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January/ February 2001 VOLUME

LXI Numoen I



Barbershop can be serious business, especially if your quartet is based in a Russian monastery. Get the international flavor of barbershop in this issue.

-Features



Not just North America

Barbershoppers from established countries are finding devotees throughout the world REED SAMPSON



Departing with grace

The last sounds he ever heard were chords being rung by his fellow Barbershoppers *Mark Holmberg*



Symphony gigs

It takes concerted effort and the right contacts, but it's worth it LU QUINNEY, GARY FORSBERG



23

Gobs O' Champs

Check out who's risen to the top in district competition

Departments

LET'S HARMONIZE Our Society's new e-plan

THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

How will we survive the long haul?

LETTERS Promoting quartetting We need to grow now!

TEMPO New YMIH materials available We need old recordings HARMONY HOW-TO

One voice: different voice parts

CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

Your HF dollars benefit high schoolers Roadside charity

29

STAY TUNED



A Bozo quartet and proud of it Putting the "E" in SPEBSQSA

> THE TAG Goodbye, My Love



Society for the Preservation and Encouragement



of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America

January/February 2001 • The HARMONIZER 1

LET'S HARMONIZE

Darryl Flinn, Executive Director

Thanks for paying the freight ... our new e-plan

n behalf of President Chuck, the leadership of our Society and our headquarters operation here in Kenosha, *thanks* for paying the freight. Your dues and all you spend doing our hobby is an investment in a fabulous way of life. Who'd have ever thought it would take literally millions of dollars to administer and manage the affairs of our beloved Society?

Don't you just love the discussion about how inexpensive it is to do our hobby? I like the one about barbershopping being cheaper than bowling. And do you know what? It ptobably is. Our total dues are somewhere around \$8-10 a month and, somehow, that seems a lot cheaper than bowling or many other great hobbies one might think of. But for us "lifers," this harmonizing way of life can get to be a pretty serious and sizeable investment.

Consider two or three conventions every year (maybe even an International), add in the cost of making these conventions a family event. Now think about all of the great stuff you buy from our Harmony Marketplace. Then there is always the proud gift given to Hannony Foundation, our own chatity. And what about getting to and from chapter meetings and the week-to-week support of your chapter's programs? It all adds up quickly, docsn't it? My family began going to International conventions in '65. Add to that the cost of a

couple of district events every year, and I'd be afraid to total up what we've spent over all of those years. We've all done our share of keeping the hotels and airlines in business, but like most of us, I don't regret a penny spent on the many breathless moments I so fondly remember.

Yes, friends, the cost of following our hobby all over North America (and the world, as well) is pretty high compared to the more reasonable cost of our dues, or a convention ticket. For those members who invest thousands every year supporting and enjoying our great hobby, you may not even notice a \$5 dues increase. For the many of us who struggle for every \$5 bill we earn or spend, it may well be a challenge coming up with the extra money.

What makes all of this worthwhile for you? Aside from the beautiful and unique harmony I can make with my friends, the real value I get for my money is a circle of great barbershop friends, the sense of extended family, the knowledge that we're here for each other, a youthful, buoyant spirit and mostly ... just being part of a team that can do things together that we could never do alone.

No matter how you participate in your chapter, district or our Society, may I personally say thanks for every penny you spend. My greatest hope is that every one of us is getting way more than his money's worth.

What we have accomplished with our "home-made" yet very successful web presence is a thing of great pride for us all. It was not created as part of our missions or strategies; it happened because a few folks at Society Headquarters simply knew that it must. Now, with the understanding and support of our Society Board, we are taking a headlong leap into what could be ... only this time we'll be doing it on purpose.

We have realigned a few positions in our headquarters staff to help us discover all that is possible for SPEBSQSA via the Internet. Public Relations Director Brian Lynch has assumed a new title of e-Business Strategist, working closely with IT Manager Scott Hoge to develop the Society's electronic assets in e-commerce, knowledge management and community development, business processes, publishing, and recruiting.

I'd be quick to tell you that Brian's departure from our PR effort is a loss of large proportions. The good news is that a very qualified Reed Sampson will expand his responsibilities as the Society's public relations manager. Now three years on our staff, Reed is a capable spokesman for our organization and a valuable asset.

Why put this kind of effort into the web?

Like many organizations, we're rethinking our business model. We are looking for a



Brian Lynch





"I don't re-

gret a penny

spent on the

many

breathless

moments I

so fondly

remember."

road map to help chart our organization's course through the Internet economy: What benefits of membership will be enhanced, and what growth will our Society enjoy by smart use of the Internet?

For some time now we have known that the lines were going to cross. That's to say, a shrinking membership accompanied by aggressively growing missions and work plans are indeed a deadly combination. Add escalating numbers to most budget line items and it spells ... well, trouble.

I would not tell you that the Internet is the solution, but I would say this ... our vision is that via the "Network Effect" we'll find the lines changing direction. Uncrossed if you will. How? Two ways:

Generate income. Consider these possibilities:

- An ever-broadening non-member market for our conventions, music and merchandise.
- A broader and more diversified PR thrust and strong recruiting presence.
- A still closer bonding among our members, creating an even better retention factor.
- Merchandising educational information to schools and institutions.
- Pay per view ... and there is more.

Generate economies.

- Less postage and printing
- Better inventory control.
- Registrations of all kinds "on line".
- Board/committee meetings via "E".
- More and better volunteer involve-• ment.

Beginning now and taking from 3-5 years, we have the power and the people and will use technology to create an Internet gateway that will positively change our way of being-yes, even our destiny. As time goes by, we envision hundreds of thousands of swing dollars being made possible yearly by the cumulative effects of a strong, professional, utilitarian web presence.

Understanding the Network Effect and employing it wisely bodes well for the future of our beloved Society. Today, we are Internet explorers.

Let's Harmonize,



January/February 2001



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. IHF

Harmony Foundation The official charity of SPEBSQSA, coordinating the Society's charitable mission to "preserve our musical legacy though support of vocal music education in our schools and communities. Call 1-800-876-7474 x8447 for donation, gift-planning, grant or sponsorship information.

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MUSIC SPECIALIST / CHORUS DIRECTOR DEVELOPMENT

Chuck Watson, SPEBSQSA President

Society growth is a one-man job: yours

hose Society is this? We have approximately 33,000 members at present, each of whom is a potential advertisement for membership, yet many of us don't seem to take our role as a "walking advertisement" very seriously. If you are waiting for Society leadership to come up with the next gimmick to bring that member to your chapter meeting, you may someday find yourself standing alone on the risers. Yes, it is



Unless each of us takes membership growth seriously, the Society won't survive the long haul. you who has to step forward with the next new member for your chapter.

We've just completed our fourth-quarter membership campaign. While we're still awaiting the final results, the early returns are so far not very promising. Society growth is not only the responsibility of the two men who work fulltime to start new chapters, finding men in areas where no one has tread in the past. There are over 800 chapters already formed and they, too, need to be growing. Is yours one of those showing a growth trend? Probably not! Unless each of us takes membership growth seriously, the Society won't survive the long haul.

Have you ever thought the following?

• "I've already asked all my friends to come to a meeting." Thank you. Perhaps it's about time you asked some strangers

to join you as well. And how about those passing acquaintances?

- "Membership in the Society is too expensive." Really? What other hobby costs about \$2 per week for several hours of good fellowship, plus the enjoyment of singing, plus a singing lesson ... Where can you get this for less?
- "We're not singing the old songs as much as we used to." Have you talked with your chapter music team or director who selects your music about this? Are there others in your chapter who feel the same way? Make your feelings known to them and ask to sing other songs. Make suggestions as to what you would like to sing.

- "Contest music seems to be going a different direction from what I like to sing or hear." Yes, we, the Society leadership, have heard this as well. A number of efforts are currently under way to help better identify the barbershop sound and style of music. Perhaps by the time 1 next speak with you we'll have a more definitive response. However, in the meantime, go back and listen to those recordings and see if you don't agree that a high percentage of the music being sung is what you like to hear.
- "Our chapter is trying to attract youth, but I'm sometimes embarrassed by our lack of attention to them." If this is a concern, address it with your chapter leaders. Yes, attracting younger singers is a big responsibility. Make sure that you are setting a good example for them.

Do I sound frustrated? You bet I am. I may be preaching to the choir, if you've read this far. But I believe that barbershopping is one of the greatest hobbies around and that it practically sells itself after some effort on your part. If you feel the same, please urge those who are less involved in the hobby to become more deeply involved and to Share the Dream and Keep the Dream Alive.

1 mentioned that we have had two men, Ev Nau and Pat Kelly, working full-time this past year to start new chapters and boost existing chapters. Their goal is to create 100 newly chartered chapters by the end of 2001. At the end of the first year, they have already realized the chartering of over 20 new chapters. Nearly 30 new potential chapters have been licensed, the first step to chartering a new chapter. And, finally, over 50 extension sites have been identified and materials sent to begin the process of getting a new chapter started. If all of those sites were to materialize into a new chapter in the next year, the goal of 100 new charters would be realized. However, the work is far from being done. This year will be the big one in getting these sites and others yet to be identified to become chapters. Are you doing your part to help these new chapters?

The load will be significantly eased if everyone Shares the Dream and works toward making 2001 a banner year for our Society. Thanks for listening.

Chuck Watson

LETTERS

hzrletters@spebsqsa.org

Remember the Q, and remember to recruit

One more for the Q

Kudos to the article by Darryl in the Nov/Dec issue of the *Harmonizer* about the great work our quartets are doing in their effort to preserve and encourage barbershop harmony. We don't recognize and give them a pat on the back often enough.

Also, the colorful centerfold spread on the Champions in the Sept./Oct. issue was outstanding. I hope you will continue this feature.

Like Wes Meier used to say, "You better toot your own horn, nobody else will".

Sam Aramian Peoria, Arizona

Two more 9-gold winners

Thank you for creating an incredible Nov/Dec Harmonizer featuting the VM. I've had dozens of guys say it has been the most complete and awesome coverage in The Harmonizer about the VM ever in our history. Congratulations to you for everything you have done to make The Harmonizer a great publication for Barbershoppers in North America.

There has only been one troubling outcome of the articles thus far, and the fault is my own. Two guys were left off the list of

guys who earned *all nine* gold medals. The complete list of 13 VM members is: Bob Arnold, Dave Barrow, Brian Belcher, Mickey Bonesio, Jim Clancy, Greg Clancy, <u>Denis Conrady</u>, Dick Couch, <u>Quinn Hunter</u>, Sonny Lipford, Jim Martin, Red McDonald and Jim Renfro.

GARY HENNERBERG The Vocal Majority

Kicking and screaming into 21st Century

Our little mag is getting more and more classy. Keep up the good work. I even enjoy reading it from cover to cover. The fact that you're almost back on schedule and dragging us kicking and screaming into the twenty-first century technology-wise is very noteworthy, too. Bravo to the whole staff.

