

THE HARMONIZER

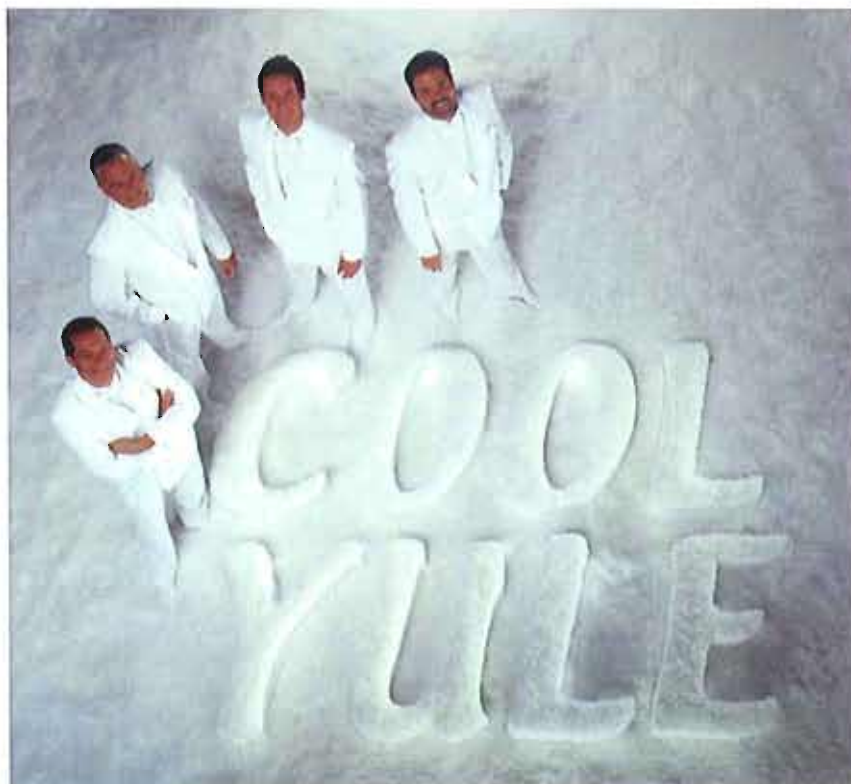
OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BARNBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY

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continue to provide hope
for this abandoned generation.
They are, after all,
the ones who will inherit the earth."*



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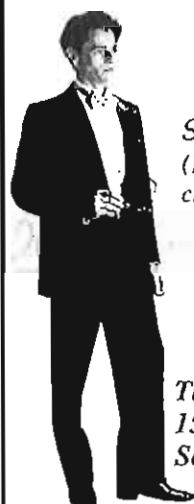
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DISCOVER

Let's Grow Young Together

One of the most endearing attributes of Barbershoppers is their passion for the hobby. As was pointed out in the 1994 study by Dieringer Research Associates of a representative sample of members, about two-thirds of our members fell into one of three segments: those who want to compete and improve their performance; those who want to teach and lead; or those who want to improve their singing but aren't as interested in competing. Even the other one-third or so of us join these groups in two passions shared by all: We want to improve our singing and like to bring quality entertainment to audiences. The difference in the various psychographic profiles of the respondents was simply the degree of passion they felt about the hobby.



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Switching subjects, I've also been following with great delight the Young Men In Harmony activities taking place in the Sunshine District, funded in part by a matching grant from Harmony Foundation. The activities are inspired in no small part by the support they've received from the highest quarters in Florida's Education Department, specifically the person in charge of the music curriculum for Florida schools. As pointed out in the Society's new *Young Men in Harmony Resource Guide* (stock no. 4074), appropriate contact with school district administrators and music educators is critical to the success of any high school or elementary school activity involving young men and the introduction of our style of singing to them and their teacher(s).

Unfortunately, we get a little too passionate sometimes—especially as we continue to be faced with a gradual decline in membership in our Society. Some chapter members want these high schoolers now! We must heed the advice of the Resource Guide: "We never wish to give the impression that we are vying for students' time to the detriment of the school program. If a positive working relationship is established with the teacher, the teacher will then become a partner in our efforts for music education preservation. If we have done our jobs properly, many of the students of today will surely become the

adult Barbershoppers of tomorrow."

A similar thought is echoed in a 1991 joint statement from the Society and the Music Educators National Conference (MENC), to wit:

"Because barbershop harmony can be a lifelong commitment, it is reasonable that some high school students may wish to join a local chapter. This can be an enhancement to the musical development of the student, but should not be at the expense of his commitment to the local school program."

In other words, use common sense. After all, not all high school students are so involved with their school's music program that their membership in the Society would cause their teacher a prob-

SPEBSQSA Vision Statement

The Society is to be an ever-growing fraternity of barbershop-style singers, leading the cause of encouraging vocal music in our schools and communities.



Harmony Foundation

Your clearinghouse for all charitable activities, including SingAmerica, SingCanada, Heartspring, the Heritage Hall Museum, the endowment program and memorial giving, may be reached at (800) 876-SING, ext. 8447

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lem.

We're all concerned about the small, yet steady Society membership decline, of course. It's become our number one area of concern. We have our work cut out for us as we try to reach the new membership and chapter creation goals we're committed to achieve by the end of 2001.

The tools are there. The leadership is there. All we need is for you to commit to help solve this continuing problem with the same passion that you bring to your support of the hobby, be it as a competitor, teacher, district or chapter leader, or—like most of us—simply someone who merely enjoys ringing chords with friends.

And on that note, let me close by saying that during my two years as your president I've been privileged to see many of you at work, perhaps judging you at your contests, or participating in discussions with you in your role as a chapter delegate, or in dialogue with you at Leadership Forum sessions, or coaching or teaching you at district schools or Harmony College, or while a guest at your Festivals and Youth Outreach workshops, or simply through reading your letters and emails and sharing your concerns with you.

I count myself as truly blessed to have been given the opportunity to witness your passion for the hobby and try, along with our dedicated Society leadership team and Kenosha staff, to make our common hobby more enjoyable and rewarding for you. Thank you!

Ed Waesche

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BAYSIDE EDITION:

IF I LOVE AGAIN

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FRED:

GET HAPPY

Another boisterous CD from these merry (and we mean merry) barbershoppers. Champs in the 1999 international barbershop competition, FRED doesn't disappoint fun-loving listeners. This group cleverly blends humorous songs with straight-up barbershop sound to produce a set that's over the top barbershop.

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MASTERPIECE

The International Chorus Champions recorded this CD in 1994. It opens with a magnum opus, a 12-minute Jerome Kern Medley, and continues with more great music. There's "Puttin' On the Ritz," "Deep River," "The Joint Is Jumpin'," "Make Our Garden Grow" from *Candide*, and more (12 in all). A fine recording by this talented male chorus.

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Bay Rumours	On The Beat	5593	14.97	NA	Four Freshmen, The	Use As A Star University	5557	14.97	NA	Marshall's	Just the way we shall be	5586	14.97	9.97
Bay Rumours	On The Beat	5594	14.97	NA	Four Freshmen, The	Use As A Star University	5558	14.97	NA	Marshall's	Just the way we shall be	5587	14.97	9.97
Bay Rumours	On The Beat	5595	14.97	NA	Four Freshmen, The	Use As A Star University	5559	14.97	NA	Marshall's	Just the way we shall be	5588	14.97	9.97
Bay Rumours	On The Beat	5596	14.97	NA	Four Freshmen, The	Use As A Star University	5560	14.97	NA	Marshall's	Just the way we shall be	5589	14.97	9.97
Bay Rumours	On The Beat	5597	14.97	NA	Four Freshmen, The	Use As A Star University	5561	14.97	NA	Marshall's	Just the way we shall be	5590	14.97	9.97
Bay Rumours	On The Beat	5598	14.97	NA	Four Freshmen, The	Use As A Star University	5562	14.97	NA	Marshall's	Just the way we shall be	5591	14.97	9.97
Bay Rumours	On The Beat	5599	14.97	NA	Four Freshmen, The	Use As A Star University	5563	14.97	NA	Marshall's	Just the way we shall be	5592	14.97	9.97
Bay Rumours	On The Beat	5600	14.97	NA	Four Freshmen, The	Use As A Star University	5564	14.97	NA	Marshall's	Just the way we shall be	5593	14.97	9.97
Bay Rumours	On The Beat	5601	14.97	NA	Four Freshmen, The	Use As A Star University	5565	14.97	NA	Marshall's	Just the way we shall be	5594	14.97	9.97
Bay Rumours	On The Beat	5602	14.97	NA	Four Freshmen, The	Use As A Star University	5566	14.97	NA	Marshall's	Just the way we shall be	5595	14.97	9.97
Bay Rumours	On The Beat	5603	14.97	NA	Four Freshmen, The	Use As A Star University	5567	14.97	NA	Marshall's	Just the way we shall be	5596	14.97	9.97
Bay Rumours	On The Beat	5604	14.97	NA	Four Freshmen, The	Use As A Star University	5568	14.97	NA	Marshall's	Just the way we shall be	5597	14.97	9.97
Bay Rumours	On The Beat	5605	14.97	NA	Four Freshmen, The	Use As A Star University	5569	14.97	NA	Marshall's	Just the way we shall be	5598	14.97	9.97
Bay Rumours	On The Beat	5606	14.97	NA	Four Freshmen, The	Use As A Star University	5570	14.97	NA	Marshall's	Just the way we shall be	5599	14.97	9.97
Bay Rumours	On The Beat	5607	14.97	NA	Four Freshmen, The	Use As A Star University	5571	14.97	NA	Marshall's	Just the way we shall be	5600	14.97	9.97
Bay Rumours	On The Beat	5608	14.97	NA	Four Freshmen, The	Use As A Star University	5572	14.97	NA	Marshall's	Just the way we shall be	5601	14.97	9.97
Bay Rumours	On The Beat	5609	14.97	NA	Four Freshmen, The	Use As A Star University	5573	14.97	NA	Marshall's	Just the way we shall be	5602	14.97	9.97
Bay Rumours	On The Beat	5610	14.97	NA	Four Freshmen, The	Use As A Star University	5574	14.97	NA	Marshall's	Just the way we shall be	5603	14.97	9.97
Bay Rumours	On The Beat	5611	14.97	NA	Four Freshmen, The	Use As A Star University	5575	14.97	NA	Marshall's	Just the way we shall be	5604	14.97	9.97
Bay Rumours	On The Beat	5612	14.97	NA	Four Freshmen, The	Use As A Star University	5576	14.97	NA	Marshall's	Just the way we shall be	5605	14.97	9.97
Bay Rumours	On The Beat	5613	14.97	NA	Four Freshmen, The	Use As A Star University	5577	14.97	NA	Marshall's	Just the way we shall be	5606	14.97	9.97
Bay Rumours	On The Beat	5614	14.97	NA	Four Freshmen, The	Use As A Star University	5578	14.97	NA	Marshall's	Just the way we shall be	5607	14.97	9.97
Bay Rumours	On The Beat	5615	14.97	NA	Four Freshmen, The	Use As A Star University	5579	14.97	NA	Marshall's	Just the way we shall be	5608	14.97	9.97
Bay Rumours	On The Beat	5616	14.97	NA	Four Freshmen, The	Use As A Star University	5580	14.97	NA	Marshall's	Just the way we shall be	5609	14.97	9.97
Bay Rumours	On The Beat	5617	14.97	NA	Four Freshmen, The	Use As A Star University	5581	14.97	NA	Marshall's	Just the way we shall be	5610	14.97	9.97
Bay Rumours	On The Beat	5618	14.97	NA	Four Freshmen, The	Use As A Star University	5582	14.97	NA	Marshall's	Just the way we shall be	5611	14.97	9.97
Bay Rumours	On The Beat	5619	14.97	NA	Four Freshmen, The	Use As A Star University	5583	14.97	NA	Marshall's	Just the way we shall be	5612	14.97	9.97
Bay Rumours	On The Beat	5620	14.97	NA	Four Freshmen, The	Use As A Star University	5584	14.97	NA	Marshall's	Just the way we shall be	5613	14.97	9.97
Bay Rumours	On The Beat	5621	14.97	NA	Four Freshmen, The	Use As A Star University	5585	14.97	NA	Marshall's	Just the way we shall be	5614	14.97	9.97
Bay Rumours	On The Beat	5622	14.97	NA	Four Freshmen, The	Use As A Star University	5586	14.97	NA	Marshall's	Just the way we shall be	5615	14.97	9.97
Bay Rumours	On The Beat	5623	14.97	NA	Four Freshmen, The	Use As A Star University	5587	14.97	NA	Marshall's	Just the way we shall be	5616	14.97	9.97
Bay Rumours	On The Beat	5624	14.97	NA	Four Freshmen, The	Use As A Star University	5588	14.97	NA	Marshall's	Just the way we shall be	5617	14.97	9.97
Bay Rumours	On The Beat	5625	14.97	NA	Four Freshmen, The	Use As A Star University	5589	14.97	NA	Marshall's	Just the way we shall be	5618	14.97	9.97
Bay Rumours	On The Beat	5626	14.97	NA	Four Freshmen, The	Use As A Star University	5590	14.97	NA	Marshall's	Just the way we shall be	5619	14.97	9.97
Bay Rumours	On The Beat	5627	14.97	NA	Four Freshmen, The	Use As A Star University	5591	14.97	NA	Marshall's	Just the way we shall be	5620	14.97	9.97
Bay Rumours	On The Beat	5628	14.97	NA	Four Freshmen, The	Use As A Star University	5592	14.97	NA	Marshall's	Just the way we shall be	5621	14.97	9.97
Bay Rumours	On The Beat	5629	14.97	NA	Four Freshmen, The	Use As A Star University	5593	14.97	NA	Marshall's	Just the way we shall be	5622	14.97	9.97
Bay Rumours	On The Beat	5630	14.97	NA	Four Freshmen, The	Use As A Star University	5594	14.97	NA	Marshall's	Just the way we shall be	5623	14.97	9.97
Bay Rumours	On The Beat	5631	14.97	NA	Four Freshmen, The	Use As A Star University	5595	14.97	NA	Marshall's	Just the way we shall be	5624	14.97	9.97
Bay Rumours	On The Beat	5632	14.97	NA	Four Freshmen, The	Use As A Star University	5596	14.97	NA	Marshall's	Just the way we shall be	5625	14.97	9.97
Bay Rumours	On The Beat	5633	14.97	NA	Four Freshmen, The	Use As A Star University	5597	14.97	NA	Marshall's	Just the way we shall be	5626	14.97	9.97
Bay Rumours	On The Beat	5634	14.97	NA	Four Freshmen, The	Use As A Star University	5598	14.97	NA	Marshall's	Just the way we shall be	5627	14.97	9.97
Bay Rumours	On The Beat	5635	14.97	NA	Four Freshmen, The	Use As A Star University	5599	14.97	NA	Marshall's	Just the way we shall be	5628	14.97	9.97
Bay Rumours	On The Beat	5636	14.97	NA	Four Freshmen, The	Use As A Star University	5600	14.97	NA	Marshall's	Just the way we shall be	5629	14.97	9.97
Bay Rumours	On The Beat	5637	14.97	NA	Four Freshmen, The	Use As A Star University	5601	14.97	NA	Marshall's	Just the way we shall be	5630	14.97	9.97
Bay Rumours	On The Beat	5638	14.97	NA	Four Freshmen, The	Use As A Star University	5602	14.97	NA	Marshall's	Just the way we shall be	5631	14.97	9.97
Bay Rumours	On The Beat	5639	14.97	NA	Four Freshmen, The	Use As A Star University	5603	14.97	NA	Marshall's	Just the way we shall be	5632	14.97	9.97
Bay Rumours	On The Beat	5640	14.97	NA	Four Freshmen, The	Use As A Star University	5604	14.97	NA	Marshall's	Just the way we shall be	5633	14.97	9.97
Bay Rumours	On The Beat	5641	14.97</											

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Vocal Majority:
WHITE CHRISTMAS

Cover clash and poster pickings

Pro & con, the "new" Harmonizer draws plenty of attention. As expected, the innovations of the September issue (quartet poster and "action" covers) brought very few neutral reactions; it has pretty much been a "love it - hate it" proposition.

