September/October 2006

# THEHARMONIER

OFFIL

ICATION OF THE BAR

DNY SOCIETY

Gary Mauer Broadway performer

How barbershop harmony influenced their careers

Bill Gaither Gospel legemi

Gerdon Lightfoot Celebrated folk artist

# **2007 International Midwinter Convention**

# 2007 International **Midwinter Convention**

**January 21 - 28, 2007** 

**Headquarters Hotel: Hyatt Regency** Venue: Kiva Auditorium

2007 promises to be a banner year for the Barbershop Harmony Society and you can help launch it in true four-part harmony style. At this year's Midwinter Convention, history and harmony go hand-inhand. You'll experience the best from the past, plus encounter some new things to broaden your barbershop horizons. We'll look back at what has made barbershop music so popular and we'll look ahead to see where Barbershoppers are taking the music in the future. Here's what's in store for you.

# **Time for Tags**

Plenty of time will be set aside between workshops, seminars, shows and speakers for getting together with fellow singers. Impromptu tag singing, woodshedding and storytelling will help you get the most out of your time with Barbershoppers from around the world.

# **Buffalo Bills-Era**



Throughout 2007, we'll be celebrating the longevity of barbershop music as evidenced by the 50th Anniversary of The *Music Man*. As a tribute to this endearing showcase for barbershop music, the Society will host the Buffalo Bills-Era

Quartet Contest. Sing the old songs the way they did fifty years ago.

Experience the five-category judging system, and see how your quartet might have done against our most famous champs! All details regarding the contest, entry form and rules are listed on www.barbershop.org/musicman. Not only will first, second and third place winners get bragging rights, but they'll get their share of \$6,000 in prize money being donated by members of the Pioneers.

# Midwinter Golf Outing

Join us for the golf outing on Wednesday, January 24, 2007 at the Isleta Golf Course. The \$50.00 entry fee covers buffet lunch, range balls, green fees, cart fees and prizes.

Golf outing is limited to first 72 entries. For more information, call Gil Whalen at 505-465-6435 or email at gcwhalen@abq.com.

# **2007 Midwinter Convention Schedule Highlights**

# **Time**

Sunday, January 21

Monday - Thursday

Tuesday, January 23

Wednesday, January 24

Noon

Friday, January 26

8:00 a.m.

9:00 a.m. to 9:50 a.m.

10:00 a.m. to 10:50 a.m.

1:00 p.m.

# **Event**

Registration

Workshops, Seminars, Speakers, Classes

Convention Office/Ticket Office/Tour Registrations Open

Harmony Marketplace opens

**Midwinter Golf Outing** 



Seniors Quartet



**Rick Spencer** Sing a Bunch



inging Techniques

Ladies Breakfast—Kathleen Clawson presents "Broadway Broads: A light-hearted look at the women of American Musical Theatre" at the Hyatt Regency Hotel.

Seniors Quartet Experience with Joe Liles & Antique Gold

Sing a Bunch of Tags with Rick Spencer

**Seniors Quartet Contest** 

The Seniors Quartet Competition will feature quartets composed of singers at least 55 years old with a cumulative total of at least 240 years. Experience combined with energy gives these senior quartets an appealing edge and makes for great listening. Past winners like Antique Gold, Downstate Express, The Barons, Chicago Shuffle and Harmony have shown how the skilled blending of voices in four-part harmony can create a Gold Medal winner.

Saturday, January 27

10:00 a.m. to 10:50 a.m. Singing Techniques That Work with James Estes

11:00 a.m. to 11:50 a.m. **Gold Medal Hour with Vocal Spectrum Buffalo Bills-Era Quartet Contest Finals** 

1:00 p.m.

# Albuquerque, New Mexico...Where History Meets Harmony

# **Four Diamond Hotel**



The headquarters hotel for the Midwinter Convention is the Hyatt Regency in the heart of downtown and adjacent to the convention center where the KIVA Auditorium is located. The Hyatt is the only four diamond hotel among Albuquerques hotels. The recently renovated second floor





will provide state-of-the art meeting rooms for all classes.