Mike Lanctot Evergreen District President

We have to do better at recruiting and retaining

Gradual decline—it's fatal. Inspired by Ev Nau's calculation of what happens when 87% of our membership is retained each year, I did some calculations of my own starting with the number of *Harmonizers* issued each month (which resembles membership totals).

In my seven-year calculation, I was down to 12,544—a loss of 20,709. So he was right, we can be consumed by our own lethargy. In 13 years, we could be down to 5439 members, or only half the size of the audience at the interna-

tional convention.

In addition to getting new members, we must improve the retention percentage and keep what we have as seed to grow on. Decline is not acceptable. We must do better! Talk barbershop, *live* barbershop and enjoy life. Our very existence depends on *you*!

CHARLES E. ABERNETHY Past international president, the year of PAPA (positive attitude, positive action)

Put scores and songs back in *Harmonizer* contest issue

1 totally agree with Leland Murphy (Nov/Dec letters) on international convention scores and songs. 1 have on file all *Harmonizers* since 1 joined the Society 38 years ago. For the past few years, 1 thought the results, scores and songs, would appear in a later issue. I was able to get the results from another source, but now I have to make sure the copied results stay with the right *Harmonizer*.

Also, the stapling of the winning quartets and choruses in the middle of the publication is terrible. I haven't the faintest idea what the winners look like as I refuse to unclip the poster-like folded section out and ruin the entire section.

Jim Manuel Avon, 111.



ТЕМРО

Timely news

A new toolbox to promote barbershop to youth

hapter Young Men in Harmony VPs, listen up: There are several new tools to make you successful. To help teachers: A polished new video, *Barber-shop Harmony: A Tool for Musical Excellence* (stock # 4023, \$7), introduces educators to aspects of the Young Men In Harmony program. Although just under 10 minutes in length, the video distills the best footage from 16 different sources, including 16 hours of interviews, highlights of MBNA America Collegiate Barbershop Quartet performances and Harmony Explosion camp footage.

To help youth: A new CD called *Harmony Hits, Volume I* (stock # 4882, \$5) contains "The Star Spangled Banner," "Oh, Canada," "Jingle Bell Rock," "Let Me Call You Sweetheart," "I Believe," and "Under The Boardwalk." D.J. Hiner provides the voices for all four parts, and the CD is mastered to include a performance and voice part predomi-



It wasn't the Macy's Thanksgiving Parade in New York, but for Riptide it was the next best thing. Atlanta's parade is second in the nation in total television viewership, and the TV network gave more than just a passing glance of the quartet. The quartet got lingering shots and a lot of close-ups. (And, as seems to happen a lot, the TV sound guys equalized the microphones so that each part produced exactly the same volume, rather than the quartet's natural blend. But, eh, what're you gonna do ... refuse the invite next time?)

If you can't tell from the photo, singing tenor is Allen Reynolds (brother of lead Tim), who filled in for Eric King, who was performing at a major church event. The quartet sounded great with Allen, who could have passed for Eric had he worn platform shoes and shaved in a receding hair line.



nant tracks for each of the songs.

To help you: The YMIH Resource Guide (stock # 4074, \$11.95) will tell you everything you know about how to run a successful Young Men In Harmony program in your chapter or district.

All are available at the Harmony Marketplace www.harmonymarketplace.com.

Board approves next increment of dues increase

At its November meeting during this year's Leadership Forum, the Society Board approved the next increment of dues increase of \$5, to be effective with December 31, 2000 membership renewals.

The incremental increases were approved in 1998, with the first increment taking effect December 31, 1998. At that time, then-President Ed Waesche sent a letter to each member explaining the need for the projected increases. There are two substantial needs: To compensate for increases in the cost of doing business and to offset declining membership.

Questions or comments should be directed to Society Board members. Their names and addresses are listed in each issue of *The Harmonizer* and on the Society web site at: www.spebsqsa.org/roster.

Needed: Old recordings

Would you like to hear the Edison Four sing "Annie Laurie" in 1896, or the Peerless Quartet sing "Moonlight Bay" in 1912? Not yet, but it's coming. The Society Archives Committee has 85 to 90 percent of all the

professional barbershop recordings ever made, and we're trying to get the others. You can help make the most complete collection of barbershop recordings any-

where. You can either donate the re-



cordings or let us make a tape recording. Contact Jack Baird to let him know what you've got: Quartet, record label, song title and date (if possible). 10445 S. Kostner Ave, Oak Lawn, IL 60453 or iackbaird@aol.com.

Merchant credit card account helps sales

Here's another great benefit for chapters. SPEBSQSA has made special arrangement with Elán Financial Services to set up merchant credit card accounts that enable you to accept VISA and MasterCard payments.

What does that mean for you? Simplemore sales, more ways to distribute recordings and more ways to spread barbershop harmony.

- Make it easy for your customers to purchase show rickets by phone.
 - VISA

MasterCore

- Last-minute ordering for Singing Valentines? No problem-charge them!
- Want to sell recordings by mail or tele-٠ phone? Charge them!

Get the full story at www.spebsqsa.org/ ChapterSupport/merchantcreditcard.htm.

New Harmony College Scholarships for arrangers guartetters, directors

Quartets

The quartet that wins the Larry Ajer Memorial Scholarship will get outstanding coaching at Harmony College from the likes of Jim Debusman, Freddie King, Bill Myers, and many more. For free! Applications must be received by March 1, 2001. Please send a VHS video (preferred) or audio tape of your quartet to Revival, c/o Mike Lawton, Vice Chairman for Quartet Support, 14353 Saudhill Road, Poway, CA 92064. The scholarship covers tuition, room and board for four quartet members to be coached, as a quartet, at Harmony College. For additional qualification, application and selection information, go to www.spebsqsa.org/HCDC/ ajerscholarship.htm or call 800-876-7464 x8551.

Arrangers

The competition is now open for the 2001 Lou Perry Harmony College scholarships. Entries must be received by March 16, 2001. The top two (possibly three!) arrangements will win their arranger a free trip to Har-



mony College. Each participant will receive a detailed review of his anangement from either Dennis Driscoll (chair), Mel Knight or Burt Szabo. For more details, contact Dennis Driscoll at driscoll@mail.tca.net, 409-693-0036, or visit www.spebsqsa.org/ HCDC/louperryscholarship.htm Both of these scholarships are

provided through special endowment funds administered through Harmony Foundation.

Directors

The SPEBSQSA Board of Directors has approved 25that's right-25 full tuition scholarships for Director's College. There are only two criteria: 1) You must be a front line director of a SPEBSQSA chorus. 2) You must have never attended Director's College. Travel and other expenses are not included. All applications must be received by May 21, 2001 and will be awarded by a random draw. There are no applications or other forms for you ro fill out. Simply mail or Email your name, address, and Email address (if applicable) to:

Jerry Knickerbocker, 515 West Elm Street, Titusville, PA 16354-1424, 814-827-9347, jerrykn@csonline.net.

Anybody

Earl Moon Scholarship money is available to pay the tuition for outstanding Barbershoppers nationwide to attend Harmony College 2001, sponsored by the Whittier, California Chapter. Interested chapters should write for information before March 15 to Malcolm Lincoln, 12112 Rose Drive, Whittier CA 90601, 562-699-5765. 🔳



HARMONY HOW-TO



Don Barnick, two-time quartet gold medalist

Adjust your voice to different voice parts

urround yourself with good singers and anything is possible—I'm a case in point! I was lucky enough to be at the right place at the right time to sing tenor, baritone, and bass in three different quartets. Each presented unique challenges for me (each voice part, not quartet, Randy). A lot of technique allowed me to keep up with the other guys in the quartets. I'll attempt to explain how I approached singing each part.

In singing any of the parts, I tried to apply the four basic rules for volume relationships in barbershop chording:

- The higher one sings, the more softly one sings, relative to the melodic line
- The lower one sings, the more loudly one sings, relative to the melodic line
- · Roots and fifths of chords are sung slightly louder
- 3rds and 7ths of chords are sung slightly softer

Tenor

My tenor voice was predominantly falsetto and head voice, so it wasn't too difficult for me to sing softer on a part that was supposed to be sung softer anyway, at least for the barbershop style. The tenor's role is to be "complementary" to the melodic line—it's not a "feature" part except on some great tags. What I did was concentrate on the vowel sound "tone color." Just as higher notes are generally sung more softly, the vowel sounds should be somewhat darker to avoid sounding strident, thin ot screechy.

The darker tone color also afforded a better blend (match) with the overall ensemble sound. To get the darker vowel color, my approach was to sing the basic vowel sound (with good open-throated quality and good mouth shape) and then just lower the bulk of the tongue slightly.

Another area that I tried to "master" was the tran-



Gold medal tenor with Grandma's Boys (1979)



Finalist bari with Sidekicks (1988)



Gold medal bass with Keepsake (1992)

sition from falsetto and head voice to full voice—the vocal break. There were times when the notes were too low to effectively sing in falsetto (thanks, Jay!), so it meant switching. What worked for me was to exercise vocal glisses up and down through the break. Those exercises, and being well warmed up vocally, allowed me to make the vocal switch without noticeable "yodel-ling."

Baritone

Singing baritone, of course, took me out of the "predominantly falsetto" voice into the more natural "full voice" range as a way of life. The baritone still sings his share of 3rds and 7ths, but there are more roots and fifths, which need to be balanced effectively. I felt I had more influence in the ensemble sound when singing baritone because of the nature of the voice part, so I took the opportunities to sing stronger when singing roots and fifths, as long as it stayed within the

guidelines of good volume relationships mentioned above. I also had to be more sensitive to the "changing vocal environment"—sometimes above the lead melody, sometimes below—and how that dictated the volume relationships and tone color. I had to be more aware of precisely where I was, note-wise, in relation to the melody singet.

Like the tenor part, it's considered a "tuning" harmony part, though not as natutal to sing—and definitely not as noticeable (exception: Tony). However, I enjoyed "completing" the chords and singing those weird musical lines.

Bass

The bass part was probably the most challenging part for me in terms of vocal production, primarily because I think my natural voice part is better suited to baritone. Obviously, it's the lowest voice part of the ensemble, and in our style of singing needs to be "ever present" in terms of volume without overshadowing the melody line. With the help of an excellent vocal coach, Jim Časey (Okay, Jim, ya' owe me \$20), I was able to concentrate on creating a lot of "inner space" in singing in the lower range. I had to learn to trust the concept of not "forcing" the sound, or trying to sound "like a bass." Loads of practice helped build the confidence to sing in a relaxed manner, which allowed me to sing lower notes with good quality and still be in balance with the ensemble.

Although I received more one-onone vocal instruction for the bass part, good, "outside-the-ensemble" vocal coaching for any voice part is a must for the serious singer.

