



Member Biographies

Ron Vedder began his music career in first grade when his parents agreed to purchase a small organ for him as long as he would take lessons and practice. Every day after school before going to play with the other children in the neighborhood, he would be required to practice both the piano and organ for 30 minutes. It was drudgery then, but eventually it became fun to practice and his parents did not have to force the issue. During the elementary and junior high school years, Ron would entertain for his family and other parties at his home, providing organ and piano music an accompaniment for sing-a-longs. While still in high school, Ron started to substitute at local churches as the organist on Sunday mornings and he provided musical accompaniment for the children in Vacation Bible School. When he went to college at the University of Michigan, he wasn't able to take the organ with him, so he learned to play the guitar. Singing folk songs, county music and gospel occupied most of the time not spent studying.

In early 1977, Ron became the full time church organist for Hope Lutheran Church. When he first started playing, the choir director asked him to sing in the choir and his group vocal career began. Since that time Ron has participated as an assistant director at the church, assistant director for a barbershop chorus, and lead singer in a barbershop chorus and in a barbershop quartet. In 1988, Ron and Rick Jaster gathered a group of active and former choir members of Hope Lutheran Church and formed the a capella singing croup *Seek to Be*. Ron has had the privilege of acting as the music director of the group, selecting the songs the group will sing, singing tenor with the group and assembling the programs for their performance.

Rick Jaster has been involved in musical pursuits most of his life. Throughout his school years he was involved in instrumental music. Church choirs gave him an outlet for his vocal abilities. Rick owns a kitchen/bath remodeling company in Novi. He has used his knowledge and expertise in this area to help build schools and orphanages in Namibia, Africa, in addition to local fund-raising for his favorite charities. Rick has been with *Seek to Be* for 20 years. He is one of the group's co-founders and technical director.

Karen Schanerberger has been teaching and performing most of her life. Currently, Karen teaches group piano and Kindermusik classes at Evola Music of Canton. Karen earned her music degree from Wayne State University. Karen's background includes teaching private voice and piano lessons, classroom music, performing with local choirs and opera companies, and directing children and adult vocal and handbell choirs. She is also a soloist and choir member at Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church in Livonia. Karen has been with *Seek to Be* since January 2008, singing alto, second soprano or any part that seems to be needed at the moment.