

The Grapevine

It Really Grows on You!

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CC HoneyRock Retreat: Looking Back, Looking Forward

In less than five weeks, we, the Wheaton College Concert Choir, will travail the passage north to HoneyRock for a weekend retreat in the Northwoods of Wisconsin. What will become of us? What dangers lie ahead? Will a bear, sent by John Nelson to make us sing with more gusto, tear out our vocal chords? You may lie awake at night, wondering if you will survive. Fortunately, the CC paved the way back in 2009, so there’s no reason to be at all concerned. Here are some success stories to ease your mind.

Jeff Hobday—HoneyRock - Reger

The last time I was at Honeyrock with Concert Choir, we were working on a ridiculously difficult motet by Max Reger...That wasn’t exactly fun, but to make up for it we made the most of our free time—tubing, cross-country skiing, playing board games, snow-shoeing, and

drinking cup after cup of hot chocolate and tea. It was a great time to deepen friendships in the choir, and I look forward to doing the same this year—minus the Reger!

Nathan Olson—Laughs & gaffs

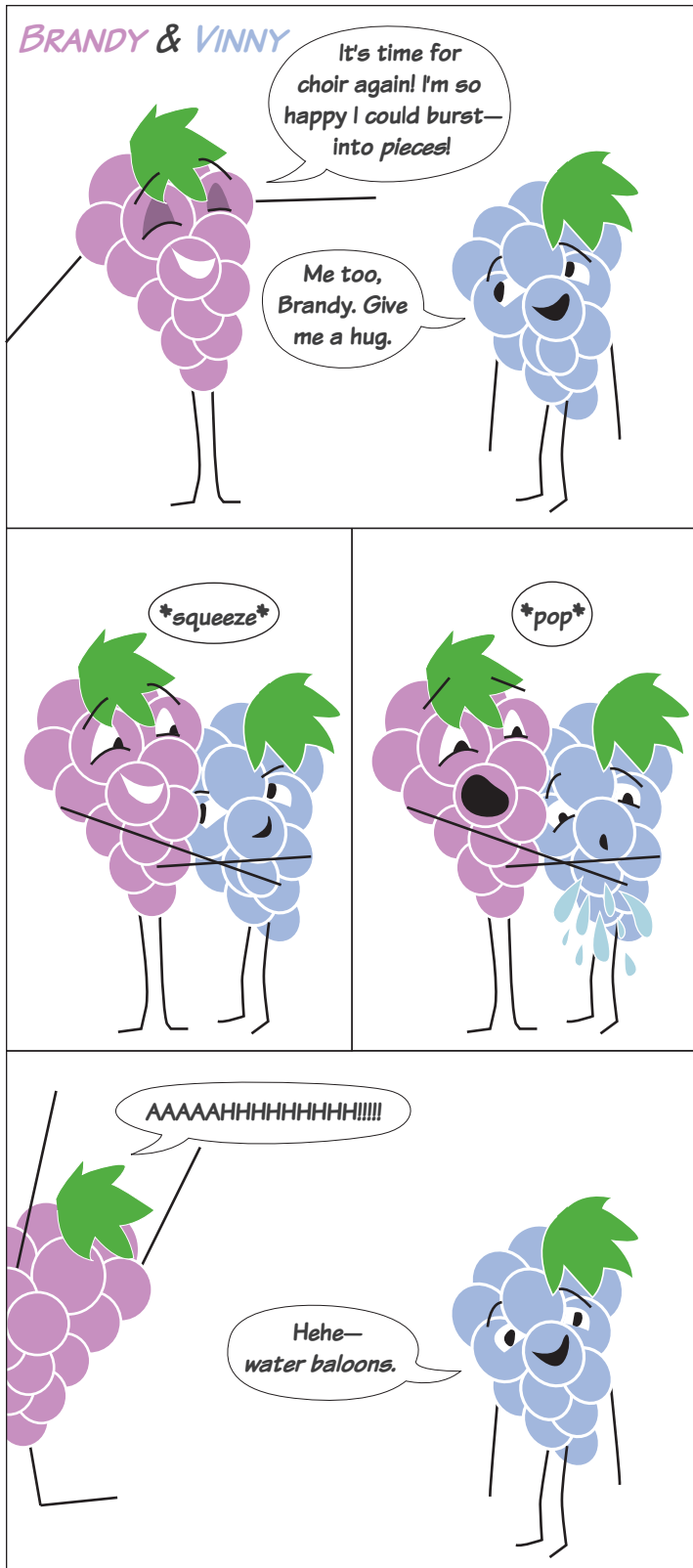
Once, a good section of the choir went tubing at night. They had these huge flood lights that lighted up the hill, and we spent about an hour tubing down two separate, fun paths that headed in the opposite direction from the cabins. At the end of the night, we got everyone hooked up in two huge chains of tubes and piled a few people on each tube, then had the entire group go down at once. After we got back up the hill, Phil thought it would be cool to steal our thunder and go down by himself again. At that, the counselors turned off the lights, leaving him going downhill, away from the camp, in total darkness, while we ran back to the cabins, stranding him alone.

