

September/October 2000

# THE HARMONIZER

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY



KEEP THE WHOLE WORLD SINGING



## PLATINUM

**2000 International  
Quartet Champion**





# Order Blank

The 2000  
International  
Chorus and  
Quartet  
Contests.....  
Videos, Cassettes  
and Compact Discs.



Order now and save!!

| Stock #                                    | Item Description                 | Qty | Each    | Total |
|--|----------------------------------|-----|---------|-------|
| 4652                                       | 2000 Quartet Cassette            |     | \$11.95 |       |
| 4653                                       | 2000 Chorus Cassette             |     | \$11.95 |       |
|  | <i>order both - save \$4.00</i>  |     |         |       |
| 4654                                       | 2000 Quartet CD                  |     | \$14.95 |       |
| 4655                                       | 2000 Chorus CD                   |     | \$14.95 |       |
|  | <i>order both - save \$5.00</i>  |     |         |       |
| 4165                                       | 2000 VHS Quartet Video           |     | \$24.95 |       |
| 4166                                       | 2000 VHS Chorus Video            |     | \$24.95 |       |
|  | <i>order both - save \$5.00</i>  |     |         |       |
| 4118                                       | 2000 *PAL Quartet Video          |     | \$30.00 |       |
| 4119                                       | 2000 *PAL Chorus Video           |     | \$30.00 |       |
|  | <i>order both - save \$10.00</i> |     |         |       |
| Total for merchandise                      |                                  |     |         |       |
| 5% Sales Tax (Wis. residents only)         |                                  |     |         |       |
| <b>Subtotal</b>                            |                                  |     |         |       |
| Shipping and handling (see below)          |                                  |     |         |       |
| <b>Total Amount enclosed US FUNDS ONLY</b> |                                  |     |         |       |

\*PAL (European Format)

Packages sent to separate addresses require separate postage. Please add:

|                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| US and Canadian shipments           | Foreign shipments                             |
| \$6.00 shipping and handling charge | \$15.00 overseas shipping and handling charge |

## Harmony Marketplace

SPEBSQSA, Inc.  
6315 Harmony Lane  
Kenosha, WI 53143-5199  
(800) 876-7464 Fax: (262) 654-5552

Delivery in time for Christmas giving in 2000.

Please ship my order to:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State/Prov \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

SPEBSQSA membership no. \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter name & no. \_\_\_\_\_

Use your MBNA America credit card!



Credit card customers only:  
(your card will be charged prior to the anticipated delivery date)

Please charge my \_\_\_ Mastercard \_\_\_ Visa  
Account No. \_\_\_\_\_

Expires \_\_\_\_\_



**THE  
SMOOTH  
TRANSFER  
OF POWER.**  
Exhausted  
from their  
year as  
champs,  
**FRED**  
graciously  
passes the  
title to  
**PLATINUM.**



## Features



### 8 It's easier than you think

Who will help your chapter and the Society grow? Ask the man in the mirror.

### 17 Feel the power!

They blew you away in Kansas City—get ready to learn a lot more about our champs. This issue: PLATINUM.

### 18 A backstage view

Follow PLATINUM behind the scenes on their gold medal night.

LORIN MAY

### 22 What makes 'em tick

They didn't win via birthright—the work behind PLATINUM's win.

LOIS DEROSA

### 25 Triple-gold Joe

Joe Connelly is the first man to win three medals—who's next?

JIM BAGBY

### 28 Millennium wins it

Meet the impressive medalists of the MBNA America Collegiate Barbershop Quartet Contest



## Departments

2

### LET'S HARMONIZE

So much to say, so little time!

4

### THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Share the Dream through expression

5

### LETTERS

Russians want more barbershop  
What will help membership grow?

6

### TEMPO

Just walk away from political gigs  
A review of Society goals

11

### HARMONY HOW-TO

Be (or get) a winning emcee

13

### CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

A familiar face is back,  
and he'd like your help.

14

### STAY TUNED

Turning gridlock into chordlock  
Ringing 'em for Canada's war heroes

44

### THE TAG

Hush Little Baby



**On the Cover**  
PLATINUM belts one  
PHOTO: MILLER PHOTOGRAPHY



VISA

MasterCard

## Tuxedo Wholesaler

Free 40 page Color Catalogue  
call toll free (800) 828-2802.

### NEW BLACK TUXEDO

In Polyester

**\$99.00**

**\*NEW \*NEW \*NEW \*NEW \***

|                                      |         |
|--------------------------------------|---------|
| New Wing Collar Shirt                | \$15.75 |
| New Laydown Collar Shirt             | \$15.75 |
| Tie & Cummerbund Set in Poly/Satin   | \$8.95  |
| Tie & Cummerbund Set in Lamé         | \$12.95 |
| Bow Tie Poly/Satin                   | \$3.00  |
| Bow Tie in Lamé                      | \$5.00  |
| Men's Tuxedo Pant (ex. twist, black) | \$24.00 |
| Men's Tuxedo Pant (ex. twist, black) | \$36.95 |
| Shawl lapel full back Vest*          | \$22.50 |
| Shawl Lamé lapel full back Vest*     | \$29.50 |
| V Neck Lamé Vest                     | \$36.00 |
| Suspenders all colors                | \$5.00  |

Prices subject to change without notice

\*Vests come in Red, Royal  
and Black with black lapels

Call a Sales Representative today  
(800) 828-2802



Free Catalogue  
Samples Available  
(Please secure with a  
credit card.)

Tuxedo Wholesaler  
15636 N. 78th St.  
Scottsdale, AZ 85260

AMERICAN  
EXPRESS

DISCOVER

## LET'S HARMONIZE

Darryl Flinn, Executive Director



# So much to say, so little space!

**H**ello friends, and happy autumn to all ... especially to those living in the four seasons as we do here in Kenosha. Sorry about *The Harmonizer* being late. You may be aware that after losing former *Harmonizer* editor Dan Daily to retirement, we got several months behind while in our quest to find "the perfect replacement." Not only did we find that man in our new editor, Lorin May, but during that same time, we completely redesigned the appearance and feel of *The Harmonizer*. From the positive feedback we've received, it seems that our readers overwhelmingly approve of the new look and style of our magazine. Thanks for your

patience. We are in the catch-up phase, which means you'll not only continue getting a more attractive, more readable, more relevant *Harmonizer*, but by early next year, it will be on time as well.



*Our music  
and fellow-  
ship is here  
to heal and  
comfort and  
to help us  
laugh, and  
play when-  
ever we need  
it most.*

If you haven't heard me say how proud our staff is to serve you and all of our members, allow me to share a bit of pride. You will soon have your new Harmony Marketplace catalog. This publication represents your staff's best intentions to bring you new and fresh merchandise and clothing, plus new music, recordings, learning tapes, contest videos and much more. Also included is a marvelous array of educational material, tools and aids to help administer our chapters, choruses and quartets. Of course, it's all for sale. More importantly, these sales will create nearly \$1 million in non-dues income. Maybe even more important, is that through our web site ... we are putting our merchandise and a variety of barbershop music and educational material in the hands of non-members. More than \$150,000

in sales so far, and growing. Is it any wonder that Nancy Thorn and her outstanding crew are proud of our Harmony Marketplace? Hope you take the time to browse through your catalog. If you have any great, new ideas for the catalog, please share them with Nancy via the e-mail feature on the Marketplace web site.

Friends, we are smack dab in the middle of our fourth quarter membership initiative. We're calling it "Share the Dream ... "Easy as 1-2-3".

You should have heard all about it by now. If by chance you have not, do go to the "1-2-3" Web site at [www.spebsqsa.org/123](http://www.spebsqsa.org/123). Seems to be the right idea at the right time. We are hearing dozens, if not hundreds, of success stories. How about you and your chapter? Are you in? The idea, of course, is that every chapter, every district, and every member (that would be you and me) share the dream with someone whose life and times would be better by becoming a Barbershopper.

If you are like me, you must be very proud of your "Man of Note" awards. Given the value we can add to a man's life and times, I'm looking forward to supporting "1-2-3" with my next "Man of Note" award. You?

Last issue, this column reminded us of the healing power of vocal music. A friend who read the article called to suggest that for him, "Music is the language that speaks to God." I received an e-note from one of my old Canton, Ohio Chapter buddies who said, "It never has been easy for me to outwardly show that I'm having a good time, but serious personalities like me can laugh and have fun through our music." He went on to say that "singing barbershop music with my best friends brings out the kid in me, and keeps me young."

Another Barbershopper, a fellow whom I had not met, wrote to say that he had lost his best friend, a fellow quartet member with whom he had been harmonizing for more than 25 years. He shared that it was our music that inspired him to let loose of his pent up emotions. Others have said that music and harmony have seen them through enormous personal and emotional pain.

I write about the overwhelming value of our music only to suggest that if you are a "lifer," like most of us, it sure is comforting to know that our music and fellowship is not only a part of us each and every week, but it is here to heal and to comfort and to help us laugh and to play whenever we need it most.

Let's harmonize ... As easy as 1-2-3 !



# THE HARMONIZER

WWW.SPEBSQSA.ORG/HARMONIZER

September/October 2000



Volume LX Number 5

## 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

## HEADQUARTERS OFFICE STAFF

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
DARRYL FLINN (8543)

**DIRECTOR OF MUSIC EDUCATION & SERVICES**  
DR. GREG LYNE (8549)

**DIRECTOR OF FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION**  
FRANK SANTARELLI, CPA, CAE (8450)

**HARMONY FOUNDATION EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
DIRECTOR OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
GARY STAMM, CAE (8446)

**MANAGING DIRECTOR OF MEMBER SERVICES**  
EV NAU (8478)

**PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTOR**  
BRIAN LYNCH (8554)

**EVENTS MANAGER / STAFF COUNSEL**  
JOHN SCHNEIDER (8444)

**LIBRARIAN, OLD SONGS LIBRARY**  
TOM BARR (8545)

**PUBLICATIONS EDITOR**  
LORIN MAY (8567)

**MUSIC SPECIALIST / QUARTET DEVELOPMENT**  
JIM DEBUSMAN (8566)

**C&J / QUARTET REGISTRY / HC-DC**  
LANI DIETER (8551)

**MANAGER OF MEDIA PRODUCTION & SERVICES**  
RUSS FORIS (8586)

**DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR**  
LARRY GILHOUSEN (8448)

**MANAGER OF INFORMATION SYSTEMS**  
SCOTT HOGE (8485)

**MUSIC PUBLICATIONS EDITOR**  
JOE LILES (8553)

**MERCHANDISE OPERATIONS MANAGER**  
NANCY THORN (8487)

**MUSIC SPECIALIST / YOUTH OUTREACH**  
BILL RASHLEIGH (8560)

**PUBLIC RELATIONS SPECIALIST**  
REED SAMPSON (8592)

**MEMBERSHIP SPECIALIST**  
PATRICK KELLY (8459)

**ASSISTANT TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
DEE VESEVICK (8542)

**MUSIC SPECIALIST / CHORUS DIRECTOR DEVELOPMENT**  
KIRK YOUNG (8541)

## HARMONIZER STAFF

LORIN MAY (EDITOR), REED SAMPSON (ASSISTANT EDITOR),  
BRIAN LYNCH (CONTRIBUTING EDITOR), CRYSTAL MILLER  
(EDITORIAL ASSISTANT) HARMONIZER@SPEBSQSA.ORG

## SOCIETY HEADQUARTERS SPEBSQSA

6315 Harmony Lane • Kenosha, WI 53143-5199  
262-653-8440 • 800-876-SING (7464)  
Fax 262-654-4048 (Music, Marketing, Executive)  
Fax 262-654-5552 (Membership, Harmony Marketplace,  
Conventions, Accounting, Harmony Foundation)  
E-mail (name)@spebsqsa.org  
(Example: Jack Singer = jsinger@spebsqsa.org)  
Hours: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. (Central Time) Monday - Friday

The Harmonizer (USPS No. 577700) (ISSN 0017-7849)  
is the official publication of the Society for the Preservation  
and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in Amer-  
ica, Inc. (SPEBSQSA). It is published in the months of Janu-  
ary, March, May, July, September and November at 7930  
Sheridan Road, Kenosha, Wisconsin 53143.

Periodicals postage paid at Kenosha, Wisconsin, and at  
additional mailing offices. Editorial and advertising offices are  
at the Society headquarters. Advertising rates available upon  
request. Publisher assumes no responsibility for return of

## SPEBSQSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**SOCIETY PRESIDENT**  
CHUCK WATSON  
784 McCall Court • Columbus, OH 43235

**SOCIETY EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT**  
ROGER LEWIS  
20125 12 Mile Road • Battle Creek, MI 49014

**SOCIETY TREASURER**  
KEN FLETCHER  
4241 21st Ave. W, #100 • Seattle WA 98199

**SOCIETY IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT**  
ED WAESCHE  
6 Vista Lane • Melville, NY 11747

**SOCIETY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR / BOARD SECRETARY**  
DARRYL FLINN  
ex officio

## SOCIETY BOARD MEMBERS

WAYNE BROZOVICH  
4546 Glenbrook Lane • Palm Harbor, FL 33569

DON CHALLMAN  
916 Tanglewood Drive • Shoreview, MN  
Bill Cody  
501 Slaters Lane, Apt. 1014 • Alexandria, VA 22314

DENNIS COOK  
6019 N. Belmont Way • Parker, CO 80134

GENE COURTS  
1827 Dexter Avenue • Cincinnati, OH 45206

BOA COX  
5578 Kayak Way NE • Salem, OR 97303

EARL HAGN  
1217 Stratford Drive • Richardson, TX 75080-2918

HANK HAMMER  
2622 Leakey • San Antonio, TX 78251

ARTHUR MAYNARD  
452 Birchwood Road • Medford, NY 11763

DON PYFER  
4564 East Road • Port Stanley, ON N5L 1A7

BILL STOCK  
522 N. Jackson Street • Belleville, IL 62220

## AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS

**AUSTRALIAN ASSOC. OF MEN BARBERSHOP SINGERS (AAMBS)**  
John Wareham, President  
51 Robin Parade • Springfield NSW 2250 • Australia

**BARBERSHOP IN GERMANY (BiNG)**  
Birgit Kayser, President  
Ewaldstr. 28 • D-59174 Kamen • Germany

**BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF BARBERSHOP SINGERS (BABS)**  
Chris Tideman, Chairman  
"Brooklands," Knaresborough Road, Follifoot, N Yorks HG3 1DT, UK

**DUTCH ASSOCIATION OF BARBERSHOP SINGERS (OABS)**  
Johan Kragt, President  
Cohanza #13 • Düsselstein 3402 UD, The Netherlands

**IRISH ASSOCIATION OF BARBERSHOP SINGERS (IABS)**  
Eithne Mooney, President  
Angharad, Drumree, Co. Meath • Ireland

**NEW ZEALAND ASSOC. OF BARBERSHOP SINGERS (NZABS)**  
David Birdling, President  
11 Orissa Crescent • Broadmeadows • Wellington 604 • New Zealand

**SOCIETY OF NORDIC BARBERSHOP SINGERS (SNOBS)**  
Bengt Thaysen, President  
Ryav. 25E, S-191 63 • Sollentuna, Sweden

**SOUTHERN PART OF AFRICA TONSORIAL SINGERS (SPATS)**  
Glen Bilsco, President  
Bo2741 • Pinetown • Republic of South Africa

unsolicited manuscripts or artwork.

Postmaster: send address changes to editorial offices of The Harmonizer, 7930 Sheridan Road, Kenosha, Wisconsin 53143 at least thirty days before the next publication date. A portion of each member's dues is allocated to cover the magazine's subscription price. Subscription price to non-members is \$21 yearly or \$3.50 per issue; foreign subscriptions are \$31 yearly or \$5 per issue (U.S. funds only). ©2000 by the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America, Inc.





## Share The Dream through self-expression

**W**herever you may have been, I hope you had a chance to enjoy the 2000 Annual Convention. You may have been there (10,000 were) or you may have read about it on the Harmonizer, or you may have listened on the Society Web page ([www.spebsqsa.org](http://www.spebsqsa.org)) or you may have spoken to a friend who was there. Whatever the contact, it was one of the best—if not the best—conventions ever for our Society.

Continuing on the theme I established for the year—"We believe that the joy of self-expression and fulfillment is a natural extension of active participation in the Society"—I hope that everyone can share in some of this self-expression and fulfillment. How have you done so in recent days or weeks?



*Getting others to share your joy of music and fellowship is simple—all you have to do is ask them.*

How often do we really look at the lyric of a song? It should be done for every song. What is that song really about? How can we make that song come alive both to ourselves and, most especially, to our audience?

Why am I harping on the same thing your chorus director is always saying? I firmly believe that we should at all times be trying to convey to that audience (and sometimes we are that audience) what the song is about. I recently returned from the Second Annual Barbershop Harmony Festival in

Sr. Petersburg, Russia. Think about conveying the meaning of a song to an audience that doesn't understand the words you're singing. Should they not enjoy it because they don't know what the words say? No way. You can bet that the audiences in Russia who heard and saw the Barbershoppers perform came away knowing that they had experienced something special.

How did that happen? The performers communicated the song visually and with vocal expression. How do you otherwise explain an audience response that goes from healthy applause to "rhythmic clapping" to a standing ovation followed by bouquets of flowers? Those people were touched by the music and its presentation without understanding the lyric line. They saw the joy or sorrow in the face of the performers. They saw the enthusiasm and sincerity of the delivery.

I'd recommend the experience to anyone, but you don't have to go to Russia to have these kind of experiences. Have you sung at a nursing home where people may not be able to hear or see you? Have you enjoyed the thrill of seeing a formerly non-responsive patient in a hospital suddenly open his eyes and smile? No words can ever express that thrill that comes to the performer when he has touched that audience member—or the feeling when you receive whatever small expression of appreciation they might possess. Where else can you experience that thrill? Why not go out and ask your friends to share that thrill with you?

You have no doubt seen the "Easy as 1-2-3" logo. It means that getting others to share your joy of music and fellowship is really simple—all you have to do is ask them. This fall, your Society is asking you to help yourself. Yes, new members make your chapter grow and prosper. The real joy of barbershopping is making music and fellowship with friends around you in your chapter.

It isn't the responsibility of the Society to supply you with fellowship. It's you who makes it happen. The "Easy as 1-2-3" initiative is a way of helping all Barbershoppers in all chapters to do the same thing—plan a membership activity in the fourth quarter of this year.