That's good. It means members actively read the magazine, care about its content, and have a personal stake in it. That's one reason you'll see some letters critical of these choices.

Some Masters' voices

I guess I don't need to frame my *Harmonizer* with my picture in the back, since it only has eight out of 137 guys and can stop dreaming of getting my picture with a gold medal staring at me from the front cover.

Knowing that the entire makeover is to make us look a little more spunky and youthful, the unanimous feeling last night for the nine Masters 25 and under, plus an international champion quartet, was that there must be a way to update it without completely smashing tradition and the prestige of the international level of contests. Especially our champions.

ALAN GORDON
Orange, CA

I am bothered by the partial chorus photo on the back cover. As you can imagine, it is quite an honor to be named international chorus champion. I am fortunate to have enjoyed that honor twice so far ('96 & '99). Part of that honor has always included an appearance on the back cover of *The Harmonizer*.

This year, only a small handful of men (myself included) received that honor, while the rest of the chorus was denied. The action shot is nice, but I don't think its value outweighs the failure to recognize the other 124 men,

all of whom worked equally hard and contributed to the championship that our chorus now enjoys.

I would ask you to please consider using the entire chorus photo in future years, and make sure that every man is visible.

MARK FREEDKIN
Irvine, CA

Poster poo-pooed

The *Harmonizer* is an ongoing history for our Society. One of the most important areas of record is that of our competitor members. In this case, that record has been issued in the form of an "advertiser's tear out" to be ripped out and lost.

TOM MILLOT
Belton, MO



The makeover RFP included a request for a solution to the traditional page-after-page catalog of competitor photos, which, unchanged after umpety-ump years seemed in need of refreshing. Back came this surprising approach, which, with some smart cooperation from our printer, allowed us to

present many performers in color (16 more than before), at very little additional cost for printing.

The covers too reflect a desire to get more deeply into the life of the performers than a portrait allows. As a commemorative, the continuous-tone photos most performers buy will always be superior to the process color of a magazine, and of better dimensions and resolution for picking out individuals. Again, the choice was a risk that seems rewarded by the excitement of the result.

Finally, and importantly, to those who bemoan a tradition shattered and future not of their vision: a single instance does not an unchanging tradition make. Next year may bring yet another way to tell this story — or an old way again (see the cool collage covers of the '50s for one approach) — undoubtedly to the delight of

some readers and disappointment of others.

We hope and expect every issue of The Harmonizer will contain at least one "new thing" that lots of readers will LOVE ... and expect an equal number will HATE.

That's the reward — and risk! — of innovation.

Loves pix and Bill Myers

Pictures! Pictures! Pictures! Great new format. I love all the pictures associated with the great barbershop articles. Human interest stories far surpass an issue devoted to the mundane of technical articles; however, great article by Bill Myers, an all-time great bass. Great centerfold in color of the champs. Wow! Wonderful, upscale, professional magazine.

MITCHELL PARADIS
Sun City West, AZ

I found myself reading the whole thing from cover to cover, instead of just glancing through. Can you keep this up issue after issue? I hope so.

FRANK FANNING

Flag rag redux

Harmonizer isn't even in the dictionary. I'll add my complaint to Dick Ellenberger's

CHUCK ABERNATHY
Past International President

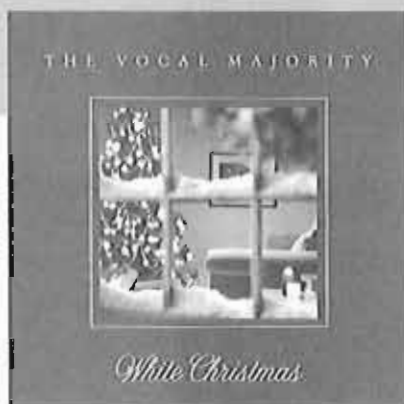
Please return the title graphic to the old one. I miss the Society emblem appropriately located in the "O."

BILL JOHNSON
Long Beach

The reader refers to the previous nameplate of the magazine, retired in 1979 and reproduced here.



SONGS OF THE CHRISTMAS SEASON FROM THE VOCAL MAJORITY FAMILY TO YOURS



It's that time of year again, to discover new Christmas song arrangements and search for the perfect stocking stuffer for someone special in your life. The Vocal Majority is proud to announce the release of our third Christmas recording. This recording features several favorites from the Vocal Majority and our friends along with arrangements by Jim Clancy, director of the Vocal Majority for over 25 years. Selections include:

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INTERNET www.vm.org
FAX 800-876-6647

☐ **YES** Please send me White Christmas
by the Vocal Majority

____ CD's @ \$15.00 \$ _____

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Shipping and handling \$ 2.50

Texas residents add
applicable sales tax at 8.25% \$ _____

Total \$ _____

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City/State/Zip _____

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BILL MY CREDIT CARD

____ Visa ____ Mastercard ____ American Express

CARD # _____ EXP _____

International shipments will be charged actual shipping
and handling costs.

Thank you for your order!

- *White Christmas*
- *Let It Snow*
- *I Wonder As I Wander* (featuring soloist Jeff Oxley)
- *Pine Cones and Holly Berries / It's Beginning To Look A Lot Like Christmas Medley* (featuring Acoustix)
- *Toyland*
- *Auld Lang Syne*
- *Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer*
- *What Child Is This*
- *Ave Maria* (featuring Charla Clare, tenor, from 1999 Sweet Adelines International Champion Quartet RUMORS)
- *Baby It's Cold Outside* (featuring Steve and Wendy Wilson DeCrow)



Other Recordings By The Vocal Majority:

The Secret Of Christmas: O Come All Ye Faithful, Jingle Bells, Silent Night, O Holy Night and 8 others
Alleluia: Songs of Christmas Medley, Little Drummer Boy, Hallelujah Chorus and 6 others
The Vocal Majority With Strings: A collection of classic love songs with full string backup
How Sweet The Sound: Sacred and inspirational music

Go to www.vm.org for a complete list of our recordings,
and songs on each recording.



Proud! Proud! Proud!

Being proud was not one of the reasons I signed on for this great job, but as we near year's end, it seems that, like me, you must have some favorite parts of this wonderful hobby that give you a measure of pride. I've just been bustin' my buttons about the work we are doing with the schools of North America! The success stories of our chapters, quartets and a number of dedicated individuals working with kids and teachers, are monumental. This year, our traveling staff will have been in front of more than 7,000 students, 650 teachers at more than 150 different schools. Our chapters and districts have sponsored eight Young Men in Harmony (YMIH) camps, which have attracted 805 students and another 60 teachers. What a positive difference we are making as we honor President Ed's theme, "Let's grow young together!"



Which parts of this wonderful hobby give you a measure of pride?

I hope you share my pride about our Society's web site. It's better than great, it is the greatest! (Check it out at www.spebsqsa.org). You'll find a world of information, music, video clips, and our newest feature, Harmony Marketplace, which has its own page up and running. In its first several weeks, we've enjoyed almost \$15,000 of additional new merchandise sales and nearly 50 inquiries about membership, just from our Marketplace web page.

Speaking of membership, we can all be proud of our "Men of Note." These are the guys who make it their business to bring men who love to sing to their chapters and into our beloved Society. They are great salesmen of our harmonious brotherhood. We will proudly give out 2,500 Man of Note awards to 1700 great Barbershoppers this year. Thanks,

friends; we would dry up without your care and concern.

And speaking of brotherhood ... I am so proud of our Association of International Champions (AIC) gold medal quartets who appear on our chapter shows, teach at our district schools, coach our choruses and quartets and provide us with a wonderful selection of CDs and tapes. The now famous AIC Friday night show was a highlight of the Anaheim convention. The big news about their show at Kansas City is a cameo appearance by our 1980 champs, **The Boston Common**. And, speaking of former champs, it sure is good to hear that **The Bluegrass Student Union** is back, replete with a new CD.



The incomparable Bluegrass Student Union will revive their Music Man act in a free concert at Kansas City.

They will perform a free one-hour concert at 11:00 p.m. on Thursday of Kansas City convention week. The Bluegrass Student Union will feature some "Music Man" repertoire and more.

Thinking about "The Music Man" reminds me of how proud I was as a kid (and still am) to have shared the stage with the incredible Buffalo Bills. Of course, they went on to star in the Broadway and movie versions of Meredith Willson's "The Music Man." To honor the occasion of the Bills' fiftieth anniversary as champs, we will celebrate at Kansas City next July in a "Music Man" themed convention. And isn't it just perfect to think that the year 2000 finds "The Music Man" opening on Broadway for a revival run. If the impact is anything at all like what we enjoyed in the '50s and '60s... look out! What an incredible exposure of our style! Every chapter must make it a priority to capitalize on this exposure with aggressive recruiting campaigns!

Dick Grapes, the original baritone of the Bills will be one of our masters of ceremonies for the week. We think the newly opened Music Man Square in "River City" (Mason City, Iowa) will bring a traveling display to Kansas City, so come on down! Join us at Kansas City. You'll be proud that you did.

Finally, may I share a word about the personal pride that my wife, Meredith, and I derive from being a small part of the legacy represented by Harmony Foundation. The general fund drive (spoken about elsewhere in this issue) is the lifeblood of the mission and the work of the Foundation. I hope you'll find a way to join us in supporting the future of SingAmerica and SingCanada, Heartspring, and our Heritage Hall Museum, with a gift to Harmony Foundation's general fund.

Let's Harmonize,

P.S. Three issues into it, and I'm prouder still of our new *Harmonizer*. How do you like it?

A N N O U N C I N G

The Vocal Majority 20th Century Collection

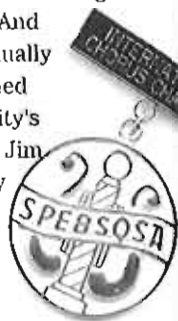
A Limited Edition Boxed Set

A Once-In-A-Lifetime Special Collection

Sixteen recordings. Nearly 200 songs. And a first-ever release of the songs that have won eight Gold Medals in SPEBSQSA International Chorus Competition. It's the Vocal Majority 20th Century Collection.

ONLY 3,000 Individually Numbered Sets

Only 3,000 Vocal Majority 20th Century Collection recordings will ever be produced. And they will be individually numbered and signed by the Vocal Majority's legendary director, Jim Clancy. Order early because the more desirable lower numbered sets will be delivered on a first-come, first-served basis.



SPECIAL BONUS Every Gold Medal Winning Performance

As a special bonus, this boxed set will include a special CD which features the Gold Medal winning contests of 1975, 1979, 1982, 1985, 1988, 1991, 1994, and 1997. Never before have all of these contests been heard on one CD. Imagine hearing "Who'll Take My Place When I'm Gone" from the first Gold Medal performance in 1975 with the same stereo quality as "Redhead" on the SPEBSQSA Contest Stage in 1997.

State-Of-The-Art Remastering Technology

In addition, the early recordings released by the Vocal Majority have been completely remastered. Never before on Compact Disc, these recordings will feature the early sound of the Vocal Majority like you've never heard it before. The Vocal Majority 20th Century Collection will include Vocal Majority songs from these recordings:

1. Standing Room Only (1976)
2. Champs Back To Back (1976)
3. With A Song In Our Hearts (1979)
4. Here's to The Winners (1980)
5. From Texas With Love (1981)
6. Decade of Gold (1983)
7. All the Best (1983)
8. Secret of Christmas (1985)
9. Voices In Harmony (1987)
10. For God, Country, and You (1988)
11. I'll Be Seeing You (1990)
12. Alleluia (1992)
13. The Music Never Ends (1996)
14. How Sweet the Sound (1997)
15. Vocal Majority With Strings (1998)
16. All SPEBSQSA Gold Medal Winning Contest Sets from 1975 through 1997

For a complete list of all songs in this special collection, go to our website, www.vvm.org.

This collection is available for \$74.95 (plus \$7.50 S&H). (Please note that "White Christmas", our current release, is available separately). Call, email, or fax your order today.



HOW TO ORDER

Each 20th Century Collection from the Vocal Majority boxed set is \$74.95 (available in CDs only). Please add \$7.50 per order for S&H shipped in the U.S. Please add \$25.00 for shipment outside of the U.S.

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Mail: Send your check payable to the
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Dallas, TX 75229.

Email: sales@vm.org

Internet: www.vvm.org

YES Please send me "The Vocal Majority:
20th Century Collection Box Set"

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Shipping and handling \$ _____

Texas residents add
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Total \$ _____

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Thank you for your order!

We MUST have your complete account number and expiration date for credit card orders, along with name, shipping address, and your telephone number. Your telephone number is very important! Having it means we can call you with any questions and avoid shipping delays.

Boxes top gift lists

For many newer members, the great quarters of the past are just names. Hearing the music that made them monuments of the barbershop style is a difficult proposition at best, usually requiring a helpful collector and a semi-legal taping scheme.

No more. Boxed sets are the hottest trend in the barbershop recording market these days, offering a tremendous selection of great music in crisp, remastered digital audio.



Recent releases in the Association of International Champions Masterworks series include new collections from the The Regents, The Auto Towners, The Four Statesmen, The Western Continentals, and The Mark IV.