# Friday & Saturday Night Shows at 8p.m.



Vocal Spectrum, International Gold Medalist



Max Q, International Silver Medalist



OC Times, International Bronze Medalist



Metropolis, International Bronze Medalist



Flipside, International Bronze Medalist



Musical Island Boys, International Collegiate Quartet Champion

# Featuring exciting performances by

- **Vocal Spectrum**, 2006 International Gold Medalist Quartet
- Max Q, 2006 International Silver Medalist Quartet
- OC Times, 2006 International Bronze Medalist Quartet
- **Metropolis**, 2006 International Bronze Medalist Quartet
- Flipside, 2006 International Bronze Medalist Quartet
- Musical Island Boys, 2006 International Collegiate Quartet Champion

- Antique Gold, Past Seniors Quartet Champion
- The Barons, Past Seniors Quartet Champion
- Jurassic Larks, Past Seniors Quartet Champion
- Downstate Express, Past Seniors Quartet Champion
- The Medalist Chorus
- AISQC Chorus
- **Keith Hopkins**, Master of Ceremonies
- The new 2007 Seniors Quartet Champion
- The winning foursome from the Buffalo Bills-Era Quartet Contest

# **Albuquerque Tours**



Some terrific tours are available during Midwinter in Albuquerque! Book through Destination
Southwest www.destination-southwest.com. Click on
Registrations, then on Barbershop Harmony Society.

**Hot Air Balloon Ride**—*Price: \$150.00 per person* (includes all transportation, champagne toast, continental breakfast and certificate). Rides available Wednesday through Sunday.

Sandia Peak Tram and Dinner At High Finance— Price: \$100 per person

**Tourquoise Museum/Old Town/Indian Pueblo Cultural Center—***Price: \$51 per person* (includes all transportation and admissions). Lunch on own. Offered only Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Sandia Peak Tram/Artisan Winery**—*Price per person: \$70* (includes transportation, tour guide, tram ticket and wine tasting). Offered Thursday from 12:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

# Sandia Peak Tram/Artisan Winery/Lunch At High Finance

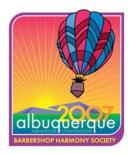
Price per person: \$87 per person (includes transportation, tour guide, tram ticket, lunch, tour and wine tasting). Offered Saturday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Santa Fe via the Tourquoise Trail—*Price per person: \$60* (includes transportation, tour guide, walking tour, admission to Loretto Chapel and San Miguel Mission). Offered Thursday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Acoma "Sky City" Pueblo—*Price per person: \$77* (includes transportation, tour guide, guided tour of the Pueblo, admission to Acoma Cultural Center and Museum, box lunch, water).

Offered Wednesday or Friday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For more Albuquerque tour details, please visit us at www.barbershop.org/midwinter.





# 2007 Midwinter Convention - Albuquerque

January 21-28, 2007 :: Order online & choose your own seat! www.barbershop.org/midwinter chapter name (if applicable) date membership number Name nickname Guest name nickname address city state/province ZIP/postal code work phone home phone email circle payment method card account # expiration date (MM/YY) VISA MasterCard check money order

Send completed form with payment in U.S. funds to Barbershop Harmony Society 7930 Sheridan Rd. Kenosha, WI 53143 -or- order online to choose your seat! www.barbershop.org/ midwinter **Ticket Price** — Includes a convention badge, a reserved seat all shows and contest sessions, and a souvenir program.

If you register for more than one person, please furnish complete information for each person on a separate sheet and attach to this order form. Your registration packet may be picked up at the convention registration area. Registrations may be transferred to another person, but they are NOT refundable. No phone orders, please. □ Check here if any physical needs require special accommodation for you to fully participate in the convention; our staff will contact you to make arrangements.