Singing in a quartet provided me with the best of times, especially since I was surrounded by good singers: Hank Brandt, Jay Giallombardo, John Miller (Grandma's Boys), Harold Nantz, Dave LaBar, Randy Loos (Sidekicks), Roger Ross, Joe Connelly, and Tony DeRosa (Keepsake). They are nine of the most talented, creative, musical, and personable individuals that the Society has to offer. Each quattet afforded exceptional learning sessions, wonderful musical experiences, amazing accomplishments, and unforgettable memories that I cherish.



"I know you'll LOVE this recording because Michigan Jake may just be the most musically unique barbershop quartet you'll ever hear. Jake combines stumning originality of vision with immaculate artistry in execution, all in just the most likable damed manner you can imagine."

-Roger Payne, Music Specialist, SPEBSQSA



Sweet Lorraine, Give Mc a Night in June, Always, Why Do I Love You?, Louise, Imagination, I'm Beginning to See the Light, You Make Mc Feel SoYoung, My Ideal, Tea for Two, All the Pretty Little Horses, Dinah, Gershwin Medley

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Society members are spreading barbershop abroad and finding that our music is truly an international language

'd like to teach the world to sing, in perfect (barbershop) harmony ... " With just a little bit of license, that familiat lyric is altered to accurately explain what is happening around the globe today. Men and women in more than 50 countries are discovering the joys of barbershop harmony.

Chapters are their own tour groups and having a grand time. Under Society auspices, hundreds of Barbershoppers and their families have witnessed the splendor of St. Petersburg, Russia as part of the annual Russian Barbershop Harmony Festival.

If you attended the World Harmony Jamboree at the Kansas City Convention, you saw the Tokyo Barbers sing their way into everyone's heart. In the eight countries where formal affiliation has been established with SPEBSQSA, there are another 3,500 men and women who regularly share the thtill of ringing a barbershop chord.

In this ever-shrinking world, it's now possible to find a barbershop experience almost anywhere you travel. And isn't that a great thing to be able to say? This wonderful, uniquely American style of singing is known throughout the world. Barbershop harmony is being sung in some of the most venerable concert halls in the world. Distinguished inusicians and music educators are inviting barbershop singers to introduce our style of singing to their students.

We Barbershoppers are part of a larger world of singers, and the truth is, we're



Reed Sampson Public relations manager for SPEBSQSA

In the Kapelle of St. Petersburg, the culturally sophisticated Russians couldn't get enough of the barbershop art form. The finale of the final concert included Russian quartets, The Great American Chorus, the Pathfinder Chorus, The Gas House Gang and a massed chorus of other touring barbershoppers.

in some mighty excellent company. A quick look at the lineup for SING! An A Cappella Celebration" the weekend preceding our international convention in Nashville will clarify that statement. We most assuredly belong to an international community of fabulous singers. Many of the world's top ensembles are putting barbershop harmony in their programs.

To Russia with love

The Gas House Gang, The Great American Chorus and the Pathfinders Chorus headlined the second annual Russian Barbershop Festival in August. The magnificent concert halls of St. Petersburg rang with barbershop harmony.

Without question, the darling of the festival was a quartet from Siberia called The Nightingales. These 9- and 10-year-olds and their director traveled by train for three days to come to St. Petersburg. Their angelic voices and faces charmed the crowd ... Russians and Americans alike. "Sweet Adeline" floated above the audience, while on stage the young performers went through their choreography. It was a special treat for all.

A Russian monastery is the least likely place you'd expect to find barbershop harmony, but that didn't

Countries where they're ringing 'em The following is the list of countries which have registered barbershop activity with the SPEBSQSA World Harmony office. (Not that we could provide all the names and addresses!) Many countries only have a quartet or two, while others have one or more choruses and/or quartets. Some countries have very active organizations within them. seem to deter the quartet of monks. The Monastery Quartet has a bass who possibly hasn't yet discovered what his lowest note actually is. Other quartets and a girls ensemble, Solyaris, added to the many joys and memories of the festival.

There were serious moments, too, when time seemingly stood still and the emotion encompassed both audience and performers. Here's how Randy Rogers of the Great American Chorus described it:

"There were two moments during the concerts that were quite moving. During the second concert at Kapelle Hall, before we sang 'Irish Blessing,' Slava, our interpreter, dedicated the song to the Russian sub-



Argentina • Australia • Austria • Belgium • Benin • Bermuda • Borneo • Brazil • British West Indies • Canada • Chite • China • Cyprus • Denmark • Fiji •



mariners, whose fate was still unknown at that time. The chorus didn't realize that he had done this. We sang the song and when it was over, there was absolute silence in the hall. Not a clap. Not

More than sight-seeing

What does all this activity mean to Joe Barbershopper? Well, for one thing, it's hundreds of "Joe Barbershoppers" who are doing it. Opportunities like these and many others are available throughout the Society. This is just a glimpse at what is going on.

Barbershop harmony is respected and sought after by some of the world's finest musicians and is respected for its beauty of expression and excitement in its presentation. It's a tribute to our hobby that so many people around the world are discovering barbershop harmony as a wonderful musical art form to both listen to and to perform. And it would seem that the world is becoming a better place with every ringing chord.

a whisper. We had no idea what was going on and thought we had somehow done something wrong. But when you looked more closely, you could see the tears on the faces of the audience. As we left the stage, we heard what had happened and we understood the reaction.

"At the final concert, there was an even more moving experience. A small ceremony was planned to honor the 55th anniversary of the end of World War II. The house lights were brought down as we statted singing 'Irish Blessing' and the Parables and the Monastery Quartet came around the wings of chorus holding lighted the candles. Toward the end of the song, the Nightingales quartet (wearing the cutest little gold vests and red bow ties) walked solemnly on stage carrying red carnations. They knelt and placed the flowers on the stage. It sounds simple, but it absolutely tore people up, audience and chorus alike. This time, we were aware of the significance. It was an incredibly powerful emotional experience. We all got it together and finished the song to a very heartfelt ovation from the crowd."

This annual event is sponsored by SPEBSQSA, the International Fine Arts Institute, and the Russian Ministry of Culture, and provides an increasing number of Barbershoppers with rhe opportunity to travel to one of the world's finest cultural centers and to spread the joy of singing, particularly barbershop harmony.

(Editor's note: See the ad in this issue for the third annual Russian Barbershop Festival, August 13-22, 2001. Dr. Greg Lyne, SPEBSQSA director of music education and services, will serve as artistic director. The festival will feature **Nightlife**, 1996 international champion, the **Big** Apple Chorus and the **Twin** Shores Chorus.)

Old World hears new sound

The Westchester Chordsmen (Westchester County, New York Chapter) were invited to be the focal point for the Italian-American Music Festival week in the County of Abruzzo, which is in the magnificent mountainous region east of Rome. Cen-

> Renee Craig directs members of the Westchester Chordsmen in an impromptu session at the Vatican.



• Finland • France • Germany • Guam • Holland • Hong Kong • Hungary • Iceland • India • Indonesia • Ireland • Israel • Italy • Japan • Kenya •





The great concert halls of St. Petersburg thundered with applause as audiences welcomed Beethoven, Brahams, Stravinsky, Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninoff In those same halls, the ovations continue as Russia discovers barbershop music!



Join the performers as part of the massed chorus



2001 concert to be broadcast on Russian national television

Perform in Philharmonia Hall, The Kapelle of St. Petersburg, and Pavlov Palace with Nightlife, Dr. Greg Lyne, Joe Hunter and the Big Apple and Twin Shores choruses

The third annual Russian Barbershop Harmony Festival, August 13-22, 2001 For travel reservations or additional information, call 414-352-1917 or email rgordon@ibm.net



tral Italy is not a prime tourist area, so the chorus was able to enjoy the laid-back Italian style, while bringing a part of American culture to a number of people who had never experienced barbershop harmony.

The center of the group's activities was the town of Sulmona, about 100 miles east of Rome. The chorus, directed by the incomparable Renee Craig, gave three concerts at various locations and did a lot of informal singing throughout the town and in nearly every restaurant they visited. Although the Chordsmen had prepared only one song in Italian, their audiences were very appreciative.

Chorus member Phil Richards writes, "Our stalwart tour leader, Stash Rossi, taught us Italian words for 'Let Me Call You Sweetheart' that brought a great reception wherever we performed them. We even used those lyrics to deliver a singing valentine to our tour

guide in Florence, bringing the same reaction as in North America – first blushes, then a broad smile and effusive thanks."

The chorus gave concerts in two other towns, one at the mountain ski

resort of Scanno and the other at the seaside resort of San Salvo. After the concert in San Salvo, they had the mayor and some of his friends singing tags.

Bad, bad boys singing ba-ba-barbershop

Those of us who heard the Tokyo Barbers turn a fun little novelty number into a show-stealing song are not soon to forget their performance on the World Hatmony Jamboree in Kansas City.

Our Japanese brothers in harmony managed to turn the tables on us a second time. Most articles (this one no different) written about barbershop experiences in



celebrity treatment wherever they performed. The tour was organized largely by Japanese barbershopper Kanno Tetsuo (shown on-stage with the <u>quartet</u>), a <u>member</u> of the Tokyo Barbers (above).

other countries, usually have some comment to the effect that, "The audience didn't understand the lyrics, but felt the emotion of the music." The hauntingly beautiful song the chorus performed in Japanese truly touched the more than 2,000 people in the audience.

But the Tokyo Barbers aren't just winning the hearts of U.S. barbershop audiences. They're doing a fine job at home, too, through the efforts of Moriyuki Ohkochi

and Tetsuo Kanno. They've had two shows with headliner quartets from the USA—the **Tropic**ho**rds** from Honolulu and 1990 International Champion, **Acoustix**.

Here is an insider's look from Ohkochi, one of the vice presidents of the Tokyo Barbers.

"When the video tapes such as the Voices, and of other top-notch quartets and choruses were introduced to Japan last year, they sort of gave another culture shock to the Japanese choral music circle and the name barbershop is gradually becoming known."

Kanno and a friend are writing a book titled "The Introduction of Barbershop Harmony" for Japanese chorus singers. Pretty heady stuff. Kanno writes that he's planning a return tour with Acoustix in May 2003 and has six shows already booked. He'll be in Nashville, too, for both SING! and the SPEBSQSA inter-

Marshall Islands
 Mexico
 Micronesia
 New Zealand
 Nigeria
 Norway
 Pakistan
 Romania
 Russia
 Saudi Arabia
 Singapore
 South Africa

January/February 2001 • The HARMONIZER 15



Members drawn from several chapters often team together to create touring choruses. Members of the 70-man Montana Millennium Chorus are drawn from eight chapters. Its members log a combined million miles a year by car to make rehearsals and performances. Thirty members of the chorus toured Austria last summer (below). The Johnny Appleseed Barbershop Singers (shown in The Netherlands) regroup every three years for a tour.





national convention.

