



GNU's News

International Medalist
GREAT NORTHERN UNION
CHORUS

May 3, 2010

Hilltop Chapter

Volume 15



Issue #2

Colossal Collaborations!!!!



Photos by Kathy Litchfield, John Babbs, Ken Slinde & Roger Meyer

The Luther College Norsemen (top photo 4/16/10); University of Wisconsin Eau Claire Statesmen (middle 3/13/10); and Vallee de Croix Chorus (bottom photo 3/6/10) recently joined forces with the Great Northern Union and special guest quartets for a very entertaining series of concerts. (more on pages 3 & 4)

**2010 Great Northern Union
Officers & Directors**

President: Tom Semple
Secretary: Roger Wambheim
Treasurer: Bob Dowma
Immediate Past President:
Bill Lydecker
VP – Membership: Ken Slinde
VP – Development: Marty Monson
Co-VP – Music & Performance:
Brent Buresh
Co-VP – Music & Performance:
Jay Fahl
Co-VP – Marketing: Luke Norell
Co-VP – Marketing: Dan True
VP – Logistics / Chorus Manager:
Gary Little
Member at Large: Jeff Goenner
Member at Large: Ken Gilmore

*Show Chairman and Project
Manager: Wally Brink*
Assistant Director: Scott Kvigne
Director: Peter Benson

GNU's News is an official publication of the Hilltop Chapter, 10,000 Lakes Division, LOL District, of the Barbershop Harmony Society. Bulletin material may be contributed by chapter members, copied from Society Publications, or may be borrowed from other chapter bulletins. All articles will be credited to the author. Articles not carrying a by-line have been written by the editor, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the officers of this chapter.

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Rehearsals are held on Thursdays at 7pm at the United Methodist Church of Peace in Richfield, Minnesota. The church is located at 64th and Xerxes. For more information contact Membership Vice President Ken Slinde g nubass@comcast.net or 952-884-4975.

GNU's News May 3, 2010



Director's
Corner
by Peter
Benson

The Future Looks Bright

In my last article I mentioned that while a cover story in the Harmonizer was great, our ultimate goal is to be on the back cover. (For the new guys, that's where the International Chorus Champs appear.) I know this chorus has always dreamed about winning a gold, but I am becoming more and more convinced that it WILL become reality for the GNU. No more pipe dreams. It is really happening! Now, it's about planning for success and taking action to get there.

I read a quote the other day that made me think about GNU. "The best time to change is when it seems least necessary." The chorus is doing great, right? It's called thinking ahead and that is exactly what we're starting to do. Never in our history have we deliberately had a custom gold medal up-tune learned and with a choreo plan designed 14 months before International. And, in the meantime, we're also working toward our District Championship next fall and learning new rep for the remainder of our concert season. If that's not enough, plans are already in place to get our next contest up-tune by this summer! There is no substitute for preparation.

As you know, membership recruitment is also high on our priority list. Next year is not the time to start being concerned about 120 on the risers. The time is now.

(continued on page 3)

Ken Slinde gave me some statistics that tell me we are heading in the right direction:

- 7 New Members already in 2010!!
- 9 potentials preparing for 1st or 2nd Auditions.
- 88 currently active singers

GOAL – 120-130 active singers on the risers.

Many of you have responded to the call. You're doing great!! Please continue to be in the mode of urgency as we climb to the Gold. Don't leave it to someone else. Get involved and create your future!