Quantity	Туре	Rate	Total
	Ticket Price	\$79.75	
	(includes handling \$4.75 each)		

(includes all contests and shows)

Total (US Funds)

Check all that apply:

□ Society VIP □ AIC Member □ President's Council Member





October 2006 LXVI NUMBER

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- Barbershop beginnings Barbershop harmony helped start these performers down illustrious career paths John Swartz, Todd Wilson, Bob Hodges
- The year of The Music Man 2007 presents great publicity and recruitment opportunities as we celebrate this beloved musical
- See what you just did? You helped make a positive impact over the past eight months—here's how your contributions helped
- 2006 Hall of Famers Some of the best ever to bless our Society
- Buckeye Invitational Another year, another round of great championship-level shows and contests with many twists Alan Lapp

On the Cover: Honorary and past members ry Mauer as the Phantom from the Broad-ay National Tour of The Phantome of the Jera-Photo Daon Marcus. Bill Gaither urtesy gaither.com, Gordon Lighthoot urtesy Early Morning Productions. Cover tage by Lorin May

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# STRAIGHT TALK

New headquarters, plus other answers

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The connection between growth and fun

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# STAY TUNED

Christian Anderson finds dozens of champions in Indy New York City, Atlanta 9/11 tributes

# MEMBER SERVICE DIRECTORY

Where to find answers



"I Love To Sing" from Charlie Rose





# Nashville, other questions & answers

thought maybe this time I'd answer some of the questions I've been hearing over the last year. I have traveled across the country watching, listening, answering questions and of course, singing tags. When I answer a question for somebody in Chattanooga or Columbus, however, that doesn't mean someone in L.A. who has the same question gets that answer, so by putting it in the "Journal of Barbershop" I can give the answer to more than one person.

#### Q. How's it looking for the move to Nashville?

A. This is probably the number-one question I get anymore, ever since the Board of Directors decided at Midwinter in Sacramento that the Society was definitely moving to Nashville. Since that time, the relocation committee, a subcommittee of the Board headed by Bill Biffle, has done a fantastic job of locat-



ing a property in Nashville, negotiating for its sale and requesting and receiving bids for an architect and a contractor to design and build-out our new "Harmony Hall." As we go to press, we have just closed on the property at 110 7th Avenue North. (An omen, if you believe in such things ... 7th Avenue!)

The building is located between Broadway and Commerce Streets, right in the heart of town. For those of you who attended our 2001 convention in Nashville, the building is between the headquarters hotel (The Renaissance) and the Masonic Temple.

We completed our due diligence, and the property is now ours. We are working on the design phase, and have plenty of room to honor the past, operate in the present and build a great future. One of the reasons for choosing Nashville is that future. We will be a part of the Music City, right in the heart of the action. The next steps are the design by a highly reputable architectural firm and then the build-out by a well-known Nashville construction firm. The move is scheduled after the construction is finished, ostensibly next August after Harmony University. As plans, drawings, and progress develop, we will put them forth to the membership.

#### Q. Why did we choose to move now?

A. Once Harmony Hall and the Sheridan Road facility were sold (yes, they're no longer ours) we started looking for a new home. We have been leasing the Sheridan Road building and keeping many items in storage during that process. Our current location has always been regarded as temporary, until we could leverage our tax-exempt status by once again becoming owners of a property. That has now happened, and we will have the room to display our rich heritage to members and non-members alike, and do so in the tourist-rich area of downtown Nashville.

## Q. How is the new software program coming along?

A. For those of you who do not know it, the Society has purchased a new software system (Aptify) to handle all information technology needs, including our membership database needs well into the future. This purchase was made with an eye towards ease of use, Web enabling, and modernization of our computer access so that chapter secretaries and district officers can use the data we accumulate and retain as a tool, rather than spending their valuable time searching and being lost in the "black hole" of the current AMS system. Phase I should be complete by the time you read this; Brian Lynch has been putting the final touches on that, and he will demonstrate the capabilities at the Society's Leadership Forum in November. As with any software project, the hope is that the transition will go smoothly, and we can then begin later phases where we Web enable our processes, streamline and modernize our website, and update our e-commerce site, the Harmony Marketplace.