We should all extend a hearty thank you (in Japanese that's "arigato gozaimasu") to the Tokyo Barbers and for their determination and efforts to spread the joy of barbershop harmony throughout Japan.

Benelux rings with harmony

Benelux? If you're not sure where that it is, it's an acronym for Belgium, Netherlands and Luxembourg. A group of Barbershoppers, primarily members and former members of the Johnny Appleseed District, traveled there as the JABS—Johnny Appleseed Barbershop Singers. Every three years the group is reconstituted for the purpose of making an international tour. This was the group's ninth trip. Thirty-nine singers and an equal number of traveling companions made the trip.

The trip included a concert in the city of Hertogenbosch with the Duke Town Barbershop Singers, members of the Dutch Association of Barbershop Singers (DABS) and Interstate Connections, a DABS quartet. The Dutch hosts also arranged for newspaper coverage of the visit.



Joker's Wild is Herbie's favorite game

Young New Zealand barbershop "groupie" tags with the champs

Herbert Feng is probably not a stereotypical barbershopper-a 16-year-old of Chinese decent who lives in New Zealand-but he's a great example of the universal appeal of barbershop music. Herbie had the time of his life escorting 1994 International Champion Joker's Wild during their visit to the NZABS National Convention, July 14-16, 2000. If you didn't know the meaning of "Keep rhe Whole World Singing" before, these excerpts from his bubbling report of his "brush with celebrity" may help you see that today's new barbershoppers are as enthused as they ever were.

After the Friday night chorus contest, I got to sing with the Joker's Wild when I bought their CD package. They are very good!

Saturday morning, I showed the Joker's Wild around the town. I took

them to a mall where they took more than an hour shopping for quartet shirts. While they were waiting for an experiment to finish, they sang some songs in the Gallery.

We left the museum, and I went to their hotel room to wait for them, while they prepared for their evening concert. I used the time to talk to them about the songs they sing. The quarter told the audience that they spent one hour shopping for the shirts. I was very proud of myself for having taken them out.

At the Saturday night concert, I was sitting in the front row taking photos of the Joker's Wild as they did their showcase. The lead, Jon was telling some lawyer jokes and then he said, looking at me, "Hey Herb, you are taking down the names, aren't you?" It was amazing. Thinking about thousands of people in the audience, but the Joker's only men-



tioned my name.

Sunday morning, when they were doing the "Big Sing Concert" showcase, I was selling CDs for them. Later, they thanked me for being their friend. Actually, I really wanted to thank them for being my friends. Now when I listen to their CDs, I do not only feel that I am listening to some world champion quarret singing, I feel I am listening to my friends singing. That gives me a special feeling.





NASHVILLE



Major Events

SATURDAY, JUNE 30TH

First show of the SING! AN A CAPPELLA CELEBRATION Festival.

Performers include Chanticleer, GLAD, Gas House Gang and Malaika

SUNBAY, JULY 15T

Daytime seminars with some of the festival performers and noontime performances by additional groups.

Second show of the festival including House Jacks, m-pact, Showtime and The Edlos

MONDAY, JULY 2ND

More daytime seminars with performers from SING! and other noontime performances.

Final night of shows for the festival including the Big Chicken Chorus, FRED, Riptide, For Heavens Sake and The Swingle Singers.

TUESDAY, JULY 3"

Celebrate Youth Ice Cream Social. Renaissance Hotel ballroom—*free.* Presented by Harmony Foundation with special emphasis on youth performances.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 4TH

Gold Medal Hour with PLATINUM

8:30 - 9:30 am, Renaissance Hotel—*Free!* How do they do it? Chat with the world champs. International Quartet Contest Quarterlinal Session #1 12:15 pm in the Gaylord Entertainment Center

International Quartet Contest Quarterfinal Session #2 7:15 pm in the Gaylord Entertainment Center

THURSDAY, JULY 5TH

World Harmony Jamboree - 1 - 3:30 pm Enjoy performances by barbershoppers from all over the world. Separately ticketed show.

0. C. Cash Founders Club Reception 4:30 - 6:30 pm, Renaissance Hotel By invitation. Consult Harmony Foundation

International Quartet Contest Semifinals Session 7:15 pm, Gaylord Entertainment Center

FRIDAY, JULY 6TH

Master Class with the Vocal Majority 8 - 9 am Renaissance Hotel Ballroom—*Free*. Learn how the nine-time gold medalist chorus makes things happen.

Two AIC Shows - 2:30 pm and 7 pm

SATURDAY, JULY 7TH

Chorus Finals - 10:45 am - 4 pm Watch the World Series of Barbershop Choruses.

Quartet Finals and show - 7:00 pm The best of the best compete for the Gold.

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

Nashville 2001 Festival & Convention Registration

ase ruis jount to rediates for et	ither or both events. Enjoy regular	rates until 6/1/2001.			
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	al needs require special accorr ntact you to make arrangemen		cipate in the co	nvention;	
0	June 30-July 2: Sing 2001, an A Tickots for each show \$35, or a All seats reserved.				
SING I	Saturday, Ju⊓e 30: The Gas House Gang, M	lalaika, Chanticleer, GLAD		tickets @ \$35	\$
N A CAPPELLA CELEBRATION	Sunday, July 1: The Edlos, The House J	acks, Showtimel, m-pact		tickets @ \$35	\$
	Monday, July 2: Big Chicken Chorus, FR For Heaven's Sake, Swing	ED, Rìptide, gle Singers		lickets @ \$35	\$
	Sing 2001I All Shows Pas	s — see all three for just \$9	0!	lickets @ \$90	\$
		SUBTOTA	L of Sing 2001	Festival Events	\$
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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 malled 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. *Registrations may be transferred to another person, but they are* NOT *refundable. No phone orders, please.*



SPE	CIAL EVENTS ORDER FORM
Ladies' Breakfast Thursday, 9 am @ \$15 each \$	Advance orders for special events must be received in Kenosha by June 1, 2001. <i>Refunds cannot be processed after</i> <i>that date.</i> A limited number of tickets will be available for
World Harmony Jamboree Thursday, 1 pm @ \$25 each \$ @ \$22 each \$ @ \$20 each \$ College Quartet Contest Friday 10 am	purchase during convention week in the registration area. Mail this form with credit card information, check or money order for the total amount, made out to SPEBSQSA, Inc., to: SPEBSQSA Special Events 6315 Harmony Lane, Kenosha, WI 53143-5199 fax 262-654-5552
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The Cumberland River

Nashville is a city of many faces. Along with Nashville's musical heritage, there is a long tradition of artistic and educational excellence which has carned us a reputation as the "Athens of the South."

Food and Culture

The cultural horizons in Nashville are broad and farreaching. Whether you have a hankering for Monet or medieval castles, an antebellum mansion or African sculpture, paté or pork chops, you can find something to appeal to everyone. The reasons for visiting this "Athens of the South" are as limitless as the possibilities once you arrive.

The city's art museum is housed here in an exact replica of The Parthenon. Step inside and come face to foot with Athena Parthenos, a 42-foot statue which happens to be the tallest indoor sculpture in the Western world.

One of the more picturesque settings for art collections can be found in a 1920s mansion once inhabited by the Cheek family of Maxwell Coffee fame. Cheekwood, Nashville's Home of Art and Gardens, features three floors of 19th and 20th century American art as well as major travelling art exhibitions like the Andrew Wyeth collection. In addition, Cheekwood offers 55 acres of lush botanical



The Parthenon

gardens and a Botanic Hall with flower shows and gardening exhibitions.

For a gourmet meal in elegant surroundings, the Wild Boar fits the bill. Mario's Ristorante has won every major restaurant award with its Italian fare. Jimmy Kelly's, a Nashville tradition, serves up steaks, veal and lamb in a picturesque Victorian home.

Arthur's in the historic Union Station Hotel and the Capitol Grille in the Westin Hermitage Suite Hotel are two other equally lavish options. Many restaurants are experimenting with Southern cuisine, and the results are truly savory. Cafe 123, South Street, and the Bound'ry are all popular for their new twist on old favorites.

The relaxed atmosphere of many restaurants belies the delights in store for dincrs. Belle Meade Brasserie is a mouth watering example, as is Finezza Trattoria and Sunset Grill, *the* stop for those "doing lunch" (or dinner) on Music Row. Places like Brown's Diner, Elliston Place Soda Shop and Rotier's are the most deceptive, for their rough-hewn surroundings offer up heavenly burgers, malts, and other such simple fare rendered extraordinary.

Music City USA

The Nashville Sound encompasses a wide range of musical styles and a chorus of different voices. It is soul stirring



JUNE 30 - JULY 2, 2001

AN A CAPPELLA CELEBRATION

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE



COMPLETE show, seminar and ticket information may be found online through the SING! website at.....

...of seminars, demonstrations and performances open to the public, featuring appearances by professional and nonprofessional singing groups known in the worlds of country, gospel, classical, pop, rock, jazz and barbershop music!









SPEBSQSA Chorus Finalists from Marietta, Georgia!

PLUS: "Sessions with the Stars"

SEMINAR TOPICS INCLUDE:

Blending voices in close harmony
 Imitating instrumental sounds
 Scat singing
 Microphone techniques
 Staging
 Advanced rehearsal techniques
 Advanced rehearsal techniques



Daytime seminars will feature many of the night time headliners <u>plus</u> SPEBSQSA's 2000 Champs: <u>PLATINUM!</u> Hear each artist share performance tips in seminars and demonstrations!





What <u>Is</u> This Thing Called Sing!?

The answer will be found in Nashville, Tennessee from June 30 - July 2, 2001 when representatives from the widely diverse world of a cappella harmony singing meet for three days of seminars, demonstrations and performances open to the public in the heart of Music City, USA.

Formally called "Sing!, An A Cappella Celebration," the event will feature performances by professional and nonprofessional singing groups known in the worlds of country, gospel, classical, pop, rock, jazz and barbershop music. A cappella harmony is produced without instrumental accompaniment.

Sing! is being sponsored by SPEBSQSA, the international barbershop harmony society for men, in cooperation with seven other organizations interested in harmony singing. Organizers believe that Sing! is the biggest event of its kind.

Later in the week, SPEBSQSA will hold its 2001 international convention and

contests, also in Nashville. The convention is a separate event from *Sing!* It will be attended by more than 10,000 of the society's members and guests.

Three Singl shows will be staged in the Andrew Jackson Hall at the Tennessee Performing Arts Center beginning at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, June 30; Sunday, July 1 and Monday, July 2. Performers include *The Swingle Singers* and *Chanticleer*, two Grammy award-winning groups who regularly tour throughout the world; *FRED* and *The Gas House Gang*, SPEBSQSA gold medalists; contemporary Christian singers *GLAD*, and *Showtime*, Sweet Adelines gold medalists.