Remember: "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." ■

*Chuck Watson*

# Loving *The Harmonizer*, Easy as 1-2-3

## Great issue!

I must write and tell you how much I enjoyed July/August *Harmonizer*—possibly the best *Harmonizer* ever! Oh to reminisce! Articles about old time quartets would be great—where they are and whether they are still around. I did not know B. Busby was gone until I read that in one of the articles.

BOB PARK  
Bloomington, Ill.

When I first started reading *The Harmonizer*, half a century ago, it was read cover to cover, every word, as soon as it arrived. Over time the reading dwindled off, and sometimes it just got skipped. I would check out the music that would be inserted, but otherwise ...

This issue, July/August, got read cover to cover, word for word, today—it seems as if I knew every man mentioned, everything commented on—the works.

ARTHUR SABIN  
Falls Church, Va.

Wow, did you ever knock the ball over the fence with this issue of *The Harmonizer*. The spot on Freddie looks great. I can't tell you what an honor it is to have had the opportunity to interview Freddie.

JEFF SELANO  
Riptide Quartet, Big Chicken Chorus

## Russians want barbershop

It was certainly heartwarming to read Alexander Nikitin's article in *The Harmonizer* in the March-April 2000 issue. As mentioned in the preface, some things might be lost in interpretation, and such is the case in the paragraph stating "an excellent choir from Pennsylvania (director, Chuck Mong)." I was, in fact, the group leader, but the actual directors were Joseph Malafarina and Logan Hill, both of the Nittany Knights chorus of State College, Pennsylvania.

Although I personally feel that there is strong interest in Russia about our craft, I think we as a society must continue our efforts to share our music and style with Russian music leaders. We have formed a nonprofit corporation called "Music without Borders" with the express purpose of exchanging musical ideas and performers. We would welcome any advice and support.

CHUCK MONG  
Nittany Knights Barbershop Chorus

## Easy as 1-2-3

The very best, and most productive, recruiting tool available to every chapter in the Society is to produce exciting shows. Every show should be the "best in town" and so appealing that those men in the audience, who can and like to sing, simply can't wait to become a part. Amen.

BOB TRIP  
Painted Post Chapter

Are some of our attitudes actually driving young singers away? For example, at a district division contest, I was appalled at some attendees' lack of etiquette regarding my children—not the kids' lack, but members of the audience who stare, glare and complain at the slightest sound from a child during the long hours of quartet and chorus competitions. I appreciate the need for quiet during performances, but never forget: Children represent our future. Where will they gain a love for barbershop if it isn't at our shows and competitions?

Reject my children without reason and could you alienate my wife, risk depriving my chorus of her support on numerous fund-raising events, performances, and meetings throughout the year. You also risk driving me away and depriving my small chorus of a bass, a bulletin editor, section leader, and quartet member.

Also, who is benefiting when Society competitions and other events are held too late for children and older audience members to attend? Give children in the audience some understanding—and forgive small noises—and you may help keep our music alive and well for decades to come.

WILLIAM HYDE  
Frederick Catoctones chapter

## Credit to true arrangers, composers

Thank you for the July/August article "Three Arrangers ..." One correction: The arrangement of "You Must Have Been a Beautiful Baby" was arranged not by me but by Rencé Craig for the Four Rascals in 1966.

LOU PERRY  
Tucson, Ariz.

*Correction:* Last month's tag, "There But For You Go I," should credit Bill Busby with only the arrangement. The words and melody are from *Brigadoon* by Lerner and Loewe.



## Barbershoppers and politics

**P**oliticians and political causes naturally want to associate themselves with the musical form that is as American as apple pie. How should your chapter respond to such invitations? Two words: "NO WAY!"

Your chapter's and the Society's tax-exempt status come with a responsibility. We must all refrain from engaging, in any substantial manner, in activities for carrying on propaganda, or attempting to influence legislation, or participating in any political campaign. Many states have similar—and in some cases more restrictive—provisions. To your chapter, that means:

- No political advertisements in show programs or other publications. Even if it is

identified as a paid political advertisement, it may be deemed to be "participating" in a political campaign.

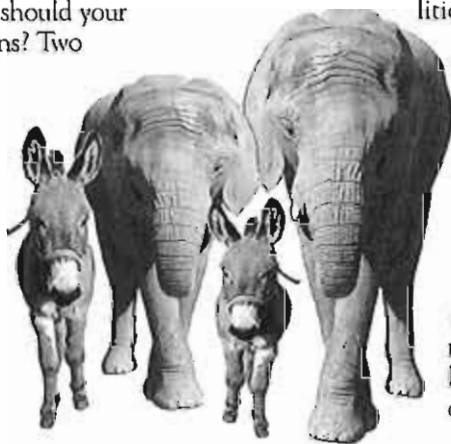
- No paid or unpaid appearances (performances) at political functions in support of a candidate.

- No group participation in letter-writing campaigns, circulation of petitions, or other activities which might be considered to be lobbying in favor of or in opposition to legislation.

In addition, the Society's

Code of Ethics prohibits "the introduction of political, religious or other similar controversial issues into the affairs of the Society."

However, it is the opinion of the Laws and Regulations Committee that a chapter may accept an ad from someone who happens to be a political candidate, using his/her name, but with no reference to any political contest—just like an ad (or "best wishes," "compliments of ..." etc.) from any non-candidate.



### Why should Barbershoppers have all the fun?

While you're making plans for next year's convention in Nashville, block out an extra couple of days to hear some of the world's best performers of country, gospel, classical, pop, rock, jazz and barbershop music—all delivered a cappella style!

Overlapping two days of the convention, all three days of "Sing! An A Cappella Celebration" will include performances, workshops and demonstrations that are open to the public. The June 30-July 2 event is being co-sponsored by SPEBSQSA and is believed to be the first event of its kind.

The event has attracted the Who's Who of a cappella music, including Grammy award-winners Chanticleer and the Swingle Singers, as well as gold medalists FRED and The Gas House Gang, contemporary Christian singers GLAD, and Showtime, international queens of harmony from Sweet Adelines International. Also appearing will be Malaika, an Afro-Canadian women's quartet; the House Jacks; B; For Heavens Sake and Rip-tide quartets; the 100-member Big Chicken Chorus, and the popular Edlos who combine comedy with their country and pop close-harmony singing.

To register, complete the form on page 10 of this issue, or visit [spebsqsa.org](http://spebsqsa.org) or [singacappella.com](http://singacappella.com).

**SING!**  
AN A CAPPELLA CELEBRATION

### Get ready for a pre-recorded competition

More barbershop albums than ever before were submitted for the 2000 Contemporary A Cappella Recording Awards. Perhaps your quartet or chorus would like to be a contender this year. You may submit two copies of your new (must have been released in 2000) album to:

The Contemporary A Cappella Recording Awards

PMB 1449, 1850 Union Street., #4  
San Francisco, CA 94123

Submit your entries early - the deadline is December 31st.



#### CONVENTIONS INTERNATIONAL

2001

SING/NASHVILLE  
July 1-8

2002

PORTLAND  
June 30-July 7

2003

MONTREAL  
June 29-July 6

2004

LOUISVILLE  
June 27-July 4

2005

SALT LAKE CITY  
July 2-9

2006

INDIANAPOLIS  
July 2-9

2007

DENVER  
July 1-8

#### MIDWINTER

2001

JACKSONVILLE, FLA.  
January 22-28

2002

RIVERSIDE, CALIF.  
January 20-27

2003

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M.  
January 19-26

2004

BLOOM, MISS.  
Jan. 25-Feb. 1

HARMONY COLLEGE /  
DIRECTORS COLLEGE

2001

Missouri Western State  
College  
St. Joseph, Mo.  
July 29-August 5



## Board reviews where we are, where we're going

As part of its meeting each July, the Society Board of Directors reviews a State of the Society Report which relates the Society's overall mission and purposes to progress made towards achieving those goals. The State of the Society report provides a snapshot into the workings of SPEBSQSA and provides members with an understanding of the "big picture" toward which many programs are aimed.

### Highlights of the State of the Society Report

- In the area of singing and performing, our A-level quartets and choruses continue to demonstrate that they are unparalleled in their ability to perform in the a cappella style of singing. We are also blessed by the increasing availability, in music stores and through print, of CD's of our top

quartets in live (contest) performances.

- While the Society continues to provide a broad range of music education courses and workshops for arrangers, judges, chorus directors, quartets and individual singers, both at the Society and district levels, many members do not avail themselves of the opportunity to partake in these resources.

- Society membership stood at 32,862 at the end of June, 2000 about the same as 1999's year end number. The trend of comparing year-to-year, month-to-month membership figures appears to indicate a trend of lower membership losses, which if continued will soon show a positive growth pattern. Turnover in membership continues to be rather low, averaging about 12 percent each year.

- Membership growth continues to fall short of our one-percent-per-year goal. In fact, we've had monthly year-to-year declines since July, 1977. Beginning in calendar year 2000, a massive effort was begun to increase extension and create new chapters. The schedule calls for two staff members to spend 80 weeks on the road with the express purpose of establishing/creating extension sites. The goal is to charter 100 new chapters between 2000 and 2001. As of June 30, 13 new charters have been granted and 69 extension sites are on the books. This compares with the yearly total in 1999 of 12 charters and 9 licenses.

- We continue to be an aging Society. However, the demographics for new members, brought in this year, indicates that 51 per cent are under 50, a most positive step. We must continue to concentrate our mem-

ber recruitment efforts on men in their mid-40's or younger if we are to reverse our aging trend.

- Last year our members contributed \$485,436 to the Harmony Foundation General Fund (Heartspring, SingAmerica/SingCanada, the Heritage Hall Museum) and an additional \$516,820 was donated by chapters to local and other charitable causes. In addition, \$137,865 was donated to the Society's Endowment Program through Harmony Foundation. ■

FYI

### Other Downloads

Download the complete State of the Society report at [spebsqsa.org/Operations/SocietyBoard](http://spebsqsa.org/Operations/SocietyBoard) and while you're there, look into other documents that define and explain the business of our Society:

- Vision 2001—*The way we wished things would become, much of which is coming to pass.*
- Operations Manual—*Complete description of all functions, offices and processes.*
- Marketing and Public Relations Plan—*how the Society (as a single entity) markets itself to all outside-Society observers.*
- Rules & Regulations Handbook—*International, District and Chapter Bylaws*
- Minutes of the SPEBSQSA Board of Directors Meetings



**TRUE  
WHOLESALE  
PRICING!**

### TUXEDOS

**BLACK TUXEDO COAT & PANTS \$91.90**  
**TUXEDO PANTS \$21.95**

### SHIRTS

**WING COLLAR \$12.95**  
**LAY DOWN COLLAR \$12.95**  
**BAND COLLAR \$17.95**

### ACCESSORIES

**CUMMERBUNDS SO COLORS! \$5.95**  
**BOW TIES SO COLORS! \$1.95**  
**CUM & TIE SETS \$7.90**  
**LAME BOW TIES \$4.95**  
**LAME SETS MANY COLORS! CALL!**

### VESTS

**BLACK FULL BACK**  
**SHAWL LAPEL . . . \$21.95**  
**FULL BACK NO LAPEL**  
**MANY COLORS . . . \$18.95**

### MISC.

**KNIT POLO SHIRTS \$13.95**  
**SUSPENDERS \$4.95**  
**TOP HATS \$16.95**

**ALL MERCHANDISE IS  
BRAND NEW &  
FIRST QUALITY!**

**SAME DAY SHIPPING!**

**UNCONDITIONALLY  
GUARANTEED!**

**CUSTOM UNIFORM DESIGN**

**BIG & TALL SPECIALISTS!**



**CALL FOR OUR  
FREE CATALOG**

**1-800-841-1620**

All Major Credit Cards Accepted

9AM-5PM EST

# The most critical ingredient—you!

“Sure! Easy as 1-2-3 ... that's what you say, but I'm not interested in doing all that stuff. All I want to do is sing in my chapter and enjoy the fellowship of the other guys. I don't have time for much more than that, and besides ... I'm no salesman. Let the other guys worry about finding the new members; I'm just too busy.”

Sound familiar?

I'll bet everyone of us at some point has experienced those thoughts. And why not? We did join to be singers and not recruiters, didn't we? So, why should we care about making the Society grow?

Well, let's just assume for a moment that no one recruits anyone else for the next seven years. We know our retention rate is 87% per year. Therefore, taking our June, 2000, membership total of 32,862 members and projecting it over seven years, we would have 12,397 members left by June of 2007, a loss of more than 20,000 members. Catastrophic!

However, if every member were to recruit just one new member every six years (not too much to expect, is it?), our Society would grow at the rate of two percent per year (our work plan only requires a one-percent-per-year growth to meet our financial and artistic goals). By June, 2007, our membership would be 37,748, just slightly less than our all-time high of 38,188.

The Society's membership initiative “Share the Dream ... Easy as 1-2-3!” is nothing really new. It's a call to action for all of us (you, too) to turn the steady membership slide around. More new members mean several things: more quartet opportunities, more singing experiences, more jamborees, more attendees at our schools and conventions and more fun. It also means fewer dues increases.

During the past year, Pat Kelly and I have been successfully building new chapters in the field. We now have more chapters than at any other time in our Society's history, a great source of membership growth. But that growth should be additional to what the existing chap-

ters are already providing. During June and July of this year, the Society experienced the lowest new member totals in 20 years. The existing chapters not only are not recruiting well, they are actually negating the gains made from the addition of new chapters. We're still losing members despite expanding the number of chapters and providing more membership opportunities. What's that all about?

Okay, so what can you do? Well, for openers, why not try these 1-2-3 steps for yourself: 1. Take a look at the Society's web site at [www.spebsqsa.org/123](http://www.spebsqsa.org/123) for a complete description of the available resources. You'll find steps that

you can personally take to add to the success of our Society. 2.

Make a couple of calls to folks who like to sing. Perhaps put up some posters at your work place or some public bulletin boards. 3. Talk about your hobby at least once a day to those you know and perhaps even those you don't know. Write an article

for your chapter's bulletin. (The editor will become your best friend immediately!)

Once you've started the conversation, try closing it with a line I often use: “I sure would hate to see you denying yourself all the fun I'm having at my chapter meeting. You owe it to yourself and your family to at least try it.” You'll be amazed at how easily the grins come when you talk to folks that way.

If you're one of those guys who wishes he'd joined the Society earlier in his life (I know I'm one!), do you want others to feel like that, too; or are you willing to chance a bit to share the marvelous values that we treasure in this singing fraternity?

And when you're about to pin on your Man of Note, start all over again. Remember, you only need to be successful once every six years! Anything else is a bonus. ■



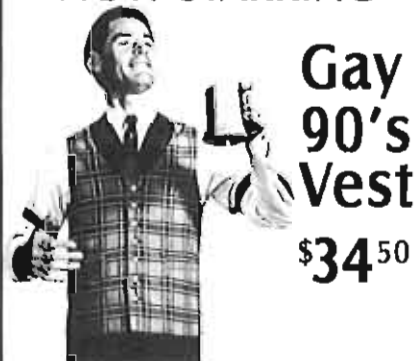
—by—  
Ev Nau is director of  
Member Services for  
SPEBSQSA.



**HERE'S TO  
NEW CHOICES!**  
**See it all on**

[www.harmonyonstage.com](http://www.harmonyonstage.com)

★ NOW STARRING ★



**Gay  
90's  
Vest**

**\$34<sup>50</sup>**

**Red Striped  
Boaters**

Authentic, unlined.

**\$39<sup>50</sup>**



**Tuxedos**

**\$89<sup>00</sup>**

Superfine  
100% Wool

**\$149<sup>00</sup>**

★ ALSO STARRING ★

**3 & 4 Button Blazers  
In 10 Spotlight Colors**

Featherlite **\$85<sup>00</sup>**  
Fully lined

★ AND ON THE PROGRAM ★

★ Tux Shirts \$12<sup>85</sup> • HI-Band \$18<sup>85</sup>

★ Vests ★ Hats ★ Trousers

★ Etons ★ C&T Sets ★ etc.

**SAXON UNIFORM NETWORK**

1596 La Vista Road  
Atlanta, GA 30329

1-800-7-TUXEDO • fax 801-730-3295

**1000 CDs: \$1490**  
**1000 CDs: \$1490**  
**1000 CDs: \$1490**

Full color 4 panel cover  
 with black and white liner notes  
 Full color traycard  
 3 colors on the disc  
 Assembly & Polywrap  
 From your CDR and designed art files

Triple Disc / 800-414-7564  
 700 Jackson Street / Fred, VA 22401  
[www.tripledisc.com](http://www.tripledisc.com) / [info@tripledisc.com](mailto:info@tripledisc.com)

# The Vocal Majority<sup>®</sup>

★ CHORUS ★

Visit us at our website!  
[www.vocalmajority.com](http://www.vocalmajority.com)

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**JUNE 30 - JULY 2, 2001**

**NASHVILLE**

TENNESSEE

**SING!**

**AN A CAPPELLA CELEBRATION**

**SEE and HEAR these fabulous groups!**

Gas House Gang • Malaika • GLAD  
 Chanticleer • Edlos • Housejacks  
 Showtime • m-pact • FRED Riptide  
 Swingle Singers • For Heaven's Sake

**...PLUS, educational sessions from these SAME GROUPS!**

**WANT MORE INFO?**

Visit our **NEW** website at:  
[www.singacappella.com](http://www.singacappella.com)



**gotcha!**  
 quartet

1998 Far Western District Champs and  
 2000 International Finalists  
**Our First CD!**



**Featuring:**

1. Jazz Me Blues
2. Gotta Be On My Way
3. There Goes My Heart
4. Anytime! Can't Give You Anything But Love Medley
5. Hello Mary Lou (Goodbye Heart)
6. Royal Garden Blues
7. I'll Always Be Mother's Boy
8. Twelve Days After Christmas
9. For Me and My Gal
10. Drifting
11. My Honey's Lovin' Arms
12. I'm Sitting On Top of the World
13. What'll I Do
14. Don't Break the Heart That Loves You
15. Swing Down Charlotte

Visit us online at:  
[www.gotchaquartet.com](http://www.gotchaquartet.com)

Detach the order form and mail with your payment to:  
 Gotcha!, P.O. Box 3384, Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670

Detach and send in

**ORDER FORM**

Gotcha!, P.O. Box 3384, Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670

Please Print

**gotcha!**  
 quartet

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Visa ☐ Master Card ☐ Check ☐ Money Order

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Expires \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Authorized Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks or money orders payable to Gotcha!