Independent releases include The New Tradition (1985), Chicago News (1981), Bluegrass Student Union (1978), Dealer's Choice (1973) and The Boston Common (1980.)



In the chorus world, this year marks the release of a new twenty-song compilation from the legendary Louisville Thoroughbreds, and a massive eight-disc collection



from the Vocal Majority, perhaps the largest chorus discography to date. More than 150 of the 200 songs are digitally re-mastered from the original tapes and vinyl recordings to make many tracks better than the originals. Of particular note, this limited edition release of 3,000 units features tracks from each of the VM's eight gold medal performances.

Needless to say, all these great gift items (and dozens more) are available at HarmonyMarketplace.com or 800-876-SING. ■



Start the holidays right

Each year at Christmas, the Lehigh Valley Harmonizers help out with the Bethlehem Salvation Army Kettle Drive. Members take shifts over the course of one Saturday just before Christmas singing carols at one of the local kettles - usually at a local shopping center.

Salvation Army officials always report that it is one of the best collections of the season.



Dick Pedersen (B), Chip Moyer (BS), Lou Niharot, (L), Bob Kriebel (F)

Music Premiere enrollments still open

Six new arrangements have been Sprinted for the November Music Premiere release. Call the Harmony Marketplace at 800-876-7464 to enroll. Be sure to tell the sales rep that you want your enrollment to begin with the November issue.

For the low, low price of \$11.95, you'll receive 12 arrangements: six in November and six in May. A cassette with each song performed by a champion, medalist or other top quartet is also included.

The November Music Premiere release includes the following titles:

- "Lost In The Stars," as sung by the Four Renegades
- "Up A Lazy River," as sung by Marquis
- "Little Pal," as sung by the Four Rascals
- "I'm Sitting On Top Of The World," as sung by Second Edition
- "Ain't Misbehavin'"
- "This Little Light Of Mine/Do Lord Medley"

A bonus for newly registered quartets: enroll in Music Premiere for one year at the regular price, and get the second year free! ■



Register for KC convention online!

The site for the Music Man 2000 convention is now online at spebsqsa.org/KansasCity, with the first draft of the convention schedule and information on special activities.

With our secure server, you can use your VISA or MasterCard to order convention registrations online. Tours and other special events will come online later in the year.

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Expand your musical horizons at the two top vocal music stores, with releases from groups such as The Real Group, m-Pact, The Blenders, plus classical, gospel, jazz and plenty of barbershop. ■

414 changes to 262

Area code evolution has finally caught up with Kenosha. Effective September 25, the area code for all direct lines to the headquarters office changed from 414 to 262, although local exchanges and numbers remain the same. The toll-free 800 number also remains unchanged.

During a six-month switchover period, both the new 262 and the old 414 area code will work, but build good dialing habits now. A number of Society publications may continue to show the old number, until existing stocks are consumed and replaced by scheduled reprints. ■

Officer reports due pronto

Chapters: Don't miss out on free materials because we can't reach you! Return Officer Reporting Forms to headquarters as soon as possible. ■

Still more proof that singing barbershop makes men irresistible to women



FILE UNDER: DON'T TRY THIS AT HOME. Somehow, The Brooks Brothers managed to convince judges and audience alike that a man's appeal is defined by the quality of his voice, not the size of his belly rolls. The quartet's "Sumo" package helped them win the comedy quartet championship at the Buckeye Invitational in August.

... and horses like it, too

I recently joined the *Sons of Harmony*, a chapter located in Marion, Indiana. I really enjoy singing barbershop. However, I discovered yet another advantage of singing.

My daughter has a quarter horse. This horse is an extremely gentle mare until the horseshoer arrives—then she's a handful.

I started singing to the horse, which seems to quiet her and makes it easy for the farrier to trip her feet. Her favorite song is *My Wild Irish Rose*.

I'd like to think it's my gentle voice which calms her. It could be that she has some Irish horse in her, but probably she just likes the song because her name is Rose. Whatever the reason, it seems to work.

DAVID M. PAYNE
Marion, Indiana

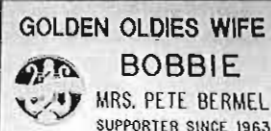
Harmony College tuition makes a great gift (hint! hint!)

This holiday season, have a heart, guys, by giving your family a can't-miss gift suggestion: ask for a week of learning, fun and pure immersion in the craft and lore of barbershopping at Harmony College.

What a gift bargain! They'd spend thousands more to send you to a fantasy baseball camp — but how many tags would you learn there? They could send you to Klingon language camp — but the Klingon Empire is embroiled in a style debate more furious than our own.

Just \$425 and seven days will transform you into the most grateful, sensitive, loving family man anyone could wish for. What's that worth?

TAPE TO
BATHROOM
MIRROR



Bands of gold, badges to match

Pete Bermel of the Fairfax, Va. Chapter hit on a great way to show his wife how important her loyalty to the barbershop hobby is to him. This cute little stocking stuffer means your bride can say, "Yes! It's great to be married to a Barbershopper." Throw in a lanyard to protect her blouses from pin holes, and you'll have her outfitted for every barbershop event.

Strut that barbershop in Harmony Sweepstakes

Now in its fifteenth year, the Harmony Sweepstakes A Cappella Festival draws from hundreds of vocal groups from around the country with regional competitions in eight cities. The winning group from each festival is flown to perform in front of celebrity judges and a sold-out house of enthusiastic cappella fans at the National Finals.

Barbershoppers have done well in recent years. Metropolis won it all in 1998, and SPEBSQSA and Sweet Adelines quartets have been successful in regional competitions throughout the '90s.

Introduce barbershop harmony — and your quartet — to new audiences: audition for the Harmony Sweepstakes. Details are online at www.harmony-sweepstakes.com or contact:

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(415) 455-8602 harmony@singers.com

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Mike McGovern
508-485-8976
mmcgovern@ptc.com

Chicago

Saturday, March 18

NorthShore Center For
Performing Arts
Gary Podolsky 847-215-2821
garyp@enteract.com

Denver

Sunday, March 25
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Center
Robert Johnson 303-346-1966

Los Angeles

TBA

Peter Neushal
310-543-1902
rldi@rdi-inc.com

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Saturday, Feb 26

Symphony Space Performing
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Romie Italiano 201-365-0049
ugh57@aol.com

Pacific Northwest

Saturday, March 25th

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Performing Arts
David Metzler 360-412-0868
metzler@olywa.net

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Saturday, February 26

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415-455-8602
harmony@singers.com

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A few years ago the barbershop category was canceled for lack of submissions, and we don't want that ever to happen again. To enter, send two copies to: CARAs
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20 choruses invited to international contest

More than 250 choruses competed in district contests this fall. Of these, 171 scored in the "B" range and above, compared with 153 choruses achieving that level in 1998—a promising indication that more choruses are developing quality performance skills. Four wild card invitees (indicated by *) will join the 16 district representatives to the Big Show. Affiliate choruses will be named soon.

- Alliance Chorus (JAD)
- Ambassadors of Harmony (CSD)
- Big Chicken Chorus (DIX)
- Granite Statesmen (NED)
- Great American Chorus (ILL) *
- Great Lakes Chorus (PIO)
- Great Northern Union (LOL)
- Heart Of Texas (SWD) *
- Heralds Of Harmony (SUN)
- Men Of A Chord (SLD)
- Midwest Vocal Express (LOL) *
- New Tradition Chorus (ILL)
- Pot O'Gold Chorus (FWD)
- Saltaires (RMD)
- Senate-Aires (EVG)
- Singing Buckeyes (JAD) *
- Thoroughbreds (CAR)
- Toronto Northern Lights (ONT)
- The Virginians (MAD)
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How would you like to sing on the stage at the international convention? Better still, how would you like to make it a family affair?

You can — as part of the Father/Son/Grandson Chorus. Purchase packets of music and learning tapes for "Lida Rose" and "Singing Here With Dad" in the Harmony Marketplace or call 800-876-SING to order. Sign up for the chorus by contacting convention@spebsqsa.org or 800-876-SING x 8462. Hurry - this chorus will be limited to 150 singers!



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How to be a great tenor

Describing "how to sing great tenor" is a bit like demonstrating how to dry one's back without using one's hands. You pretty much learn by doing and not by reading. Does reading an article in a golf magazine help your game? There are, however, some tips that are translatable to your tenor-singing techniques.

Sometimes, in our attempt to conserve enough air to maintain support through a phrase, we don't achieve preparatory breath well in the first place. Make the breath part of the release while forming the next intended target.

Barbershop performers are always behind the focus of the ensemble sounds we create. Listen carefully.

***"Rehearse
not just enough
to get it right,
but enough to
never get it
wrong."***

Shift body weight at appropriately frequent intervals. Maintain shoulder posture, and keep chin and "Adam's apple" in a comfortably low position.

There is no such thing in "justly" tuned barbershop tenor singing as a half step. Tenors need to work diligently to sing in tune with the lead. Be alert to the need for lifting or settling certain intervals as you rehearse and perform.

The chord that the audience perceives as "ringing" is because of instantaneous adjustments. A tenor and his lead can never duet too much.

"Imagineering" or "looping" one's performance is excellent for creating a consistent and positive frame of mind. Run through your entire performance in your

mind. The more you prepare yourself the more confident you'll be. Rehearse not just enough to get it right, but enough to never get it wrong.

Every tenor I ever heard, to a greater or lesser degree, was and is one of my favorites. But there are three men who are at the top of my personal list. Each of these men was blessed with consistently accurate melody singers. (*Timing is less a problem when the melody is well sung.*) Two of these men may not be as well known as the third, but they are giants to me and taught me well.

Gene Cokeroff was flawless as he sang with the Suntones, and he has an unbelievably beautiful voice. For his unfailing artistry in every performance, he tops my list.

Ed Rooker sang with the Central States District's legendary Merry Mugs quartet in the early days in my barbershopping life. The happiness that filled Ed's eyes when they performed has been a beacon to me during some of my most stressful performances.

Dale Radford possessed a crisp, lyrical and clear, almost Irish tenor quality. I recall his voice atop more than one Southwestern District foursome. Watching him taught me much of what I now describe as instant matchability.

But, as I said earlier, and I mean it, every tenor is my hero. To Gene Cokeroff, Dale Radford and the late Ed Rooker, my everlasting thanks for what you taught and gave me. Now, if anybody wants to know even more firsthand how we pass on the gospel of great barbershop tenor singing, come to Harmony College someday, and I'll see you in class. ■

The
Three Tenors:
Don Kahl,
Gene Cokeroff,
Ed Rooker.



DON'S 8

TIPS FOR BETTER TENOR SINGING

**1
Breathe to
consume air,
not to
conserve**

**2
Finish
phrases with a
breath**

**3
Listen harder**

**4
Move feet to
stay fresh**

**5
There are no
half-step
intervals**

**6
Duet the
melody**

**7
Rehearse
until
error-free—
then do it
again**

**8
"Loop" your
performance**

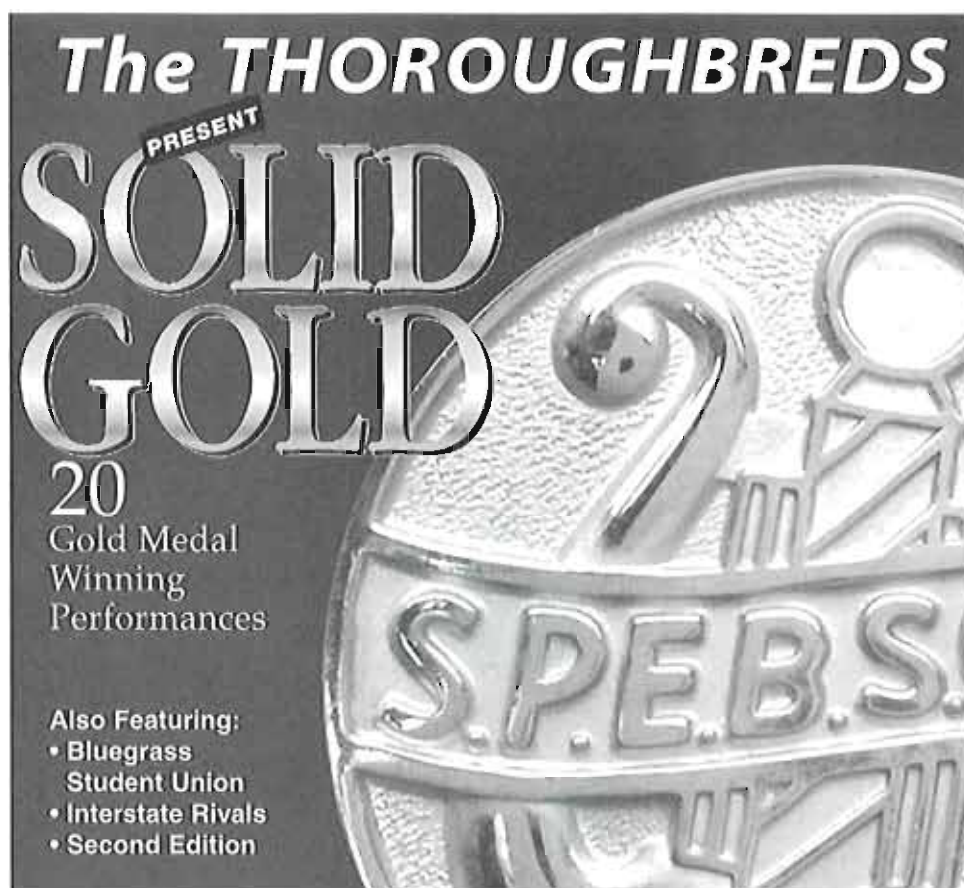
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What does **FRED** stand for?



Take the FRED super-quiz! Choose one:

1. FRED stands for truth, justice and the American way.
2. FRED stands for Four Really Awesome Dudes ... no, guess not, that would be FRAD.
3. FRED stands for something the quartet could not mention and still get this article published.

Got a better suggestion?
Best entry (as judged by the quartet) sent by 12/1/99 to fred@spebsqsa.org wins a FRED compact disc from Harmony Marketplace.



—by—
Thom Hine is FRED's business manager, Clay's dad, and oh yes, Dixie District president.

It was the moment for the announcement we all were waiting for in Anaheim. Chuck Hunter, grinning ear to ear, yelled, "Your 1999 Gold Medal Quartet Champion" ... my heart stopped beating for what seemed like three months ... "FRED!" And the entire audience broke into wild hysteria. I turned to hug my wife, Carla, and she was on all fours, sobbing and mumbling something completely incoherent.