Also appearing will be *Malaika*, an Afro-Canadian women's quartet; the *House Jacks; m-pact; For Heavens Sake*, Harmony, Inc. gold medalists, and *Riptide* quartets; the 100-member *Big Chicken Chorus*, and *The Edlos* who combine comedy with their country and pop close-harmony singing.

Many of these top concert ensembles, plus *PLATINUM*, SPEBSQSA's current international quartet champion, and others, will share performance tips in two days of seminars and demonstrations at the Renaissance Nashville Hotel. Interact with them, and learn firsthand how they do what they do in ropics rhat range from advanced rehearsal techniques to how they achieve their magic on stage. In addition to these valuable sessions, many of the groups will perform for attendees in a lunchtime Talent Showcase series set for both Sunday, July 1 and Monday, July 2.

Joining SPEBSQSA in sponsoring *Singl* are Sweet Adelines International and Harmony Incorporated, who both offer a cappella singing opportunities for women; the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA), the Contemporary A Cappella Society of America (CASA), the Music Educators National Conference (MENC), Primarily A Cappella and Mainely A Cappella .~

Schedule of Performances

Andrew Jackson Hall Tennessee Performing Arts Center • 505 Deaderick Street All performances 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, June 30, 2001

The Gas House Gang • Malaika • Chanticleer • GLAD

Sunday, July 1, 2001

The Edlos • House Jacks • Showtime! • m-pact

Monday, July 2, 2001

Big Chicken Chorus • For Heaven's Sake • FRED Riptide • The Swingle Singers

Seminars & Vocal Demonstrations

Renaissance Nashville Hotel · 611 Commerce Street

Sunday, July 1, 2001

10:00-10:45 - Opening Session with Chanticleer 12:30-2:00 - Talent Showcase (Friends, Live Wire) 2:30-3:30 - Malaika, The Gas House Gang 4:00-5:00 - Showtime, Arranging-close harmony style

Monday, July 2, 2001

9:30-10:30 - Edlos, House Jacks 11:00-12:00 - m-pact, For Heaven's Sake 12:30-2:00 - Talent Showcase (PLATINUM, Showvinistics) 2:30-3:30 - PLATINUM, Voices of Lee 4:00-5:00 - Closing Session with The Swingle Singers Program subject to change without notice



Tickets and Information

Tickets for each event are available separately. Reserved seats for the performances at the Tennessee Performing Arts Center are \$35 per night. Admission to the seminars at the Renaissance Nashville Hotel is \$20 per day, or \$35 total for both days. An all-events *Sing!* pass, featuring a reserved sear for all three shows and admission ro all seminars, is \$90.

Hotels

Sing! registrants will receive information on special rares available at the Renaissance Nashville Horel and the Doubletree Hotel. Both are in downtown Nashville.

To Buy Tickets

Register for Sing! and order performance and seminar tickets ONLINE, including the all-events *Sing!* pass, by visiting **Singacappella.com**. Or call **SPEBSQSA** roll-free at **1-800-876-SING** (7464)

or write to: Sing! SPEBSQSA · 6315 Harmony Lane · Kenosha, WI 53143

Questions?

Email your question to Sing2001@SPEBSQSA.org or call 1-800-876-SING



blues, a classical symphony, heartfelt gospel, alternative rock, the sweet sound of bluegrass, and a country extravaganza. It is all about time honored traditions as well as cutting edge innovations. Nashville is the embodiment of many facets, and for this reason, it defies stereotype.

For countless musicians, Nashville has long been the mecca of creative energy and opportunity needed to spark a career. From country to bluegrass to blues to rock-nroll, Music City had a hand in anointing those who would become legends through their talent. Today, the names have changed, but Nashville remains a stomping ground for the stars of tomorrow.

The Grand Ol' Opry occupies a large part in the collective imagination of aspiring musicians as interview after interview with the stars relates how they knew they had finally "made it" when they were standing on that hallowed stage.

Another musical monument is the famed Music Row. The formation of the Acuff-Rose publishing company on 17th Avenue touched off the development of various music-related businesses. One of the most famous is RCA's Studio B. A veritable "who's who" of recording artists are part of the studio's history. The all-star roster includes Elvis, the Everly Brothers, Waylon Jennings and Dolly Parton.

The Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum is also located on Musie Row and a fabulous new facility is currently under construction downtown.



The Grand Ole Opry takes center stage In Opryland.

Hollywood, Tootsie's Orchid Lounge, Robert's, Legends Corner, Buffalo Billiards and Graham Central Station are all options for those with an appetite for action.

Just up the Cumberland River from The District shines another entertainment metropolis, the Opryland complex. Opryland includes the 4,400-seat Grand Ole Opry House- home of the Grand Ole Opry, the *General Jackson* Showboat, the television studios of TNN: The Nashville Network which is now owned by CBS and operates studios in the Grand Ole Opry House, the Springhouse Golf Club, the soon-to-be-completed Opry Mills Shopping

and Entertainment Complex and the magnificent Opryland Hotel.

Left: Riverfront Park. Below: Cheekwood

Entertainment

Once in town, visitors quickly discover where the hot spots for entertainment and music are. The District is a 16-block downtown area packed with celectic restaurants, trendy boutiques, and hip nightclubs and concert venues. The Wildhorse Saloon, the Hard Rock Cafe, Planet





NASHVILLE TOUR INFORMATION

Tour A

Music City Swing Tour 4 hours, escorted

COST: Adults \$43 Children \$39

On this exciting tour, you will see the many surprising facets of Music City, USA; old and new country music and culture. The tour begins with a drive through historic downtown Nashville. Then our highlight—the brand spanking new Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum. Our final journey is a drive through Centennial Park, home of The Parthenon (the Parthenon is closed Sunday and Monday but the bus will stop for visitors to walk around the building and see some of its charm). Admission fees to The Parthenon and the Country Music Hall of Fame arc included in the price.

Sunday, July 1	1 pm - 5 pm
·· ·	9 am - 1 pm 1 pm - 5 pm
	9 am - 1 pm
Tuesday, July 3	l pm - 5 pm
Wednesday, July 4	9 am to 1 pm
Thursday, July 5	9 am - 1 pm
Friday, July 6	9 am - 1 pm
Friday, July 6	1 pm - 5 pm
	Monday, July 2 Monday, July 2 Tuesday, July 3 Tuesday, July 3 Wednesday, July 4 Thursday, July 5 Friday, July 6

Tour B

The Hermitage 4 hours, escorted

Cost: Adult \$32 Children \$25

Nashville's national treasure—The Hermitage is the home of the 7th President of the United States, Andrew Jackson. It provides a fantastic tour experience. In his home life, Jackson was the opposite of tough "Old Hickory" of the battlefield. It was built as a monument to home and family, not power. Visit the mansion itself, Tulip Grove, Rachel's Garden and many original out buildings.

B-1	Sunday, July 1	l pm - 5 pm
B-2	Monday, July 2	1 pm - 5 pm
B-3	Thursday, July 5	9 am - 1 pm

Tour C

Cheekwood/Belle Meade 4 hours, escorted

Cost: Adult \$42 Children \$38

Belle Meade Plantation, originally 5,400 acres and known as the "Queen of Tennessee Plantations" was developed into a world famous thoroughbred nursery and stud farm. Then we travel to Cheekwood, the estate of Leslie Cheek, who brought Maxwell House coffee to our tables. The home is now a Fine Arts Museum and home to Nashville's Botanic Gardens. Admission fees are included.

C-1	Sunday, July 1	1 pm - 5 pm
C-2	Tuesday, July 3	9 am - 1 pm
C-3	Thursday, July 5	1 pm - 5 pm

Tour D

Jack Daniels distillery tour 7 hours, escorted Cost: Adult \$53

Seventy miles south of Nashville is Lynchburg, Tennessee, the birthplace of Jack Daniel's Whiskey. Founded in 1866, it is the oldest registered distillery in the country. A guided tour will highlight the whiskey making process, aging barn, and Mr. Jack's original office. We'll enjoy our "mid-day dinner" at Miss Mary Bobo's—just like Jack did. Some climbing of stairs involved in tbis tour.

D-1	Monday, July 2	9 am - 4 pm
D-2	Tuesday, July 3	9 am - 4 pm
D-3	Thursday, July 5	9 am - 4 pm
D-4	Friday July 6	9 am - 4 pm

Tour E

Opryland Hotel/Backstage at the Grand Ole Opry 4 hours, escorted

Cost: Adult \$32 Children \$28

Our first stop today is the world famous Opryland Hotel, and its nine acres of indoor gardens. You're on your own to shop and/or sight-see. Then we'll take a short journey to the Grand Ole Opry. A behind-the-scenes tour will share the secrets of America's longest running radio show. Subject to last minute cancellation by the Gaylord Entertainment folks. In that event, a tour of the famous Ryman Theater will be substituted. Lunch is included in the price.

E-1	Sunday, July I	1 pm - 5 pm
E-2	Monday, July 2	l pm - 5 pm
E-3	Tuesday, July 3	1 pm - 5 pm
E-4	Wednesday, July 4	l pm - 5 pm
E-5	Thursday, July 5	1 pm - 5 pm
E-6	Friday, July 6	1 pm - 5 pm

Tour F

Victorian Franklin 6 hours, escorted Cost: Adult \$69 Children \$53

Eighteen miles south of Nashville lies the historic, Victorian town of Franklin. The original 19th century downtown is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The Battle of Franklin, one of the bloodiest of the Civil War, occurred here. You will tour the Carter House, a middle-class family home caught in the middle of the conflict. Admission cost and lunch are included in the price.

F-1	Tuesday, July 3	10 am - 4 pm
F -2	Friday, July 6	10 am - 4 pm

Tour G

Colorful Columbia 7 hours, escorted

Cost: Adult \$68 Children \$60

Historic Columbia, home of America's 11th President, James K. Polk, is an architecture and history buff's delight. You'll tour the oldest church in Tennessee, St. John's Episcopal, and Hamilton Place, one of the finest brick Paladian homes in America. Our final stop is Rattle and Snap Plantation, one of the finest examples of Greek Revival architecture in the nation. Price includes lunch and admission fees.

G-1 Thursday, July 5 9 am - 4 pm

Tour H

Southern Mansions 6 hours, escorted

Cost: Adult \$68 Children \$60

This is a longer, more extensive tour of the Belle Meade Plantation and Cheekwood Estate as described in Tour C above. This tour also includes lunch at the Belle Meade Plantation.

H-1 Wednesday, July 4 10 am - 4 pm

Tour J

Mammoth Cave 7 hours, escorted Cost: Adult \$56 Child \$50

Visit one of the natural wonders of the world—Mammoth Cave. On your ranger-led tour, you'll visit the large passage referred to initially as the Main Cave. You'll learn about the Cave's creation by water, the absence of typical cave formations, the cultural history and contemporary environmental concerns. Admission fees and lunch included. Parts of this tour are strenuous and require climbing and descending steps.