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| Total   | \$2.50   |
| Price   | \$15 ea  |
| Qty   | \$10 ea  |
| Item  | Cassette |
| Shipping<br>CA residents<br>add 8.25% sales tax |          |
| Total Enclosed                                  |          |



Two huge events. One great place. Find out why they call it Music City, USA.

# Nashville 2001 Festival & Convention Registration

Use this form to register for either or both events. Enjoy Early Bird rates through 12/31/2000, and regular rates until 6/1/2001.

date membership number (if applicable) chapter name (if applicable)

registrant's name nickname for badge

second guest name second guest nickname for badge

registrant address city state ZIP/postal code

work phone home phone email

circle payment method: VISA MasterCard check money order  
card account # expiration date (MM/YY)

Note here if any physical needs require special accommodation for you to fully participate in the convention;  
convention staff will contact you to make arrangements.



**June 30-July 2: Sing 2001, an A Cappella Celebration**  
Tickets for each show \$35, or all three nights for \$90.  
All seats reserved.

Saturday, June 30:  
The Gas House Gang, Malaka, Chanticleer, GLAD tickets @ \$35 \$

Sunday, July 1:  
The Edlos, The House Jacks, Showtime!, m-pact tickets @ \$35 \$

Monday, July 2:  
Big Chicken Chorus, FRED, Riptide,  
For Heaven's Sake, Swingle Singers tickets @ \$35 \$

Sing 2001! All Shows Pass — see all three for just \$90! tickets @ \$90 \$

**SUBTOTAL of Sing 2001 Festival Events** \$



**July 3-8: 2001: A Barbershop Odyssey — SPEBSQSA's 63rd Annual Convention**  
Your registration includes a reserved seat for all three rounds of the international quartet contest,  
and the international chorus contest, a name badge and convention program.  
Order tickets for college contest, World Harmony Jamboree and AIC shows from the January 2001  
issue of *The Harmonizer*.

Adult Early Bird (Save \$15 if postmarked by 12/31/00) @ \$85 \$

Adult Regular (postmarked after 1/1/01) @ \$100 \$

Junior (under age 12) Early Bird (Save \$12 if postmarked by 12/31/00) @ \$43 \$

Junior (under age 12) Regular (postmarked after 1/1/01) \$50 \$

**SUBTOTAL of SPEBSQSA Convention Registrations** \$

Add \$3 postage & handling for each eight events ordered. \$  
(Example: 2 Sing! concerts for 2 people + 2 convention registrations = 6 registrations = \$3)

**TOTAL REMITTED FOR BOTH EVENTS** \$

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Mail with payment (checks: payable to SPEBSQSA) to: SPEBSQSA, 6315 Harmony Lane, Kenosha, WI 53143-5199.  
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 before June 1, 2001 will be mailed during the month of May 2001. Those received after that date may be picked up  
at the convention registration area beginning Friday, June 29, 2001. When you receive confirmation, please keep it as your receipt. **Registra-**  
**tions may be transferred to another person, but they are NOT refundable. No phone orders, please.**



## HARMONY HOW-TO

J. Carl Hancuff, emcee extraordinaire



# Be (or get) a winning emcee

**F**or the audience, an effective emcee can be the difference between a show that drags and a show that invigorates. Even if you have no intention of becoming an emcee, you'll choose better emcees—and work better with them—if you understand their roles and responsibilities. Here are some tips for the emcees:

**Analyze and understand your particular style.** Practice and perfect it, and avoid your weaknesses.

**Find out what is expected of you.** Are you to be a large or featured part of the show, or are you to add a pleasant interlude between performing acts?

**Come prepared to do a four-hour show.** Never try to use all your material. Save some of your best “stuff” for the second half.

**Check the auditorium before show time.** Every hall has its own personality ... be familiar with the audience members' line of sight. Adjust the podium, microphone and your spot to your liking. Meet with the show chair and chorus director in advance, if possible. Include the stage manager also, so all four of you are “singing off the same page.”

**Make friends with your audience.** Establish a rapport. Never talk down or try to out-shout members of the audience. Let them come to you. Be sincere.

**Know how to cope with any emergency.** Know where all the exits are located. You must set the calm if a crisis arises.

**Keep it clean, keep it moving.** Know the Society's facts and goals. “Sell” membership into the local chapter. Find out where and when it meets.

**Keep introductions fresh.** Personalize each intro with a fresh new approach. Always say the performer's name last—never start with, “The Dandy Diphthongs, who you are about to hear ...”

**Manage the intermission.** Most chapter shows go too long! Many chapters abuse the time allocated for intermission. Here is where you can earn your pay by informing the spot operator, sound man, and stage hands exactly when the second half will start. Then, get a drink of water and go round up the opening act of the second half. Too many 15-minute intermissions stretch to 30 minutes or more and then everyone wonders why the show went too long.

**Double-check announcements.** Check with the headliners regarding the sale of tapes, CDs, etc. Clear all announcements with the show chairman (except for emergencies).

**Manage the encores.** These should be left up to the emcee. If one is earned, fine—otherwise, move on! During the grand finale, thank your audience. Be sincere. Reintroduce performing acts so that applause is continuous.

**Evaluate your own performance.** Before going to sleep, walk yourself through the show. Remember what you did well and where you could have improved your performance. Sleep well. Pay your bills. Go home. □

## CARL'S “CHEAT SHEET” FOR EMCEES

1.

*Know exactly what's expected, and deliver no less—and no more!*

2.

*If necessary, rearrange your visual placement for maximum impact.*

3.

*Know what the performers and sponsoring chapter want you to “sell.”*

4.

*Take the lead in keeping intermissions short.*

5.

*Have more than enough material for any type or length of show.*

6.

*Play to your own strengths—not those of other emcees.*

7.

*Be sincere with the audience, and establish rapport.*

8.

*Prepare ahead for any emergency.*

9.

*Create fresh introductions customized for each act.*

10.

*Keep the appropriate pace during encores and finales.*

## The Aliens Have Landed

One of the most hilarious contest performances ever caught on video.  
Hundreds sold. Shown regularly at Harmony College.



See what prompted contest judges to put down their pencils and sit back to enjoy THE ALIENS during an International Prelims Contest. Hear the crowd roar.

**PLUS ...** as a special bonus, watch THE ALIENS perform one of their many comedy show packages.

All proceeds donated to QCED (Quartet Champions of the Evergreen District) to benefit the advancement of quartet singing in Evergreen.

Send check for \$20.00 (US funds) plus \$3.00 handling payable to:

QCED  
8422 NE Holladay St.  
Portland, OR 97220

Order on line: [www.Senate-Aires.org/Aliens/video.htm](http://www.Senate-Aires.org/Aliens/video.htm)



presents

## Kaleidoscope of Sound

with special guest, "Platinum"

Saturday, November 18, 2000

7:30 p.m.

Nashville's War Memorial Auditorium

301 Sixth Avenue, North • Nashville, Tennessee

Tickets available through Ticketmaster 615-255-9600  
[ticketmaster.com](http://ticketmaster.com) • Ticket prices \$25 and \$15



## Triple Disc

CD Duplication • Multimedia Production

800-414-7564

AL-SPECIAL-SPECIAL-SPECIAL-SPECIAL-SPECIAL-S

1000 CDs: **\$1690**

### Package Includes:

3 Colors on the CDs  
Full Color 4 Panel Cover  
Full Color Traycard  
B/W Liner Notes  
Graphic Design  
All Film Output  
Artwork Matchprints  
Digital Mastering  
CDR Master Proof  
Assembly and Polywrap  
Shipping

300 CDs: **\$1090**

### Package Includes:

1 Color on the CDs  
Full Color 2 Panel Cover  
Full Color Traycard  
B/W Liner Notes  
Graphic Design  
All Film Output  
Artwork Matchprints  
Digital Conversion to CDR  
CDR Master Proof  
Assembly and Polywrap  
Shipping

AL-SPECIAL-SPECIAL-SPECIAL-SPECIAL-SPECIAL-S

## Congratulations to PLATINUM and thanks!

Triple Disc would also like to thank

Marquis  
Alexandria Harmonizers  
Blue Grass Student Union  
Dealer's Choice  
Happiness Emporium  
The Phoenixians  
For Heaven's Sake  
Riptide  
Bank Street  
Saturday Evening Post  
Jackpot  
Big Chicken  
Rumors  
Checkmate  
American Barberboys  
Countdown  
Freefall  
The General Assembly  
The Fresno Gold Note Chorus  
The Keystone Capital Chorus  
Westchester Chordsmen  
Sweet Adelines International  
The Citations  
Southern Acchord  
The Kippers  
Song of Atlanta  
Sharper Image  
The Fun Addicts  
Bolton Landing - LIVE  
The Brigadeers  
Sound Legacy  
and the many other quartets and choruses who  
have entrusted their CD projects with us.

Web: [www.tripledisc.com](http://www.tripledisc.com)  
Email: [info@tripledisc.com](mailto:info@tripledisc.com)  
700 Jackson / Fred, VA 22401





## He's back ... and he'd really like your help!

**E**very year, at the annual SPEBSQSA international convention, thousands of men, women and children gather to enjoy the best of barbershopping. At our 1999 convention in Anaheim, California, we not only had an exciting time of singing and renewing friendships, we also had a chance to personally meet someone we have admired from afar for many years—Mr. Dick Van Dyke. Throughout his time with us, it was obvious that he is as taken with our hobby as we

are with his personality. During his induction as an honorary member of our Society, he expressed his sincere thoughts that singing not only spreads joy, but that it creates joy within each individual. He was deeply moved by our enthusiasm.

You might think the appearance was simply good publicity for Mr. Van Dyke, or perhaps a one-time, short-term interest on his part. Quite the contrary. Dick Van Dyke truly believes in what Barbershoppers can do for others. He is proving this by serving as Honorary Chairman of the Harmony Foundation 2000 General Fund Campaign. His enthusiastic acceptance of this leadership position says volumes about his optimism for the future of our charitable mission.

You will soon receive a letter from Dick asking for your help to raise \$100,000.00 through our 2000 General Fund Campaign. This is our chance to respond to him with the same enthusiasm for this hobby that he has shown.

As a new honorary member of our Society, Dick Van Dyke has taken barbershopping into his heart and is supporting the SPEBSQSA charitable mission. Will you? Let us respond to his leadership with the same commitment, ensuring a future that will help others ...

Sing . . . for life. 🎵

*P.S. You may also use the enclosed envelope to contribute.*

—by—

*Lois Meyer Kulvik is a development associate for Harmony Foundation.*

**FYI**

**Who does this help?**

What can you accomplish through the General Fund?

You can help:

- Provide sheet music for a school chorus
- Preserve a barbershop harmony artifact
- Send a high school student to a Harmony Explosion Camp
- Further the research of music as therapy for a handicapped child
- Establish an inner city youth choral program
- Provide a positive environment for thousands of children

These are only a few of the many ways in which YOU can impact the future of the next generation. Please help us help others Sing . . . for life



# 11-year-old directs Vocal Majority

**O**n Thursday, June 15, my family and I had the chance to go to a rehearsal of the Vocal Majority. They work very hard, they get very hot and sweaty, and they get yelled at for all the same stuff we do. You know, like shaping your vowels correctly, keeping the placement forward, and keeping your sound vertical.

During the break, I thought how cool it must be to direct this great chorus. Then near the end of the rehearsal, I saw their membership VP talking with Dad. Dad, looked very surprised and called me over. They asked if, at the end of the rehearsal, I would direct "Keep The Whole World Singing." My first reaction was "What? ME?" Without thinking, I said, "YES!"



Then the terror set in. What if I make a mistake? The membership VP said, "Don't worry. They will follow you—they're very trained." As I watched them finish up, they sang an awesome arrangement of "I'll Walk With God" for a newly married member and his wife, then after a short introduction, it was my turn.

I stood in front of 165 members of the Vocal Majority, shaking like a leaf, hoping God would be walking with me, waiting for the pitch. Someone blew the pitch and I started the song. Dad was standing in the front row singing, and mom was running around with her camera. Jim Clancy was standing right there in the middle of the front row, too. At several points, I was so nervous and enjoying myself so much that I forgot to cut them off. The membership VP was right—they just kept singing until I remembered. At the end of the song, a huge cheer went up when I remembered to cut them off. I was thinking "Wow!" with great relief, followed immediately by, "I want to do that again!"

The membership VP gave me a high five and told me he was sure I was the youngest person ever to direct the Vocal Majority. Second was a high five and a big hug from Dad. Then Jim Clancy came over and said, "Do you realize you just directed the eight-time World Champion chorus?"

Of course I did!

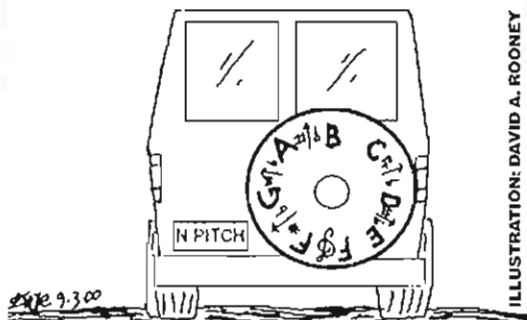
—by—

Bryan Ziegler of  
the Midwest Vocal Express,  
as told to Walt Ziegler

## Quartet converts gridlock into chordlock

On our way to Harmony Pilgrimage in Westfield, we got stuck in traffic on the Massachusetts Turnpike. Dead stop for more than an hour. Since we were all there together, we got out and started singing. A guy in the car next to us said he sang bass with the Springfield chorus, so we invited him over and he sang with us. A woman came over and said her dad and brother used to sing barber-shop. She sang some and reminisced some. We got a bunch of people hanging around listening. A couple of cars going the other way saw us, figured what was happening and honked and waved. (A guy even got out his golf club and started chipping shots over in the grass.) After about an hour, we were at the point of having to dig for some oldies we hadn't done in a while. That's when a cop car went by with a bull horn announcing we should get back in our cars because we'd be moving momentarily (which

### MASSACHUSETTS TUNEPIKE



we did). We had an absolute blast! We made a couple of connections, shared some harmony and kept ourselves and a few others from going ballistic in the summer heat! The moral? Always carry your quartet with you—you never know when you might need them.

—Tom Batton, Tenor  
The Boston Wailers



## Soaring Harmonies

The hustle and bustle of a busy military air field and bivouac, with jeeps, motorcycles, ambulances and other military vehicles racing to and fro, and close harmony ringing through the air was the scene in Reading, Pennsylvania at the Mid Atlantic Air Museum's tenth annual World War II Weekend Airshow.

The Western Maryland Connection, a quartet from the Frederick, Maryland chapter, took on the guise of USO performers promoting war bond sales, and gathered a crowd wherever they stopped to sing. For re-enactment buffs, fans of period aircraft, music lovers, and just about anyone at all, the event is a wonderful experience held the first weekend of June.



## "Another throat lozenge, please ..."

If you like singing tags, there were plenty of opportunities in Kansas City—but there's not much chance that you sang more tags that week than Don

Gooding. The Barbershopper and President of Mainely A Cappella may have set an unofficial record in Kansas City by singing, within the course of a week, approximately one gazillion tags. (Okay—it was several hundred, but it felt like a gazillion by the end of the week.)

For some reason, Don just couldn't stop people from asking him to sing tags with them. Was it Don's sparkling personality? The large tag library in his head? His ability to sing tenor, lead, or bari? Or could it have been because he'd rented a booth and run a large color ad in *The Harmonizer*, in which he offered free tee shirts and a drawing for a lobster dinner to anyone who stopped by to sing a tag with him?

Alas, we'll probably never know what motivated all those tagsters. But come they did, just like the quintet featured above, which included two or three "pretty-good" barbershoppers. Don, second from the right, reportedly declined the offer of an "Eval" session.



## A musical tribute to Canada's war veterans

On Sunday afternoon, June 11, the Millstream Chorus, under the direction of Dave Bain, participated in the opening ceremonies of the 38th Dominion Convention of the Canadian Legion. The opening of the five-day convention was held in the Metro Centre in Halifax, with approximately 2,500 Legion delegates in attendance. The Bedford-Sackville Barbershop group entertained the delegates with "The Messdecks Medley" and "The Warsong Medley", as well as "Lida Rose", "I Believe", and "Irish Lullaby". The 34 members of the Chorus who participated in the performance, received many heart-warming accolades from representatives of the Canadian Legion, and we all felt the hard work required, only a little more than a month after the Sunrise Division competition, had been well worth the effort given.



SUSAN COCKBURN, SCOTSBURN STUDIO

— John Heath, Secretary, Millstream Chorus



# PLATINUM

## 2000 INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONS

*Present*



www.PtPLATINUM.com



PRE-ORDER, Expected Release Date Winter 2001

### ORDER FORM

PLATINUM

"Auld Lang Syne" *Pre-order*

PLATINUM

"Be Our Guest"

Liberty Voices

"A Cappella Americana"

Keepsake

"The Entertainer"

Keepsake

"Without A Song"

Keepsake

"Once Upon A Time"

Interstate Rivals

"Brand New Day"

The Heralds of Harmony

"This Joint is Jumpin' "

Quantity  
CD's -\$15 Tapes -\$10

Amount

Sub Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Shipping \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Shipping Charges

If order sub totals: Add

Up to \$15.00 \$2.50

\$15.01 to \$25.00 \$3.50

\$25.01 to \$50.00 \$4.50

\$50.01 to \$75.00 \$5.25

Over \$75.00 \$6.00

Join Our Mailing List ☐

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_



Card \_\_\_\_\_

Number \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

### PLATINUM

Quantity/Size

Amount

S M L XL XXL XXXL

Polo Shirt Black \$30 \_\_\_\_\_  
Gray \_\_\_\_\_

Short Sleeve White \_\_\_\_\_  
T-shirt \$15 Gray \_\_\_\_\_

Long Sleeve White T-shirt \$20 \_\_\_\_\_  
Available only in xl and xxl \_\_\_\_\_

Ball Cap \$15 \_\_\_\_\_

Lapel Pin \$5 \_\_\_\_\_

Send orders to:

PLATINUM

P.O. Box 2111, Windermere, FL 34786

or Order from Our Web Site: [www.PtPLATINUM.com](http://www.PtPLATINUM.com)





# THE POWER OF GOLD

**I**t was a week of great performers and great performances. And nobody did it with smoother, cleaner POWER than this year's knock-you-back-in-your-seat champs.

In the following pages, you'll get to know PLATINUM—you'll follow them around on the night of their championship and you'll get to know the men. You'll also get the inside scoop on "Awesome Joe" Connelly, and learn what kind of man won that record third quarter gold medal.

