Hasselmann (in the red) during the evening show.

Below, Mike Tikkanen waits for his plaque from GNU President Bill Lydecker while Dan Vander Ploeg and Chuck McKown look on.





The new GNU Board for 2006. (Right to left) Wally Brink, Scott Kvigne, Bill Lydecker, Marty Monson, Bob Dowma, Tom Semple, Pete Benson, Kevin Lynch, Ken Slinde, ??????? and last but not least, Kent Erlandson.



The **Great Northern Union Chorus** meets every Thursday from 7:00pm to 10:00pm, at the United Methodist Church of Peace, 6345 Xerxes Ave S, Richfield MN 55423

"Early-Bird" rehearsals are held at 6:00pm for practicing choreography. Members are urged to call the **GNU Hotline** at 763-476-7383 weekly for the latest word on rehearsals, performances, and other pertinent information. Also find us on the web at www.gnunion.com



Doug Miller

LOL Director of Contest and Judging All LOL Quartet and Chorus competitors: Please read.

With all the talk about copyright and maintaining federal copyright laws, the Society Contest and Judging Committee has endorsed a new procedure for providing proof for copyright compliance in our Society contests. We are in the process of modifying the CJ-20 form (which is currently online) and it will reflect these changes.

Providing Proof of Copyright Clearance for Competition

The responsibility to acquire and perform legal music belongs to every performer. The Society quartets and choruses have worked diligently to comply with the Federal Copyright laws in the past. To further assist our ensembles in understanding and complying with copyright laws, particularly in the contest venue, the following procedures will be adopted for entry into a contest at any level. This procedure seeks to ensure and provide documentation for the legality of the music performed in the contest venue. Performers and arrangers are still responsible for ensuring the legality of music in all other public performances, such as shows and singouts.

An arranger can NOT distribute copies of an arrangement prior to receiving permission to arrange. As has been proven in the past, the answer for permission to arrange from the publisher may be "no."

If you plan on creating a parody to the lyrics of a song, you must get permission from the copyright owner to change the original lyrics, unless the song is in public domain (1922 or earlier).

Securing permission takes time. Performers and arrangers should plan ahead and be prepared to use another song if permission is not received for the arrangement requested prior to a specific performance. The publisher is under no obligation to provide a speedy response to the request for permission to arrange. Not receiving a response cannot be construed as permission granted to arrange the song. Also, remember, the response may be "no." Complying with the copyright laws is an obligation of all performers and something Society members should take seriously. Our efforts to uphold these standards establish credibility with publishers, BMI, ASCAP, and minimize the potential risk of lawsuits for non-compliance. Before entering a contest, (division, district, international preliminary, and international), a performing group, (quartet, chorus), must provide proof of copyright clearance to the DVP for C&J by completing the CJ-20 entry form. Examples of the two most likely situations are shown below:

Your quartet or chorus is singing a Society published or legal unpublished arrangement. In order to enter the contest, on the entry form where it indicates song selections, list the name of the song, the lyricist, composer, date of copyright, copyright owner(s), arranger, date of arrangement and the stock number(s) for each song intended to be sung in the contest, i.e.,

Published Song: "Coney Island Baby/We All Fall Medley" Words/music: Les Applegate, Joe Goodwin and George Meyer Copyright date, 1999

Copyright owner, SPEBSQSA Arranger: SPEBSQSA Date of arrangement, 1999 Stock # 8601

Legal Unpublished: Song: "For Sale, One Broken Heart" Words/Music Val Hicks Copyright date 1986 Copyright owner Val Hicks Arranger: Val Hicks Date of arrangement: 1986 Date of permission May 15, 1989 Stock # U14282

Your quartet or chorus is singing a custom arrangement of a copyrighted song owned by a barbershopper, individual composer, or a publisher. In order to enter the contest, on the entry form where it indicates song selection, list the name of the song, the lyricist, composer, date of copyright, copyright owner(s), arranger, date of arrangement and the stock number(s) for each song intended to be sung in the contest i.e.,

Song: "Heart Of My Heart (Story Of The Rose)" Words/Music Alice, Bill Rashleigh/Andrew Mack, Bill Rashleigh Copyright date: 1899 Copyright owner Bill Rashleigh Arranger(s): Lyne/Spencer/Rashleigh Date of arrangement 2002 Date of permission August 20, 2003

Song: If I Loved You Words/Music Oscar Hammerstein II/Richard Rogers Copyright date: 1945 Copyright owner: Williamson Music Arranger: Jay Giallombardo Date of arrangement 2004 Date of Permission June 15, 2004

Continued on page 11

Copyright permission continued from page 10

In the first example, the song is either an original composition or an arrangement of a song written prior to 1922 where the song is in public domain, but the arrangement is owned by the copyright owner. In the second example, song is owned by a single publisher. Songs can be owned by more than one publisher, such as, "Good Luck Charm," © Gladys Music, Inc.; Rachel's Own Music, 1962, the song is controlled by two publishers, both would have to give permission to arrange and both control all rights to the song. The arranger usually contacts the Society headquarters for help in seeking permission from the publisher or contacts the publisher directly. Typically a publisher takes at least 30 to 60 days to answer a request for permission to arrange. Be sure you plan well enough ahead of the competition/performance to ensure the arranger receives permission to arrange the song and you have the documented proof of permission from the copyright owner.

IMPORTANT:

In all cases, the quartet or chorus must verify that they have proof of license to arrange/perform the song and that would be indicated by confirming the statement, "Copy is available upon request."

For medleys, use the separate Medley Page, noting each individual song or portion of song used.

The quartet or chorus may change the choice of song to be used in the contest, but then would be required to provide a hard copy of the song and/or permission to arrange/perform license to the Contest Administrator prior to the start of the competition.

Complying with the Federal copyright laws is everybody's responsibility. This procedure is designed to make compliance simple. Failure to comply with copyright laws will result in disqualification.

References to Assist You:

Althouse, Jay. Copyright: The Complete Guide For Music Educators. Van Nuys, CA: Alfred Publishing Co., Inc., 1997.

Kohn, Al, Kohn, Bob. Kohn On Music Licensing. New York, NY: Aspen Law & Business, 2002.

www.ascap.com – American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers Very good website for title searches to find who owns the rights to a particular song.

www.barbershop.org – Copyright basics for Barbershoppers Gain some basic knowledge about copyright, including some examples specific to barbershoppers.

www.bmi.com – BMI represents more than 300,000 songwriters, composers and publishers. Their search engine will also assist you in securing the copyright owner of a song.

www.copyright.gov – Copyright Office of the United States provides information about copyright protection and the laws pertaining to the topic.

www.harryfox.com – Harry Fox Agency Excellent source for information related to royalities for recording CDs. It includes searchable databases of songs and publishers for confirming copyright owners.

www.pdinfo.com – Public Domain Information This website explains the conditions when a song would become public domain and lists about 3500 PD songs.



Before we go.....



Don't you just love those new shiny gold shirts! They go well with those hard earned 5th place international medals





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