J-1 Tuesday, July 3 9 am - 4 pm

Tour K

Tunica Gaming Tour Post Convention 26 hours, escorted Cost : Adult \$115

An overnight, post-convention trip to the nation's third largest gaming destination. Leave Nashville at 10 am on Sunday and return at noon on Monday. It is a four-hour bus ride from Nashville to Tunica. You'll arrive at approximately 2 pm and check into the Grand Casino Resort in Tunica. You are basically on your own until the morning. Breakfast is at 7 am and we will meet in the hotel lobby at 7:45 am for a departure at 8 am. Price includes overnight accommodations at the Grand Casino Hotel and a buffet breakfast on Monday morning.

K-1 Sunday, July 8 - Monday, July 9 10 am - Noon

NASHVILLE TOURS ORDER FORM -

Tour A — Mus	sic City Tour 4 hours	escorted		Tour F — Victorian Franklin 4 Hours escorted	
Cost: Adults	\$43 Chlidren \$39			Cost: Adult \$69 Children \$50	
A-1	Sun, 7/1	1 pm - 5 pm	\$	F-1 Tue, 7/3 10 am - 4 pm \$	
A-2	Mon, 7/2	9 am - 1 pm	\$	F-2 Fn, 7/6 10 am - 4 pm \$	
A-3	Mon, 7/2	1 pm - 5 pm	\$	Tour G — Colorful Columbia 7 hour escorted	
A- 4	Tue, 7/3	9 am - 5 pm	\$	Cost: Adult \$68 Child \$60	
A-5	Tue, 7/3	1 pm - 5 pm	\$	G-1 Thu, 7/5 9 am - 4 pm \$	
A- 6	Wed, 7/4	9 am - 1 pm	\$		
A-7	Thu, 7/5	9 am - 1 pm	\$ \$	Tour H — Southern Manslons 6 hours escorted	
A-8	Fri, 7/6	9 am - 1 pm	\$	Cost: Adult \$68 Children \$60	
A-9	Fri, 7/6	1 pm - 5 pm	\$	H-1 Wed, 7/4 10 am - 4 pm \$	
	Hermitage 4 hour es \$32 Children \$25	scorted		Tour J - Mammoth Cave 7 hours escorted Cost: Adult \$56 Child \$50	
B-1	Sun, 7/1	1 pm - 5 pm	\$	J-1 Tues, 7/3 9 am - 4 pm \$	
B-2	Mon, 7/2	1 pm - 5 pm	\$	Tour K - Post Convention to Tunica, Mississippi	
В-3	Thu, 7/5	9 am - 1 pm	\$	Cost: Adult \$115 No Children	
	,		•	K-1 Sun 7/8 - Mon 7/9 10 am - Noon \$	
	ekwood/Belle Meade	4 hour escorted			
	\$42 Children \$38			Mail completed form above with credit card information or	ahaak
C-1	Sun, 7/1	1 pm - 5 pm	\$	•	CHECK
C-2	Tue, 7/3	9 am - 1 pm	\$	in the total amount, made payable to SPEBSQSA, to:	
C-3	Thu, 7 /5	1 pm - 5 pm	\$	SPEBSQSA Nashville Tours, 6315 Harmony Lane,	
Tour D — Jac	k Daniels Distillery 7	7 hours escorted		Kenosha, WI 53143 fax 262-654-5552.	
Cost: \$53				MasterCard (no other cards accepted)	
D-1	Mon, 7/2	9 am - 4 pm	\$ \$ \$		
D-2	Tue, 7/3	9 am - 4 pm	\$		кр
D-3	Thu, 7/5	9 am - 4 pm	\$		-
D-3 D-4	Fri, 7/6	9 am - 4 pm	\$	EMAILMEMBER #	
Tour E — Opi	ryland Hotel/Backstag	e at the Grand Ole O	pry		
4 hours escort	ed			NAME	
Cost: Adult \$	32 Children \$28				
E-1	Sun, 7/1	1 pm - 5 pm	\$	STREET	
E-2	Mon, 7/2	1 pm - 5 pm	\$		
E-3	Tue, 7/3	1 pm - 5 pm	\$ \$	CITY STATE ZIP	
E-4	Wed, 7/4	1 pm - 5 pm	\$		
E-5	Thu, 7/5	1 pm - 5 pm	\$ \$	TELEPHONE ()	
E-6	Frì, 7/6	1 pm - 5 pm	\$	To avoid tour cancellations, please book tours well in adva	nce!

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Departing with style

A poignant finale for a man who wanted to die singing

By Mark Holmberg, Richmond-Times Dispatch, December 17, 2000

he 82-year-old Hanover county farmer told his family that, if he had to go, he wanted to die on his tractor, or while singing.

Mr. Rice, one of the lead singers for the barbershop chorus **The Virginians**, was arriving for practice Monday at River Road Presbyterian Church. The chorus was to offer its legendary harmo-

nies at today's Alden Aatoe Shoe Fund for Children extravaganza.

About 60 were already at practice, singing, "We Wish You A Merry Christmas."

Mr. Rice collapsed. Some of his fellow barbershop singers rushed to his side, recalled Mike Wallen, chorus director for The Virginians. The others continued singing,

switching to "The Lord's Prayer" to lift their hrother's heart.

One of the members asked Mr. Rice: "Leroy, can you hear them singing? They're singing for you," Wallen said he was told. Mr. Rice seemed to relax, and said, "I can hear it."

He died of a heart attack soon after an ambulance took him away—as The Virginians sang one of Mr. Rice's most beloved songs, "The Irish Blessing."

He was buried Thursday, Today's 3 p.m. performance by The Virginians at the Landmark Theater is dedicated to Mr. Rice. And not just because he was a lead singer and an almost 20-year member of the chorus.

"He was quite a person," Wallen said. "He never missed an event, and he always had a smile on his face."

Mr. Rice was a man of the carth, born on his father's 300-acre Hanovertown Farm. He lived and worked there all his life, except for a tour in occupied Germany during World War II. "He used to tell me he loved dirt more than he loved me," Joyce Rice said, repeating one her husband's favorite teases. They would have been married 50 years in January.

Mr. Rice worked hard on the farm and stayed trim. "We buried him in his wedding suit, with the buttons buttoned," Mrs. Rice said.

Chorus members called him "The Melon Man," because he would bring vegetables and melons to rehearsals and

> sell them at discount rates to chorus members, Wallen said. Then he'd donate the money to The Virginian's adoptive charity.

Mr. Rice sang all of his life.

"He was singing when I met him," Mrs. Rice said. "Church choirs, community choirs."

His children and grandchildren always heard him singing

"Happy Birthday" on their birthdays, no matter where they were. "Everybody got the call," said daughter Gayle Rice.

Last night, some of the Rices' children and grandchildren filled the family farmhouse, comforting Mrs. Rice and decorating the family Christmas tree.

During Thursday's burial on the family farm, Mr. Rice's children carried him to his riverside gravesite. Earlier, during the funeral service, The Virginians sang "The Irish Blessing," as they will today.

"He sang that for a lot of folks," Mrs. Rice said. "So they sang that for him as he was leaving."

It's a simple song that speaks to the way Mr. Rice lived, Wallon said. The lyrics read:

"May the road rise to meet you. May the wind be always at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face. May the rain fall soft upon your fields. And until we meet again, may He hold you in His hands. May God hold you in the palms of His hands."



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MasterCarc





ing manner, but passed out of

this life in grand fashion.

Your greatest performance this year may take place on someone else's show

s a barbershop performer, you may find that some of your greatest on-stage highs will take place far away from a competitive stage or chapter show.

Over last Independence Day weekend, members of at least three Society choruses appeared in concert with major symphonies. These performances exposed new audiences to the barbershop style of music, and for members of these choruses created a wonderful performance experience that won't soon be forgotten.

Now is the time to start shooting for the stars. Just realize that performance opportunities like this don't fall from the sky. They require the right kind of contacts and community involvement, and come to fruition only after a lot of hard work. However, after all the preparations are over, and thousands of new barbershop fans stand in applause, it's definitely worth it.

Whether or not your chapter is in a major metropolitan area, the same principles apply in setting up joint appearances with other groups.

Two patriotic performances

San Diego. The San Diego Chapter's Sun Harbor Chorus experienced a thrilling performance opportunity as part of the San Diego symphony Summer Pops opening program of the 2000 season. Also featured were the San Diego Chorus of Sweet Adelines, Int., **Revival**, and **Acappella Gold**, as well as the U.S. Navy Band, Southwest. It was an absolutely smashing production, and we had a ball performing before two sold-out audiences of 2,700 each on the Navy Pier overlooking San Diego Bay.

A cappella presentations were made by cach chorus and the quartets which gave us the chance to showcase some pure barbershop. The standing ovations may have been for the symphony and the fireworks displayed during the finale, "Stars And Stripes Forever," but we chose to believe it was for the Barbershoppers. Felt like it to us.

Salt Lake City. The Saltaires, paired with the Utah Symphony, played to packed houses at two famous mountain resorts on July 1 and 3. "It's a Grand Old Flag!" declared the symphony's ads, posters and Web sites. Deer Valley's crowd approached 4,000, The ballad, "Just Like a Butterfly That's Caught in the Rain," raised goose bumps and brought tears to the eyes of many, and the rip-roaring arrangement of "Swanee" nearly exploded devotees from the hillside turf. The crowd was applauding six measures before the end of the piece.

The symphony and Saltaires have developed a great respect for each other over the last year, and each musician looks forward to the collaborative effort.

How to get these performances

The story is one of active marketing and of being opportunistic, in the best sense of that word. A Sun Harbor chapter member encountered the symphony director at an Optimist Club meeting in 1999, where the conductor was the speaker. Introductions were made and cards exchanged, but then we didn't hear from the symphony for several months. Meanwhile, the Chapter had been invited to sing with the San Diego Chamber Orchestra, as the result of contacts made at a mixer of the San Diego Convention & Visitors Bureau, of which the San Diego chapter is a member. We were unaware that the symphony conductor had sent his representatives to see that performance, and a week later, we received a message from the symphony inviting Sun Harbor to sing with them on the 4th of July weekend, 2000!

Likewise, for the Saltaires, it was a matter of being opportunistic. One of the Saltaires' daughters is a student of the concert master violinist of the symphony, and having attended one of our shows, she suggested to Kory Katseanes, associate director of the symphony, that the Saltaires would be an excellent choice for collaboration on a patriotic program.

