January of 2019 we mailed out over 250 packets to cities around the state announcing the 7th Annual Minnesota Sing. Unfortunately much has changed since then. You might want to keep the DVD that was a part of that mailing but everything else you can throw away. Cities have had to cancel their summer celebrations and that has caused us to make a major change for 2020. We will not let the COVID-19 hold us hostage. We're going to make lemonade out of lemons. Minnesota Sings 2020 will take place---but it will be VIRTUAL.

What is Minnesota Sings? It is a competition between cities throughout the great state designed for amateur vocalists. There are two divisions: 13 to 20 year olds and those 21 and older. In each division the first place singer wins $3000 cash, second place $2000 cash and third place $1000 cash. Contestants will film their performance, send it to Minnesota Sings electronically, and after being approved by a panel of judges, their video will be put up on YouTube (search for the Minnesota Sings Channel). The winners will be selected from those videos by two judges who reside outside of Minnesota. Here are the specific rules: Contestants can sing to a backing track or they can accompany themselves on guitar or piano or some other instrument. Since this is a singing contest, you will only be JUDGED ON YOUR VOCAL TALENTS. The song cannot exceed five minutes, the words have to be family friendly and the song memorized. You can sing any type of music. We hear everything from Broadway to rock n’ roll, country rock, country, folk, jazz, blues, swing, contemporary Christian, arias from operas and much
more. Once you have your performance filmed (please make sure the audio sounds good) e-mail me at the address provided. You will then be sent download instructions. If you are using a camera or some other device that uses an SD card or Compact Flash card, simply mail me the card and I’ll take care of everything. (Only include your performance on the card) When you mail the card, please include a postage-paid self-addressed return envelope.

Contestants will also need to tell us what your age is on September 20\textsuperscript{th}, 2020 and include COMPLETE contact information. Again, this is an amateur competition, so if more than 25\% of your 2019 income came from singing, then we consider you to be a professional and not eligible to compete. The cost for a city to participate is $100. That cost covers four contestants. (2 from the 13 to 20 year old division and 2 form the 21 and older division). Many cities have already responded to the mailing we did back in December. If your city would like to participate, simply respond to this e-mail and send a check for $100 payable to Experience Shows Inc. If one of your contestants wins first place, YOU WILL WIN $500. Last years first place winners are not eligible to compete---so we ALWAYS have a new first place winner. The contest starts today and the last day to enter is Sunday September 20\textsuperscript{th}, 2020. The winners will be announced on Sunday September 27\textsuperscript{th}, 2020. None of this would be possible without the continued support of our generous sponsors. RBC Wealth Management is our Financial Platinum Sponsor. They provide the majority of the prize money and have done so since day one.

This year we are thrilled to announce a new Equipment Platinum Sponsor: Electro-Voice. All of our Gold Sponsors have been with us since the beginning: Audio-Technica Microphones, Gator Cases and Stands, Mackie Mixers, Quik Stage and The Garage Recording Studio and Live Venue. We also welcome a new Silver Sponsor: Beyer Dynamic Headphones. Completing our list of Silver Sponsors are KDWA Radio of Hastings, The St. Paul Wealth Management Group and
Experience Shows Inc. This has become a major statewide event thanks to all of the cities that have participated. We encourage you to offer this opportunity to talented amateur singers in your city. Our website is: www.minnesotasings.com Please send your e-mail to: chuckspavin@icloud.com Please mail your check to

Experience Shows, Inc., 12045 Point Douglas Dr S, Hastings, MN 55033 If you have any questions, my cell is: 651-315-8444. Thank you so very much for your time and interest.

Sincerely,

Chuck Spavin
Lead Volunteer
Minnesota Sings 2020--VIRTUAL

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RBC Wealth Management was ranked “Highest in Investor Satisfaction with Full-Service Brokerage Firms” in the J.D. Power 2020 Full-Service Investor Satisfaction Study. We believe this achievement reflects our firm’s strong commitment to putting client interests first and carefully managing the wealth that clients entrust to our care. For more information, view the J.D. Power press release.

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