#### Q. How do you like the job so far?

A. I'm doing what I love to do. I was trained by Uncle Sam to be effective with a large bureaucracy, and manage and lead groups of men with a common purpose and desire. The last 20 years of my 30 year career, I was on active duty training volunteers; the Selected Reserve of Naval Aviation. During all that time, I was an active Barbershopper. Now I am leading large groups of men with a common desire and purpose: to preserve and encourage Barbershop Harmony and to do that by making it a fun and exciting hobby. We do much of what we do with volunteers, (judges, board members, trustees, district and chapter officers,) who do what they do out of love. Is it all play for me? No, but what more could I ask for than to work to further something good and decent while traveling among you and spreading the fun of barbershop harmony? Maybe the question should be, "How do you like the job I'm doing so far?"



harmonizer@barbershop.org

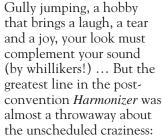
# Praise for Indy convention recap

hank you for the many enjoyable features in the July/August issue of The Harmonizer. It displayed several entertaining performances as well as experiences of non-competitors at Indy this year. It did not devote a lot of space putting the winners "on a pedestal," as was the case in previous issues following Internationals. This issue covered events that we enjoyed. Two of my favorites were gospel sing (Can they stay in tune or what?) and the grandfather/father/ son chorus (They were so proud. It was fun to watch.) And these weren't events that were judged.

Of course I appreciated the performances of

the competitors. However, getting all Society members involved in activities made it a convention. This was an excellent issue.

> Walt Crow Bay Village, Ohio



"If scheduled events are the bricks of the convention, this is the mortar." I wish I'd said that. And as Bob Johnson used to warn with as close as he could come to a Groucho twinkle, someday I may. Congrats on a great issue!

> JIM BAGBY Kansas City, Mo.

What a fabulous issue. You did a wonderful job—great photos, great layout, snappy reading. Kudos. I *know* how much work was involved.

> DICK JOHNSON Lockport, Ill.

I have been a Society member since 1967, and I would like to compliment you for the finest issue of *The Harmonizer* that I have ever seen. I have heard so many raves from so many people, it is mind boggling. Any time I mention this issue to any person, they can't wait to express

what a fantastic piece of literature it is. Keep up the good work!

> Mike Mat hieu Overland Park, Kan.

#### **Marty's Amen Chorus continues**

God Bless Marty Mendro! Bless this man for his astounding contributions to our Society as a member, performer and champion Barbershopper. Perhaps more importantly, congratulations for "telling it like it is" during his Hot Seat interview in the May/June issue of the 2006 *Harmonizer*. His observations and comments regarding our past judging system are truly right

It's interesting how President Drayton Justus uses the phrase "if it ain't broke, don't fix it" regarding our style of singing. The same should have been said for our past judging system. He'll take a lot of heat from some, but his statements are true and accurate.

> CARL HANCUFF Edmond, Okla.

#### **Accidentals**

Apologies to Evergreen District's Northwest Sound, who for inexplicable reasons were listed in the July/August issue (page 50) as being from Bellevue, Wisconsin, rather than Bellevue, Washington.



#### September/October 2006 Volume LXVI Number 5

Complete contact info: page 38.

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Drayton Justus, Society President • just4us2@bellsouth.net

# Membership growth leads to a better chapter experience—or is it the reverse?

any volunteer organizations in this day and age are working to analyze and reverse a trend of declining membership, and our Society is among them. I am convinced that our efforts will be successful; by any measure, the number of individual chapter successes is increasing, and we have recently added to our full-time staff a Director of Membership. Charlie Davenport, a professional recruiter and long-time Barbershopper, is interviewed on page 13 in this issue of *The Harmonizer*, and you will want to read and re-read his thoughts

Increasing membership is the first item on the Society Board's list of aims for 2006 and

will undoubtedly remain first priority for some time to come. A primary indicator of an organization's health and stability is growth. And of course, we are not talking about simply adding names to the chapter rosters; we refer to "hooking" new members on our unique and exciting art form—new members who will in turn want to share the experience with others. As we analyze the challenge, I have often heard the discussion of whether membership growth is itself the goal which will cause other desirable results, or primarily the result of accomplishing other goals—in other words, is it a cause or an effect?

There is no question that we can't expect men from our respective communities to simply start walking in our doors; an invitation of some kind must usually occur. Recruiting ("spreading the gospel") is very important, but only the first step in a far more important ongoing process. Pay special attention to what Charlie says about doing things, especially at the chapter level, that will help potential members want to join and keep current members happy. I was also happy to hear him charge each of us with "doing just one more thing than we are accustomed to doing now" to make our chapter a better place for members and more attractive for potential members (*service!*).