Marketing lessons

- Many of our most significant performances come from chapter members' affiliations with other community organizations.
- Active participation in the local convention and visitors bureau or similar organization, puts the chorus in touch with the entertainment and tourist industry, whose other members are constantly looking for good entertainment for their conventions and special events. We no longer use the phrase that "Sun Harbor is the best kept secret in town," because we are *not*!
- The initial contact must be followed



On July 4, The Southern Gateway Chorus joined the Cincinnati Pops Orchestra on national television in a live PBS telecast entitled "From the Heartland."

up by *solid musical leadership*, especially when working with a symphony conductor. In San Diego, we are most fortunate to have a director who is on a par with the symphony conductor, but the lesson is to put forth the most talented and knowledgeable musicians in each chorus to work with a symphony or other professional musical organizations.

- Put marketing before the chapter members as a opportunity for each man to pursue.
- Appoint a marketing director for the chapter, through whom all requests for performance must pass, so he can then contact the music team and the chorus manager to clear the date, check the venue and put the ball in motion to make the performance happen.

The challenge and the preparation

In some ways, the Sun Harbor performance with the symphony was easier than one of our own shows:

- The venue was selected.
- All tickets were sold by the symphony. (We did provide them with our mailing labels.)
- Most of the publicity was done by the symphony.

In other ways, the performance presented some new challenges for example, in the case of Sun Harbor:

- The music was difficult and the chorus had performed just once before with a smaller symphony (in 1999). In addition, the chorus was performing with the Sweet Adelines and the Navy Band. This was a challenge that required commitment from everyone. Our music director, Ron Black, provided excellent instruction, and the chorus members provided their individual best effort. The chorus practiced three times a week for a full month, and in the last week, we practiced every night.
- Coordination in music was required. As stated above, it was critical that

The Maestra speaks: making music together



Symphony performances are a twoway street—the symphony must find equal benefit in the experience. Maestra Miriam Burns, conductor of the

Kenosha Symphony Orchestra, shares her observations on what made a recent holiday performance with the Great American Chorus a success for everyone involved.

What makes an event like this attractive to the Symphony? It is most gratifying to conduct a chorus and orchestra together. The local angle provides an additional connection from the audience to the performer and helps us reach newer audiences. If we get the other group's friends and family in the door of the symphony for the first time, we know that a taste of our quality will bring them back.

How did your musicians feel about it? They loved it—I just told them there would be 70 handsome men on the risers! Musically, the orchestra

our music leadership matched that of the symphony. A number of the songs had to be rearranged, either by the symphony or the chorus. We were successful because we had the talent to do so.

 It took a lot of administrative coordination. The chorus needed to coordinate its rehearsals and plans with not only the symphony but also Sweet Adelines.

Benefits to the chapter

Members of both choruses experienced a "high" that several members said exceeded the thrill of singing on the International stage. Our wonderful harmony was presented to new audiences for the first time. And the symphony attracted a lot of patrons who would not have been there, had it not been for the barbershop choruses. If fact, in San Diego, the symphony sold out its opening summer concerts for the *first* time! As the result of this performance, both chapters gained several new members. The Saltaires had more than a dozen men start the audition process, and the Harbor Chorus reinstated several former

was happy to break out of the norm for a change. Holiday music is particularly wellsuited to these collaborations.

The Hanley Jackson score (A Barbershop Christmas, available for rental from SPEBSQSA) was great material—it's the perfect length, and doesn't require vast personnel, making it accessible to the smaller-budget orchestra.

What's the preparation like for the Orchestra? The score required minimum rehearsal time for the Orchestra. I attended the Chorus' last rehearsal and heard them sing it through—wow! Their sound, intonation and blend are unbelievable. I discussed a few points with [GAC director] Dr. Lyne, and we were pretty much set.

Dress rehearsal was the first time both groups actually worked together. Everyone was well prepared, and it didn't take long to put finishing touches on it.

And the result ...? Our audience was most enthusiastic. It was a first-rate performance, since the level of choral performance was so staggeringly high. It was absolutely a pleasure for everyone involved.

members and had others join. Both chapters received many complimentary cards and requests to be on chapter mailing lists. Both chapters received tremendous exposure to the wider performing arts community and provided the members with new musical and artistic experiences. Members gained solid confidence in the ability to perform with anyone.

Behind this great opportunity were activities that should be no secret to anyone. They just need to be done:

- Actively market the chorus as quality entertainment
- Be opportunistic
- Aggressively follow through
- Secure the commitment and hard work from the performing chorus.





Lu Quinney President of the Sun Harbor Chorus Gary Forsberg VP of PR and markeling for The Sallaires


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CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

The many ways we Sing . . . for life

New focus for the Society's charitable mission

S

PEBSQSA is truly a charitable organization. We have proven that over and over since our organization's founding in 1938. In the early years, Barbershoppers helped many local charities. In 1959, Harmony Foundation was incorporated to

add charitable and non-profit starus ro our organization. In the 1960s, our charitable thrust moved into a new era when we adopted a Unified Service Project. Since 1964, Barbershoppers have generously donated over \$16 million to Logopedics/Heartspring for the benefit of nearly two thousand young people.

Over the past three years, we have



touched the lives of 10,000 young people all over North America by providing Harmony Foundation grants to organizations that help youngsters to experience the joy of

music and singing. Now we are entering another exciting era for our "charitable organization" as we move firmly into the 21st century.

On November 4, 2000, the SPEBSQSA Board of Directors made a very positive step in solidifying our Society's charitable mission. This was done by approving nine recommendations offered by the Charitable Mission Task Force, consisting of Jim Eldridge, Tim Hanrahan, Bob House, John Krizek and Dick Shaw—two past Society presidents, two past district presidents and a past Society board member.

The essence of the approved recommendations is as follows:

 The SPEBSQSA charitable mission is an integral part of our organization's core purpose. It is

SPEBSQSA support of Heartspring is to be focused on linking vocal music to the treatment or improvement of mental and physical disabilities in children. This returns us to the intent established with the Institute of Logopedics over 30 years ago. an equal partner with our quest for improving singing and performing, nurturing fellowship and increasing membership. The charitable mission of SPEBSQSA is to preserve our musical legacy though support of vocal music



education in our schools and communities. The new charitable mission redefines how we view service projects. Harmony Foundation is the "official" SPEBSQSA charity, and organizarions (including chapters and districts) which have projects that meet the SPEB-SQSA mission may request financial support through Harmony Foundation grants.

- It is extremely important to the overall image, reputation and public appreciation of SPEBSQSA that this charitable mission be supported on a Society-wide basis. It is a clear and compelling cause that ties together our educational and charitable purposes.
- Chapters are encouraged to seek local causes which meet their chapter's and Society's vision and mission statements. A balance of supporting the charitable mission statement in their local area and supporting national projects through Harmony Foundation will provide local and national success and recognition.
- To focus the Society's charitable support on its vision statement and charitable mission statement, and in consideration of governmental and societal changes during the past 30 years, charitable support of Heartspring is to be focused on research and education,

linking vocal music to the treatment or improvement of multiple mental and physical disabilities in children. This also returns us to the intent of the relationship which was established with the Institute of Logopedics over thirty years ago.

- The maintenance of the Society's archives is a vital part of the Society's past, present and future. Therefore the cost of the daily operation of the archives and its staffing will be part of the Society's annual work plan and budget. Special archival outreach ptojects, however, may be funded by Harmony Foundation grants.
- The Society's "Keep a Melody Ringing" Endowment Fund will be used for projects which support outreach activities or otherwise serve to create a positive image for the Society.
- The district officers who oversee the fund raising for the charitable mission—the district service chairmen and district endowment representatives—will be supervised and guided by the Harmony Foundation's development committee.
- The Society will support and facilitate Harmony Foundation's fund raising efforts enthusiastically. The Society and districts will make every effort to provide space and time at their conventions and schools to support the charitable mission.
- The Foundation will expend a greater effort to secure outside grants for Society projects and sponsorships for Society programs and events.

Our fund raising slogan for 2000 was so popular we are extending it into 2001. "Brother, Can You Spare a Dime?" says a lot. If every Barbershopper dropped one thin dime in a jar every day and dedicated that to the Harmony Foundation General Fund, we would have over a million dollars to use to change thousands of lives. With chapter and quartet gifts to the General Fund the potential is almost unlimited. Harmony Foundation is your charity. Be proud of how your charity can help others, Sing ... for life.



Chuck Watson President, SPEBSQSA Board of Directors Winona Area Barbershoppers SINCE 2000

ADOPT



UNABLE TO HAVE a highway of their own, they decided to adopt. Actually, the members of the Winona. Minn. chapter have bagged themselves quite a nice road gig. In addition to keeping a corner of their community spotless and building goodwill, they get a chance to show off their flashy new duds.

Cheating for charity

The Flint Arrowhead Barbershop chorus decided to take off some weight, hoping it would make them better singers. As an added incentive, they pledged to donate a dollar to the Harmony Foundation for every pound lost over a period of eight months, with an unofficial goal of 500 pounds and \$500.

In the photo, newly elected Flint Chapter President Doug Lynn expresses joy over what a marvelous job he has done. The fact is, he set a near world speed record for weight loss, shedding 11 pounds while this photo was being shot. (Some would claim it was

Doug Lynn set a world speed record for weight loss (sort of) because Chapter Secretary Guy Hissong was pushing down the back of the scales, causing the front to rise. If so, is that any worse than the guys who claimed to have lost weight only to find that the "scale was off" that evening? Hey, 11 bucks is 11 bucks!)

All in all, it was a great way to tell the guys that they lost 150 pounds, and the donation of \$150 would be made in good faith. Whether they lost weight or not, the members of the chorus allegedly spent the rest of the evening hiking up their pants as if they no longer fit.

You gave them something to sing about

magine this: You're back in high school, walking down the crowded hall, when a colorful poster hanging outside the music room catches your eye: A high school barbershop quartet contest? What's that all about? You find out that the local barbershop chapter is sponsoring a contest for area high school boys' and girls' quartets ... and there are cash prizes!

You round up three other friends, work with the music teacher to learn a couple of songs, and before you know

it, you're up on the contest stage, performing fot hundreds of screaming friends and classmates ... and

you win! Along with the trophies and adulation from family and friends, there's more! Your quartet and your music teacher get to travel to Harmony College for an all-expense paid week of coaching and learning more about the barbershop style! Unbelievable! Well, it's true, thanks to a generous grant from the Society's Harmony Foundation.

The Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, chapter has been actively promoting quartetting in

THE TREBLESOME FOUR received a scholarship to the Sweet Adelines' equivalent of Harmony College, where the quartet took a silver medal. They are Crystal Rogier, Lisa Gouge, Meredith Covington and Courtney Bowden.





MALE QUARTET WINNER Live Bait went to Harmony College and also survived 13 rounds of elimination in an Internet talent contest. They are JeMare Kearney, Matthew Griffin, Brandon Jones and Israel Keifer.

area high schools for the past five yeats. The chapter holds an annual high school quartet contest, crowning both a boys' quartet champion and a girls'



quartet champion. In July 1999, the chapter received a \$6625 grant from Harmony Foundation to be used in this effort. This grant provided scholarships and transportation for the winners of the 2000 RTP High School Quartet Contest;

the winning boys' quartet, **Live Bait**, and their music teacher attended Harmony College this past August, while the girls' champion quartet, **Treblesome** Four, and their teacher attended the Sweet Adelines International Symposium in San Antonio in July.