The Buzz



Tagging with the Statesmen



Church of the Nativity, St Paul, MN



The Vagrants



The Vagrants also did clinics at Twin Cities' area schools



The Bus that transported most of the GNU to Decorah, IA





Luther College Center for Faith & Life



Go the Distance

IN CONCERT TOGETHER

GREAT NORTHERN UNION BARBERSHOP CHORUS
PETER BENSON, CONDUCTOR

LUTHER COLLEGE NORSEMEN
TIMOTHY PETER, CONDUCTOR

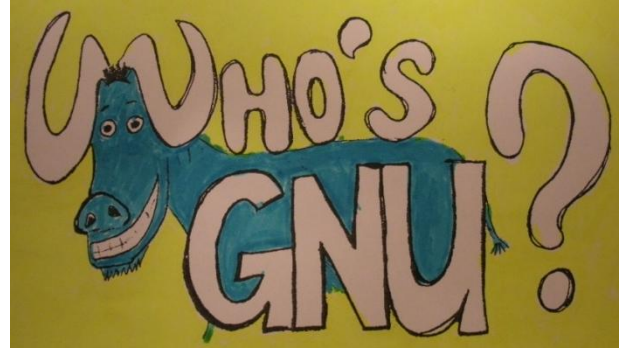
LUREN SINGERS
DAVID JUDISCH, CONDUCTOR

A HAITIAN RELIEF BENEFIT CONCERT

FRIDAY, APRIL 16, 2010 7:30 PM

CENTER FOR FAITH AND LIFE
LUTHER COLLEGE

TICKETS: \$10 ADULTS, \$5 AGE 17 AND UNDER
VISIT WWW.LUTHERTICKETS.COM
OR CALL 1-800-4 LUTHER



Adam Woods

I currently live in St Anthony, MN and have been here the last two years. Before that, I lived for 24 years in Chicagoland (Naperville and downtown city) and consider that home. I was born in Iowa and lived there until age 7 when we moved to Kentucky for 2 years.

I am currently a studio photographer, but looking! If you have any ideas, go ahead and send them my way.

I come from a very musical family so singing has been a big part of our lives growing up. I started singing in youth choirs at about age 9 or so.

I've sung for some of the best directors in the country and have learned a lot!

I'm a third generation barber-shopper that joined when I was 12 years old! That's 23 years for those of you trying to do the math.

In the Society, I've won 6 silver medals and a gold medal in 2001 with The New Tradition Chorus. I was VP of Membership for two years there before becoming the VP of the ILL Dist for Leadership Training when I was 21. While with TNT, I spent 6 years as their Presentation Team Leader teaching and doing some of the designing of the choreo packages for our contest sets. I became a PRS Judge in the same

class as our own Roger Stanfield and was honored to be the youngest PRS Judge to ever judge an International contest. With Northbrook, we also did tours in Ireland and England.

My experience with GNU has been fantastic. I am very sincere when I say that this is the best group I've sung with. This group also has a plan beyond just winning and that's what makes this group successful and better than many gold medal choruses already! We're missing a couple key elements to get to that next level, but nothing that isn't easily obtainable!

A passion of mine is soccer. I've played and coached since I was 7, and coached 4 regional championship club teams and two national championship teams.



Chris Dart

I have lived in Saint Paul for 22 years (with a brief interlude in Minneapolis). I spent the first 4 years of my life in Cleveland, OH, and grew up in Marshfield, Wisconsin, which is where I got my first exposure to singing BBSQ--and have wanted to join a group ever since. I spent 5 months on an internship in Senegal, West Africa in 1991.

I am the technology coordinator for the Friends School of Minnesota, a Quaker K-8 school in Saint Paul. Occasionally I am called upon to substitute teach at the school where I work. I am also a freelance computer consultant specializing in supporting home users and very small businesses. While most of my work is planning, troubleshooting, and maintenance, I also develop web-based applications.

I've been singing informally since I could talk; formally since about age 8 in church choir.

I started out on the cello, but in college, I

moved to the classical guitar, which I am rediscovering after a several-year hiatus. I have had vocal training as part of singing in the various choirs I have been in.

I'll be a new Barbershop Harmony Society member as soon as the check clears. My barbershop group in high school considered joining, but I don't remember if we actually did.

I'm not much of a leader unless no others step forward. Until about 2001, I did most of my formal singing in high school which included the SATB choir, a madrigal group, the men's chorus, a barbershop quartet, and several musical theater performances. More recently I sang with One Voice Mixed Chorus and their small ensemble OVation. (That's not a typo).

I love the energy, enthusiasm, but most importantly the devotion to the craft the GNU demonstrates. Everyone is serious about singing, but has a great time doing it.

I enjoy woodworking, gardening, computer programming, classical guitar, and commuter biking as much as I can.

"Do one thing every day that scares you"
-Eleanor Roosevelt (1884-1962)



Joe Connelly Coaching 4/22/10



St Cloud State University Men's Choir 4/29/10



we come together to support "To Future Hope" and the Maccoux sisters.

Como Park Barbershop Sing-out

Date: Tuesday, July 13
Time: 6:00PM
Location: Como Park Pavilion - St. Paul MN

The GNU will be one of many local Barbershop Harmony Society chapters performing in this annual summer event. The Como Park Pavilion provides a great lakeside location for an evening of wonderful entertainment.