On the bottom of many pages, you'll get a small taste of what people were talking about during and after this year's Kansas City Convention.

More on our other champs, The Vocal Majority and Millennium, will follow in future issues.





# BACKSTAGE

with

# PLATINUM

**INTENSITY.** Platinum huddled for two full minutes before their final set.

Outside the bus, the sounds of parties and pickup quartets were swimming through the sticky Kansas City night air. Inside Platinum's bus, the air was cool and eerily quiet. The new International Quarter Champions (90 minutes and counting) had left their first reception and were traveling to their first afterglow. Save for an occasional whispered comment between spouses, everyone on the bus appeared lost in thought—nothing like the spirited conversations as the bus had first pulled out of the Kemper Arena parking lot.

I could only guess what the new champs were thinking about. As for myself, I was trying to remember my Photo 101 basics. I was hoping to create a behind-the-scenes portrait of the champions, but why did all the behind-the-scenes lighting have to be so blasted *dim*? Would any of tonight's wide-open-shutter pictures turn out?

As I pulled out the flash for the first time that evening, Joe and Kevin's kids broke the silence and attempted a tag. One of the evening's chaperones, Don Bagley (Chiefs of Staff, '88), stood and broke the odd silence up front with an offer: "Gentlemen, we have four *cold* bottles of champagne on this bus and there's nothing that says we can't open them now."

• • •

There had been plenty of the bubbly stuff flowing at the reception of the Association of International Champions, where the quartet had been minutes ear-

lier. As PLATINUM entered the lobby where Society founders O.C. Cash and Rupert Hall first met in 1938, six decades worth of quartet champions applauded them as they were shepherded to the microphones.

While the quartet was wrapping up the tag to "Be Our Guest"—where Tony floats an A-flat for half a minute while the others stack chord upon climactic chord—several gold medal legends shook their heads in appreciative disbelief at the impossible vocal athleticism and overtones that made their champagne glasses vibrate.

The quartet members didn't get much opportunity to hold any of those glasses. Following the thunderous applause, the quartet was so quickly surrounded for

**REFLECTION.** Earlier, the new champions had been noisily reading the score sheet and asking about other quartets' performances. At this point, the mood on the bus had turned strangely quiet.

Text &  
Photos by  
Lorin May





toasts, backslapping and "I told you so's", they spent the rest of the reception within a few feet of the microphones. As some rather impressive pickup quartets woodshedded in the background, the members of PLATINUM took their longest opportunity for the next four fours to stay in one spot.

Lead Joe Connelly drank in the companionship of scores of friends who obviously knew and loved the man as much as they respected the singer. They tried to gush about his third gold medal while he deftly tried to deflect the conversation to other topics.

Baritone Tony DeRosa, who on his 1992 gold medal night with Keepsake had been three years too young to have a legal sip of celebratory champagne, was sipping from a clunky plastic water bottle as he warmly conversed with old friends.

Tenor Gary Lewis, now the first man to win both a collegiate championship and a gold medal in the international contest, was sharing the disorienting feeling of walking into the reception, "...and I'm thinking, 'There's my idol! There's another idol!' ... and here they are applauding us!"

And bass Kevin Miles—who by the calendar is virtually a "novice" Barbersbopper—seemed dizzied by the rapid-fire congratulations from legendary performers he'd scarcely had time to learn about, let alone idolize.

The chatting and congratulations lasted only a few minutes before Don was sending PLATINUM and their entourage out of the lobby—*Whoa, was that the buffet table back there? Too late!*—and into the bus again. No time for food or drink. Thousands of fans were sitting at afterglows and watching the clock approach midnight without a sign of the men who had brought them roaring to their feet a few hours earlier.

...

A roaring crowd on its feet—I'd seen that several times during the week's contests. Who can forget how the audience wouldn't let Power Play leave the stage after they'd stolen the night with "Time After Time"? Or, on the other end of the emotional spectrum, the

huge ovation following Freestyle's hilarious lifeguard routine?

But two quartets in particular—PLATINUM and Michigan Jake—had consistently earned thunderous ovations. Between the two quartets, I was pretty sure I had my bases covered for first and second place. Saturday morning, I'd asked members of each quartet for permission to snap pictures of them backstage that evening.

However, later that night, after each quartet emerged from the rehearsal room to go on stage, their permission didn't make me feel any more comfortable to be standing there with a camera. In both cases, it felt almost, well, *sacrilegious* to be taking pictures during those critical moments. Fortunately, while I lurked in the shadows and tried to be discreet, none of the men appeared to notice me—or much of anything—during their 10 minutes or so before going on stage.

Exchanging only an occasional word amongst themselves, each man appeared calm but deeply focused as he sipped water and tried to maintain the mood and chords of the rehearsal room. Both times, the four men seemed oblivious to the sounds of the on-stage quartet blaring over the PA system—external sounds were drowned out by the music going through their heads.

When it was PLATINUM's turn to move to the on-deck position, they did something unique. They huddled together, head to head and arms around shoulders for the full two minutes before being announced. A thin curtain separated them from 10,000 fans, many of whom were already



**COMPOSURE.** It wasn't easy to maintain in the tense seconds before—or the tearful seconds after—hearing the name of the silver medalist.



**FOCUS.** Little was said as they waited to go on-stage Saturday night.



**WARMTH.** The champs enjoyed the company of friends who appreciated the men as much as the medals.



"DJ, I'll never forget that voice on the learners' tape and that same voice behind me in the AIC chorus. You saved the day for me." — Dick Graper

"I get goosebumps to realize that one of my heroes learned something from me! Thank you for making me feel 10 feet tall." — DJ Hiner



"I laughed so hard, I almost forgave TRED for winning last year ..."

Heard  
around  
KC

PHOTOS BY MILLER  
PHOTOGRAPHY AND  
MATT BOSTICK





**PERSPECTIVE.** Even at 2 a.m., the quartet sang as long as the dwindling but enthusiastic crowds wanted—and sounded every bit as good as during the contest.

Their first food of the evening came a few minutes later. During three hours of receptions and afterglows, they'd never made it to one of the bounteous buffet tables. At 2:15 a.m., they opened their wallets to the vendors across the street and wolfed down brats and sodas.

clapping and cheering in anticipation. But to this fraternity of four—who were spending a few moments in their own exclusive world—the crowd may as well have been a million miles away.

I don't know what was going through their heads or what was said in that huddle. But as the quartet walked on stage, I saw the faces and body language of four men ready to draw 10,000 cheering fans into what had been a private world moments earlier.

Those who were there know how well they succeeded. The video may even do their performance some justice. But none of their amazing performances that week will be half as memorable as what I saw after they left the stage Saturday evening.

They had just rung the last chord of their powerful tag on "Cuddle Up A Little Closer"—with a suspended E-flar above middle C by the bass, while the other three double-punched an incredible chord keyed in

the upper stratosphere. Few male quartets could ring a chord that high, let alone that powerfully, and the audience ate it up. Easily the

loudest ovation of the week, the quartet graciously drank in the wild applause and energy of 10,000 people who knew who their new champions were.

Words can't justly describe what happened next. Both on and off the stage, the members of PLATINUM have an aura of

intensity and full control. But when the quartet members floated off stage on the applause and into the wings, all the energy the crowd had directed at them came exploding out in whoops and

hugs that would put any Super Bowl end zone celebration to shame. They knew what they'd just done, and they'd nailed it with an exclamation point that seemed to still be ringing in the rafters.

I've never seen *anybody* more pumped up than they were at that moment. The mere sight of that outpouring of emotion was an incredible scene for the memory banks. I could only imagine how it felt.

• • •

The contrast of that thrilling moment to this quiet moment on the bus was dramatic, to say the least. The quartet had just wowed 10,000 fans, been declared International Champions, knocked the socks off an elite audience of fellow champions, was on its way to receiving superstar treatment from the afterglow crowds, and *no one had anything to say?*

It was no wonder Don had offered to pep things up again with a champagne celebration. His suggestion hung in the air for a moment, and then Joe was the first to speak.

"Don, I think I'd like to save my bottle to take home with me, if that's all right



At the President's Reception, they'd just started singing when a waiter—who'd apparently heard enough that evening—barreled past them with a load, loudly opened the door, and let it slam behind him. The quartet busted up and had to restart the song.

"Don't worry, everyone loved it! Nobody wanted to laugh too loud, or they'd miss the next line." — Tony DeRosa to Rick LaRosa after FRED's hilarious "Very Good Year" Swan song.

"My money's on four voices to be the first college champs to win International! They really know how to ring 'em!"



with you," he said.

It was the wisdom of the only man on the planet taking this bus trip for the third time. He knew what lay ahead that evening: A lot more singing, a lot more adulation, a lot more hugs and congratulations from close friends and appreciative fans. And it wasn't going to stop any time soon—when I stopped tagging along at 3 a.m., they were still gearing up to sing at Purdy's Corral.

But with all the fun and excitement, and with all the rewarding experiences that lay ahead, Joe knew that every moment of it would pale compared to the experiences still barely behind them.

He knew that none of the standing ovations at the upcoming afterglows would compare to the huge ovation they received that night in the Kemper Arena—or any of the others they'd received that week.

Waiting to be announced at yet another reception would have none of the intense drama of huddling backstage and agonizingly waiting to *not* hear their name announced as the second place medalist—again.

None of the congratulatory words they'd hear this evening would equal the welcome gush of tears and hugs that followed hearing another quartet's name announced. Or having some of your best friends—last year's champions—put the gold around your neck as 10,000 friends cheered on. Or the first hugs from your wife and kids after the show...

I'd stood just a few feet away as these four men went through all of these incredible highs. Quietly, it dawned on me why there was no conversation or tinkling of glasses at this moment.

What was left to say? And what stimulant could enhance what they'd felt tonight?

If these four men wanted a bottle of anything, it would be the electricity that was pulsing through the moist evening air. Bottle that up and put a cork in it—they'd have it later with the champagne. For now, for a few fleeting moments, they were quietly reliving fresh memories of an evening they would savor for years to come. ■



—by—  
Lorin May is editor of  
The Harmonizer and  
sings lead with Third  
Avenue and The Vo-  
cal Chords quartets.

## WANTED: RECORDING CHORUSES AND QUARTETS



Be the next group to press its CDs at Silicon Valley CD, where you'll get quality CDs and tapes that reflect your level of excellence, at a very affordable price, with no gotchas.

1000 RETAIL-READY CDS...\$1500  
YOU SUPPLY A MASTER DISC, OVERTONES, AND  
ART FILES. WE DO ALL THE REST. CALL TODAY!



SILICON VALLEY  
CD since 1992



(800) 255-4020 <http://www.svcd.net>  
990 RICHARD AVE STE 103, SANTA CLARA, CA 95050 FAX: 408-486-0809



More Than 1,000 Titles  
CDs • Videos • Sheet Music  
Instructional

THE BUFFALO BILLS

The Buffalo Bills:  
AIC Masterworks  
Series



Michigan Jake:  
For the Record

For a FREE Catalog  
800-827-2936

[catalog@a-cappella.com](mailto:catalog@a-cappella.com)

PO Box 159 • Southwest Harbor, ME 04679

- [www.a-cappella.com](http://www.a-cappella.com)
- Secure online ordering
- More than 10,000 sound files

## Buy Your Sweet Adelines International 2000 Competition Recordings Today!

The International Competition Recordings are from Orlando, Florida and feature some of the world's best competing choruses and quartets from the 2000 International convention and competition.

Recordings available on videotapes, audio tapes, and compact discs.

Call now:  
800/992-7464

for pricing and information!



Sweet Adelines International

800/992-7464 • [www.sweetadelinesintl.org](http://www.sweetadelinesintl.org)





# More precious than GOLD

shouldn't acquaintance be forgot, and never brought to mind..."

With the rigorous show schedule PLATINUM maintains, this relatively new quartet has already touched thousands with their artistry and musicianship. Audiences are awed with the vocal talent in this foursome (I'm allowed to say that 'cause I'm Tony's mom), listeners "ooh" and "aah" at the amazing "strings" completing a tag (what lungs!), and they marvel at the apparent ease with which the quartet accomplishes uncommon feats of musical magic (appearances are deceiving!). Let me go back a bit, so you can meet these very real champions.

Gary, Joe, Tony, and Kevin were each blessed with a remarkable voice, but behind those voices is an earnest desire to improve through purposeful study, meticulous attention to detail, quality coaching, and conscientious effort. PLATINUM is not satisfied with the *status quo*. These guys sound pretty serious, don't they? In your dreams! They work ... and laugh. They revise ... and joke. They advance ... and "hose" each other—mercilessly! All work and no play do not describe this foursome!

The music they share is never chosen frivolously. Arrangers like Ed Waeshe, Clay Hine, Walter Latzko, Greg Volk, and so many more "wonder-workers" have offered PLATINUM masterpieces to sing. The selections they've chosen span the whole range of the twentieth century. Then, as coach Jim Casey describes it, the quartet "blends (it) into the most sonorous expansion of the barbershop sound." So, how did they get to this point? What beginnings brought PLATINUM to this level?



—by—  
Lois DeRosa  
is an avid  
Barbershop-  
per, mother  
of Tony,  
and hosts  
numerous  
PLATINUM  
rehearsals in  
her home.



Gary Lewis, Joe Connelly,  
Kevin Miles, Tony DeRosa

## Kevin Miles: Hook, line and sinker

A couple of years ago, Gary and Tony were both singing at EPCOT in The Voices of Liberty and they began teaching tags to bass Kevin Miles, who had no previous barbershop experience.

"I'm sure they enjoyed observing my 'first trip to the candy store' as much as I did," Kevin recalls. "After that, I was always pushing them to go into the hallway on our breaks to 'ring one.' (Or two, or three!) I really couldn't get enough! Soon I realized how so many others feel about that same experience. Wow! Talk about getting bitten!"

As Joe joined them in their first song one night after a chorus rehearsal, "I think we all knew immediately that we had something special," Kevin said.

As a new Barbershopper, Kevin has had to learn the style and run at a fast pace to catch up—the vocal and style adjustments have been hard! However, the excitement of winning a gold medal has not made him complacent; his attitude is still "onward and upward" in learning the style.

Kevin played baritone, trombone, cello, and organ in high school bands and orchestra in Findlay, Ohio. In ninth grade he joined choir, expanded to a gospel



Molly, Kevin, Matthew and  
Jeri Miles



"I'm probably the only one who didn't see it coming ... but I had to stand up and cheer when the curtain went up and I saw 'The Ox' up there with Acoustix!"



"If they do that again in Nashville, it's over, man!"





1. Vocal Majority • Dallas, TX (SWD) • Jim Clancy, director



1. PLATINUM

# 2000 International Champions



2. New Tradition Chorus • Northbrook, IL (ILL) • Jay Giallombardo, director



3. Great American Chorus • Lake County, IL (ILL) • Greg Lyne, director



2. Michigan Jake



4. Uptown Sound



3. BSQ



5. Power Play

## Hear What Made Them Champs!

Enjoy all the  
memorable moments  
of the 2000 contests on  
Official SPEBSQSA  
Recordings from  
Harmony Marketplace.



1-800-876-SING  
[www.harmonymarketplace.com](http://www.harmonymarketplace.com)



4. Great Northern Union • Hilltop, MN (LOL) • Roger Williams, director



5. The Northern Lights • Toronto, ON (ONT) • Steve Armstrong & Chris Arnold, directors



**6. Big Chicken Chorus** • Marietta, GA (DIX) • Clay Hine, director



**7. Ambassadors of Harmony** • St. Charles, MO (CSD) • David Wright, director



**8. Midwest Vocal Express** • Greendale, WI (LOL) • Russ Foris, director



**9. Saltaires** • Wasatch Front, UT (RMD) • John Sasine, director



**10. Alliance Chorus** • Greater Central, OH (JAD) • David Galland, director



**11. Singing Buckeyes** • Columbus, OH (JAD) • R. D. Mathey, director



**12. Thoroughbreds** • Louisville, KY (CAR) • Allen & Ken Hatton, directors



**13. Heralds of Harmony** • Tampa, FL (SUN) • Tony DeRosa, director



**14. Senate-Aires** • Salem, OR (EVG) • Steve Morin, director



**15. Heart of Texas Chorus** • Central Texas Corridor, TX (SWD) • Eddie Martinez, director



**16. Pot o' Gold Chorus** • Bay Area Metro, CA (FWD) • Gary Bolles, director



**17. The Virginians** • Richmond, VA (MAD) • Mike Wallen, director



**18. Granite Statesmen** • Nashua, NH (NED) • Steve Tramack, director



**19. Great Lakes Chorus** • Grand Rapids, MI (PIO) • James D. Carey, director



**20. Men of A-Chord** • Chautauque County, NY (SLD) • Rich Bresnahan, director



**21. Shannon Express** • Potton, United Kingdom (BABS) • Ian Russell, director



**22. Vocal Vikings** • Stockholm, Sweden (SNOBS) • Greger Söderlund, director



**23. Whale City Sound** • The Netherlands (OABS) • Johan Delsing, director



The record may show silver medal to gold medal in one year, but that hardly tells the story. Their intonation, vocal production, and unit sound have made quantum leaps in the past year. But I think this foursome is only about 65 percent of their potential. Given what they did to the audiences in Kansas City, that's a pretty scary thought!

I've watched these perfectionists try to achieve something that might score from a 93 to a 95, not getting it right every time, and become so frustrated that they are ready to fall on their swords! That might sound ludicrous, but believe me, it's real! But it's that drive for perfection that has made them what they are today—and what they'll be tomorrow.

When I think back to the quartets that really left their mark on the Society, I think of the **Confederates, Buffalo Bills, Suntones, Dealer's Choice, and Bluegrass Student Union**. Though I'm biased, I think PLATINUM has what it takes to be thought of in the same terms.

— Randy Loos

group in high school, and landed several lead roles in school musicals. He fondly recalls voice teacher Richard Hosler's generous direction. "One thing he taught me was that 90 percent of singing is enjoying yourself. And after all these years, that's still exactly what I'm doing!"

Kevin attended Heidelberg College, but soon joined Re'Generation, a vocal group of ten young people who traveled over 100,000 miles a year singing in more than 500 performances. His wife, Jeri, who also sang and traveled in Re'Generation, recently joined Sweet Adelines as another "awesome bass!" They're also proud of their musically accomplished children, Molly, 15, and Matthew, 12.