What a terrific nine years of camaraderie, fellowship, hard work, coaching, rehearsing, exploring, idea bouncing and fun led up to that announcement—probably a great deal more fellowship and fun than hard work. But it all came down to those few seconds; a new quartet champion had been named.

Like many champions who preceded them, FRED started quite low in the international standings. As Rick LaRosa puts it, "We've got a great future behind us."

Over the past several years, we've attempted to respond to all the notes of congratulations, questions, suggestions (well, most of them) and correspondence received from FRED fans. Let me share a few more of FRED's innermost secrets with you.

One admirer writes: "How do you

come up with your bits? Who comes up with the ideas?"

A poor question, indeed! Nonetheless, it's worthy of an answer because you want to know. First of all, we truly resent the term "bits." We feel it diminishes the true depth and pathos of great comedy.

You know, it's like asking, "How do you come up with your stuff?" We prefer to call our work "eggplant." But we can forgive and forget—as a matter of fact, we forget all the time. All four of the FREDs are in the eggplant business—one person just couldn't be that stupid.

First, Rick has the idea to do something funny. Then Clay and Joe agree with Rick and finally Jared does something. When this fails, the first alternative is generally for Rick to select a song to best carry the idea and write the parody lyrics. Then, Clay supports the idea with an arrangement that optimizes the quartet's voices and augments the comic devices of the song. Next, Joe hands the finished song to Jared and Jared changes it so that no one recognizes where we started.

Simple. Next question, please.

"How do you turn a comedy quartet into one that also sings great?"

All four of the FREDs came up with

**"Who are those nice boys, anyway?"
Getting to know FRED**



Tenor
Jared "Pookie" Carlson

Age 29
Married, two children
Joined Society 1986
Insurance Adjuster
"I enjoy running around in my backyard chasing small animals."



Lead
Rick LaRosa

Age 39
Married, two children
Joined Society 1972
Company VP
"My idea of happiness is a day without chafing."



Bari
Clay Hine

Age 35
Married, two children
Joined Society 1978
Sales Engineer
"I can put my foot behind my head while whistling anything in the key of G or Db"



Bass
Joe Clay

Age 45
Married, three children
Joined Society 1980
Information Systems Director for Coca-Cola
"Either of my boys is smarter than Pookie"

the same answer on this one: "I don't know, but I'm open for suggestions."

And finally, "It's been a long time since a comedy quartet has won the gold. How did you do it?"

All four of the FREDs attribute this to the fact that comedy is probably the most difficult presentation style for the performer to successfully command. One overriding goal of the quartet is to keep the audience and judges laughing so loud and so long that when each song is completed, the judges will have absolutely no idea how to score it.

Looks like it worked!

At the risk of being serious for just a couple of seconds, FRED extends a heartfelt thank-you for all the support so freely given by all four families. Without such support and loyalty from those who love and are loved so deeply, this accomplishment would be but a distant dream. Thanks for all your time, love and patience. And finally to all the audiences FRED has had (or will have) the pleasure and honor to meet, this barbershop world would be an empty place, indeed, if not for your enthusiasm for this four-part sport. Thanks and we love y'all. ■

What it's like to coach FRED



—by—
Joe Connelly,
lead,
Platinum

My first experience in coaching FRED was in 1991 as the quartet was preparing for its first international competition in Louisville. I knew right from the start that these guys were different, and that their purpose was to entertain every audience to the best of their abilities.

It's always been a lot of fun for me to sit in on their parody-forming rehearsal sessions. Rick being the mastermind with lyrics, Clay having the awesome talent to put those lyrics to music, Joe being the rock-solid vocal foundation for the foursome and Jared, of course, the unparalleled king of timing and deliv-

ery.

One of my greatest barbershop thrills was filling in on tenor with FRED at the 1997 midwinter convention in Sacramento. I'll bet I fell down more times that weekend than I did when I was first learning to walk! I found out later that they had me fall down three extra times during the performance, just for the fun of it.

The audience has always come first for FRED, so it's great to see FRED finally finish first for the audience. Hearing the Anaheim crowd chanting FRED, FRED, FRED, FRED as the 1999 international quartet champion was announced is an experience I'll always remember; although I'll try my best to forget! [Joe's quartet took the silver.] ■

It takes a village to raise a village idiot

FRED is larger than just Jared, Rick, Clay and Joe. The quartet thanks the many who contributed to FRED's success as coaches and mentors: Tim Brooks, Jim Casey, Greg Lyne, Cindy Hansen, Joe Connelly, Greg Clancy, Tom Schlinkert, Ken Buckner, numerous Dixie Top Gun Invitational faculty members and perhaps a hundred or more omitted. You are the best friends and givers in the Society. ■

Brooks breaches security, reveals FRED's secret plans

My relationship with FRED dates back to their origins in 1991. After just a few months together, they competed



—by—
Tim
Brooks,
coach

in the Dixie prelims and, much to their surprise, qualified for International. At that point, they all agreed that the quartet should actually take their growth seriously. Well, as anyone who knows FRED will attest, "serious" has a very broad definition.

A typical FRED rehearsal is very focused; They meet each and every Tuesday promptly at 6:45 PM. They begin with "The Old Songs", then go directly in to thirty minutes of warm-up and vocal technique led by a local music teacher/vocal coach. This is followed by an hour of repertoire review and performance enhancements in front of a customized, quartet-width minor designed specifically for them to be highly reflective, yet simultaneously reduce the glare from Pookie's forehead. They then move swiftly into a fifty-minute segment dedicated to new song learning and arrangement "tweaking" recorded for them simultaneously on

four separate high-bias cassettes by their captive sound engineer. Their business manager then holds a fifteen minute session with updates of their stock portfolio, their merchandising contracts, product sales, fan mail, autographs, and guest appearances. Then, their wardrobe manager takes five minutes to try some new fashion designs for them and possible licensing to others. Finally, they close out their session with "We Sing That They Shall Speak," "Let's Get Together Again," a medley of all the national anthems from the countries they've visited, and finally, "Keep The Whole World Singing."

OK, so that's a bit much. A typical rehearsal isn't quite that productive or structured. With all the musical, comedic and creative talent in the quartet, structure and productivity aren't always the easiest things to attain. Quite the contrary: my job as one of their coaches, has typically been to try to keep the quartet focused. This can be likened to a phrase many of you have probably seen in a popular email message of late: Like trying to nail Jello™ to a tree. However, I wouldn't trade the experience for anything.

Yes, coaching FRED can be a challenge. But, the payoff is well worth the effort. □

Cindy's trip inside FRED's heads

FRED is...

- A few fries short of a Happy Meal.
- All foam and no beer.
- And if they were given the opportunity to drink from the fountain of knowledge, they would only gargle.

But that's what you've gotta love about 'em. How can you not enjoy being entertained by four good friends having fun?

I think what was best about working with FRED is that it was never work. However, I had to tell them it was work, to make sure I got paid.

I had a front row seat for almost seven years, the one most of you would have paid season ticket prices to have. All the "out takes" that happened are better than anything you ever got to see on stage.

The harder you pushed the more they played, and actually some of their best materials came from those types of sessions. You think you have been blessed and they have touched your lives with smiles and laughter — you have no idea.



—by—
Cindy
Hansen,
coach

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from
the 135 men
of the
Masters of
Harmony.*

A little over five years ago, when the Masters of Harmony agreed to host the 1999 International Convention, little did we know the rough and rocky road that lay ahead of us. After Dr. Greg Lyne left the chorus to share his exceptional gifts with the Barbershop Society at large, we faced a difficult transition. In the three years between our historic victory in Salt Lake City in 1996 and our recent win in Anaheim, the Masters experienced a host of hurdles and challenges. During these trying times, under the solid leadership of our Music Committee coupled with the strong administrative skills of our Board of Directors, our chapter family has remained faithful and persevered, growing even stronger in the face of adversity. Our dedication and resolve were never more fully put to the test than when we set about the daunting task of simultaneously hosting and competing in an international contest.

The Masters of Harmony have always had a policy requiring every active member to undertake a nonmusical job for the good of the chapter. In tackling as massive an undertaking as hosting an international convention, it was essential that every member rise to the occasion and contribute his part toward meeting this enormous challenge.

Since the Masters needed to be free during much of the convention week to rehearse and mentally prepare for competition, we knew that we would need some assistance. Fortunately, our friends from the Southern California area gladly and graciously offered a helping hand.

*"California Here I Come"
Dedication to Larry Ajer,
by arranger David Wright*

"Larry continually led us toward new heights in musical performance, enlightening and inspiring Barbershoppers at all levels. The many who benefited greatly from his wisdom include the Masters of Harmony and this arranger.

"It is an honor to have learned from this great man; he enriched everyone he touched. He lives on by virtue of the gifts of love and knowledge he left with us. The Masters' performance of this spirited song will surely reflect Larry's keen insights on the art and psychology of entertainment."

The gift these people generously gave us was the freedom to concentrate on the task of seeking our fourth chorus championship of the decade. Our director, Jeff Oxley, started us on the journey when he took over the directorial reigns in January 1998. Over the next year and a half, he coaxed and cajoled, prodded and preened, perspired and inspired, and successfully led us to divisional and district championships.

During this time, the barbershop world suffered the tremendous and untimely loss of one of our coaches, Larry Ajer. Arranger extraordinaire David Wright focused his reflections and fond affection for Larry into a creative en-

deavor and in June of 1998 presented the Masters with "California, Here I Come."

With this wonderful new uptune, embellished by the choreographic genius of Cindy Hansen and Wayne Mendes, the Masters of Harmony dedicated the contest cycle to our dear, departed friend and mentor. Larry's wife, Kim, added an extra emotional element to our reprise of the ballad "When Day Is Done" by sharing with us her heartfelt words of encouragement and appreciation for the bond of love we shared with her husband. Her tears and tender words lent an additional depth and poignancy to the performance of the already powerful lyric.

Once these two musical vehicles were tweaked and fine tuned by the unparalleled coaching regimen of Dr. Greg Lync, Greg and Jim Clancy, and Joe Connelly, we felt confident that we could join the elite company of the 1954 Singing Capital Chorus, the first and only other chorus to host and win an international contest.

As the contest week quickly approached, the excitement grew as we anticipated the Anaheim arrival of more than 10,000 fellow Barbershoppers. Eager to extend a sunny Southern California welcome, we fervently strove to put last minute preparations into place. Almost before we knew it, the masses began to descend upon Disneyland and the Arrowhead Pond, leaving us desperately trying to fully embrace each experience and memorize each moment, all the while attending to the dual tasks at hand, running the convention and focusing on our performance preparation. Although each member has his own story to tell in his individual quest to negotiate this difficult challenge, at the end of the week, when the dust had settled, despite the odds and the adversity, together we had weathered the sundry storms and achieved our lofty goal: a golden convention. ■

—by—

Steve Hansen sings with the Masters of Harmony



"Think, men!"

The music team and the members of the Masters of Harmony realized early on that, in order to win a fourth gold medal in a single decade, they would have to do much more than just train hard and sing well. They knew each singer would need more emotional involvement in his music and presentation than ever before.

With a tip of the hat to *The Inner Game of Music for Barbershoppers* by Larry Ajer, Dr. Greg Lyne and Barry Green, I worked with Dr. Paul Lacmille to create a visualization that each member could practice on his own. It was presented at a weekend-long rehearsal and coaching retreat. The members were given a quick relaxation technique, and when they had quieted their minds, they were instructed in a "Theatre of the Mind" that ran about six minutes and took them through the entire contest cycle. They imagined being backstage, pictured themselves giving their all-out best in performance, and even imagined being presented with a gold medal by their section leaders.

By practicing perfection in their minds three times a day in meditative state, each member learned to eliminate internal distractions and give his whole heart to every phrase he sang with the chorus. The last few weeks before contest, members shared the sights and sounds of previous victories until every guy could see it and hear it and feel it. By July, contest day was a series of events they had "lived" 100 times before.

We built on the spirit of brotherhood that has always been at the heart of the MOH by inviting resident quartet champs and beginners alike to share the thrill of winning and the dreams of future accomplishments. Each man became part of a family which encourages one another to always strive for excellence, rally around a once-in-a-lifetime goal and make every performance his best. Because the thrill of it is in the journey, together. ■

—by—

Steve Goebel is a Masters of Harmony coach.



Host and win? How?

How does a chapter manage to both host an international convention and then successfully compete at that same convention? Answer: "Lots of help!"

Long before the Masters knew we would compete in Anaheim, it was the desire of the chapter leadership to host the big event. It started with a convention bid in 1993.

Committee planning began in depth in 1997, and with most details in place by the start of 1999, fulfilling convention staffing assignments was now the major task. Although Santa Fe Springs is a big chapter with an active extended family, staffing was going to be a challenge even if we weren't competing. The MOH family, including a large contribution from our ladies, provided about half of the 6,000 hours needed

to staff all of the functions. The remainder came from the Southern California family of SPEBSQSA and SAI members.

Surprisingly, almost 500 volunteer hours were received from people with no current barbershop affiliation, such as the Southern California High School All-Star chorus and former chapter members attending the convention.

The outpouring of help from so many people to make the convention a success was so overwhelming that current Santa Fe Springs Chapter President Marlin Fors made a point of thanking these volunteers first, when accepting the international chorus championship trophy in front of 10,000 enthusiastic Barbershoppers. ■

FYI

Volunteer stats

- 435 volunteers
- 29 committees
- 21 SPEBSQSA Chapters
- 17 Sweet Adelines chapters
- 6,000 total volunteer hours
- 3,000 volunteer hours from MOH families
- 500 volunteer hours from non-barbershoppers
- 2-1/2 years planning



—by—
Marlin Fors is the chapter president.

The Masters' Plan: ten steps to California Gold



1. Plan from the start

- Established Convention Planning Team; two organizations, music and support. For Anaheim, there was a separate International Convention Committee.
- Began planning at three-year point prior to international.
- Lay out entire cycle month by month and plot critical music and logistic deltas; music introduction, presentation plan introduction, registrations, housing, financing, qualifications, transportation, retreats, performances, etc.
- This outline will focus on the music preparation with overlap into support logistics where obvious.

2. If it ain't broke don't fix it

- With three previous championships, the outline for winning was already established
- Some modification to plan due to Jeff Oxley becoming music director with 18 months to go.
- Jeff, already understanding what winning required, recognized the plan was optimal and we pressed on.

3. Select music early

- We try to select our contest music two years in advance so it is ready for introduction at the 18-month point – at two-year point we had no music director.
- Jeff arrived at 18-month point – “California Here I Come” introduced to chorus immediately after divisional at 15-month point.
- Brought back 1990 winning ballad “When Day Is Done” for district competition in October 1998 – eventually made decision to keep for Anaheim.

