

# Chord Rustlers

BARBERSHOP CHORUS OF BOZEMAN, MT

August 29, 2011  
Volume 4, Issue 7

## "The Old Chorale"



### Get Ready to Rumble

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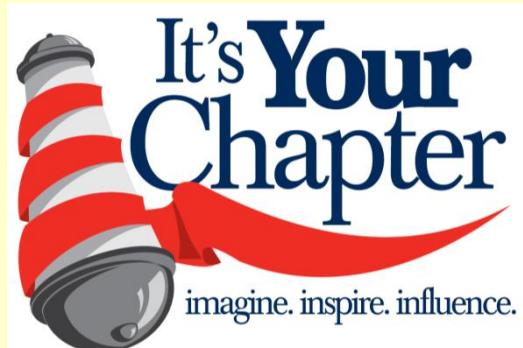
The Chord Rustlers are putting the final touches on the District Contest set, "My Honey's Lovin' Eyes" and "Jeannie with the Light Brown Hair."

Contests bring out the best in choruses and quartets. It is an opportunity to share the fruits of our hard work taking two or more songs "to the next level" of both execution and entertainment. While most of us will agree, working tirelessly on two contest songs is tedious, so is anything worth doing well. Those of you who may have played the piano, violin, or another instrument spent untold hours perfecting a song for the "recital." In the case of advanced students of piano, those hours stretched into days and even years. I remember working on a Chopin scherzo my last year of high school. While I played it for the recital my senior year, I am really still working to perfect it.

The same is true with barbershop songs. We can work on them for a year or two, put them away for a while, and when we bring them out they are fresh and nuances can be inserted to make the songs even better. We've sung MHLE and JWTLBH a hundred times, but it may be the 101<sup>st</sup> time when it really begins to come together. Keep up the intensity, the enthusiasm, and the quality...the songs will be great come October 1<sup>st</sup> in Spokane. Currently, we have 41 people identified who are planning to go to District. **DH**

#### Upcoming Events

◆ Sept 17, 2011	Saturday Rehearsal 10:00-4:00
◆ Sept 30-Oct 1, 2011	District Contest Spokane, WA
◆ November 11, 2011	Veteran's Day Show
◆ December 13, 2011	Christmas Sing-a-round (tentative)



## Musical Notes



### Blowing Pitches for Songs

Finding the right pitch to start a song is usually a straightforward activity. You blow the “tonic” or the #1 of the scale, and everyone sings their first note in relationship to the tonic. It does require understanding what the key signature tells you is the tonic note in the scale. Let’s say the key signature is three flats (E<sup>b</sup>). The pitch you blow is E<sup>b</sup>. OK, that’s simple enough. However some our songs start off in a minor key; in that case, you would blow the tonic of the minor key. In the case of three flats, the minor key is C minor and therefore you would blow a C as the tonic and possibly “stack” the chord with the four chorus parts. The chorus should have one or two designated “pitch blowers” whose pipes are in tune with each other.

There are several rules to blowing pitches; here are three:

1. Blow the pitch for at least three seconds
2. Blow the pitch ONLY after the chorus is “ready” to sing; for example, if the director gives some last minute instructions, wait until he/she is finished, then blow the pitch. If there is another distraction, blow the pitch again.
3. Be sure your pitch pipe is in tune (check it with a keyboard or an electronic pipe).

For those of you with the new-fangled cell phones (Droids, I-phones), you can download a “pitch pipe” app that is always in tune. **DH**

## Tater Pigs™ are a “Spud-er-iffic” Success

“What’s a Tater Pig™?” you may ask, as I am sure many did at this year’s Sweet Pea Festival. “It’s a baked potato with a sausage in the middle...oink, oink.” Even though we have chosen not to learn the official “Tater Pig Song,” we were treated to a rendition by four of the Missoula chapter dual members at our picnic August 20th. Thanks guys. The Sweet Pea Festival has been a mainstay of Bozeman’s summer activities since 1978 and Tater Pigs have been the preferred food by festival attendees. The numbers were down from last year’s record sales; but the kudos were high. Many of our patrons claim they come to Sweet Pea just for the Tater Pigs. Of course the art, music, and fun are great side benefits. Our chairmen Don Greer, Kevin Mattson, and Jerry Mollock send big “thank you’s” to all who helped set up, man the tent, and tear down. And thanks to you, too, Don, Kevin, and Jerry, for volunteering to coordinate the project **DH**



## Extra Rehearsals with Dual Members

Our next extra rehearsal with our dual members will be:

September 17<sup>th</sup>, 10 am–4 pm

The rehearsal will be at Christ the King Church, 4383 Durston Rd, Bozeman

This rehearsal is important for everyone as it is our last scheduled rehearsal to get us in shape for the District contest in Spokane September 30–October 1.

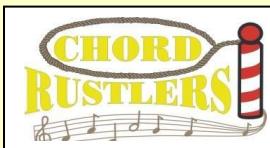


Boy, that was a tough rehearsal!