For over 17 years Kevin has sung with

EPCOT's Voices of Liberty. He's "The Voice" of Walt Disney World in Orlando, greeting the public and reminding you to "watch your step." He performs in "Miles & Webb," a nationally known duo, which sings for conventions and churches across America. As owner of Windfall Recording, Inc., he engineers and records demos and voiceovers. He describes himself as patient and gentle, caring and compassionate, happy and blessed.

### Tony DeRosa: The barbershop prodigy delivers another

If you're ever at the DeRosa's house, be sure to see the 1985 Internationals videotape of Jeff Oxley's face when 12-year-old Tony performed at "Sing With the Champs" with the Rapsallions. He was politely asked if he'd like to sing "My Wild Irish Rose." Tony's suggestion was "Mr. Touchdown U.S.A." and he nailed it! Jeff's jaw dropped to the floor! That convention also marked Tony's introduction to "Awesome Joe" and The Interstate Rivals, both of whom he came to idolize.

At age 27, Tony is coming up on his 20th year in barbershopping, having first appeared on the International stage at the age of 12. With his dad, Joe, as chorus director and mentor, Tony learned quickly and well. At age seven, Tony breathed every breath with Bluegrass Student Union, listening repeatedly to "After Class." At age eight, he was thrilled to sing tags with Don Barnick and Roger Ross. They and his dad taught him much about the craft and barbershop etiquette—all the do's and don'ts that make a difference.

Tony is noted not only for his vocal abilities, but for his demanding and intense personality, his attention to detail,



Tony and Jodi DeRosa

and his sense of humor. He credits his first junior high band director, Lynn Putnam, for giving him the confidence to become a leader and credits his high school band director, Dave Fultz, for getting him back on track.

"I can still see the moment during my senior year when he sat me down and



**It's hard to talk much about PLATINUM without bringing up Keepsake, the 1992 champion quartet in which Tony and Joe earned their first and second golds. Keepsake kept getting better after winning, and many predict the same kind of improvement from PLATINUM.**

pointed out that I was too busy being popular," Tony recalls, "and that I needed to get back to what I really should be doing: music." It worked. He's studied virtually every type of music available, and attempted most.

"That's the first time I've ever heard the Boston Common live. As huge as they sounded tonight, I can't even imagine them 20 years ago!"



"Who left the furnace on outside? I keep having to sneak over by those hot dog vendors' ovens to cool down!"

PLATINUM began some two years ago with the common purpose of making the best *barbershop sound*, combined with the desire to be the ultimate in "from the heart." They have succeeded at that, and they've given so much in the process. One would think that the formula for a good quartet is to find four great voices, begin to work, and the rest will just happen. PLATINUM would disagree with this. The dedication and commitment in this quartet is unequalled. They continue to work just as diligently as before they became Champions. They strive for perfection and are never satisfied with less than their potential.

— Jim Casey

In 1992, at the age of 18, he won his first International gold medal with Joe, Roger and Don in Keepsake. More recently, Tony's life has been filled to capacity with music. He took the torch from his dad, and he's taken the Tampa *Heralds of Harmony Chorus* to International competition for the past six years. His chorus swears he can "hear grass grow" and knows which blade of grass is out of place, and how to prune it!

He is also a vocal coach for choruses and quartets, including his sister Chris's Regional champion quartet and the *Toast of Tampa Show Chorus*. Tony especially enjoys his freelance studio work, and he sings tenor/lead for the "Voices of Liberty," where he met his bride, Jodi. They have two daughters, Alec and Kayla.

#### Joe Connelly: Still hasn't peaked

If you're keeping score, this is gold medal number *three* for Awesome Joe! [Note: See "Gold Medal Joe: Barbershop's answer to Tiger Woods" on pages 25-27 of this issue.] The whole family was along for the record-breaking victory: Wife Debbie, lead of Sweet Adeline Champion quartet *Showtime*, children Jenny and Josh, proud parents Mike and

Christy Connelly, and even Debbie's parents were all in Kansas City.

Joe is an outstanding example of the connection that can be made between a singer and an audience. Joe delivers songs like the composer or arranger intended—his interpretation of a lyric line is never contrived or manufactured. His heart has influenced his brain, and the result is magic!

It was thrilling to listen to the *Interstate Rivals* (1987), Joe's first gold medal quartet, because the audiences heard him *become* the song. (Who can forget the moving "Pal Of My Cradle Days"?) His amazing ability to create the vibrancy that is a song is what sets Joe apart from others, and the power of his performance is irresistible to an audience.

When *Keepsake* won in 1992, Joe's artistry had risen to a new level. "Roses Of Picardy" was a musical masterpiece, considered by many to be "a clinic" of interpretation and vocal skills for other Barbershoppers.

He continues to study and listen to all styles of vocal music, distilling the best from them, then he makes the music *his own*. Championship quartets like *Bluegrass Student Union*, *Boston Common*, and the *Suntones* were some of his first "teachers." Joe studied his first love, barbershop harmony, diligently. As his father, Mike Connelly rehearsed with The Roaring '20s, Joe was



"Awesome Joe" Connelly

there taking it all in, learning the intricacies of showmanship and performance.

In more recent years, Jim Casey and the late Larry Ajer helped shape and inspire Joe's development in "getting inside a song" and telling its story. All these men served as mentors and Joe's growth as an artist reflects their influence and training.



Jody, Adam and Gary Lewis.

#### Gary Lewis: the Bowling Green and Keepsake connections

When he was eight years old and in the third grade, tenor Gary Lewis was invited to sing in the adult choir at church. "It was so much fun to sing the soprano part to the 'Hallelujah Chorus!'" he comments. From that time on, many fine music educators guided Gary through his musical development. Richard D. Mathey, Director of the Men's Chorus at Bowling Green State University, "taught me everything about choral music and ensemble singing," says Gary. "The man is a genius. He rules!"

Mathey influenced Gary and numerous other BG grads who share in barbershopping today. Which Wayz Up? (Gary's first quartet, formed in college) touted Dave Calland and Steve Kovach of *Uptown Sound*, this year's bronze medalists. In 1994, Gary won the MBNA America College Quartet Contest in Pittsburgh singing tenor in *The Real Deal* with Eric Kauffman, Justin Oxley (yes, he's his brother!), and Dave McCutcheon.

Likewise, when asked who shaped and inspired his musical development, Gary names his voice teachers and numerous championship quartets where that BG connection keeps coming up: *Keepsake*, *The Ritz* (with two Bowling Green grads), *Acoustix* (Jeff Oxley was a BG man, too!), *Second Edition*, *In-*

See PLATINUM, p. 42

The taxi drivers asked "who won?" and some knew the competitors' names!



"Going into that contest there were 10 choruses who had every right to expect to medal. That's gotta be one of the strongest fields yet!"



# Triple-Gold Joe: Barbershop's Answer to Tiger Woods



**A**s a teen-ager, Mike Connelly would be enthusiastically singing along to Society medalist albums from the '50s and '60s, when his father would holler "turn down that barbershop music!"

One generation later, Mike's son had the volume cranked up on every barbershop album he could lay his hands on. Mike just smiled, and marveled at the hours his son spent absorbing everything about the music. "From the time he was a very young kid," Mike recalls, "he studied who'd done what and when they did it." Mike is a 40-year Society member best known as the baritone and a founding member of the comedic medalist Roaring '20s, as well as for earning three medals with *The Naturals*.

But Joe Connelly proved to be much more than just a second-generation fan. At the 2000 Society contest and convention in Kansas City, **PLATINUM's** near-record victory made Joe the first three-time gold medalist in the 62-year history of the Society. He already was the first to win a pair of championships as a lead.

To put that in perspective, consider that more than 250 men (including associate members of the Association of International Champions) have been a part of gold medal quartets. In addition to Joe, only a dozen others have repeated (see sidebar on page 26).

## He gave up cake batter for this?

Through nine years of competition and performances with *Interstate Rivals* (1987) and eight years with *Keep-sake*, Joe became a Society icon. He also has been a chorus director, and remains

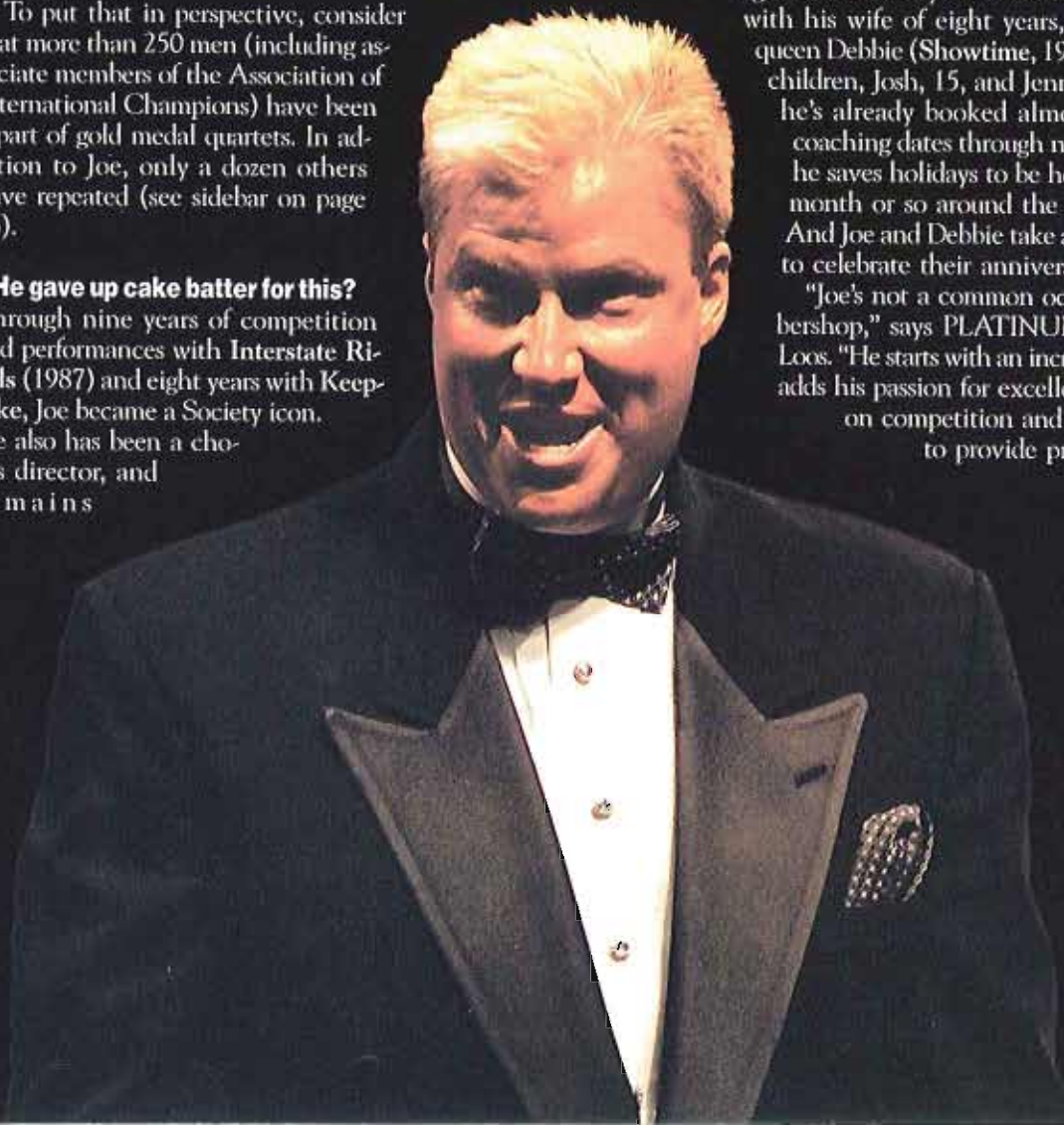
one of the most respected Presentation Category judges. "He knows instinctively to look for the ultimate artistry of the performance," says Category Specialist Jim Massey. "We could use more singers, coaches and judges like Joe."

Ah, but are there any like him? He's also a full-time Barbershopper, spending an average of five days of every week—including most weekends—coaching men's and women's groups from one end of the barbershopping world to the other. He worked with a dozen quartets who competed in Kansas City, including such top 20 foursomes as *BSQ*, *Riptide*, *Gotcha*, *Bank Street*, *Excalibur*, *Four Voices* and *12th Street Rag*. He coached a half-dozen of the competing choruses.

Financially, he describes it as a "decent living," although he made more money at his old job, computer monitoring the ingredients in the batter (yawn) of Duncan Hines products. "But I'm doing what I love," says Connelly. "It's awesome (he pronounces it 'OW-some') to spend your life involved with Barbershoppers. If I won the lottery or were independently wealthy, I'd do the same thing for free."

And he balances his coaching with family life, spending at least two days a week in his Tampa home with his wife of eight years, Sweet Adeline queen Debbie (*Showtime*, 1994), and her two children, Josh, 15, and Jenny, 11. Although he's already booked almost full-time for coaching dates through next year, Joe says he saves holidays to be home, as well as a month or so around the end of the year. And Joe and Debbie take a week off in July to celebrate their anniversary.

"Joe's not a common occurrence in barbershop," says **PLATINUM** coach Randy Loos. "He starts with an incredible voice, and adds his passion for excellence. He thrives on competition and has enough ego to provide pride in his





## Multiple Medalists

### DOUBLE GOLDS

**Mo Rector** – bass, Gay Notes, 1958; Mark IV, 1969

*First double champ*

**Tom Felgen** – bass, Four Renegades, 1965; Chicago News, 1981

**Glenn Van Tassell** – lead, Auto-Towners, 1966; bari, Gentlemen's Agreement, 1971. *First to win on two voice parts, fastest to 2nd gold (5 years)*

**Al Rehkop** – tenor, Auto-Towners, 1966; Gentlemen's Agreement, 1971  
*Fastest to 2nd gold (5 years)*

**Brian Beck** – bari, Dealer's Choice, 1973; lead, Side Street Ramblers, 1983  
*Only top 10 finisher on all 4 voice parts*

**John Miller** – bass, Grandma's Boys, 1979; New Tradition, 1985

**Jeff Oxley** – bass, Rapsallions, 1984; Acoustix, 1990

**Don Barnick** – tenor, Grandma's Boys, 1979; bass, Keepsake, 1992

*Only tenor-bass gold combo*

**Kipp Buckner** – tenor, Interstate Rivals, 1987; Gas House Gang, 1993

**Jay Hawkins** – bass, Interstate Rivals, 1987; Marquis, 1995

**Paul Gilman** – bari, Interstate Rivals, 1987; Marquis, 1995

**Tony DeRosa** – bari, Keepsake, 1992; PLATINUM, 2000

### TRIPLE GOLDS

**Joe Connelly** – lead, Interstate Rivals, 1987; Keepsake, 1992; PLATINUM, 2000. *Fastest to 2nd gold (5 years), only repeat lead*

product—yet not so much as to be unbearable!”

Don Barnick, who won his second gold as the bass of Keepsake, agrees that Connelly does a remarkable job of balancing humility with his accomplishments: “He’s a marvelous young man, quite wacky at times. But he has a genuine and sincere interest in people.”

### The Thunderbolt of 1978

Connelly’s JAD roots include early memories of sneaking out of bed and halfway down the stairs to hear Mike practice with the Roaring ’20s. “As long as I can remember, I’ve always loved the sound.” Then came the first thunderbolt experience for the 13-year-old: The 1978 Society convention in his hometown of Cincinnati. “I was a cocky little punk,” Joe says of his first international exposure. “I was definitely vocal about how proud I was about seeing my dad competing in what I still believe was the greatest quartet contest ever.

“Look at the quartets in the field that year: Bluegrass Student Union, won and Grandma’s Boys, Boston Common, Rural Route 4, Classic Collection all ended up with golds—and the ’20s were right up there in the medals. It was awesome. And look at the chorus contest—the level was monumental! (Scarborough Dukes bowing out, Thoroughbreds win followed by three more perennial champs, Vocal Majority, Cincinnati and Alexandria). I was hooked instantly. I said ‘I wanna’ be up there doing that.’”

The following Tuesday, having been part of the hard-working host committee, Mike Connelly wanted a night off from chapter meetings. “But I forced him to take me.” Joe became an eighth-grade Society member, and that was the start.

### Ignoring Dad’s advice and other great decisions

How much did Mike Connelly influence Joe? Depends on which one you ask. In conversation, Mike is as low-key as Joe is intense.

When people ask where Joe got his talent, Mike says he always replies, “D-----d if I know.” Mike’s wife of 36 years, Christy, has a background in ballet but is a barbershop supporter for husband and son rather than a singer. And Mike says the last piece of advice he ever gave Joe was not to sing with the Interstate Rivals. “I didn’t think he needed to leave Cincinnati to find a quartet. With my father’s mentality, I didn’t want this teen-ager running up and down the highway.”

Then Mike heard Joe sing with Kipp Buckner and Jay Hawkins from Louisville, and Mucha from Middletown, Ohio. “It was evident I didn’t know what I was talking about.” Mike also was an immediate fan because he had competed against and sung with Kipp’s dad, Ken Buckner; Geoff’s dad, Bob Mucha, and Jay’s father-in-law, Louisville legend Jim Miller.

Miller and Ken Buckner were major influences on Joe Connelly, along with Louisville coach Ed Gentry. Then a fellow named Larry Ajer showed up in the Southern Gateway lead section, standing next to Joe. “I kid that I take credit for getting Larry into coaching,” Joe says, “because I asked him what he thought of my new quartet (the Viscounts) and he came up with all these ideas!” Ajer coached the Rivals, Keepsake and worked with PLATINUM before his death in 1998.

Shortly after the Rivals won, Joe met vocal coach extraordinaire Jim Casey at an MENC event in San Antonio. “He



Joe and Mike Connelly—the early years



The Tokyo Barbers stole the World Harmony Jamboree. Unforgettable!

“That college [CBQC] chorus belongs in the chorus contest, if you ask me. How many hours did you say they rehearsed? TWO?”



“Let’s just say they probably didn’t get them off the rack at Sears ...”

listened to me for about 15 minutes, and after that I sent him tapes all the time," Connelly says. "He has an uncanny knack for figuring out voice, personality and psyche." Casey and Ajer were the primary coaches for Keepsake; Casey and Loos coached PLATINUM, with occasional visits from Presentation ace Gary Wulf.

### The inner competitor

But Joe says his dad was "huge" in his development, especially when it came to competing. An only child, Joe challenged his dad in basketball, chess, board games—and especially tennis and table tennis. (Be ready to strap it on if you face Joe across the net.) "He was my teacher and my mentor, and he always told me he would not just let me win. My love for competing and winning came from him."