4. Work harder (and smarter)

- Establish this work ethic early – veteran singers need to be reminded – new singers need to be introduced – continuing reminders throughout the cycle.
- Yesterday's “ten” is today's “seven.”

5. Hold lots of sectionals

- Key to learning music and words rapidly – these were coupled to learning tapes that facilitated rapid learning.
- Key to solving musicality problems on a continuing basis.
- Important when singing in shotgun formation – each singer must be comfortable as an individual.

6. Retreats are a good thing

- We went on two retreats; one before district and one before Anaheim.
- Held them early enough before contest so that lessons learned from weekend had time to be incorporated, three weeks before district and five weeks before international.
- Rough plan established for weekend but not minute-by-minute.
- Start Friday night and finish Sunday noon.
- Tremendous music and bonding experiences.

7. Voice the chorus; qualify each singer

- Transitioned to shotgun formation after divisional – some major voice placement at this point.
- Voiced the entire chorus with accompanying riser placement in summer.
- Begin qualification planning after district competition – we actually began qualifications in January 1999 – finished in early May.
- Recognize from the very beginning that “qualification” means you may leave some brothers behind.

8. Program your coaches

- As soon as Jeff was comfortable, we sat down and reviewed the coaches we had traditionally used and the ones that Jeff wanted us to work with.
- We scheduled each coach for a session(s) at the time they would most benefit the chorus – each coach was contacted and the dates

established.

- The unexpected loss of Larry Ajer was difficult to overcome – nobody could fill in for him or match the mutual admiration we all shared – we kept asking ourselves, “What would Larry have done?” It appears we guessed right.

9. Psychology is part of winning

- We designated one of our singers who was deeply respected by the chorus for his communication skills, and appointed him resident chaplain and psychologist.
- He developed and planned weekly activities that involved the morale and emotional well being of each singer, from both the team and individual perspective.
- With the help of other singers, conducted focus sessions on visualization, what it means to win a gold medal, learning to trust your brother, etc.
- This process facilitates the bonding process that amalgamates the old chorus members and the new chorus members into a new stronger family.

10. It's a family affair

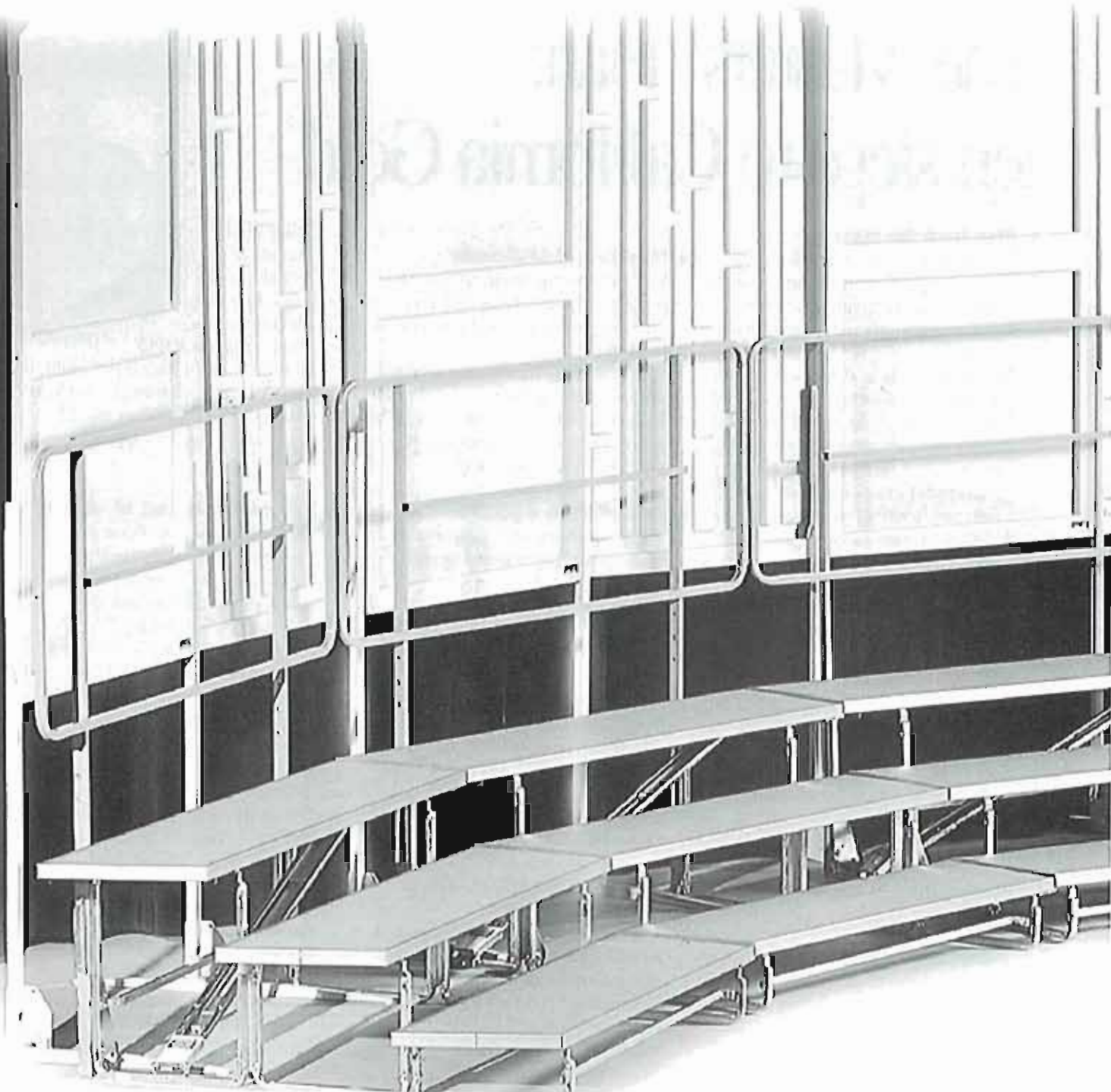
- Brotherhood and bonding lead to a sense of family.
- Tradition and heritage add to the sense of family.
- Hosting the international convention enhanced our sense of family and resulting togetherness.
- Family includes everyone who makes the journey from immediate family to those who comprise the extended family. ■

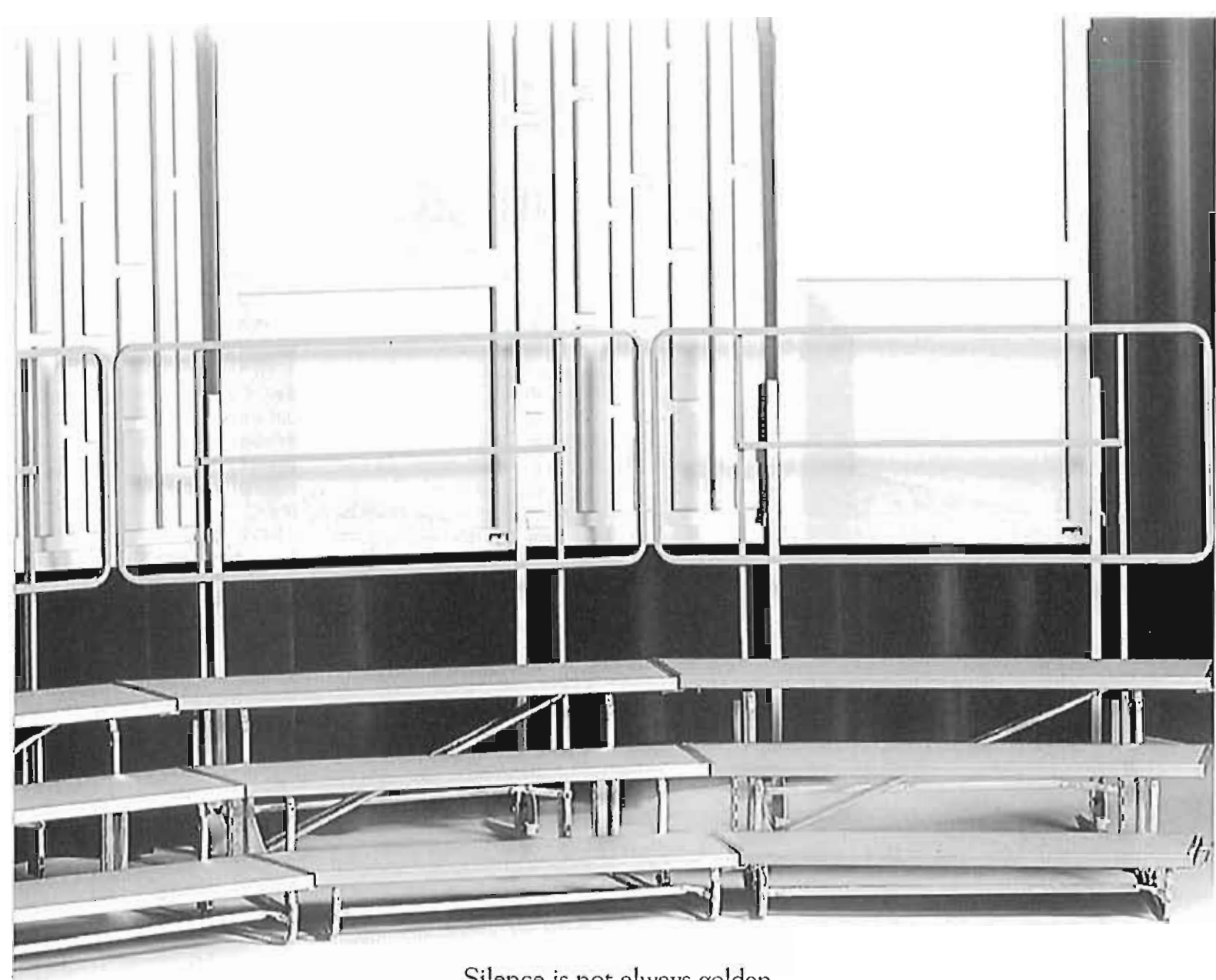
—by—

Dan Fullerton is Music & Performance VP.



Read related stories at the Masters of Harmony website: www.mastersofharmony.org





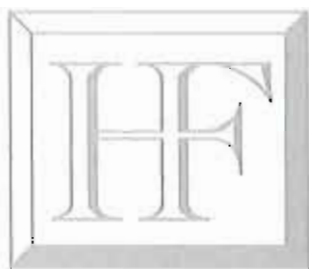
Silence is not always golden.

A set of empty risers
also means a set of empty hearts.

You are the key to our
Charitable Mission...



Harmony Foundation



Harmony Foundation

Give a gift... give the future

The holidays are almost here. It's a time when we gather family and friends, enjoy special events, partake of wonderful food and beverage, perform special singing engagements, and share sacred moments. This is all part of this festive season.

So is the warm feeling of helping others. Barbershoppers have their own special way of helping young people, through gifts to the Harmony Foundation General Fund. This fund supports our important causes: **Heartspring**, the **Heritage Hall Museum of Barbershop Harmony**, and **SingAmerica** and **SingCanada**.

You may have already received in the mail a special invitation to help the voice of the next generation. Your gift can literally change lives through our support of dozens of young people who learn life skills at the Heartspring School, scores of visitors and scholars who use the Heritage Hall Museum, and thousands of young singers who are encouraged through SingAmerica and SingCanada.

We hope that you will respond to the invitation with the most special holiday present of all—your monetary gift that can help a voice speak, sing and express itself. We have included an envelope in this issue that you can also use for your gift. Everyone who makes a gift of \$25 or more will receive a special Harmony Foundation 1999 pin that can be worn proudly to show that you helped to change lives.

We leave you with a message from a recipient of a recent SingAmerica grant. Please enjoy it as a special holiday message to you, a caring Barbershopper.

With your help, the voices of the holiday season will ring with joy for years to come. ■

Dear Harmony Foundation:

I recently watched the production your grant helped subsidize. The actors were our very own youth—the ones who society tends to overlook or view as troublemakers.

Every day during the summer they rehearsed their lines, memorized their marks, and learned the art of listening and cooperating. When they presented their program titled "The Holy Spirit and Me," we all rejoiced at their accomplishments.

Thank you for making programs like this possible. I pray that we will all continue to provide hope for this abandoned generation. They are, after all, the ones who will inherit the earth.

Sincerely,

Karen M. Carothers,
Executive Director,
United Methodist
Neighborhood
Centers of Memphis



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Harmony Explosion camp a dynamite experience

tudents and teachers actually agreeing about music? How can this be?" you ask. The answer is simple – it's barbershop harmony.

The smiles on the faces of the boys who came to Ball State University for Harmony Explosion Camp were matched by those of the teachers who accompanied them. For the majority of the boys, this was their first experience in the realm of close harmony. However, several of the teachers were "repeat customers."

Often times, older Barbershoppers can't see a potential singer in a 16-year-old boy with a pierced ear, orange or bleached hair (Joe Connelly may be onto something!) and baggy jeans. As they walked from the dorm to the rehearsal hall, many of the students listened to portable CD players and who knows what kind of music. When the evening sessions were finished they wanted to find a place to go dancing. But in the rehearsal hall they *wanted* to sing! And sing they did, and very well, too. Well enough, in fact, to prompt Society Music Specialist and clinician Bill Rashleigh to comment Friday that the boys' progress was a "better second day than in the past; their concentration is higher."

And that really was evident. You could hear the improvement as the day progressed. The boys were able to motivate themselves to continue working hard. Riser discipline was never an issue or problem.

Past Illinois District Quartet Champion Sharper Image had a role on the faculty, conducting coaching sessions and leading section rehearsals. The quartet also sang on the Saturday night show.

Salt of the earth kids

Dr. Paul Drummond was the guest clinician. His style of directing was comfortable, and the boys responded well to his leadership. Drummond had high praise for the organization of the camp, calling it "an atmosphere where these kids can have the best possible and most positive experience singing with men." He was no less gener-

ous in his comments about the students. "Salt of the earth kids; they have been willing to do anything we asked of them. They have been confident as singers. They've been flexible in their ability to move from style to style, from barbershop to choral music. It's really been an extraordinary experience."

Sixteen-year-old Antonio Copeland from Muskegon Catholic Central High School in Michigan, said he made the six-hour trip on his own to attend the camp, "all for the love of barbershop."

He was sponsored to Harmony Explosion Camp through a SingAmerica donation to Harmony Foundation by the Muskegon Chapter. Copeland, now a junior, said he tried barbershop a year-and-a-half ago and has been hooked ever since. His foursome won its division and finished in fifth place out of 27 overall, an experience he called "the best week-end of my entire life."

Copeland stood out from many of the other singers because of his total involve-

"Barbershop put us on the map. Even the Administration paid attention to the Music Department."