Another fun experience happened when Christina Foster, Bennett Umhau, and I were cross-country skiing. We had gotten ahead of the group and went off on a separate trail by ourselves. We had been going for maybe 45 minutes and were about ready to take the path back to the trail head, but we saw off to our left a trail that went steeply down a hill, 45 degrees right, and back up another hill. We thought it would be fun to go through the valley, then turn around and



“We just might have a problem that you’ll understand: Giving back rubs by the fire and singing in a most spontaneous sort of fashion... what CC really does best.” See the video on Sam Cunanan’s FB page!

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Editor's Note

Greetings! I trust everyone's break was restful to some degree and needed in every way. Whether you were ready to come back or not, I hope you think of Wheaton as a home away from home, and Concert choir as another family. A special Thank You to those who took time to contribute to this issue.

Have a good week, Julia

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go through it again. It was a little scary, because we couldn't see what was behind the bend, so we went one by one, losing sight of the skier in front of us and trusting he/she had gotten up the other side. We all made it to the opposite hill, and turned to head back through the valley and back home. Bennett went first, and right after he made the turn at the bottom, we heard a yell of surprise/pain/who knows what. We soon learned that Jon Young had been right behind us, and went down the hill the other hill at the same time as Bennett, meeting him at the bottom. They crashed, but fortunately no one was hurt.

Shannon Smith ('10)—Tangled

I ran into a tree while cross country skiing with Courtney Blue. At the bottom of the hill, she was singing "We're on a Highway to Hell". Then I ate it into a tree and my hair got caught.

Tim McHale—Victory at last

One time a group of us went tubing. We linked three or more tubes together with quite a few people on them, consisting of myself, Jamie, Wendy, Phil Sandager—just to name a few. We kinda veered off into the wrong direction heading straight for some trees. As we approached the bottom of the hill, moving at lightning speed, some of us yelled "jump!" and we all simultaneously abandoned ship a split second before it would have been too late. In complete chaos our flying bodies were left at the mercy of physics. Impact. It was a hard blow. Our tubes slammed into the trees and we all ate snow like it was our birthday dinners. Then... there was stillness, like the moment immediately following a tornado. Dazed and confused, we all picked our snow-covered heads up and looked at each other. Some people's clothes were twisted, others' hair looked a hot mess, but it was at that moment, when we stared across the snow into each other's eyes that we formed a bond that not many men have the privilege of forming in this life. We knew we had made it. We knew we were survivors. We knew we were...invincible. And so we went up the hill to try it again! ❖



Jamie, her hair looking "a hot mess."

TOP THREE ANTICIPATED ACTIVITIES AT HONEYROCK:

Snow Tubing, Ice Skating, and Cross-Country Skiing!

ACTIVITY DOC SHOULD DO: SNOW TUBING!

"He should definitely go tubing. He's hilarious up on that huge hill. That might have been the only crazy activity that he did last time, and it was worth every moment :)"

ARE YOU THE INDOOR OR OUTDOOR TYPE?

Indoor = 30% • Outdoor = 45% • Both = 25%

WHAT VOICE PART ARE YOU?

So you know what voice part you are, right? Probably not. Take this quiz to find out.