## 2012 Show Music

Learning tracks for six out of the seven show songs for next year have been uploaded to the chorus website. The section leaders are hoping to make the seventh. Once that is done, the resulting files will be uploaded as well. John Sheppard sent an email to the chorus for how to sign into the “Members Only” area and for how to download the files. If you cannot figure out how to do it, ask John or one of the “computer types” in the chorus. They’d be happy to help. **DH**

## Dewey's Dialogue for the Ageless



*"I almost  
understood what  
causes  
overtones..."  
Dwight Adams*



### UNHEARD MELODIES

Probably everyone has concepts he or she almost learned, but not quite. One of my limits came in organic chemistry. Another came in spherical trig. Then there's the physics of sound. I almost understood what causes overtones, but not quite. The same is true with undertones. Maybe if someone wants to, he could write a simple explanation. I sort of understand roots, thirds, fifths (not of gin) Barbershop sevenths, etc. I do know that if you don't have the root, back off. But even if you don't understand overtones, you can hear them once in a while. A good many years ago the **1733 Chorus** had a gig at the local Holiday Inn. The risers were set up under a heat duct. For some reason the location was just right for the metal to pick up sympathetic vibrations. We didn't much care how the audience reacted; we got caught up in listening to the overtones. My ears, like most ears at middle age and older, don't pick up higher pitches very well. But these pitches were so loud you couldn't miss them. Barbershopping sometimes has a high point; that was one.

*Dewey*

### ♪ Music Team ♪

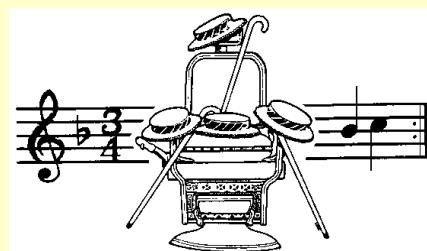
Directors: Natalie Berdahl	406-579-2211
Assistant Director: Charlie McGuire	406-582-0471
Music VP: John Sheppard	406-924-4515
Section Leaders:	
Lead: John Sheppard	406-924-4515
Baritone: Tim Lund	406-570-1234
Tenor: Kevin Mattson	406-388-6232
Bass: Bernie Bissell	406-586-2966
Chorus Mgr: Jerry Mollock	406-570-2468
Librarian: Jack Lehman	406-388-3121

### ♪ Committees ♪

Show Chairmen 2012: Jack Lehman Dave Schrupp	406-388-3121 406-585-9493
Tater Pig Chairmen 2011: Jerry Mollock, Don Greer, Kevin Mattson	406-570-2468 406-586-7871 406-388-6232
Singing Valentines 2012 Chairman:	

### Chord Rustler Officers

President: Bernie Bissell	406-586-2966
VP Music: John Sheppard	406-924-4515
VP Chapter Development: Dave Schrupp	406-585-9493
VP Marketing/PR: Dan Hopper	406-582-5194
Treasurer: Sig Dehn	406-586-5747
Secretary: Frank Smith	406-586-4676
Immediate Past President: Dave Schrupp	406-585-9493
Board Members at Large: Charles McGuire Mike Tank Kevin Mattson	406-582-0471 406-585-9437 406-388-6170
Executive Vice President: Don Greer	406-586-7871
Sunshine Chairman: Jesse Edgar	406-579-5354



## Who is this Chord Rustler?

Periodically, "The Old Chorale" will have an article describing a member's life and experiences.

**While Jerry works on his interview with another Chord Rustler, let's welcome our newest members:**

Jack Glover, Missoula

Joe Gyles, Missoula

Slater Henkel, Browning

Richard Kintz, Polson

Steve McArthur, Missoula

Scott Moore, Bozeman

Roger Morton, Clancy

Robert Pfister, Bonner

John Rettenmayer, Missoula

John Robinson, Missoula

Fred Schwanemann, Missoula

Dennis Tayer, Missoula

Brice Todd, Missoula



### August & September Birthdays

- |              |                |
|--------------|----------------|
| August 15    | Roger Morton   |
| August 20    | Isaac Nelson   |
| August 21    | John Sheppard  |
| August 23    | Jesse Sheppard |
| August 25    | Jack Grover    |
| September 9  | Wyman Schmidt  |
| September 12 | Joe Gyles      |
| September 18 | Sig Dehn       |
| September 29 | Frank Johnson  |

Chord Rustlers meet Tuesdays at Grace Bible Church, 3625 South 19<sup>th</sup>, Bozeman. Rehearsals are from 7:00–9:30 p.m. Guests are always welcome.



## Mission Statement — Bozeman Chord Rustlers

“The mission of the Chord Rustlers is to sing *a cappella*, four-part harmony, in the barbershop style, to support vocal music education of youth, and to provide audiences with wholesome entertainment for all occasions by men who enjoy musical and social camaraderie, desiring to share their love of music within the community, and who aspire to grow in musical excellence and preserve the tradition of four-part harmony singing.”



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