Tony DeRosa, described by Joe as "like the brother I never had," says the competitive nature and work ethic are two key ingredients in the complex, appealing being that is Joe Connelly. "He inspires people around him to be better," says Connelly's Keepsake and PLATINUM baritone, a.k.a. "The prince of hangers." "Joe has a method of building to a championship level—and from that he establishes an amazing amount of consistency. He can perform at that level even on a bad day. And his perspective of perfectionism means he always wants to be better, rather than resting on his laurels."

"At the bottom line," says Loos, "there ain't no secret to his unparalleled success: just talent and hard work." That talent, DeRosa says, means "50 years from now we'll be able to listen to voices and know that's Joe Connelly. It's one of the most characteristic lead voices God ever created."

Well, then why isn't he still a cocky kid? Surely he's earned the right at age 35 to be a little conceited? DeRosa, the 27-year-old son of longtime Sunshine District barbershop musician and activist Joe DeRosa, has that answer, too: "Growing up in the hobby so young, our fathers instilled in us that you never

## Will the next triple-gold medalist please stand?

So will Joe continue to pile up golds, or will others catch up? All double-gold medal winners were polled—and urged to fling modesty to the wind in predicting who would be the next to win three. The first ever to win gold on two voice parts, Glenn Van Tassell, notes it's a team sport and predicted that any of the 13 double golds could win a third if he "made the commitment and found the right other three."

Don Barnick offered that he personally has "about as much chance as a pig flying." Veteran Al Rehkop had an even more practical answer: "Nothing is impossible. I'm waiting for a medical breakthrough like Viagra for the voice." John Miller thought one gold medal was great "until I realized I could transform from a toy soldier into Groucho ... and along came the second. I don't plan another transformation." (However, Miller says his two sons are more talented than he, and he's "considering riding their coattails to number three.")

There's no consensus among these competitors about who might be next to claim another gold. But the names most

often mentioned were Jeff Oxley, Tony DeRosa, Brian Beck, Kipp Buckner, Barnick and—you guessed it—Connelly. "He's just an exceptional lead," Miller notes. "And, apparently, no one can stand to stay in a quartet with him for very long."

DeRosa says Oxley probably could win as many as he wants, because of his "overall mastery of the craft. He's young, and he raises the bar of those he sings with." And says Miller, "he's tall." Brian Beck, the Yoda look-alike who holds the distinction of being the only man to reach the Society top 10 on all four parts, ponders putting a quartet together with Oxley and others from the Dallas area "hotbed of talent that is the Vocal Majority." Beck's wife, Holly, lovingly predicts Brian will be the oldest champ to get his third gold.

Oxley, who describes Connelly as "a Barbershopper's Barbershopper," would not discount his chances to match the feat of his fellow Johnny Appleseed District native. "Personally and professionally, I've been traveling some different and rewarding musical paths. But I do miss the international quartet competition stage. Who knows?"

forget where you came from, that you owe so much to the people who helped you get there. Joe is just so well-grounded."

And it helps to have friends who offer humbling observations. "Without Tony, Joe is pigeon trash," says fellow two-time gold medalist Brian Beck. Rick LaRosa also is glad to testify about Connelly, who coached FRED from 1991 to their quartet title a year ago—one of a half-dozen championship groups Joe has worked with.

"Joe has been one of the most useless coaches FRED ever used, next to DeRosa. Our biggest memory is of Joe lying on a couch in Clay Hines' living room, eating ice cream in his one and ONLY outfit (too-small football shorts, an oversize dress shirt and sneakers), talking about his gold medals while we're trying to sing ... We could have won years earlier if he had been more help! Joe might have won this third medal earlier if he had spent more time off the couch."

OW-some! ■

—by—

Jim Bagby sang baritone with the 1986 champion Rural Route 4.



"The Father/Son/Grandson Chorus was the emotional highlight of the week ... I couldn't stop crying!"

"You ain't nobody unless The Big Chicken is making fun of you ..."







**First Place—\$4000 MILLENNIUM**

Northwest Missouri State University

**Eric Woodward** (T), **Soren Wohlers** (L), **Kalin Tapp** (B),  
**Sydney Libsack** (BS)

he 2000 MBNA America Collegiate Barbershop Quartet Contest once again carried on the tradition of receiving the highest marks for excellence and quality. Twenty-two of the finest foursomes from the United States, Canada and New Zealand vied for the championship in front of enthusiastic audience of more than 2,000.

This year's audiences watched outstanding singing talent and collegiate charm. When the 88 competitors and past CBQC champions formed a chorus of more than 100, it was fantastic. Kirk Young and Jim DeBusman put them through their paces in front of over 10,000 people Thursday evening and 2,000 people at the close of the CBQC event on Friday afternoon. Both audiences jumped to their feet in appreciation of the wonderful performances they had just witnessed.

The MBNA America Collegiate Barbershop Quartet Contest has indeed become one of the significant can't-miss events at an international convention. ■



**Second Place—\$1500 LOW DOWN SOUND**

Appalachian State University

**Josh Day** (T), **Rob Jordan** (L), **Jason Remley** (B),  
**Jonathan Maness** (BS)



**Third Place—\$1200 TERMINAL BARBERSHOP**

University of Toronto

**Kern Lewin** (T), **Kevin Harris** (L), **Dion Lew** (B),  
**Bryan Keith** (BS)



**Fourth Place—\$1000 TRADEMARK**

Brigham Young University

**Tim Workman** (T), **Sean Devine** (L), **Penn Almoney** (B),  
**Tad Harris** (BS)



**Fifth Place—\$800 BLUEPRINT**

University of South Florida

**Benjamin Payne** (T), **Thor Young** (L), **Derek Guyer** (B),  
**Myron Whittlesey** (BS)



The Ritz has produced 6 recordings. Order one or more today and continue to enjoy their exciting sound.

| Quantity | Title   | Types | CDs   | Total  |
|----------|---|-------|-------|--------|
| ___      | Rare Times  | @\$10 | @\$15 | ___    |
| ___      | The Most Wonderful Time of the Year               | @\$10 | @\$15 | ___    |
| ___      | The Ritz Swingin' on a Star *                     | @\$10 | @\$15 | ___    |
| ___      | Old Songs Are Just Like Old Friends *             | @\$10 | @\$15 | ___    |
| ___      | I'm Beginning to See the Light *                  | @\$10 | @\$15 | ___    |
| ___      | The Ritz on Moonlight Bay *                       | @\$10 | @\$15 | ___    |
| ___      | The Ritz Anthology (includes items with an *)     | @\$33 | @\$49 | ___    |
| ___      | Anthology + 1 (Most Wonderful Time or Rare Times) | @\$40 | @\$60 | ___    |
| ___      | Anthology + 2 (Most Wonderful Time & Rare Times)  | @\$48 | @\$72 | ___    |
|          | Shipping & Handling                               |       |       | \$2.00 |
|          | Amount Enclosed                                   |       |       | ___    |

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, St, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

VISA/MC # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Send your check made payable **The Ritz** (specify "US Funds") to:

**Ritz Recordings • Box 126 • Oakwood OH 45873**



**Class. Quality.**

**Personality. Experience.**

All these words describe this quartet who has traveled the world sharing and spreading the joy of barbershop music. If you haven't heard them, catch **The Ritz** at a show near you. Or invite them to headline your chapter show. You'll enjoy them and you'll learn something ... about music.

**1-800-555-2324 • www.kordsmen.org/ritz**

**ISN'T IT TIME YOU HAD A SUNNY VACATION?**

**January 22-28, 2001**

## Midwinter 2001 Convention - Jacksonville

|                          |                 |   |                                       |                                    |             |
|--------------------------|-----------------|---|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------|
| date _____               |                 | membership number (if applicable) _____ |                                       | chapter name (if applicable) _____ |             |
| registrant's name _____  |                 |   | nickname for badge _____              |                                    |             |
| second guest name _____  |                 |   | second guest nickname for badge _____ |                                    |             |
| registrant address _____ |                 | city _____                              | state _____                           | ZIP/postal code _____              |             |
| work phone _____         |                 | home phone _____                        |                                       | email _____                        |             |
| circle                   | payment method: | VISA                                    | MasterCard                            | check                              | money order |
| card account #           |                 |   |                                       | expiration date (MM/YY)            |             |

Check here if any physical needs require special accommodation for you to fully participate in the convention; convention staff will contact you to make arrangements.

Registration package includes a convention badge, reserved seating for Friday and Saturday Night shows, Saturday night Afterglow, and admission to the Seniors Quartet Contest. \_\_\_\_\_ registrations @ \$50 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Mall with payment (checks: payable to SPEBSQSA) to: **SPEBSQSA, 6315 Harmony Lane, Kenosha, WI 53143-5199**. If you register for more than one person, please attach *complete* information for each person on a separate sheet. A housing application and information regarding events and tours will be mailed to you when you register. All show and tour tickets may be picked up at the convention registration area. 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.**

office use only

## 2000 Quartet finalists



### PLATINUM (SUN)

Gary Lewis (T), Joe Connelly (L), Tony DeRosa (B), Kevin Miles (S)  
Joe Connelly, 3619 Cypress Meadows Road, Tampa, FL 33624-2913; H: (813) 968-4737, W: (813) 968-4737 [ajconnelly@aol.com](mailto:ajconnelly@aol.com)



### Michigan Jake (CAR)

Andrew Kirkman (T), Mark Hale (L), Joel Wilson (B), Gregory Hollander (S)  
Mark Hale, 2515 W. Lincoln Ave. #71, Anaheim, CA 92801; H: (714) 995-3575 [mhale99@earthlink.net](mailto:mhale99@earthlink.net)



### BSQ (MAD)

Robert Seay, V (T), Kevin King (L), Rick Taylor (B), Al Mazzoni (S)  
Richard Taylor, 2317 Salem Village Rd Apt E, Baltimore, MD 21234-2556; H: (410) 668-0634, W: (410) 268-2222 [bsqsings@aol.com](mailto:bsqsings@aol.com)



### Uptown Sound (JAD)

Jeff Archer (T), David Calland (L), Steven Kovach, Jr. (B), Stephen Denino (S)  
Jeff Archer, 4770 Indianola, Suite 110, Columbus, OH 43214; (888) UPTOWN1



### Power Play (PIO)

Donald Slamka (T), Mike Slamka (L), Mark Slamka (B), Jack Slamka (S)  
Michael Slamka, 1582 Hillcrest Ct, St Clair, MI 48079; H: (810) 326-0620, W: (248) 829-7591 [live4shop@aol.com](mailto:live4shop@aol.com)



## 2000 Quartet finalists

### Riptide (DIX)

Eric King (T), Timothy Reynolds (L), Richard Lewellen (B), Jeff Selano (S)  
 Jeff Selano, 104 Ida Ln, Dallas, GA 30132-5374; H: (770) 443-7298,  
 W: (770) 445-1362 [chinijeff@aol.com](mailto:chinijeff@aol.com)



### Bank Street (RMD)

Tom Mullen (T), Toby Balsey (L), Tony Sparks (B), Farris Collins (S)  
 Tony Sparks, 6608 Rence Ave NE, Albuquerque, NM 87109-3638; H:  
 (505) 822-9091, W: (505) 284-4291 [tsparks@prodigy.net](mailto:tsparks@prodigy.net)



### Gotcha! (FWD)

Garry Teixeira (T), Chris Vaughn (L), Alan Gordon (B), Scott Wilson (S)  
 Scott Wilson, #204, 8200 E Blackwillow Cir, Anaheim Hills, CA  
 92808; H: (714) 685-9155, W: (800) 387-3455 ext. 8429  
[spwilson@pacbell.net](mailto:spwilson@pacbell.net)



### Excalibur (LOL)

John Moksnes (T), Greg Dolphin (L), Brent Graham (B), John Korby (S)  
 John Korby, 299 Maple Island Rd, Burnsville, MN 55306; H: (952)  
 435-7904, W: (952) 941-9418 [jkorby@mesbitagencies.com](mailto:jkorby@mesbitagencies.com)



### Metropolis (FWD)

James Sabina (T), Robert Hartley (L), Michael McGee (B), Brian Philbin (S)  
 Brian Philbin, 2206 Rockefeller Lane #3, Redondo Beach, CA  
 90278-3723; H: (310) 309-3336, W: (310) 309-3336  
[Metropolis@harmonize.com](mailto:Metropolis@harmonize.com)

## 2000 Quartet semi-finalists



### Saturday Evening Post (RMD)

Scott Delude (T), Allen Gasper (L), Bobby Gray, Jr. (B), Chris Richards (B)  
Bobby Gray Jr., 2910 N. Powers Blvd., PMB #157, Colorado Springs,  
CO 80922; H: (719) 638-1346, W: (719) 638-1346  
[bobbyg@sepquartet.com](mailto:bobbyg@sepquartet.com)



### Freestyle (FWD)

Todd Kidder (T), Richard Brunner (L), Andy Wallace (B), Bruce Morgan (B)  
Andy Wallace, 3050 Industrial Blvd, West Sacramento, CA 95691; W:  
(916) 372-1434 [awallace@wallace-kuhl.com](mailto:awallace@wallace-kuhl.com)



### Four Voices (DIX)

Lestor Rector (T), James Guyton (L), Matthew Guyton (B), Jayson Van  
Hook (B)  
Jayson Van Hook, 1912 Ohio Ave NW, Cleveland, TN 37312; H:  
(423) 472-4408, W: (423) 614-8315



### Rumors (JAD)

Gary Ellerhorst (T), Marco Crager (L), Tom Rouse (B), Michael Bell (B)  
Michael Bell, 8976 Blue Ash Rd, Cincinnati, OH 45242; H: (513)  
931-9381, W: (513) 984-5900 [mike@cda.com](mailto:mike@cda.com)



### Applause! (FWD)

Raymond Davis (T), Fraser Brown (L), Russ Young (B), Richard Wells (B)  
Russell Young, 7235 E Laguna Azul Ave, Mesa, AZ 85208-4925; H:  
(602) 654-0215, W: (602) 982-1110 ext. 335 [rsobari@aol.com](mailto:rsobari@aol.com)



## 2000 Quartet semi-finalists

### The Tulsa Tradition (SWD)

Tim Ambrose (T), Curt Angel (L), Don Conner (B), Jefferson Veteto (S)  
 Tim Ambrose, 4554 S Louisville Ave, Tulsa, OK 74135-2739; H: (918) 747-1643, W: (918) 747-4828 [ambrose6@ix.netcom.com](mailto:ambrose6@ix.netcom.com)



### 12th Street Rag (CSD)

Micah Jeppesen (T), Mark Fortino (L), John Fortino (B), Barry Moore (S)  
 Mark Fortino, 14231 W 121st St, Olathe, KS 66062-6002; H: (913) 780-3872, W: (913) 338-1000 ext. 345 [markfortino@aol.com](mailto:markfortino@aol.com)



### Flipside (EVG)

Paul Krenz (T), Michael McCormic (L), Timothy McCormic (B), Kevin Stinson (S)  
 Michael McCormic, 1416 NW 105th St, Vancouver, WA 98685, H: (360) 574-7574, W: (360) 695-9028 [mnmccomic@juno.com](mailto:mnmccomic@juno.com)



### Counterpoint (EVG)

Ken Habkirk (T), Mark Metzger (L), Charlie Metzger (B), Tom Metzger (S)  
 Charlie Metzger, 10324 145A St, Surrey, BC V3R 3S1 CANADA; H: (604) 581-1423, W: (604) 581-0611 [cmetzger@axion.net](mailto:cmetzger@axion.net)



### Jackpot! (LOL)

Mike Lielke (T), Tim Zielke (L), Grant Wilson (B), Kirk Hyder (S)  
 Grant Wilson, 572A Pewaukee Road, Pewaukee, WI 53072; H: (262) 691-2499, W: (414) 607-1321 [bbsgrantw@juno.com](mailto:bbsgrantw@juno.com)

## 2000 Quartet quarter-finalists



### Turning Point (JAD)

Joshua Van Gorder (T), Chad St. John (L), Brody McDonald (B), David Jarrell (S)

David Jarrell, 4595 Castleford Lane, Columbus, OH 43228; H: (614) 851-0350, W: (614) 417-5100 ext. 2529 [tuningpoint@harmonize.com](mailto:tuningpoint@harmonize.com)



### By Popular Demand (ILL)

Robert Tempas (T), Gregory Lee (L), Timothy Pashon (B), Ray Palmateer (S)

Ray Palmateer, 1707 West 183rd St, Homewood, IL 60430; H: (708) 647-1967, W: (630) 572-1641 [mypalmateer@ameritech.net](mailto:mypalmateer@ameritech.net)



### Trademark (LOL)

Roger Williams (T), Daniel Schroeder (L), David Roesler (B), Steven Case (S)

Daniel Schroeder, 10133 299th Avenue NW, Princeton, MN 55371; H: (763) 631-5280, W: (763) 441-0572 [dschroeder@msn.com](mailto:dschroeder@msn.com)



### HEYDAY (SWD)

Kenneth Gabrielse (T), Art Swanson, Jr. (L), Henry Bryson (B), Alan Gauthreaux (S)

Alan Gauthreaux, 624 LaBarre Rd, Jefferson, LA 70121; H: (504) 837-4661 [AGAUTHREAU@aol.com](mailto:AGAUTHREAU@aol.com)



### Runaway Sound (MAD)

Robert Ramsey (T), Richard Gray, Jr. (L), Jeffrey Gray (B), Richard Gray (S)

Richard Gray, 1209 Yellowstone Dr, Newark, DE 19713-3364; H: (302) 454-8847, W: (302) 225-3200 [dickgray1@aol.com](mailto:dickgray1@aol.com)



## 2000 Quartet quarter-finalists

### Wise Guys (SUN)

Chad Bennett (T), Mark Schlinkert (D), Brett Cleveland (B), Chris Connelly (S)  
 Mark Schlinkert, 104 Kings Creek Road, Irmo, SC 29063; H: (803) 749-4356, W: (803) 739-1000 [mschlink@bellsouth.net](mailto:mschlink@bellsouth.net)



### Desperado (JAD)

Randall Goss (T), Michael Harrison (D), Jeff Legters (B), Paul Coleman (S)  
 Jeff Legters, 8389 Meadowlark Drive, West Chester, OH 45069; H: (513) 755-0075 [legters@earthlink.net](mailto:legters@earthlink.net)