If we improve our performance quality and leadership capabilities, enrich vocal arts education in our communities, develop a more positive public awareness, and expand our financial capabilities (the other Society aims), a good case can be made that membership growth will result. All of these good things must happen, and happen more often, in our individual chapters, and make no mistake about it—that focus is a primary responsibility of your Society Board, staff, and district leadership.

**Increasing** membership is the first item on the Society Board's list of aims for 2006 and will undoubtedly remain first priority for some time to come.

So what's the answer? Goal or result? Cause or effect? Membership growth is really both. I contend that getting a potential member in the front door and on the roster can be considered mostly a measurable goal; retaining that member for any length of time is mostly a result of the experience a chapter provides for him—and net growth depends upon both recruiting and retention. Personally, I tend to place the most emphasis on the positive results in membership growth we can expect from improvements in the barbershop experience in our chapters. What do you think?

Singing, Service, Fellowship & Fun!

Drayton R. Justus

# Rock & Roll Hall of Famer competes as

# a Barbershopper

immy Merchant, who rocketed to instant stardom as a 15-year-old in 1955 with "Frankie Lymon and the Teenagers," is still doing Doo-wop concerts 50 years later and has recently become a Barbershopper. He even competed with his chapter in recent Mid-Atlantic district contests. Jimmy, a Rock & Roll Hall of Famer and co-writer of the platinum single "Why Do Fools Fall in Love," recently moved to the Delmarva Peninsula and came to a Salisbury, Md. chapter practice night looking for backup singers to help him with a doo-wop concert. He got a little more than he expected.



Frankie Lyman and the Teenagers were arguably the first "boy band" and produced the pop scene's first black and Latino teen heartthrobs.

The Last Chord quartet indeed performed doo-wop with Jimmy for a full house, with an enthusiastic audience demanding a reprise of the signature "Why Do Fools Fall in Love" with the quartet. The quartet asked Jimmy to return the favor by performing with the quartet at the chapter meeting the next week. Before the chorus rehearsal was over, Jimmy said, "I want to sing with you in Wildwood."

The chorus was delighted to find that not only could Jimmy immediately pick up both contest songs, he could easily sing all four parts. Before another week passed, Jimmy applied for Society membership and later sang on stage with his new chapter.

While Jimmy immerses himself in barbershop harmony, he is also giving his chapter an education in doo-wop.

"Doo-wop is essentially street corner harmony,"



Jimmy said. "We literally learned on the streets of Harlem when we were in middle school. We sang a cappella, and made up the instrument sounds. Even the name," he said, "is a representation of the trombone sound, 'doo-wop'."

He has many tales from a long singing career, and notes that in just a few months after their first record (when they quite literally were teenagers), the group was playing the London Palladium—the first American group to do so with the new sound. It became a foundation for many groups to follow. "You guys have taken American street corner harmony a step further," he said, "and it is amazing to me what you can do with your sound. I look forward to learning more and putting it to use." Jimmy is one of only two surviving members of the original group. His current activities can be seen at www.jimmymerchant.com.

> —Larry Matthews President, Salisbury, Md. chapter



# Speaking of notable new members ...

U.S. Rep. Mike Conaway, representing the Texas 11th district, recently rejoined the Sun Country Gentlemen of Midland, Texas (Permian Basin Chapter). An active lead in the chapter before politics eclipsed his hobby, Conaway has still made time to appear in a handful of public performances with the chorus, such as this Memorial Day 2005 performance. (Rep. Conaway is wearing the jacket.) When chapter membership V.P. Harvey Cross invited him to become a dues-paying chapter member again, Rep. Conaway didn't hesitate. The chapter hopes to present membership materials to him at a chapter meeting near the holidays, when his political schedule is more free.