1. During warm-ups you:

- a) reach a high C with cheerios in your mouth.
- b) "goose" people in the side. *Who needs to warm up?*
- c) sing as if you were on radio and also feel your blood curdle.
- d) take out a mirror and admire your blemish-free, vocal face. *Is anyone watching? They should be.*

2. When you are placed in a tank filled with carnivorous minnows, you:

- a) swallow them so that they can't swallow you.
- b) teach them to be vegetarian.
- c) try to kill them by unsuccessfully squeezing their slippery bodies, thus unnecessarily tiring yourself before they eat you.
- d) flex your muscles so that you are impenetrable by their fangs.

3. If Doc described you, he would say you are:

- a) "Like climbing a rock face without ropes."
- b) "The effervescence of the spirit, instead of death personified."
- c) "Like a 3rd grade class standing up to recite their Christmas story."
- d) "A wood nymph's delight."

4. At Honeyrock, you choose to do which of the following activities:

- a) underwater ice fishing armed only with toothpicks.
- b) interpretive snow-shoeing dances to the Brahms Requiem.
- c) hide-and-Seek in the woods by yourself, all cold and alone.
- d) frolicking in the woods with white-spotted baby does.

5. On your first date, you would say:

- a) "It's marrying age—Doc got married at 21."
- b) "A sign of maturity... is... you party hard."
- c) "Oh, I'm in my quiet little world and you can't see me."
- d) "People like intimacy—musical and otherwise."

YOUR RESULTS

Mostly A's:

The Superhuman Soprano—Your middle name is "Chuck Norris Times Infinity." You laugh at danger and eat fear for breakfast, served cold and washed down with a glass of terror. High notes have met their maker. (Note: this voice part is rare).

Mostly B's:

The Awesome Alto—Your life is one big party of awesomeness that everyone wishes they were invited to. You are a beast at solfege, which you affectionately call your "grandmother tongue," and you transform into a salsa-machine by night.

Mostly C's:

The Terrified Tenor—You have a mini hernea when Doc says your name or when he asks your section to sing louder, in which case you take the request as a personal attack. Your nickname is "McFlinch," or "Grimace-face," but you're OK with that.

Mostly D's:

The Big and Beautiful Bass—For the most part, people find you irresistible. Your weapons of mass seduction are a deep voice, a strong chin, and flowing locks (extra points on a male). And you have a great personality, especially at choir dinner. ❖

AT HONEYROCK, WHO IS MOST LIKELY TO...

GET LOST? POLLS SAY: BENNETT U.

Even so, a CC member makes a strong case for Nolan C.

"I could definitely see Nolan getting lost, and yet remaining unnervingly calm and using his diaphragm to project his studio pieces across a ten-mile radius. (He is quite aware of the fact that everyone will come running to his aid when they hear his angelic voice.)"

DO SOMETHING CRAZY? POLLS SAY: NATHAN T.

Here's what other CC members have to say:

"Any person possessing an XY chromosome is genetically programmed to do crazy (stupid) things."

"Will Hughes, when you least expect it."

SURPRISE US WITH AN INCREDIBLE TALENT?

"Keith (because he is skilled at so many random things)."

"Wendy has a dance that people need to see. She hasn't shown it to many. But it needs to be shared."

"Jeff will wow us with his jaw harp virtuosity."

"Nathan Tendero is actually a Ninja. Katie Nashland is actually the Toothfairy. Will Hughes is a closet rodeo champion."

"The New Guy."

IF DOC WENT SLEIGH RIDING, WOULD YOU MISTAKE HIM AS SANTA CLAUS?

"Yes. That speaks for itself."

"I don't think so."

"Possibly...but definitely if he was wearing the hat."

"Yes."

"Definitely; especially if he was wearing something red."

"Yes, he definitely has the appearance of Santa Clause and the sleigh makes him a clear image of Santa. He even has us sing: 'Oh oh oh oh or ho ho ho ho' in Choir."

"Hmm, yes."

"Maybe, if he wore the costume and grew his beard a little longer."

"My inner child would sure try to."

"At first yes, but I think all the one-liners about the sopranos' pitch integrity would eventually tip me off."

"Most definitely."

"Probably from a distance, but up close...not so much."