### Reveille (MAD)

Roger Payne (T), John Ward (D), Joseph Hunter, Jr. (B), Mark Paul (S)  
 Joseph Hunter Jr., 47 Hollywood Dr, Plainview, NY 11803-3701; H: (516) 939-2798, W: (212) 623-2810 [joe.hunter@chase.com](mailto:joe.hunter@chase.com)



### Sibling Rivalry (CSD)

Kevin Burklund (T), Eric Bell (D), Edward Bell, II (B), Aaron Burklund (S)  
 Edward Bell II, 3633 Potomac LN, Lincoln, NE 68516-5478; H: (402) 421-1851, W: (402) 441-2503 [edbell1@hotmail.com](mailto:edbell1@hotmail.com)



### Sharper Image (ILL)

Opie Lancaster (T), Scott McCarthy (D), Kirk Wood (B), Tom Kentish (S)  
 Tom Kentish, 4390 Rock Cove Drive, Hoffman Estates, IL 60195; H: (847) 358-6027, W: (847) 699-5000 ext. 2283 [acapella8@aol.com](mailto:acapella8@aol.com)

## 2000 Quartet quarter-finalists



### **intrigue (ONT)**

Daniel Wilson (T), David Campbell (L), Chris Arnold (B), Al Baker (BS)  
Chris Arnold, 24-131 Traynor Ave, Kitchener, ON N2C 2M8,  
CANADA; H: (519) 894-0781 [cj-arnold@home.com](mailto:cj-arnold@home.com)



### **Stardust (FWD)**

James Halvorson (T), Larry Halvorson (L), Eudell Bossard (B), Scot Cinnamon (BS)  
Eudell Bossard, 331 E Long Acres Dr, Henderson, NV 89015-8117; H: (702) 564-6773, W: (702) 564-1888 [buzbari@aol.com](mailto:buzbari@aol.com)



### **Overture (DIX)**

Jack Donaldson (T), Thomas Crook (L), Michael Tipton (B), Robert Eubanks (BS)  
Jack Donaldson, 7328 Fairview Rd, Corryton, TN 37721; H: (423) 687-1533, W: (423) 594-7622 [jack.donaldson@juno.com](mailto:jack.donaldson@juno.com)



### **Split Decision (DIX)**

Todd Keeley (T), Robert Strong (L), Lee Franks (B), Dan Beard (BS)  
Todd Keeley, 4124 Meadowfield Lane, Bartlett, TN 38135; H: (901) 386-9879, W: (901) 365-2139 [TKeeley@Arrow.com](mailto:TKeeley@Arrow.com)



### **Premiere (MAD)**

Richard Savage, Jr. (T), Fredrick Womer (L), Fred King (B), William Clark (BS)  
Richard Savage Jr., 5734 Harrier Dr, Clifton, VA 20124-0910; H: (703) 818-9479, W: (202) 466-3200 [rsavagejr@juno.com](mailto:rsavagejr@juno.com)



## 2000 Quartet quarter-finalists

### Checkmate (LOL)

Harry Hanson (T), Brad Charles (L), Dave Baxter (B), Jim Franklin (S)  
 Harry Hanson, 2020 Grange Ave, Racine, WI 53403-4227; H: (262) 637-7908, W: (262) 632-9035 [blsham@execpc.com](mailto:blsham@execpc.com)



### Northeast Connection (NED)

Matthew Mercier (T), Ralph St. George (L), Daniel Washington (B), Robert Lynds (S)  
 Matthew Mercier, 70 Great Brook Road, Milford, NH 03055-4912; H: (603) 673-1794, W: (603) 673-1018 [MMercier@taylor.net](mailto:MMercier@taylor.net)



### Wabash Avenue (CAR)

Bryan Hughes (T), Paul Fernando (L), Aaron Hughes (B), Vincent Winans (S)  
 Bryan Hughes, 800 Timber Trail Apt 808, Lafayette, IN 47905; H: (765) 491-5497, W: (765) 449-3500 ext. 132 [wabashave4@aol.com](mailto:wabashave4@aol.com)



### Countdown (FWD)

Thomas Moore (T), Kelly Shepard (L), Jerry Lovell (B), James Hawkins (S)  
 Jerry Lovell, 8860 Corbin Avenue #111, Northridge, CA 91324; H: (877) 844-4321, W: (818) 360-2711 [itisunknown@earthlink.net](mailto:itisunknown@earthlink.net)



### Jambalaya (SNOBS)

Ronny Carlsson (T), Richard Ohman (L), Joacim Stappe (B), Johan Lange (S)  
 Richard Ohman, Midsommarv 39, Huddinge, S 141 44, Sweden

## 2000 Quartet quarter-finalists



### Breakpoint (LOL)

Paul Fladland (T), Brent Gerber (L), Jeffrey Grieve (B), Peter Benson (BS)  
Brent Gerber, 1714 33 1/2 St S, Moorhead, MN 56560-3945; H: (218) 236-1433, W: (701) 237-4311 [hgngerber@juno.com](mailto:hgngerber@juno.com)



### Liberty Street (SLD)

Bruce Crane (T), Robert Fuest (L), Keith Langdon (B), Peter Avery (BS)  
Peter Avery, 10478 Asbury Rd, Leroy, NY 14482-8923; H: (716) 584-3608, W: (716) 821-6023 [pavery@frontier.net](mailto:pavery@frontier.net)



### Rolling Tones (SNOBS)

Per Wedby (T), Joakim Krook (L), Mikael Krook (B), Mathias Lundin (BS)  
Mathias Lundin, Spinnrockslagen 1, 168 75 Bromma, Sweden



### By Appointment (BABS)

Ron Pike (T), Paul Cousins (L), Franz Alkinson (B), Terry Bryant (BS)  
Paul Cousins [Paul.cousins@zetnet.co.uk](mailto:Paul.cousins@zetnet.co.uk)



## IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR, GATHER ROUND GET NEAR...



Acoustix is one of the most consistently impressive barbershop groups performing today. "Cool Yule," their first holiday-themed recording, will add to their legend. Greg Volk arranged several songs, including "You're A Mean One, Mr. Grinch," (sung by bass Joel Rutherford, who also contributed two arrangements). Two Beach Boys scores, "Auld Lang Syne" and "Little Saint Nick," and a Mervyn Warren (of Take 6) chart, "The First Noel," show the quartet's burgeoning versatility, and it sounds great. For those listeners who prefer Acoustix to stay close to their barbershop origins, the locked-in chords of "O Little Town Of Bethlehem" and "Mary Had A Baby" will be a treat. — **PRIMARILY A CAPPELLA**

This terrific holiday album shows off the diverse musical talents and tastes of this men's quartet that has expanded beyond its barbershop champion roots. Among the highlights: a definitive performance of "You're A Mean One, Mr. Grinch;" Mervyn Warren's arrangement of "The First Noel" that has them sounding like, well,

Take 6; shades of Singers Unlimited as sibling Wendy DeCrow joins them on a gorgeous performance of "The Christmas Song;" and "Mary Had A Baby," arranged by barbershop legend **David Wright**, which highlights the Acoustix dynamic range from tender crooning to heaven-opening, swelling swipes. And be prepared for the big band joining them for the title tune, a Steve Allen original - very cool indeed! — **MAINLY A CAPPELLA**

What can I say? It's Acoustix. Enough said. Acoustix once again has released an amazing album. This one however, if you couldn't tell by the title, is a collection of some of the most inventive arrangements of Christmas music around. Most songs here make your mouth drop with the amount of talent these guys possess. Absolutely perfect tuning that sends chills down your back. It's also nice how they're able to switch from pure jazz to barbershop quartet and everything in the middle. My personal favorite is "You're a Mean One Mr. Grinch", arranged by **Greg Volk** and sung by Joel T. Rutherford. It's an interesting arrangement that avoids the all too common problem of mixing up the words by cutting out some verses while adding a spoken section that adds a whole new dimension to the song. It's also proof that, in my opinion, Joel T. Rutherford is the best bass in the business. Being a Christmas album it's not something one could play all year long, but as far as Christmas albums go, this is one of the best that I've heard. It's full of a nice variety of music that is fun and pleasing to listen to. There are also many parts that you'll have to stop what you're doing just to enjoy the pure genius that is Acoustix. This one's a keeper. — **REBECCA CHRISTIE - RARB (Recorded Acappella Review Board)**

### We also distribute these popular releases from some of your favorite groups...



ACOUSTIX  
"Jazz, Jazz,  
Jazz"



ACOUSTIX  
"Stars &  
Stripes"



ACOUSTIX  
"New Science  
of Sound"



BEST OF  
BARBERSHOP  
Compilation CD



SUNTONES  
"Complete  
Works",  
Vols 1,2,3,4,5



DEALER'S  
CHOICE  
"Anthology"



VOCAL  
MAJORITY  
"White  
Christmas"



VOCAL  
MAJORITY  
"Vocal Majority  
w/ Strings"



VOCAL  
MAJORITY  
"How Sweet The  
Sound"



VOCAL  
MAJORITY  
"The Music  
Never Ends"



VOCAL  
MAJORITY  
"The Secret of  
Christmas"



VOCAL  
MAJORITY  
"The Secret of  
Christmas"  
Video @ \$20

Allow 2-4 weeks for delivery

Make checks payable to:

**ACOUSTIX**  
PRODUCTIONS



#### SHIPPING CHARGES

| If order totals:  | Add:   |
|-------------------|--------|
| Up to \$15.00     | \$2.50 |
| \$15.01 - \$25.00 | \$3.50 |
| \$25.01 - \$50.00 | \$4.50 |
| \$50.01 - \$75.00 | \$5.25 |
| Over \$75.00      | \$6.00 |

OVERSEAS ORDERS will be charged at our cost and will vary according to location and order size.

#### PRICING & VOLUME DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE

All single tapes: \$10 - All single CDs: \$15

Any 3 ACOUSTIX titles on CD (\$40) or tape (\$25)

Any 4 ACOUSTIX titles on CD (\$50) or tape (\$30)

Buy any four SUNTONES titles and get one title FREE!  
Dealer's Choice "Anthology" set of 4 CDs \$50 or 4 tapes \$35

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| PHONE    | Credit Card orders call <b>888/448-STIX (7849)</b> • For booking info call <b>888/449-STIX (7849)</b>   |
| FAX      | FAX Credit Card orders, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, <b>972-424-5000</b>  |
| MAIL     | PMB 109-128 • 10455 North Central Expressway • Dallas, TX 75231-2211 USA  |
| INTERNET | Secure online credit card orders can be made at our web site: <b>www.acoustix.com</b><br>Please direct any email inquiries to: <b>orders@acoustix.com</b> |



## Cardinal

Barr, Ed  
Greater Indianapolis, IN  
Broadwater Sr, Richard E  
Columbus-Greenwood, IN

## Central States

Foley, Gary  
Dubuque, IA  
Laing, Verne M  
Wichita, KS  
Loveall, Delmar E  
Florissant Valley, MO

## Dixie

Duncan, Robert M  
Pinehurst, NC  
Fisher, John K  
Hilton Head Island, GA  
Shelton, Robert A  
Knox County Metro, TN

## Evergreen

Archer, Lea  
Frank Thorne - C  
Archer, Lea  
Langley, BC  
Cook, Frank V  
Twin Falls, ID  
Dahl, Ruben P  
Yakima, WA  
Dybvad, Dick  
Bellevue, WA  
Hiler, Evererr C  
Central Oregon, OR  
Wise, Louis  
Anacortes, WA

## Far Western

Barbieri, John M  
Sacramento, CA  
Borlek, Richard  
Davis-Vacaville, CA  
De Groot, Jim W  
Conejo Valley, CA  
Fiscus, Everett G  
Hemet, CA  
Gonzalez, Alfred M  
Frank Thorne - D  
Goodale, Edmund E

San Jose, CA  
Gorrell, J. Don  
Stockton, CA  
Hall, Donald P  
Inland Cities, CA  
Ivner, Irving  
Walnut Creek, CA  
Lockerby, Robert B  
Mesa, AZ  
Mosby, Millard M  
Lompoc, CA  
Smith, Robert N  
Westminster, CA  
Smith, Robert N  
Orange, CA  
Tierno, William  
San Gabriel Valley, CA  
Vienneau, Richard N  
Tucson, AZ

## Frank Thorne

Little, David T  
Frank Thorne - T

## Illinois

Gay, Thomas V  
Kishwaukee Valley, IL  
Gay, Thomas V  
Pottawatomie Territory, IL  
Ruff, Don R  
Waterloo, IL  
Schwarz, Phillip L  
Chicago No 1, IL  
Schwarz, Phillip L  
Frank Thorne - E  
Welch, Leslie E  
Belleville, IL

## Johnny Appleseed

Gurley, David  
Maumee Valley, OH  
Seibel, Charles  
Pittsburgh North Hills, PA  
Woodruff, Roy L  
Fostoria, OH

## Land O' Lakes

Anderson, Robert C  
La Crosse, WI  
Ingersoll, Lenard J

Bloomington, MN  
Judisch, Ronald F  
Fargo-Moorhead, ND

## Mid-Atlantic

Callan, Thomas P  
Abington-Levittown, PA  
Collins, Michael  
Wilkes Barre, PA  
Cramer, James M  
Lewistown, PA  
Hammock, Paul  
Roanoke Valley, VA  
Ilsley, William E  
Bowie, MD  
Lane, Avon L  
Bucks County, PA  
Lina Jr, Frank J  
Ocean View, DE  
Miller, John T  
Harrisburg, PA  
Nelson, Milton J  
Lansdale, PA  
Salvatore, Ernest J  
Westchester County, NY  
Savitsky, Stephen  
Jamaica, NY  
Statt, Charles  
Roanoke Valley, VA  
Ziegler, John C  
Hanover, PA

## Northeastern

Doolittle, Raymond D  
Litchfield County, CT  
Foss, Richard K  
Midcoast Maine  
Phillips, Clay E  
Cape Cod, MA  
Stacey, James W  
Portsmouth, NH

## Ontario

Birch, Stanley  
Huntsville, ON  
Edgar, Maurice  
Burlington, ON  
McCauley, Terrance  
Barrie, ON  
Newman, Charles E  
St Catharines, ON

## Pioneer

Beattie, Frank H  
Saginaw Bay, MI

## Rocky Mountain

De Groot, Jim W  
Pikes Peak, CO  
Landers, L Leon  
Longmont, CO  
Roberts, Robert A  
Salt Lake City, UT

## Seneca Land

Bivone, Joseph  
Rochester, NY  
McHugh, William C  
Batavia, NY

## Southwestern

Barnes, Charles B  
Fort Worth, TX  
Beckett, Terry D  
El Paso, TX  
Duvall, Vinson L  
Greater New Orleans, LA  
Eggers, Kenneth  
Houston, TX  
Votri, Carl E  
Austin, TX

## Sunshine

Baltensberger, Edwin G  
Citrus County, FL  
Collis, Dean W  
Englewood, FL  
George, Robert W  
Venice, FL  
Gough, James H  
Sarasota, FL  
Henn, Harold  
Martin - St Lucie, FL  
Mangiardi, Joe  
Key West, FL  
Pfost, William F  
Polk County, FL  
Schrage, Frank J  
Fort Myers-Estero Island, FL



# Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation

The Harmonizer is a bi-monthly magazine published by The Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America, Inc., 6315 Harmony Lane, Kenosha, WI, 53143. (Lorin May, editor, 262-653-8440)

Annual subscription price: \$21

Column 1: Average # of copies each issue during preceding 12 months

Column 2: # copies of single issue published nearest to filing date

Total copies 33,253 32,985

Outside County copies (U.S.) 29,742 29,509

Paid, in-county 0 0

Sales through dealers 0 0

Other classes mailed\

through USPS 2,879 2,845

Total paid circulation 32,622 32,354

Free Distribution

Outside County 0 0

In-County 123 123

Other Classes mailed

through USPS 8 8

Free distribution outside mail 200 200

Total free distribution 331 331

Total Distribution 32,953 32,685

Copies not distributed 300 300

Total 33,253 32,985

Percent Paid and/or requested 99% 99%

## Small Chorus, Big Sound

Northern  
Lights

TORONTO CHAPTER SPEBSQSA

20  
Tracks

Year 2000 International  
Fifth Place Medalist

including:  
Les Miserables  
Montage

Really Silly!  
Bonus!

Order before Nov 30<sup>th</sup>  
And receive your CD autographed by  
EVERY member of the Northern Lights  
Not since the days of 12" disks could  
a chorus make this offer!

Send your order to: Toronto Northern Lights 20 MacKenzie Drive, Georgetown, Ont., Canada L7G 4B9  
(Payable to Toronto Northern Lights) Ph(905) 877-0664 / sales@northernlightschorus.com / www.northernlightschorus.com

METHODS OF PAYMENT

☐ VISA (charged in CANS) Card #           Exp. Date:

☐ MC (charged in CANS)

☐ USAS cheque/money order ☐ CANS cheque/money order

Name:

Address:

Prov./State:

Postal/Zip code:

Phone:

Email: (optional)

COs @ \$15 / \$20 ☐ ☐

tapes @ \$10 / \$15 ☐ ☐

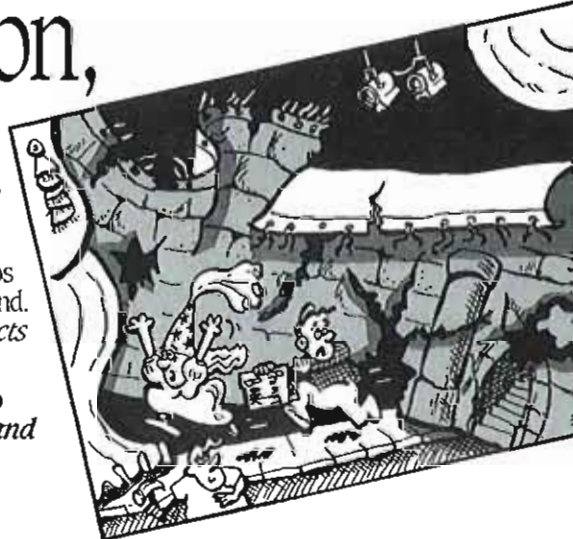
Shipping and handling (see chart below) Total: \$

| Shipping/Handling costs (Number of items ordered) | 1      | 2-3    | 4-5     | 6+      |
|---|--------|--------|---------|---------|
| Orders shipped to USA: (USA funds)                | \$2.50 | \$4.50 | \$5.50  | \$7.00  |
| Orders shipped to CAN/USA: (CAN funds)            | \$3.50 | \$6.50 | \$8.50  | \$10.50 |
| Orders shipped outside CAN/USA: (CAN funds)       | \$6.50 | \$9.50 | \$19.00 | \$CALL  |

If your drops look  
like Lake Wobegon,  
Come to Tobins Lake.