Saturday July 24 – Mark Hale Coaching

ACDA of Minnesota Summer Dialogue Performance

Date: Thursday, August 5
Time: 8:30pm
Location: St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN
www.acda-mn.org

2010 MN Twins Barbershop Day @ Target Field

Date: Sunday, August 22
Time: 1:00 PM
Location: Target Field - Minneapolis, MN

Play Ball! The GNU will join with up with our brother barbershop chapters and guests to sing our National Anthem before the Minnesota Twins game against the Anaheim Angels in the inaugural season of brand new Target Field.



Coming Events

**See more online: gnunion.com*

Friday May 14 – Judy Potzgay Coaching, Choreography FRONT ROW ONLY
 Saturday May 15 -- Judy Potzgay, Coaching, Choreography FULL GROUP

"To Future Hope", A Gospel Benefit

Date: Saturday, June 19
Time: 7:30 PM
Location: Shepard of the Valley Lutheran- Apple Valley, MN

Give your support to this gospel benefit as the Great Northern Union joins other ensembles in harmony to rally and support the "To Future Hope" cause, a family in the Twin Cities with two chronically ill sisters. With mounting medical costs over and above what insurance will cover, all proceeds of this concert will help the family's medical bills. Join the GNU, Sweetwater Revival, and 4Given as

We will sing the National Anthem on the field. Then from section 139 (top tan section in right field) we'll lead the crowd in singing God Bless America and Take Me Out to the Ballgame during the 7th inning stretch.

Youth In Harmony Autumn Choral

Classic

Date: Saturday, September 25
Time: 7:30pm
Location: St Michael's Lutheran Church -
Bloomington, MN

The Great Northern Union and the Minnesota Boy Choir team up to present a return of the popular Youth In Harmony concert collaboration. The Minnesota Boy Choir, directed by Mark Johnson, challenges boys and young men from many backgrounds to the highest standards of choral music.

Monday October 4 - EXTRA rehearsal
Monday October 11 - EXTRA rehearsal
Friday October 22 through Sunday October 24 – District, Fargo, ND

2010 Season Finale featuring Storm Front Quartet

Date: Saturday, November 13 &
Sunday, November 14
Time: 7:00pm & 2pm
Location: Benson Great Hall, Bethel Univ. -
Arden Hills MN

The GNU returns to Benson Great Hall for our final concerts of 2010. Traditionally our biggest concerts of the season, the 2010 Season Finales will feature championship performances and spectacular a cappella singing in an intimate concert setting. Sharing the stage with the GNU will be the 2009 3rd place BHS medalist Storm Front Quartet. Be a part of this exceptional concert experience as we celebrate our 2010 season and look ahead to our exciting 25th anniversary.

Rehearsals from Finale through the end of the year



Photo Galleries

St Cloud State Concert 4/29/10
<http://tinyurl.com/3yatm8n>

Luther College 4/16/10
<http://tinyurl.com/y7upfhw>

Collegiate Concert 3/13/10
<http://tinyurl.com/yb95pcc>

Vallee de Croix Show 3/6/10
<http://tinyurl.com/yk3ylun>

Quartet News by Jim Emery

Congratulations to all 9 GNU quartets on their performances at Division Contest in Mankato (actually in Nicollet) April 30 & May 1, 2010. You all made us proud!

Vocality and Expedition qualified for the International Quartet contest with some truly excellent performances. Expedition also qualified for the International College Quartet contest. Prove It was oh-so-close (69.6 versus 70.0) to qualifying for the International College Quartet contest. Cross your fingers that they still may get a wild card bid.

Grand Design, St. Croix Crossing, St. Anthony Main, Grand Avenue, and Turning Point all qualified for the fall District contest. Soul Purpose also turned in a fine performance.

I can't imagine the GNU being better represented in a single contest weekend. Thanks to all our quartets!



Jeremy Ganswindt *Tenor*
 Jay Fahl *Lead*
 Bryan Ziegler *Baritone*
 Jake Umhoefer *Bass*
 Contact Jake at bbrshopper@yahoo.com

JAY TONY DAVID ROBERT



VOCALITY@VOCALITYQUARTET.COM 651.307.7248



(If you'd like your Quartet's business card included in the next GNU's News please e-mail to ttwheeler_56150@hotmail.com)