—Nelson Hunter, teacher;
Lebanon, Indiana



Students at the HX Camp in Muncie covered a wide range of music, including barbershop, glee club, gospel and jazz.

FYI

Ignite a Harmony Explosion

Learn more about Harmony Explosion Camps and how your chapter can become a sponsor by calling the Society Music Department at 800-876-SING: Linda Neuenfeld, x8591, or Bill Rashleigh, x8560, or email hxcamps@spebsqsa.org

Dates and locations for the 2000 HX camps should be announced in November; the draft schedule includes camps in the Cardinal, Northeastern, Southwestern and Sunshine districts.

The faces of HX



ment in the music. His explanation for that was offered through a huge grin: "I just get so much out of it, that's why I put so much in."

Is it "cool" to sing barbershop?

Ask any of the students at HX Camp and you'd get an unequivocal "Yes," in reply. When pressed for more explanation, the members of *Priority Male* said all their friends think what they're doing is cool – especially the girls (it's very important that the girls think you're cool).

"Your friends think it's cool," said lead singer Andy Bruder. "They praise you for it and they want to try it, too."

The quartet often sings at parties, has appeared numerous times in their home town of Mount Zion, Illinois, and, of course, is featured on their high school music programs. The foursome also has two Society chapter appearances booked.

Rich Hansen, who sang in a quartet named "PARR For The Course" in the MBNA America Collegiate Barbershop Quartet Contest in Anaheim, is the quartet's coach. Hansen teaches history at Mount Zion High School. *Priority Male* is actually his second quartet at the school, having previously coached a foursome call "Bored Of Education," which won the Illinois District high school contest.

"The best weekend of my entire life."

—Antonio Copeland,
student,
Muskegon Catholic High

A quartet from Western Boone High School in Indiana (they were still searching for a name), said similar things about their friends' reactions to barbershop harmony. "They love it ... they never get tired of it," said bass Jason Davis. "We sing the same songs over and over and they never get tired of it. They love barbershop music."

Teachers make the HX program thrive

In the final analysis, it's the teachers who bring their students to a Harmony Explosion Camp, who will keep the program viable and provide those students with an incredible musical experience. Fortunately, the teachers understand and appreciate the value of HX and give it their wholehearted support.

Kelly Williams is from Sharpsville, Indiana, and this was her third year at Muncie. "My guys never sang together before," Williams said. "The kids tried

it and loved it. They're even writing their own tags. We had a show the night my daughter was born and the kids went on without me."

"It's fun, it's motivational and inspirational," said Susan Keefer from Wabash High School. "Every year we have chapter sponsorship. I've got four guys here this year. They're doing more barbershop and are more confident. They're going to contest."

Another third year HX veteran was Nelson Hunter from Lebanon, Indiana. "Barbershop put us on the map," said Hunter, a teacher for 34 years. "Even our Administrative Department paid attention to the Music Department and the principal knows about it, too."

"Music should be fun," said Hunter. "Our upcoming freshmen and sophomores want to try it. Barbershop is a great voice builder. I can't think of a better way to build boys." | :

FYI

The HX-HF Connection

- The HX Camp concept was born at the creation of the SingAmerica and SingCanada movement
- HX Camp scholarships are supported through SingAmerica (SingCanada) and Harmony Foundation General Fund contributions.

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The music will never end at the Music Man 2000 convention

s Barbershoppers, our hearts belong to the music. Here are some of the special musical events slated for the Music Man 2000 convention. *Better news: most are at no cost.*

- **Gold Medal Hour:** Wednesday, 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. This will be an hour with FRED, the current international quartet champion. It gives aspiring quartet singers an opportunity to hear the champ tell it like it is and to ask questions about rehearsal techniques, warm-up ideas, song selection, etc.
- **Master Class:** Wednesday, 9:30 to 11 a.m. This is an opportunity for any Barbershopper to hear the tricks of the trade from the current international champion chorus. The Masters of Harmony will conduct this class in Kansas City.
- **Gospel Sing:** Thursday, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. This annual event is organized by Jerry Fairchild and the Good News! quartet. It will most likely take place in one of the churches in downtown Kansas City.
- **Sing with the Champs:** Thursday, 10 a.m. to noon, and 1 to 3 p.m. This program gives you the opportunity to sing your part with an international champion quartet. The Association of International Champions sponsors the event, and publishes an advance list of the quartets that will participate and a list of the songs the quartets will be prepared to sing. There is a table in the exhibitors area of the convention Marketplace where you register to sing with a particular quartet in a specified time slot. You have to pay a small fee for this fantastic experience, but you will receive a video tape of the performance.
- **Massed Sing:** Thursday noon. The Massed Sing will be held outside the headquarters hotel (Marriott Downtown) at the plaza in the heart of downtown Kansas City. We hope

to involve a large segment of the local community in this event as well.

- **Best of the Collegiate Barbershop Quartet Contest:** Thursday, 4 to 5:30 p.m.. This is primarily for college quartet members, either those competing in the CBQC or guys who want to get into a college quartet.
 - **Father/Son/Grandson Chorus:** This will be the *creme de la creme* of participatory singing in Kansas City, as family members spend time together singing. "Lida Rose" will be one of the songs and the other is "Singing Here With Dad." We are working to get a well-known father/son directing team for this event and it should provide an emotional high for all who participate. There are plans to have the FSG chorus sing on stage following the chorus contest. Sheet music and learning tapes are available through the Harmony Marketplace. (stock no. KC2000, \$6) The logistics of this activity are still being worked out, but mark it on your calendar if you and your son or grandson would like to participate.
 - **AHSOW:** The Ancient and Harmonious Society of Woodshedders room is open all week long. There is always a group of singers in that room who can get you singing and tell you everything there is to know about woodshedding.
- Take advantage of every opportunity to sing – especially in pickup lobby quartets! – and enjoy the convention to the maximum extent. ■



The whole family takes part in the Massed Sing!



—byline—

John Schneider is
SPEBSQSA

Manager of Conventions
and Meetings. You can
reach him at
800-876-7464 x8444, or
jschneider@spebsqsa.org



Events and times are listed as presently scheduled and are subject to change.



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INSTRUCTIONS

Complete order form and mail with payment to: **SPEBSQSA, 6315 Third Avenue, Kenosha, WI 53143-5199.**

Registration fee includes a convention badge, a reserved seat at all contest sessions and a souvenir program.

If you register for more than one person, please furnish *complete* information for each person on a separate sheet and attach to this order form.

All registrations received prior to June 1, 2000 will be mailed. Those received after that date may be picked up at the convention registration area beginning Monday, July 3, 2000. Mailings will be made during the month of May 2000.

Full registrations purchased during the convention week are \$110 for adults and \$55 for juniors (under age 12).

Make checks payable to SPEBSQSA. When you receive confirmation, please keep it as your receipt.

Registrations may be transferred to another person, but they are NOT refundable. No phone orders, please.

Date _____ Chapter name _____


Name _____ Nickname _____

Spouse/guest name _____ Nickname _____

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	Add \$3 P&H for each 8 registrations ordered. (Example: 1-8, \$3; 9-16, \$6; etc.)		\$ 3.00
	TOTAL		\$

☐ Please check here if you have a disability and may require accommodation in order to fully participate in the convention. You will be contacted by a staff member to discuss your specific needs.

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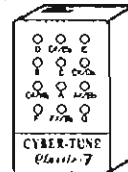


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The Citations, 1965 Cardinal District champion and international finalist quartet, has remastered its two albums and combined them on a single CD. Thirty-three songs; more than 72 minutes of music, including live contest cuts from the 1972 international contest.

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Lessons learned from Valentines '99

Press coverage introduces you to new audiences

We were asked to appear on "CBC Information Morning." The host surprised his spouse by having us sing to her over the airwaves. A member of the listening audience contacted us immediately, and we delivered later that night. While being serenaded by "I Love You Truly," they dreamily looked at each other, kissing while they sang. After sharing the joy of the experience, Mr. Beaton explained that he and his wife also had musical talent. Inviting us to their family room, decorated with musical notes, she sat at the piano and played us a wonderful piece, accompanied by her husband on violin. What a treat!

GARY PEACH, PEACH CHORDS
Glace Bay, Nova Scotia

Reach new generations

With prior permission, we delivered a Valentine from Sherry Shamel to her boyfriend Jim Bartos at his classroom in Gary, Ind., where he teaches special education students. The students were just as delighted as Jim (maybe more so!) We gave them a bonus with a couple Disney songs. It is always a thrill for us, when we sing to young children who have never heard barbershop before, to watch their reactions and hear their comments.

ALVIN RIES
Lake County, Ind. Chapter

*We sang to school-
teachers in their
classrooms, nurses in
hospitals, stock clerks,
secretaries, shut-ins,
recovering stroke
victims, wives,
husbands, sweethearts
and children.*

CHUCK VALENTI
Milford, DE Chapter

Get hip

Walking through a school corridor, one of the students remarked, "There goes those singing dudes!"

JACK NEWMAN, PREMIUM BLEND
Terre Haute, Ind.

Extend your reach

All the sponsors and recipients should be put on your mailing list. These are the people who are interested enough to want to hire us!

JOE NUTRY
Ocean County, NJ Chapter

Boost other people's image

My quartet delivered to my wife at the Bailey's Crossroads Office of the Internal Revenue Service. As we left, a taxpayer seeking assistance said something about the new kinder, gentler IRS. Probably figured that someone working there couldn't have a heart.

PHIL SONNEMAN
Prince William Cty., Va. Chapter

Check delivery addresses carefully!

The Valentine delivery to the stripper still reigns supreme in the hearts and minds of the guys. Seems the young damsel's boyfriend ordered it for her. The music stopped as the guys prepared for their delivery. Somewhat unsure of the reaction that would follow, they pressed on, with all patrons present watching intently. Just then, Jeff's contact lens fell out, and he missed the visual on the rest of the gig, but he heard it all — something about catcalls from the other ladies present to "take it off" directed toward our intrepid quartet. It has been said there was a lot of stuttering going on, too.

BRENT VOGAN,
VUJA DE QUARTET

FYI

Get ready for Valentines 2000

1. Start early. Order *Successful Singing Valentines* (stock no. 4058, \$10) from Harmony Marketplace, or download free from spebsqsa.org/docs.
2. Watch for registration info in *Update* and at www.SingingValentines.com



Live up to your name

Three Quarts and A Pint sing for a water aerobics class at a senior residential community near Savannah, Ga.

Bill Breamer (T), Earl Gleaton (L),
Ed Woodhouse (B), Derek Ball (Br).

Accept help gratefully

Our tenor was out of town, and our sub had the flu and couldn't sing at all. We called all the tenors we knew, but no luck. Hats in hand, we called Sweet Adeline baritone Peggy Rounseville and asked if she would fill in. Peggy agreed, and three B.U.B.A.s and a BUBB-ette sang about 25 Valentines, and appeared on a radio show.

WAYNE WERNER, B.U.B.A.
(BARBERSHOPPERS UNITED TO
BRING BACK ACAPPELLA)
Tyler, Texas

CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

The many ways we Sing . . . for life



Special Olympics athlete Tom Chieffo leads the chorus in a fund-raising performance.

Poughkeepsie New Yorkers sing for Special Olympics

Poughkeepsie's New Yorkers Chorus provided entertainment for its local Special Olympics Association. The New Yorkers, along with chapter quartets The Footlighters and Hudson Valley Connection, sang while dollars drifted from the balcony at the local shopping mall. More than \$12,000 was amassed during the day-long marathon to raise money for the local charity.

Tom Chieffo, son of chapter baritone Bob Chieffo, has been a member of the Special Olympics team for several years, winning many top ribbons for his swimming capabilities. Area residents enjoyed the musical marathon both in person as well as over their local radio stations. ■

FYI Harmony College Quartet Scholarships

- Deadline for applications for the Larry Ajer Memorial Scholarship to Harmony College 2000 is February 1, 2000.
- Download an application from spebsqsa.org/HCDC/ajerscholarship.htm, or call Lani Dieter at 800-876-7464 x8551.

Foundation grant sends quartet to Harmony College

Brass Rail, a seniors quartet from Albuquerque, New Mexico, was the 1999 recipient of the Larry Ajer Memorial Scholarship to Harmony College. They had done well at district, prelims and the international senior quartet competitions, but wanted a coaching and learning experience that would take them to the next level.

Their experience at Harmony College helped them to "go from an OK quartet to a good quartet" and to realize their goal to "sing and perform better than ever." The magic moment they experienced when they sang on the Saturday evening show was the culmination of their work during the entire week at Harmony College. With their coaches, Steve Plumb, Reid Stewart, Rob Hopkins and Jim DeBuisman, this quartet was reborn.

If your quartet aspires to the next level in contest and show performances, then the Harmony College experience, through the Larry Ajer Memorial Scholarship, may be just the ticket. Through the

Larry Ajer Endowment Fund, your quartet can participate in the outstanding coaching at Harmony College next summer. For free!

Larry Ajer, in whose memory this Endowment Fund of Harmony Foundation was established, was a selfless contributor to our Society. Larry was devoted to providing quartets with opportunities to become more effective and entertaining barbershop performers. He was the force behind such programs as Top Gun and Standing Ovation, an advocate of the show package competition, and a long-time coach at Harmony College.

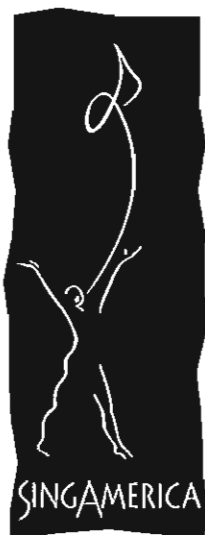
The scholarship covers tuition, room and board for four quartet members to be coached as a quartet at Harmony College. To maintain the viability of future scholarships through this endowment fund, travel and other expenses are not covered. ■

Scholarship winners

Brass Rail:

Jim Law (L), Les Elmer (B), Mike Taylor (B), Oz Wehlender (T).





Keep the Whole World Singing

How important is singing to our culture? How important is it to each of us?

You know the answers to those questions. SingAmerica and SingCanada were created by our Society to help keep recreational singing alive. One way to do this is to promote community singing when and wherever we perform.

We can also encourage community singing in other organizations to which we, as individuals, belong.

Every chapter president was sent the Community Song Leading Guide with the September issue of *Update*. Also, lyrics for more than 100 public domain songs can be downloaded at spebsqsa.org/Arrangements/Free/communitysinging.htm.

What are you waiting for? ! ■

Teach the *teachers* to sing? R. D. Mathey shows how

A summer meeting of the Society's External Affairs Committee included a lot of animated and enthusiastic discussion about SingAmerica and SingCanada. This in turn led to a change of presentation plans at the Arts Unlimited program at Bowling Green State University. The result: a group of teachers rediscover the sheer joy of singing for its own sake.