For over 50 years, the professionals at Tobins Lake Studios have helped quartets like yours look as great as they sound. Painted backdrops, draperies, lighting, and special effects from Tobins Lake Studios make the difference.

Call (810) 229-6666 today for a free catalog & stop looking woe-be-gone. Team up with Tobins Lake and start playing the right side of the tracks.



My wife, Jan, sat in on our first coaching session, in a hotel room in Canton, Ohio. The first thing that hit us was the huge sound of the group, but what was really impressive was their intensity level and their commitment to excellence. The level of intensity was so high that my wife had to leave the room twice just to catch her breath! Every time they sing, they deliver at a performance level. I knew that weekend that PLATINUM would win the gold at some point because they rehearse at a gold-medal level.

I've known Joe and Tony since their teenage years. They have always been great guys, and their successes have not changed them. Gary and Kevin have worked very hard to come up to the performance level that Joe and Tony achieve, and it didn't take long for that to start showing in their performance. I firmly believe PLATINUM will become one of our Society's greatest quartets.

— Gary Wulf

terstate Rivals, Yesteryear (ah, "Beef"—another BG singer), and Bluegrass Student Union. (Gary: "Rick Staab is my idol, the definition of a barbershop bass singer—the king of accuracy!")

Gary learned solid vocal techniques from talented instructors, and he expanded that knowledge as he listened to the champions, always asking, "How'd they do that?" He'd analyze it again and again until he figured it out.

In 1996, Gary moved from Ohio to Florida to sing full-time at Walt Disney World with the Voices of Liberty. His quartet had already qualified, and went on to compete in Salt Lake City, placing 38<sup>th</sup> without any long-distance rehearsal time. When Gary moved to the Sunshine District, he thought, "Some day, maybe I'll get to sing with Joe and Tony." Six months later, when Don Barnick changed jobs and moved away, Keepsake invited Gary to help complete their performance schedule. He remembers, "This was a dream come true! Singing bass with Keepsake was like my own personal 'Sing with the Champs' every

weekend!"

As a choral director in Defiance, Ohio, now it's his turn to encourage high school students in their musical development. This is a gratifying charge that he shares with his wife, Jody, who is a middle school choral instructor. Eighteen-month-old son, Adam, will be joined by "the fourth" for their family quartet this next spring.

The foursome is enthusiastic about passing on their knowledge and respect to current and future Barbershop fans. As Tony puts it, "PLATINUM needs to continue setting the standard in this art

form so that more listeners outside the ranks will think highly of what we already love."

With all the success and no matter what the demands, these men are still nice people who love what they do! They love singing together, and most important, they're four great friends who truly enjoy each other. It's evident in their performances. In Kansas City, everyone witnessed their pure pleasure as the lush chords of "Auld Lang Syne" rang out, and in turn, the audience rose to its feet in energetic appreciation. It was more precious than gold! ■

## The New Tradition Chorus



Our  
Long Awaited  
Broadway  
Recording  
Is Now  
Available

### Featuring:

A Grand Night For Singing  
Bring Him Home  
Do You Hear The People Sing?  
If I Loved You  
Phantom Of The Opera/Music Of The Night  
Mariah  
Nothing Like A Dame

Climb Every Mountain  
Oklahoma  
Memory  
Tradition/Sunrise Sunset  
West Side Story Medley  
The Impossible Dream  
There's No Business Like Show Business

Name

Address

City  State  Zip

Phone (  )

Visa      Mastercard      Check

Credit Card #

Expires  /  Signature

| Item | Qty | Price          | Total  |
|------|-----|----------------|--------|
| CD   |     | \$15           |        |
| Tape |     | \$10           |        |
|      |     | Shipping       | \$2.00 |
|      |     | Total Enclosed |        |

Send to:  
Northbrook Chapter  
PO Box 2235  
Northbrook, IL 60065  
Info@newtradition.org  
www.newtradition.org



## SWIPES 'N' SWAPS

Classified ad bargains for Barbershoppers, published as a service to readers—all copy subject to editorial approval.  
Rate: \$25 per column inch.

### UNIFORMS FOR SALE

Sixty-nine beautiful, all-white tuxedo jackets with satin lapels @ \$16.00 each. 40 Pair of navy blue pants, some adjustable waist, for \$11.00 each. 410-647-8776.

**CHORUS DIRECTOR—AUSTRALIA** The Melbourne Men's Barbershop Chorus Inc., a highly motivated, enthusiastic and growing 40+ chorus is seeking a chorus director with an excellent all-round knowledge of the barbershop craft who can make a positive contribution to the Melbourne goal of continuous improvement in both competitive and public performances. Interested persons can contact: Roger Archman, President; 3/33 Evelina Street, Mont Albert North, VIC 3129. Telephone & Fax: 61 3 9898 6014. Email Tom Smith, Immediate Past President at tsmith@alphalink.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 #1094 N, Dallas, Texas 75231; (214) 369-5893; or send email to SWDRoundup@aol.com.

## Are your revenue projections



## in arrears?

Improve your outlook!  
Advertise in *The Harmonizer*

For rates, see [www.spebsqsa.org/harmonizer/ratecard.htm](http://www.spebsqsa.org/harmonizer/ratecard.htm)

## BRAND NEW FROM Nightlife

1996 SPEBSQSA International Quartet Champions • [www.nightlifequartet.com](http://www.nightlifequartet.com)

Set yourself comfortably in front of a good set of speakers - or better yet, put on the headphones - and enjoy the rich sound and engaging style of one of today's most remarkable vocal ensembles. Nightlife! -- David Wright



How High the Moon, Mobile, Satin Doll, My Funny Valentine, Stup That Bass, Steal Away, When I Lift Up My Head, Blues in the Night, Ride the Chariot, London by Night, Baby, It's Cold Outside, Today, Watch What Happens, Who Will Buy?, One Moment in Time



### Basin Street Blues

'Cross The Mason-Dixon Line, Route 66, Beautiful Dreamer, You're As Welcome As The Flowers In May, Basin Street Blues



### Songs At Twilight

Love's Old Sweet Song, Just Because, Shine Medley, I'll Always Be Mother's Boy, Young and Foolish, Nat King Cole Medley

|                    |                        |         |
|--------------------|------------------------|---------|
| Blues In The Night | _____ CDs @ \$15       |         |
|                    | _____ Cassettes @ \$10 |         |
| Basin Street Blues | _____ CDs @ \$15       |         |
|                    | _____ Cassettes @ \$10 |         |
| Songs At Twilight  | _____ CDs @ \$15       |         |
|                    | _____ Cassettes @ \$10 |         |
|                    | Shipping & Handling    | \$ 2.50 |
|                    | TOTAL*                 | \$      |

Mail your orders to: Nightlife, 2802 W. 145th Street  
Gardena, CA 90249-3118, or call (310) 327-3788

☐ Check ☐ Visa® ☐ MasterCard®

Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Authorized Credit Card Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State/Zip/Phone \_\_\_\_\_

\*Foreign orders, please make your check/money order for U.S. Funds and include an additional \$1.00 for shipping and handling. The distribution, sale or advertising of unofficial recordings is not a representation that the contents of such recordings are suitable for contest use.



## THE TAG

Joe Liles, Tagmaster

# Another classic tag from The Confederates

One of my favorite tag teachers is that famous baritone of the Rural Route 4, Jim Bagby. I asked Jim to tell me what his favorite is, and this was his answer:

John Philip Sousa was asked "which is your favorite march?" His response: "The last one I wrote." I think of that whenever someone asks about my favorite tag. The newest one running through my head sends me on the prowl for three other parts to share the joy, beauty, overtone, lyric or haunting cadence.

That's why one of the delights of any barbershop weekend, convention or Harmony College is to seek out Buzz Haeger, or Burt Szabo, or Val Hicks, David Wright, Ed Waesche, Tom Gentry, Mo Rector, Joe

Liles, Jim Richards, Brent Graham, Don Barnick—guys who don't just teach tags: they glory in them. And this list only scratches the surface of those who carry on the magnificent barbershopping, wood-shedding, TAGGING legend of Earl Moon.

Wright has gone so far as to collect and print a list of classic tags for his Harmony College class. Any one of them would fit this page. My choice comes from the Confederates, our 1956 champs and by any measuring stick, one of our all-time great champs. Surely they rank with the Four Renegades, The Gas House Gang and a handful of others as the best the Society has

ever produced.

Tenor George Evans, lead Dave LaBonte, bari Bill "Buz" Busby and bass Wally Singleron were far ahead of their time in rich blend, interpretation, musicality and variety in their arrangements—many of them by Buz. As performers, they were captivating.

Of the foursome originally from Memphis, Tenn., only Evans remains, actively quartetting and singing with the loony Big Chicken Chorus. Busby was the first gold medalist to direct an international championship chorus (Memphis Cotton Boll, 1958) and only Freddie King and Jeff Oxley have matched that feat in our 62-year history. And Buz was easy to spot in a convention lobby, teaching tags to veterans and eager youngsters alike (I think he heard me panting).

One of them was this gem, from the Gershwin brothers' classic "Porgy and Bess." "Summertime" does not appear on the Confederates' "Encores" album (now a remastered Masterworks CD). It is on Decca's "Barbershop Battle," which came out in 1957, with the venerable Buffalo Bills on the other side. Presented here is the popularized version, rather than with the longer solo lead-in that's on the album.

Who arranged the "Summertime" tag? George, living up to his "Old Tenor" e-mail address, says it could have been Busby, or Bill Diekema or frequent coach S.K. Grundy. He doesn't remember.

Well, most of us can relate to that. My wife once asked through gritted teeth, "How can you remember four parts to 100 tags, but you can't remember the check you wrote yesterday?"

Well, here's a tag none of us is likely to forget. ■



"Didn't I just see ...?" Yes, last issue's guest tagster picked a Confederates tag, too. Is there a message here?

## HUSH, LITTLE BABY

from *Summertime* by GEORGE GERSHWIN

as sung by the Confederates, 1956

Musical notation for the tag "Hush, Little Baby" featuring Tenor Lead and Bari Bass parts. The lyrics are: So hush, lit-tle ba-by, don't you cry. don't you cry. cry.

©1935 by Gershwin Publishing Company. Copyright Renewed and Assigned to Chappell & Co., Inc. Used by Permission.



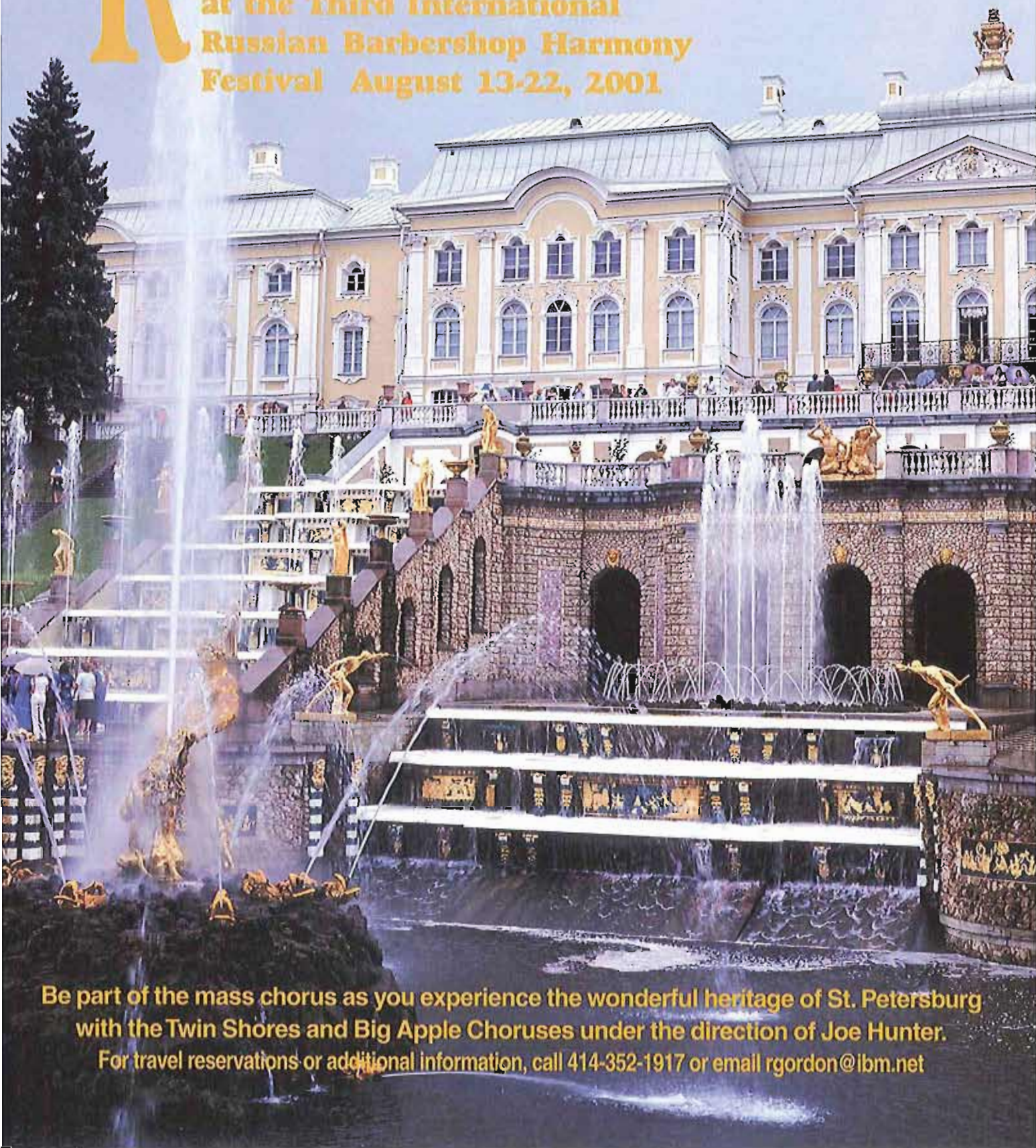
Experience St. Petersburg,  
The cultural capital of

# RUSSIA

at the Third International  
Russian Barbershop Harmony  
Festival August 13-22, 2001



Trip sponsored by the  
International Fine Arts  
Institute, the Russian  
Ministry of Culture  
and SPEBSQSA

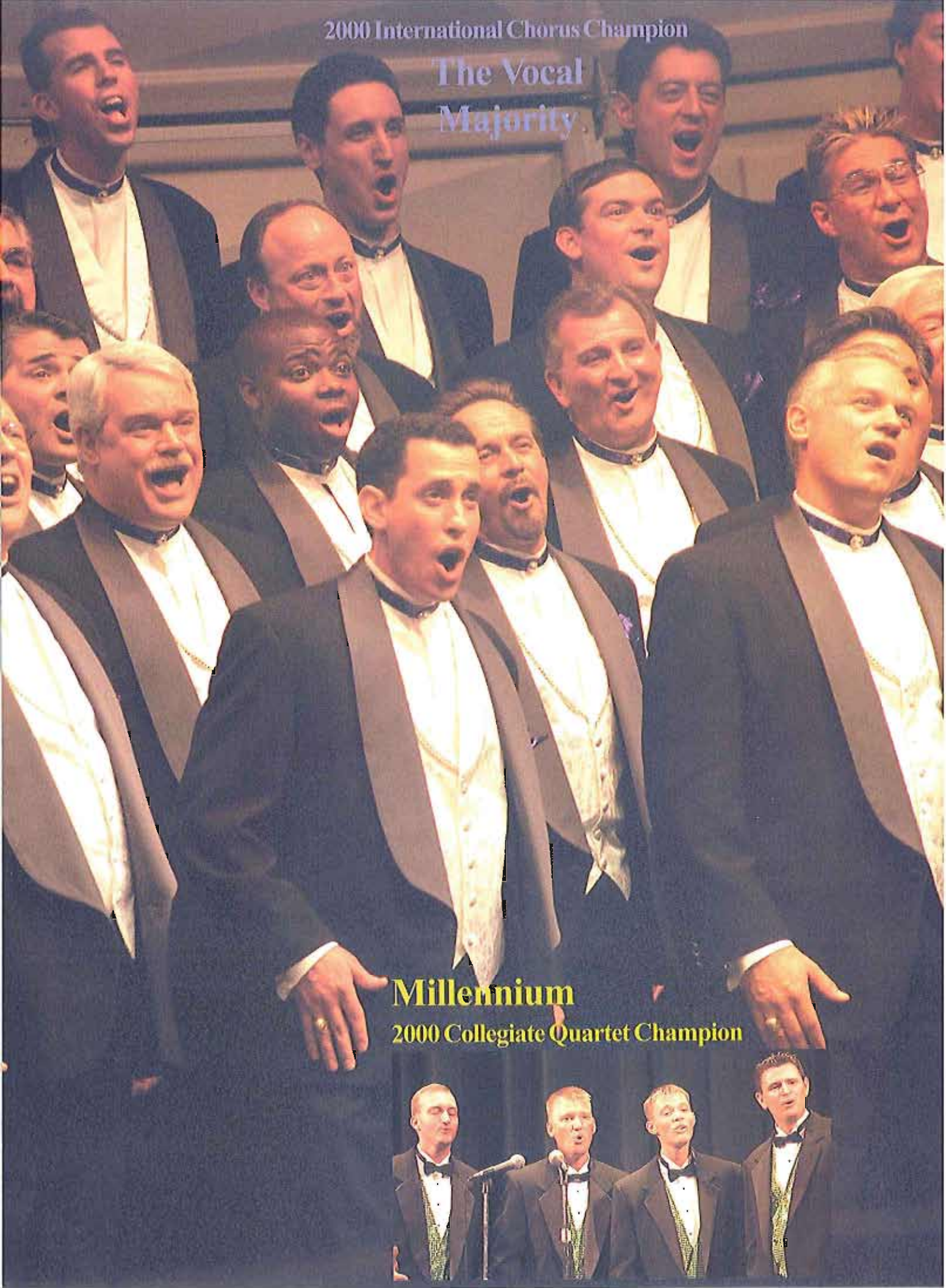


Be part of the mass chorus as you experience the wonderful heritage of St. Petersburg  
with the Twin Shores and Big Apple Choruses under the direction of Joe Hunter.  
For travel reservations or additional information, call 414-352-1917 or email [rgordon@ibm.net](mailto:rgordon@ibm.net)



2000 International Chorus Champion

# The Vocal Majority



**Millennium**

2000 Collegiate Quartet Champion