This barbershop outreach, made possible by Harmony Foundation and the ongoing support of the RTP chapter, resulted in even more recognition for these winning quartets. Live Bait was selected by the Ed McMahon "Next Big Star" Internet talent search last spring, and were in the running through the 13th week of that contest, just missing the finals round in June. In San Antonio, Treblesome Four took the silver medal in the "Rising Star" quartet contest held during the symposium, earning another prize award of \$1000. The girls were accompanied by their mothers (the tenor's Mom is also their teacher) and all four families took home cherished memories as a result.

And where are these budding Barbershoppers now? All four of the girls and two of the boys graduated from high school in June, with five of the six now in college. Four are music majors, and one will be joining the "Up With People" touring company next July. The remaining two are still in high school.

STAY TUNED

Success! Readers report what works.

Nebraska superchorus finds strength in numbers

barbershop superchorus has formed in Nebraska and at 340 voices strong, its first performance had enough lung power to drown out The Vocal Majority or even The Mormon Tabernacle Choir.

Unfortunately, you won't see them in Nashville; but you can catch them at the next Nebraska State Fair. Last August, eight chapters put on four and a half hours of music for an audience ranging from 40 to 500 at any given time. The afternoon ended with a massed chorus of 340, which also included barbershoppers from non-performing chapters.

The event was actually thrown together in just a few weeks by an opportunistic Ken Kespohl of the Freemont chapter, following a conversation with Mindy Fuelberth of the state fair board. Eight of 12 choruses responded to the invitation and got their individual chapters ready for this last-minute opportunity. Due to their combined strength, the chapters were able to garner a big, covered outdoor auditorium with a sound system. They also managed to get a Sunday afternoon time slot—one of the busiest.

Barbershoppers got a lot of inquiries by setting up an information booth, where they were



A big venue and prime Sunday afternoon placement were offered to the eight choruses who participated.

able to inform passers-by about the Society and give them information for joining the nearest chapter. The event was so successful that chapters and state fair planners are gearing up for an even bigger, more publicized event next year.

Strength in numbers ... hmmm. Have the chapters in your area tried that?

From a parking lot: A lesson in what that "E" in SPEBSQSA stands for

It was a bright, sunny Sunday morning in Fresno, the morning after the Far West District So. Cal. West Convention. Most of us had been up 'til all hours singing with old and new friends, so it was a rather bleary group from my chorus that met at the local IHOP before we hit the road home. Breakfast conversation consisted mostly of trying to pump ourselves up because we hadn't lived up to our expectations in competition.

As we headed out the door, I spotted a group of high school-age kids in the parking lot ringing the chords of "My Wild Irish Rose." I gave them a big thumbs up. When they finished, I learned they'd finished in the middle of about 21 high school quartets in that competition but were very happy with their placement.

"Hey mister, can you teach us a tag?" the lead asked. Just about then, long-time Santa Monica Oceanaire Jim Leedom and his wife, Sue, drove by. "I can't, but this guy can," I said. Jim jumped out of the car and spent the next 20 minutes teaching tags to this budding quartet. They would have kept Jim there all day if he hadn't had a meeting to get to.

Especially after the content of our breakfast con-



You don't have to twist Jim Leeder's arm to get him to teach you a tag.

versations, it was refreshing to see Jim with this new quartet that just couldn't get enough barbershop. At that moment, I gained a new understanding of the "E" in SPEBSQSA. I thought, "What have I done lately to *encourage*?" The next time I see a group of kids singing at a convention or anywhere for that matter, I'll take few minutes and give them a little "E." It will go a long way to preserving what we all hold so dear.

- Bruce Schroffel, President, Santa Monica Oceanaires



Members of the quartet West Towns Sounds did a segment about barbershop harmony on the popular children's show "Bozo The Clown." In addition, the foursome had the opportunity to explain the barbershop style. The music segment is a regular feature of the show. Quartet members are: Rick Anthoney, tenor; Ken Gillie, lead; George Sotos, bass; and Mark Betczynski, bari. In case you were wondering, Bozo is the one in the middle.

Champ sometimes sings like a bird, sometimes has a frog in his throat—either way, they love it

If you're like many people, you've awaired the day when any lawabiding citizen could walk into an ordinary department store and, without delay or harassment, purchase a singing frog. We



are pleased to announce that your wait is over. Even more impressive is this fact: The singing frog and several other toys were voiced by a famous Society member—and we're not talking about any member of 2000 silver medalist Michigan Jake. (Oddly, nobody in the quartet was contacted for this high honor, despite having a quartet named after the famed Warner Brothers singing frog.)

Next time you walk by a motion-activated Buford Bullfrog or hear "Zip A Dee Do Dah" from a singing

Bluebird, you'll be listening to the voice of none other than Todd Wilson (tenor, Acoustix, 1990 international quartet champion). Todd teamed up with Gemmy toys, maker of the ubiquitous "Big Mouth Billy Bass" singing fish, to voice several toys for an undisclosed sum that is rumored to be at least in the six figures. (Dollar signs and decimal places are figures, aren't rhey?)



Always young enough to ring 'em

Note: At age 92, Charlie is a constant inspiration to each of us in the Dundalk Chapter. He insists that the "medicine" that he gets by being able to come to our rehearsals and sing with us does him more good than all the official type medicine that he gets in the nursing home.

> – Tom Wheatley, editor Dundalk Md. Charivari



For better than four years now, I have been a patient at the Riverview Nursing Centre. I've gone through rehabilitation, and there have been times when I've been confined to my bed and room. I know what most of the patients at the center go

through when they don't have contact with the outside unless they are taken by a relative or a friend. Many have no such person to help break the boredom, monotony and frustration.

Fortunately, I am a Barbershopper and have many friends, including Lou Fraass, Bob Gulas, Curt Ketter, Walt Bleucher and many more. They sign me out and take me to many rehearsals, shows and meetings.

The reason I'm writing this is to draw attention to the shows that a chapter or quartet can put on for the shut-ins. These are rare "night out" opportunities for these residents. They get out of their beds and dress up in their best. Then it's into their wheelchairs and out they go. "Out" for them is getting to the dining room to hear your entertainment.

Many don't applaud because they are unable. However, look into their faces and you will see something better than any applause. So the next time you are asked to visit a nursing or retirement home, please think of those who need a "night out." This is from one who knows. We have a gift ro share, and there will rarely be a more appreciative audience to share it with.

See you on the risers!

Charlie Allen is a member of the Dundalk chorus

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.

DIRECTORS WANTED

Daytona Beach, Fla. If you are a qualified chorus director and are thinking of relocating to Florida we have a chorus for you! Due to the unexpected departure of our director the Surfside Chorus of Daytona Beach Fla. has an immediate opening for you! We are a mediumsized chorus, eager to learn what you have to teach us! We've just won our plateau "blue ribbon" and have superb rehearsal facilities and a fine theater for our performances. If you would like to be considered for this position, please contact Myron Menaker at e-mail myronm@bellsouth.net or phone: (904) 788-7258.

City of Lakes, an International Award Winning Sweet Adelines Chorus, is searching for a new director. Mary Dick is retiring. The chorus, located in Minneapolis, Minnesota is looking for an experienced director who has energy and enthusiasm, is musically strong, and has a background in barbershop. Contact: Bonnie Rust at 952-893-0397 or bonnie@steveandarlyn.com. The Land of 10,000 Lakes may be the place for you!

SINGERS WANTED: THE HARTSMEN

- 36 years and still going strong. We are looking to expand our organization and are presently auditioning for all sections. Must read music, self motivated, commit to rehearsals the 2nd weekend of each month in Michigan City, IN. Please contact John Plazek at 414-281-2552 or jplazek@execpc.com

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MISCELLANEOUS

Two Barber chairs - Pre-1950 e-mail: melvinwilcox@wilsonlav/firm.com

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.







THE TAG Joe Liles, Tagmaster

A great tag's unknown composer Found!

Bobby Gray

ere's a tag I have been singing with guys for years and I never knew who wrote it. Of course, that's not new to us, is it? Often we sing tags and songs without knowing who wrote or arranged them. Well, after communicating with Gene Cokeroft, Jim Bagby, David Wright, Freddie King, Val Hicks, Burt Szabo, Bob Strong, "Buzz" Haeger, and at least a dozen other famous guys, one of them, Dave Briner, said that

Brent Graham had taught it to him. I called Brent and he said Bobby Gray, Jr. had taught it to him and he may be the one I was looking for. This reminds me of a song, "There's a Long, Long Trail." Whew! At last!

Bobby shared with me a copy of the original tag, which was not quite as fancy as the one printed below. You know how Barbershoppers keep aiding the metamorphosis until a tag becomes fairly traditional. (1 think if Will Rogers had been a Barbershopper, he might have said, "I never metamorpho-

sis I didn't like" ... or maybe not).

Bobby himself has added the lead suspension in measure seven, although I sort of like it moving right to the C. Try it both ways, but when you sing it with Bobby be sure to use his new note!

Here's what Bobby Gray had to say about this wonderful tag:

This particular tag has a sordid past. It came about

around 1975 as a result of a young, love-sick kid (that would be me) wanting to write a song about a girl that he was so in love with that it was even tough to say "good night" to her. Of course, being a Barbershop Brat, it seemed only appropriate to write the tag before writing the song.

Unfortunately, as love goes, the relationship fell apart prior to the song being written. Ya know, I

> can't even think of that girl's name, but she must have been pretty special-for a least a week!

> All was not lost, however, as I knew that a way to edge my way into woodshed quartets at Harmony College was to write new tags to teach in the corners and under the stairwells at the dorms in St. Joe! ("Happy Trails" and the tag to "I'll Be Seeing You" were other tags written expressly for this purpose). So the "Goodbye My Love" Tag was one that I

kept in my repertoire for teaching at Harmony College. I would guess that this particular tag started making its way around corners in 1976, ironically during the "Keep It Barbershop" theme year! (Note: I don't believe that Bob Johnson ever sang it!).

So there you have it: A tag without a song, inspired by a beautiful but nameless girl, and taught around Harmony College by a young Barbershop Brat trying to figure out a way to get people to sing with him!



32 The HARMONIZER > January/February 2001

	ERNATIONAL CH	AMPIONS
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For more info:

• Contact Lani Dieter at 800-876-SING, ext. 8551 or HCDC@spebsqsa.org to request a registration packet and course catalog.

To register:

- Fax this to 262-654-4048 or mail to: 6315 Harmony Lane, Kenosha, WI 53143 or download the registration package from www.spebsqsa.org/hcdc
- Include payment with registration:
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