

Extemporaneous Ensemble's First Performance for SOLID Service

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<I sent this text via our tablet to the Bear-Low-LDS-Volunteers>

(A). ~~EXTEMPORANEOUS~~ ^{RY} ENSEMBLE ILLUSTRATED TODAY

With Chris [Sean Fairbanks] and my "You Raise Me Up" song being postponed yesterday to Nov. 24, I was going to go ahead and do the "Abide with Me" (165&166 combo) by myself today. But I want to do that one with Chris^t once he's ready. Also, knowing of all the amazing singing talent we have in our branch, I wanted to involve others. So I came up with (was intaited with) the idea of doing a hymn extemporaneously along with several others. In asking David Günter if he'd like to participate, he said he would if it was 136 "I Know that My Redeemer Lives."

In approaching the several inmates about doing this today, I told them that none of us had practiced this together yet, and we'd all be doing it extemporaneously (interpretive, lyric-de-pendant expressive and volume) in the Spirit, with interludes and key changes. Most all those who sang with us were given that info, though there ^{were} ~~was~~ one or two I had not talked to.

I was quite pleased with how it went and received several spontaneous compliments/expressions of gratitude (for being instruments in God's hands).

I'm confident we could do at least as well with most any familiar hymn, with no prior notice. Since we don't have a choir, this gives these inmates a chance to sing praises in a special way, giving them an outlet for their talent that is yearning for expression. I estimate there are several other people who would

like to do this with us the next time we do it. (2)

I invite you to have us do a hymn of your choice next week, which presently doesn't have anything scheduled. And like today, say that anyone (including volunteers and officers) who is comfortable doing extemporaneous (ad lib) music is welcome to join us.

We could probably fit 25 people up on that front side of the chapel.

(B). TASTE OF THINGS TO COME

I see people looking forward to these.

Imagine us doing this for prelude music each week, until you're ready to start the meeting.

And, yes, it would be wonderful if we could have a weekly 8 AM "Extemporaneous Ensemble" practice time, to increase our chemistry and ability to enlarge our group's talent. Just as an individual benefits from musical practice time for their gift, so also would a group/ensemble/choir benefit from practice, to better shine as a conduit for heaven, when they're given an opportunity.

What the officers/prison needs to enable this to happen is for volunteers to be there. You can see from today that there is a yearning for this opportunity on the part of us inmates.

(C). FOLLOW-UP FROM LAST WEEK'S POST TO YOU ALL

Last week, I sent you a message titled, "How I imagine the EXTEMPORARY ENSEMBLE Manifesting in Prison." It was transcribed from an article I wrote to post on my IndComing.org site (that Sam Shaffer's mom graciously maintains for me for two years now!)

Sgt. Ivory allowed an officer to make 20 copies of that 4-pp piece to hand out to likely participants, as well as to leaders in prison and outside. Here is a list of some recipients:

• Captains Karic, Ehlers, Bennett; • Lt. Dunford; • Exec. Dir. (3) ^{Extmp Ensemble}
Brian Redd; • UT Sen. Darrin Owens (fortunately is in my parent's ward, was
their bishop); • Chaplain Hill. I also invited most all these to attend on
Nov. 24 to hear Chrs' and my singing "You Raise Me Up."

(D). GOD-CALLING

Yes, I am driven by confidence that God put this Extemporaneous Ensemble idea on my heart. That's why I'm so persistent in pursuing this - since 2016! I see it as a wonderful gem to add to our worship services - of any denomination. This is entirely consistent with the teachings of the scriptures:

- Let your light so shine
- Magnify your talents
- If you don't use it, you'll ~~lose~~ lose it
- Conduct meetings by the Spirit. (Moro. 6:9)
- The song of the righteous is a prayer to God [D&C 25:12]
- Praising God in worship
- Power of sacred music to convert, heal, bring peace, teach.

Not only is this a worthy cause, it is a massive step ^[forward] forward in our walk with God, bringing heaven to earth.

Thanks for your reluctant patience in dealing with my enthusiasm. 