# Bring on Aptify! What the Society's electronic overhaul will mean to you



The electronic guts of the Society are undergoing a major overhaul, and the move to a much more robust technology platform will bring members much greater stability, integration, and quality of service for

years to come. Brian Lynch is overseeing the work of a top IT team that will make the transfer to the acclaimed Aptify system as smooth as possible. It won't happen overnight, but members will see tangible benefits, such as:

- For you
- A cleaner, Members Only site that updates your personal and chapter records in real time (no more "wait for this change to process overnight....")
- A single shopping cart for merchandise, Harmony University registrations and more
- A single, robustly searchable catalog of arrangements, and a single shopping cart and payment process for purchasing them

- An extended personal profile that lets you list voice parts, quartet availability, family relationships
- A unique Members Only customer ID and password for your spouse, so she can shop quickly and easily
- Faster processing of all orders, with email and web confirmations of shipments
- Personalized tracking of your progress toward accreditation as a chorus director, judge, singer and Barber-

## For your quartet

- Easy and fast registration for your quartet
- Better contact opportunities
- A redesigned quartet card (We think you're going to like it a lot.)

# For your chapter and district

- Better tracking of current and past members, to help retain them
- Better prospecting tools to reach and sign new members
- Better rosters, reports, and skills inventories

Watch here for additional developments as they roll out.

# **Upcoming COTS**

# (Chapter Operations Team Seminars)

Columbus, Ind. - Jan. 6-7

jerald@hatton.com

St. Joseph, Mo. - Jan. 13 danbrown@webiowa.net

Atlanta, Ga. - Jan. 13-14 Fehrach@aol.com

Columbus, Ohio - Jan. 13-14 kgear@earthlink.net

LOL

Menomonie, Wis. - Jan. 13-14 tyleremail@earthlink.net

Cherry Hill, N.J. - Jan. 6-7 riffer4118@yahoo.com

Fitchburg, Mass. - Jan. 6-7 rrwhite9833@comcast.net

Orillia, Ont. - Jan. 5-7 singsbass@sympatico.ca

Okemos, Mich. - Jan. 6-7 devilravsfox53@hotmail.com

Altamonte Springs, Fla. - Jan. 6-7 choruspresident@yahoo.com



# **Barbershop "Crikey Chorus" set** the tone for Steve "The Crocodile **Hunter**" Irwin's Memorial service



An audience of 300 million estimated viewers worldwide watched the September 20 memorial

service for "The Crocodile Hunter" Steve Irwin, who died unexpectedly on Sept. 4. The service at the Australia Zoo was attended by Prime Minister John Howard, various celebrities, and Australia's best barbershop chorus, The Blenders, who sang three songs in Irwin's honor. Formerly known as the Banana Blenders, they learned and performed all three songs only five days after receiving the invitation. For those involved in "the Crikey Chorus" as they became affectionately known, the experience was incredibly emotional and moving, both during the rehearsals and even more throughout the service itself. Having won every national competition since 1993, the 93-man chorus intends to compete in Denver next summer.

# **Midwinter Notes**

Hotel cutoff is soon. The cutoff date for making reservations at the headquarters hotel, the Hyatt Regency, is Dec. 15, 2006. After



that date, rooms may not be available at our convention rate. Please register for the convention at www. barbershop.org/mid-

winter. The page includes a registration link for the Hyatt Regency.

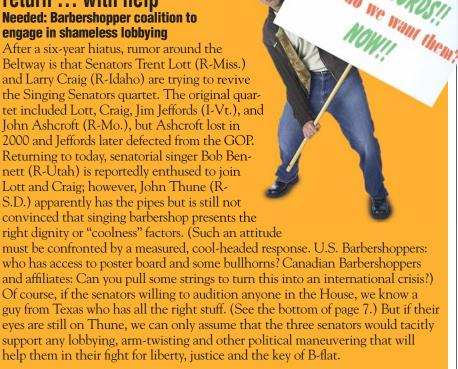
**Check out the tours!** Book through Destination Southwest www.destinationsouthwest.com. Click on Registrations, then on Barbershop Harmony Society. Options include: Hot air balloon rides; Sandia Peak Tram and dinner: Turquoise Museum/Old Town/Indian Pueblo Cultural Center; Sandia Peak Tram/Artisan Winery; Santa Fe via the Turquoise Trail; Acoma "Sky City" Pueblo