Arts Unlimited is a program at Bowling Green State University designed to assist elementary teachers in the fields of art, drama, dance, and music. I agreed to appear as a guest music teacher at AU's

yearly conference in June. My original plan was to do a presentation about singing in harmony. After attending the EAC meeting, I decided that it would be more advantageous to tackle singing easy melodies. The "Get America Singing...Again!" song book proved to be a perfect vehicle for my three days of presentations.

The culmination of the week-long workshop was a public performance by the participating teachers. Arts Unlimited deals equally with art, dance, theater and music, so all of these art forms had a segment on the program. The music portion brought the teachers to the stage to sing and, to my great surprise, all 120 teachers took part. I have never seen such enthusiasm and bright faces. It was as if we had given these

teachers new life and their enthusiasm was contagious. Arts Unlimited gave each teacher a copy of "Get America Singing...Again SingAmerica." Following the concert, there was an onslaught of teachers wanting more information about the material we used. (The song book is available from Harmony Marketplace.)

"It is amazing to me that I was singing and not looking around to see who was listening to me."

The culmination of this project will be in the fall and spring of 1999-2000. The BGSU Men's Chorus will present four concerts (1,000 elementary students will attend each concert) in which the men will perform for 30 minutes and then spend 20 minutes singing from the song book with the students. All the students will have memorized five of the songs in the book (their teachers have been charged with this responsibility). ■

—by—

R. D. Mathey directs the Singing Buckeyes, sits on the External Affairs Committee, and is retired director of the Bowling Green State University Men's Chorus.

"Music can help to put back some of the balance in our school days and make our learning environments be a little bit happier for everyone."



"One of the keys to reaching children is getting them to do things because they love it, and they love it because the teacher loves it."



Denver hosts super high school quartet contest

FYI

5 steps to great contests

1. Start early. Mail as early as September for a March contest.
2. Offer free music and coaching.
3. Use qualified, high-energy members to make the pitch to students.
4. Prizes to school music program.
5. School programs get portion of ticket revenues.

Seven quartets competed in the first high school barbershop quartet contest hosted by the Denver Mountaineers last March. Using seed money from a fund honoring a recently deceased member, the chapter sent flyers and letters to the vocal music departments of all public and private high schools in the Denver metro area announcing the contest. The schools were offered free music and coaching for the quartets who registered to compete.

Presentations were made to the vocal music classes of each school that responded, including a showing of the Harmony Explosion video.

In January, the chapter hosted a barbershop clinic for the twelve quartets and their teachers who had initially registered.

Saturday Evening Post, current Rocky Mountain District quartet champions, donated its services to judge the contest. □

—by—

Jerry Hooper
Denver Mountaineers.



Top: Winners, The Julcy Hams, Westminster, Colorado; left, The Cavallers, Lakewood, Colorado; right, First Class Male, Golden, Colorado.

Midwinter Convention Registration • Tucson, Ariz. • Jan. 24-30, 2000

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Please accept my order for:

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_____	Registrations @ \$50.00 each \$ _____

☐ MasterCard ☐ VISA Exp. date: mo. _____ year _____

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WHAT'S INCLUDED:

Registration package includes a personalized convention badge, a reserved seat for the Friday and Saturday Night shows, admission to the Saturday Night Afterglow and admission to the Seniors Quartet Contest.

INSTRUCTIONS

Complete order form and mail with payment to: **SPEBSQA, 6315 Third Avenue, Kenosha, WI 53143-5199.**

A housing application and information regarding convention events and tours will be sent to you following receipt of this registration form.

If you register for more than one person, please furnish complete information for each person on a separate sheet and attach to this order form.

All show and tour tickets may be picked up in the convention registration area at the Holiday Inn City Center Hotel in Tucson after 1 p.m., Tuesday, January 25, 2000.

Make checks payable to SPEBSQA. When you receive confirmation, please keep it as your receipt.

Registrations may be transferred to another person, but they are NOT refundable.

For office use

2000 CONVENTION ONLY

Insurance plan offers coverage

As a benefit to members, SPEBSQSA has entered into a business partnership with Frank F. Haack & Associates, Inc. to offer a comprehensive insurance program. Based in part on research conducted at the Anaheim convention, the partnership will offer the following mix of insurance programs:

- Long term care
- National Savers Plan
- Prescription drug
- Medical insurance
- International emergency travel

Society members get the advantage of individual access to these programs at group premium rates.

This partnership is a benefit to members as well as a non-dues revenue source for the Society. Your participation in any or all of these plans is entirely up to you, and further information is an email or toll-free phone call away.

Long term care

This coverage was most popular choice among those surveyed. The age demographics of our membership sup-

pport this result as well. Coverage can be purchased at any age, with age 50 and over being most common. Long-term care insurance provides a monthly benefit to help offset the costs for custodial, intermediate or 24-hour skilled care. Care may be provided in a convalescent facility or nursing home.

Interest in this type of coverage has grown as Congress studies proposals to make long term care premiums a tax-deductible expense.

National Savers Plan

Includes discounts ranging from up to 30%-50% for dental, prescription drug, vision, chiropractic, hearing, and travel services. Society members and their dependents get access to nearly 100,000 participating providers throughout the United States at one low annual fee.

Prescription drug program

Separate from the previous program, this is for drug coverage only. Members receive instant discounts up to 40% on brand and generic drugs by accessing a

contracted nationwide network of 45,000+ participating pharmacies. Mail-order coverage is also available.

Medical insurance for members under 65

The program provides major medical coverage with several insurance carriers throughout most of the United States. Eligibility and premium rates are subject to underwriting of individual medical conditions.

Short term international medical

Provides \$5,000,000 in medical coverage for Society members traveling outside their home country or into the United States.

Since you asked...

For further information, contact Tom Schwalbach and Mike Farrell, our authorized representatives at Frank Haack Associates. Call 800-637-3550 or send email to tom.schwalbach@haack.com or mike.farrell@haack.com. □

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Scituate builds a bridge

The South Shore Men of Harmony make sure everyone can get to their shows. They even build bridges when needed.

Members of the chapters constructed a handicapped access ramp at Sacred Heart School Auditorium, Weymouth, Massachusetts. (And they built it during some pretty cold weather, too.)

Local building supply companies very generously donated most of the building materials. A sizable donation from a health care and retirement group and a portion of the annual show proceeds are being used for the purchase of a metal railing system to complete the project.

The Sacred Heart Parish has allowed the chapter the use of its facilities for the annual show, special rehearsals, coaching and recording sessions, and barbershop seminars. The ramp-building was the Men of Harmony's expression of appreciation and thanks for the parish's many years of friendship, cooperation, and understanding.



Enlightened self-interest leads to good community relations. Ramp up your efforts to build bridges to other groups in your town.

Vintage music sends off vintage cars

On Sunday, June 6, 1999, eighty-six vintage cars left Marietta Square in Marietta, Georgia, for The History Channel Great Race. These cars, all built before 1951, headed for Anaheim, California and \$275,000 in prizes. Among the entertainers appearing in the Square were **The Big Chicken Chorus** and **As You Like It**, a quartet of the Marietta Chapter and one Thorne member.

MARIETTA, GA TO ANAHEIM, CA
MARIETTA



As You Like It:
Jack Herbert (T), Eric Hagstrom (L),
Jack Hale (B), Jim Moore (B).

Three men, one tenor, one lovely gal, one great memory

Talk about your sweet gigs: 3 Men and A Tenor, from Visalia, Calif., recently entertained at a diabetes awareness convention. Featured speaker: Nicole Johnson, 1998 Miss America. Scarcely able to contain themselves, the quartet managed to hold still for 1/1000th of a second while this photo was snapped. Somehow, they squeaked out a second song, too. Left to right: Robert Gonzalez (T), Jimmy Schofield (B), Gabe Nava (B), Drew Jackson (L).



Daytime chorus works smart, keeps busy

“Because we like to sing” is the motto of the Thursday Songsters, a daytime chorus of Barbershoppers from the San Diego and El Cajon Chapters. Now in its sixth year, the group keeps busy with more than a dozen performances annually, building on thematic packages, Christmas, Western and patriotic among them.

Director Gene Rague shared the group’s secret:

“We sing songs known to anyone born before 1950.”

“All subscribe to the Music Premiere Series to learn and perform new songs.” Sounds like a neat trick.



Heralds of Harmony name Debbie Connelly 1998 Vocal Music Educator of the Year

Dr. Jack Greenfield, President, Tampa Bay Heralds of Harmony Chorus presented the Herald’s 1998 Vocal Music Educator of the Year award to Sweet Adelines International quartet champion Debbie Connelly.

Each year, a Tampa Bay area vocal music educator is recognized, upon the recommendation of his or her music superintendent, for making the best use of barbershop harmony in building the school’s music program. Debbie first introduced her middle school students to the world of barbershop music, producing the Southeast’s finest middle and high school Sweet Adeline quartet *Encore Four*. She is now teaching at the high school level where she organized and, with Dr. Greg Lync, conducted the Herald’s 1998 continuing education chorale workshop/clinic for Hillsborough County teachers.



Naval honors with Senator McCain



The Hilton Head, SC Chapter chorus “Island Sounds” performs at the Hilton Head Island Navy League annual Memorial Day observance.

Presidential Candidate Senator John McCain R-Arizona, was the featured speaker and helped float a wreath in the harbor in recognition of America’s fallen veterans.

Retired U. S. Navy Captain Kiah O’Brien directs the chorus.



Northland Gold:
Duane Rygg (B),
Bob Brutsman (Bs),
Duane Hutton (I),
Mark Conlon (T).

"Have you tried Wheaties?"

"Have you tried Wheaties?
They're whole wheat
with all of the bran.

"Won't you try
Wheaties?
For wheat is the best
food of man.

"They're crispy and
crunchy the whole
year thru,
The kiddies never
tire of them and
neither will you.

"So just buy
Wheaties,
The best breakfast
food in the land."

First commercial jingle: Wheaties, sung in barbershop!

Northland Gold helped General Mills celebrate the 75th year of Wheaties Breakfast Food at its annual international sales meetings in Naples, Florida.

General Mills was revisiting its heritage back to 1926 when Washburn Crosby Company decided to introduce Wheaties with quartet singing over radio station WCCO in Minneapolis. William Hoppenrath won the bass part in tryouts, joined with other winners, Bill Elliott, baritone and piano player, Ernie Johnson, lead and Phil Schmidt, tenor. The quartet, which is probably responsible for the first singing commercial, sang America's top

harmony songs on the air for six years, the last two over national CBS hookup. When GMI switched to broadcasting baseball games for its Wheaties radio ads in 1932, the Wheaties theme song was popular with people from coast to coast. It was recorded and played before and after broadcasts.

Northland Gold, dressed in their Norman Rockwell attire and singing many old barbershop standards, brought back memories of 1926 for the nearly 500 General Mills VIPs in attendance. Of course Northland Gold closed with the famous Wheaties singing commercial "Have You Tried Wheaties?"

"Unless you're dead or dying, it's never too late to barbershop."

I understand VP Warren Willard lamenting his lost 35 years of not Barbershopping. My experience was somewhat like that. I was 55 years old when I became a Barbershopper, but I've never really had any regrets. For 25 years, my wife and I raised 5 children and ran a fruit orchard pretty much with no hired help. I taught and she nursed to support the farm.

When I got a chance for recreation, the last thing I wanted to do was walk around a golf course or stand on risers for two to three hours rehearsing. We played Bridge. At 55, I was near retirement, sloppy around the waist, short winded from 30 years of smoking, and ready for a hobby that improved my spirits and my health. BARBERSHOP.

When I'd been singing 3 or 4 years, one evening our Director said he felt sorry for anyone who hadn't barbershopped before 50. My response is save your sympathy for someone who really needs it. Barbershop came along when I needed it: the physical benefits of deep controlled breathing, the mental stimulation of learning music and lyrics, and the emotional uplift of music and singing for others to enjoy. Few hobbies return so many and such varied benefits. It's never too late until—

—by—

Jim Cadwallader
16th year, Sounds of Enchantment
Alamogordo, NM Chapter



Everyone loves a parade

The Keene Cheshiremen sure do. Their parade float features a replica barbershop, complete with lathered customer perusing the *Police Gazette* (the 1990s twist: *Sports Illustrated Swimsuit Issue*.)

The chorus sang for a crowd estimated at 25,000 in a parade celebrating the 200th birthday of the Keene *Sentinel*, the oldest newspaper in New Hampshire and fifth oldest in the nation.

"The festival met with far greater success
than any of us could have imagined.
What a rare opportunity it was for our Society!
What wonderful friendships we made.
How marvelously our music was received
by these wonderful Russian people.
It was truly the musical experience of a lifetime."

Dr. Greg Lyne

A Russian Odyssey

150 Barbershoppers
bring America's music
to Russia – and find love.



In December 1997, we were pleased to welcome some Russian dignitaries to Harmony Hall. These musicians and artists represented the Russian government and came to the Society headquarters to request that we assist them in learning about this uniquely American art form called barbershop harmony.

At this first meeting, we listened intently as Alexander Demchenko, Deputy Head of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation, told us of his dream to introduce barbershop harmony to his country. I believe our first reaction was rather one of disbelief that this man, the head of all music, art and dance

for Russia, might have selected barbershop singing as a way to get more people in Russia (particularly young people) involved in singing.

He wanted master classes. He promised beautiful concert halls in which to perform. He told us that, if we should come to Russia, he would see that the country's top musicians would be in attendance at all of these events so we could teach them about barbershop singing. We heard the words, but we also felt, somehow, those words were just too good to be true.

A dream realized

Somehow, they did. In July 1999, more than 120 Barbershoppers arrived in St. Petersburg, Russia. Our days were filled with rehearsals, concerts, cultural activities, numerous master classes and more. The musicians we brought with us were superb. The quartets were outstanding in performance and always

willing to assist in the teaching of master classes. We all developed a real bond and sense of mission. Plus we had so much fun just putting this all together!

And what of those promises from Alexander Demchenko? They all came true and more! This festival met with far greater success than any of us (even Alexander!) could ever have imagined. What a rare opportunity it was for our Society! What wonderful friendships we made! How marvelously our music was received by these wonderful Russian people! It was truly the musical experience of a lifetime.

Highlights? So many...

We performed to packed houses at each concert. In fact, they were all filled to capacity an hour before each event. Concerts were met with foot-stomping and "bravos." Flowers were brought to the stages. Many audience members were moved to tears as we performed

"Moscow Nights" and "Kalinka," which included some Russian lyrics. Autograph seekers sought us out. Audience members waited for us at our hotel after our concerts.