"I may or may not confuse Doc with Santa Claus depending on his facial expression...I could never mistake one of those famous Doc looks/intense glares with Jolly Old Saint Nick lol."

"Haha umm no. Doc is too Doc to be santa claus."

"YES. IT'S ALL ABOUT THE BEARD." ❖





**DR. WIENS
EXPOUNDS ON
EVERYTHING
FROM LIFE TO
"FLUFFY"**

Doc on life:

"Life moves on. We move on to new repertoire."

Doc on the 't' endings in the Brahms:

"It troubles me all the time."

Doc on Nathan turning twenty-one:

**"It's marrying age—I got married at 21"
(Wendy: "Yeah you did!")**

Doc on Mallory D's posture at her last rehearsal:

"Completely flayed out."

Doc on Brahms No. 1:

"There were a couple of places where we dropped our drawers."

Doc on page 5 of Brahms No. 1:

"Sing your happy chord."

Doc on using Northern German, instead of Southern German in the Motets:

"Take nöte of that."

Doc on his illness:

"It's really boring to be sick."

Doc on recording at symphony center:

"Get your ducks in a row and let fly."

Doc on Jordan Newhouse loving us:

"If you're well, give him a hug."

Doc on Brahms No. 3:

"Can you sing more right notes?"

Doc on Wendy solving how to turn on the lights in E 102:

"Wendy's right for once."

Doc on Dr. Hopper's request that we don't look 'skuzzy' in chapel:

"We don't know what that means."

Doc on people not watching during 'O Come... Emmanuel':

"Oh, I'm in my quiet little world and you can't see me."

Doc on a flat Bass note in 'O Come... Emmanuel':

"Doesn't that make your blood curdle?"

Doc on our performance of 'O Come... Emmanuel':

"If we've poured the perfume on the dirt, instead of on Jesus' feet, I'm really disappointed."

Doc on the acoustics in Edman:

"I'm afraid of Edman Chapel eating you alive."

Doc on himself:

"Really, I'm a pleasant person."

Doc on the dress rehearsal of the Basler:

"Your faces were as if you were on radio."

Doc on Marketo's face:

"It won't break."

Doc on page 5 of the Bargreen:

"Now do it in tempo or something."

Doc on his early years:

"I used to serve in a Methodist congregation in the 90s—that's the 1990s."

Doc on Honeyrock:

"eat...repeat...sleep..."

Doc on the sopranos and altos oversinging a *piano* section:

"All of my front yard leaves being raked in at the same time."

Doc on the soprano's opening in 'O Little Town...':

"You don't have the headband sound that Julia's got."

Doc on the East Wing:

"An acoustically forsaken room."

Doc on saying 'Lort' in the Kellogg:

"What God do you pray to?"

Doc on the mechanical sounds in the Kellogg:

"Cookoo clock syndrome."

Doc on the tone in the Whitacre:

"Like a third grade class standing up to recite their Christmas story."

Doc on the Whitacre:

"A wood nymph's delight."

Doc on the soprano solo in the Whitacre:

"Any little blemish on your vocal face will stand out."

Doc on singing more intimately on page 5 of the Whitacre:

"People like intimacy—musical and otherwise."

Doc on page 6 of the Whitacre:

"Yes Mildred, there is a modulation."

Doc on the repeated notes in the alto part on page 7 of the Whitacre:

"That's the weirdest thing in the world."

Doc on 'fluffy threads':

"Such an opportunity. I'll look forward to it."

Doc on 'balls':

"Get over it—they're Christmas tree ornaments."

Doc on the tenor part on page 9 of the Whitacre:

"The reason you're not getting to 42 is because of your sins in 41."

Doc on a falling water bottle disrupting rehearsal:

"That's alright—water bottles are OK here."

Doc on the tenors:

"I don't hear your tumming."

Doc on fluffy:

"Everybody in the audience knows about fluffy. Would you please overdo it and make me cringe?"

"It didn't go past the little evergreen stuff here [on front of stage]."

**SPECIAL BONUS FEATURE—
ASK JOHN NELSON!**

John Nelson on Musicians:

"There are musicians, and then there are singers."

John Nelson on the too-quick crescendo on the word 'dawn':

"The sun doesn't go woo!" ❖