Embraced by top musicians

We were welcomed with open arms by some of the most important musicians in Russia today -- Vladislav Chermishenko, world-renowned conductor and rector of the St. Petersburg State Conservatory; Askold Makarov, artistic director of the St. Petersburg Academic Ballet; Gintautas Shyalvis, conductor of Opera and Music Theater at the Conservatory; Victor Andronov, director of the Male Choral Lyceum, and many, many others. There were numerous television and newspaper interviews. The concerts we presented have been broadcast throughout all of Russia. The Society received many gorgeous and lavish thank you gifts from the Russian gov-

To Russia with love

*and kindness
... and generosity*

What began as an individual effort to bring three suitcases bulging with children's clothing, toothbrushes from our dentist, vitamins and Tylenol, and money, blossomed into contributions that totally filled the back of my taxi, while I sat up front with an overflow bag on my lap.

When the barbershop group became aware of my mission and the orphans' need, they brought every useful thing they could think of. Our hotel room was the collection and sorting area. By the last day of our stay, the room had the look of a store that had exploded. There were bags everywhere containing towels, soap, toilet paper, pens and crayons, toys, more toothbrushes, clothes, medicines and much more. A carry-on bag held snack items -- things such as crackers, energy bars and peanut butter.

Our last day in St. Petersburg found many people interested in visiting Orphanage No. 16. My heart was joyous and my spirit light when I arrived to wait for



*Love recognizes no borders: Barbershopper Jerry Yahn
and new friend Alina.*

the 30 or so Barbershoppers and their wives who had taken the subway with my husband Jerry. They had picked up bunches of bananas, a common food to us but a treat for the children.

The orphanage is an austere building, but does have a sandbox and a few other outdoor toys. The building is well-kept and immaculate, but painfully sparse. The children range in age from infants through age 4.

ernment and from the Russian children. They are now proudly displayed in Harmony Hall.

By the time we left Russia, there were two quartets, a men's chorus and a female vocal ensemble singing barbershop. We know now there are numerous male choruses throughout Russia, including one in the Ural Mountain region of Siberia, performing barbershop for the first time.

What might become of all of this? It's too early to tell, but don't be surprised if we hear a barbershop quartet from Russia at an international convention before too long. And let's not be too shocked to learn of barbershop singing taking place at the St. Petersburg Conservatory of Music. Pretty amazing, isn't it? I will tell you with great pride that I know it can happen because I was there and had the chance to see the Russian musicians embrace this thing we love so very much known as barbershop singing. ■

—by—



Dr. Greg Lyne is Director of Music Education & Services



A prime feature of the Russian tour was the opportunity to sing in the finest concert halls in Russia. The Singing Buckeyes performed at the St. Petersburg Conservatory of Music Kappelle Hall along with The Ritz, Metropolis, and other performers. Dr. Greg Lyne is joined by Alexander Demchenko, Russian Minister of Cultural Affairs, George Gordon of the International Fine Arts Institute (organizers of the tour), and the chief interpreter.

We were greeted warmly by the head doctor. For many years she has cared for orphans and other children placed by parents who were unable to feed them. Her face was serene and she had an inner glow as she talked. We felt peace and contentment. Despite the hard times and little compensation, the staff seemed happy and loving in their simplistic atmosphere.

Oh, the joy we felt as we carried in the bags of desperately needed items, and saw the looks of surprise and pleasure on the faces of the staff! The meager surroundings took on the appearance of Christmas.

Later I met the doctor/director, who seemed overwhelmed by the generosity of these people who wanted nothing in return. In her 50s perhaps, she explained she'd been told all her life how terrible Americans were

and that the USA was the "Evil Empire." After we explained what some of the more unusual American items were, things such as packets of tissue, raisins, cans of tuna, Band-Aids, cough syrup and razors, she assured me that everything donated would be given to those most in need. The doctor expressed her gratitude for the money we'd collected and the other contributions, and accepted a small silk American flag and an attached International Fine Arts Institute pin and placed it on a cabinet in a place of honor.

Yes, the chorus sang wonderful concerts and we saw marvelous sites, but the trip proved to be more than a grand cultural event. It turned into an American gesture of love and friendship and generosity that won't be forgotten. ■

Carol Yahn is the wife of Jerry Yahn, a member of the Milwaukee Chapter. You can reach Carol via email at: jercaryahn@juno.com.

Keep Siberia Quartetting!

The Ritz serves The Hams

Our journey to Russia was not just as performers, however. Our main mission was to teach educators, students, and performers about the barbershop harmony style. The response from them was overwhelming, and those with whom we worked came into our classes with high musical skills. They take musical training very seriously in Russia, and when we taught them songs, they only needed assistance with the style and pronunciation. They can read the spots off the page, believe me! They didn't need help with proper vocal production except as it related to the barbershop style, and intonation never needed to be mentioned. They were hungry to learn more about barbershop.

"The only thing that keeps them going is their love of barbershop music."

There were several groups of delightful young singers who were a part of the festival in St. Petersburg. The director of the girls' ensemble has reported that "the girls are working hard to learn more barbershop music and were 'thrilled' to have had such a wonderful opportunity to be part of this festival." She also said "the parents were just 'shocked' at how energized the children were after the festival. It became the talk of the entire village." One of the visiting choir masters from Siberia has already contacted Alexander Demchenko, the Russian Deputy Minister of Culture, with a request to establish a "Center of Barbershop Music in Siberia."

In addition to the young singers, there was a quartet called "Hams." (We Americans lovingly called them "The Bad Actors.") What fun it was to work with these four young gentlemen. They already had a pretty good basis for quartetting and were making a very good attempt at our demanding style. While being coached, they were almost breathless with excitement to learn the right way to sing barbershop.

The wife of one of the quartet members told our interpreter how difficult things are in their city. Most of the quartet members have not been paid at their jobs for about four months. Sometimes they eat only two meals a day because that's all they can afford. She began to cry when she said that the only thing that keeps them going is their love of barbershop music.

The Ritz will pay for one member of Hams to attend international in Kansas City, and possibly Harmony College, if we can find benefactors for the other three.

The highlight of the entire trip was performing for the head of the St. Petersburg Music Conservatory -- face to face in his historic office. This conservatory, the most prestigious of all Russian conservatories, is the alma mater of such composers as Tchaikovsky, Mussorgsky, Glinka, Shostakovich,

Rimsky-Korsakov, Prokofiev, and many others. About halfway through "Sweet Adeline," as I watched this very important man listening intently to us just six feet away, I started to think of what was happening to me. Here I was -- in the St. Petersburg Conservatory, singing for its director in a private audience -- and I started to choke up with emotion. It took all the experience of 52 years of performing to beat it down to a level where I could continue to sing.

The Ritz was happy to have had the opportunity to teach in Australia and judge the first Australian National Contest, and to watch that country's barbershop growth since then; to have given clinics in schools across New Zealand and to serve on the faculty of New Zealand's Harmony College, and to watch that country's barbershop growth. Now we can proudly say that we have been able to help enthusiastic singers in Russia to develop the skills necessary to make barbershop chords ring throughout their nation.

We are truly blessed and we have added still more "rare times" to our 15 years of existence.

—by—

The Ritz is the 1991 International Quartet Champion.

Metropolitan internationale

There is genuine excitement on the part of the musicians in St. Petersburg at being exposed to barbershop. "Fervent" might be a more appropriate description -- these folks are truly thrilled by what, to them, is a new form of music. In the 10 years since the Iron Curtain fell, the influx of other cultural art forms has moved at a slow trickle at best.

At every venue where we performed, the audiences were extremely gracious and deeply moved by the music. I will always remember the many people in the audience I saw who were openly weeping with joy at their first exposure to this new sound.

The musicians and professors at the Conservatory of Music in St. Petersburg were actively interested in both the form and the emotion of our music. Several of them remarked at how moved they were by the way we expressed the meaning of the music, rather than simply the notes and the words. It was an amazing experience.

A return trip is planned in August of 2000. I strongly urge anyone with even a modicum of interest in singing in Russia to give your consideration greater weight than you ever have before. This may have been one of the most important steps our Society has ever made with regard to international relations with other musicians.

—by—

*Brian Philbin,
bass of Metropolis,
an international semifinalist quartet.*



The Hams perform.



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CHORUS DIRECTOR—SPEBSQSA

HAWAII CALLS! THE ALOHA CHAPTER is accepting applications for an experienced, knowledgeable, energetic director to lead our 80-man **Sounds of Aloha Chorus**. If you inspire others with enthusiasm for barbershop singing, consider joining us in Honolulu for wonderful sunshine, beaches, surf, and natural beauty every day of the year. We have a skilled music team with a certified singing judge, several registered quartets, and an annual program loaded with high-quality events. We have placed as high as 5th in Far Western district competition and are especially excited to have appeared in the 1999 World Harmony Jamboree, SPEBSQSA International Convention in Anaheim, Calif. If you believe you are the person we are looking for, contact Steven Hokanson, The Sounds of Aloha Chorus, P.O. Box 1723, Aiea, HI 96701, voice: (808) 591-1300, fax: (808) 521-4647, email: Shokanson@CompuServe.com.

THE HARMONY KINGS OF GREATER SEATTLE, WASH. is searching for an exciting, enthusiastic director for an 85-member chorus. We have a great facility, and offer Competitive salary. Reply to: fergie@evg.org

SPRING, TEXAS. The Spring Statesmen, a 50-member "B" level chorus, is seeking an experienced director to take us to the next level. We are looking for a person with the ability to motivate and to teach music and performance skills and with a willingness to work with the board in developing a plan for excellence and in carrying out that plan. Contact Richard Dove at (281) 370-8287 or rdove007@juno.com.

CHORUS DIRECTOR—AUSTRALIA

THE BANANA BLENTERS are a seventy-man chorus based on the magnificent Gold Coast in Queensland, Australia. We require a Musical Director who is prepared to lead this triple AAMBS Gold medalist group of friendly and motivated men to the next AAMBS National Convention in 2001. In addition to national successes, the Banana Blenders boast five consecutive state championships, a CD, and the recent honour of being the first Australian Chorus to compete at International level. Our goal is to become an A Grade Chorus. Full details from Max Rose, Publicity Officer; maxrose@ozemail.com.au.

MISCELLANEOUS

MEMORIES FOR SALE. Have you lost your old barbershop records? Missing your favorite LP or Harmonizer? Selections from my vast collection of barbershop recordings (we have them all) are now available for a simple donation to the Heritage Hall Museum. Please contact Grady Kerr, SWD Historian, 8403 Manderville Lane #1072 N, Dallas, Texas 75231; (214) 369-5893; or send email to SWDRoundup@aol.com.

THE GAS HOUSE GANG FAN CLUB - For those of us who find listening to their music just isn't enough, join now and receive your membership card and fan club button. Soon to come; "Gang Notes" newsletter. Send name and address to K.J. Brandt, 2021 S. 28th St., La Crosse, WI 54601. Email ghgfan@aol.com. Web page: members.aol.com/ghgfan/page/index.htm.

SINGING BUCKEYES: THE BIG 50 IS COMING UP for the Buckeye Chapter. If you are an alumni or nonactive members or just a friend of Buckeye make plans now to attend our annual show on May 6, 2000, and help us celebrate 50 years of great barbershopping. We have an afternoon 3:00 P.M. and an evening 8:00 P.M. show featuring several of our chapter quartets, the Singing Buckeyes and the 1994 International Champions Joker's Wild. We will have a gathering on Friday evening with tags, fellowship, and singing. If you cannot attend send a snail mail or email to Tom Larsen. Tom can arrange to get very good tickets for you. Hope to see you all at our reunion. Tom "Lars" Larsen, 649 City Park Ave., Columbus, OH 43206-1003. Contact: 614-469-1598 or email GVLARSEN@AOL.com.

ANNA MARIA, FLORIDA -- No, not on the beach -- but only 80 metres from it, is my apartment on this beautiful island on the west coast of Florida. Take a break - up to four of you - and not only soak up the peace and sunshine... but it's only one hour from the Heralds of Harmony in Tampa! Give Valerie a call at Wedebrook Real Estate at 941-778-665 or email Elfi at starspook@aol.com for rates and availability.

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2. The owner is: Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America, Inc., 6315 Third Avenue, Kenosha, Wisconsin 53143-5199.

3. The known bondholders, mortgagees and other security holders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: None.

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5. The average number of copies of each issue of this publication sold or distributed, through the mails or otherwise, to paid subscribers during the 12 months preceding the date shown above was: 33,553.

Dan Daily, Editor

Sing this tag with O. C. Cash

About three years ago, I spent some enjoyable time reading every article I could find written by Society founder, O.C. Cash. My interest was particularly piqued by a number of references to the "two sweet chords" in "Johnny Doughboy." This short passage was obviously a favorite of his. He said that he, being the World's Greatest Baritone, was the only person who could teach it properly, but that if he was not around, Buzz Haeger could teach it.

Fortunately, Warren "Buzz" Haeger, tenor of the 1965 international champion quartet, Four Renegades and bass of the 1994 senior champ New and Improved Industrial Strength Mini-Chorus, is still an active Barbershopper in Chicago. Well, don't you know, that the very next time I saw Buzz, he taught me the tag! I've been teaching it since and enjoying every minute of it.

Buzz told me that at the Society conventions he would get with O.C. Cash, Betty Anne (Cash's daughter) and Carl Jones to sing this and other favorites. He said it really started out as an intro to "Johnny Doughboy," but was soon sung as an incomplete tag. The "two sweet chords" are the ones

"Drop down to the filling station, and I'll show you the two pretty chords in 'Johnny Doughboy' while we are getting our windshield wiped."

with the fermatas. O.C. always stopped at the big D⁷ spread chord. When asked "why not finish it?" O.C. would remark, "Why? You've already sung the two sweetest chords." He encouraged woodshedders to go ahead and finish it themselves if they felt the need.

In preserving this "tag" I added two measures as one choice for finishing it, if you really feel it necessary. Woodshed your own ending, if you wish, but at least learn this tag as O.C. loved it. A thought just hit me: I sang this tag with the man who sang with THE MAN!! MAN!! Thanks, Buzz!



O. C. Cash, tag hound



Published in 1942, "Johnny Doughboy" was popularized by Kenny Baker, Dennis Day and Kate Smith.

JOHNNY DOUGHBOY TAG

O.C. Cash's favorite

O.C. stopped here

Tenor Lead

Bari Bass

John - ny Dough - boy found a rose in Ire - land, in

Ire - land,

* optional ending

—by—
Joe Liles is SPEBSQSA
Music Publications Editor



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