# **The Singing Senators may** return ... with help

engage in shameless lobbying

After a six-year hiatus, rumor around the Beltway is that Senators Trent Lott (R-Miss.) and Larry Craig (R-Idaho) are trying to revive the Singing Senators quartet. The original quartet included Lott, Craig, Jim Jeffords (I-Vt.), and John Ashcroft (R-Mo.), but Ashcroft lost in 2000 and Jeffords later defected from the GOP. Returning to today, senatorial singer Bob Bennett (R-Utah) is reportedly enthused to join Lott and Craig; however, John Thune (R-S.D.) apparently has the pipes but is still not convinced that singing barbershop presents the

who has access to poster board and some bullhorns? Canadian Barbershoppers and affiliates: Can you pull some strings to turn this into an international crisis?) Of course, if the senators willing to audition anyone in the House, we know a guy from Texas who has all the right stuff. (See the bottom of page 7.) But if their eyes are still on Thune, we can only assume that the three senators would tacitly support any lobbying, arm-twisting and other political maneuvering that will



# Relive the "good old days" in the Buffalo Bills-Era Quartet Contest

Experience the good old days at the Midwinter Convention in Albuquerque this January and take part in the Buffalo Bills-Era Barbershop Quartet Contest. Past gold medal winners and



quartets from as far away from Australia have already registered for the contest. It'll be held on Friday of the convention—eliminations mid-morning and a 10-quartet finals Friday evening.

The winning quartet will walk away with \$3,000 and an appearance on the Saturday evening show, which features the current champions Vocal Spectrum and other medalists. Second and third places will be for \$2,000 and \$1,000 respectively. The five medalist quartets will receive appropriate medals with ribbons depicting the event. (And I'd be willing to bet that some of the members of past champion quartets will be there to encourage you!) Go for it!

• You don't need to be a registered quartet—just all Society members with Midwinter registrations and a \$20 entry fee. You will receive a CD with songs as sung by past champions of that period—the Confederates, Mid States Four, Suntones, etc. Worth the price of admission right there—how can you not afford the entry

- There will be 10 judges, two per category, judging only one phase of your performance: Balance & Blend, Voice Expression, Harmony Accuracy, Arrangements, and Stage Presence. Each two-song set must be four to six minutes or you will penalized.
- Look sharp! Wear anything other than business suits or casual street wear, and vintage costumes should fit your theme.
- Arrangements that portray that time period are available from Society headquarters for a small
- The contest stage will be set up with an acoustical shell (no monitor speakers) and a stereo pair of microphones.

Sound like fun? You bet it is. Join us, and help the Barbershop Harmony Society and the Barbershop Quartet Preservation Association preserve the medium and bring back those good old days! Learn more at www.barbershop.org/musicman.

> – Marty Mendro Mid States Four, 1948 international champion

## CONVENTIONS

2007 DENVER July 1-8 barbershop.org/denver

# 2008

Nashville June 29-July 6 2009 Anaheim June 28-July 5 2010

PHILADELPHIA June 28-July 5 2011 KANSAS CITY

July 3-10 2012 PORTLAND July 1–8 **2013** 

Toronto June 30-July 7 2014 MINNEAPOLIS

June 29-July 6 2016 Nashville July 3-10

MIDWINTER www.barbershop.org/ midwinter

> 2007 Albuquerque Jan. 21-28

# We're gonna be in pictures: "American Harmony" nears completion

"This is the story of several dreamers who set out to become etched in history as the 2006 International Champions of Barbershop Singing ..."

merican Harmony, the independent documentary on barbershop, is nearing completion and expected

to be finished sometime in December.

"We're doing a final round of interviews with our main groups," said Aengus James, director/

writer/producer. "Then we have editorial cutting to do, color corrections to make

and we need to hire a composer to write an original score."

**RIGHT:** 

Video

Roger

Vocal

Payne,

stills from

**American** 

**Harmony:** 

Spectrum,

the film-

makers.

**OC Times** 

Iames said the film will be submitted for consideration in the Sundance Film Festival held in mid-January, and he is

optimistic that it will be accepted, even though on average some 800 documentaries normally are submitted, but only 16 of them will screen at the festival. "We've gotten a lot of positive feedback from people in the industry," James said.

"We can't thank the Barbershoppers and the competing quartets enough for their support of this project," James said. "Everyone has been terrificfrom volunteers who picked us up at the airports to those who shared their stories with us, to the quartets who lived with cameras in their faces for much of the competition."

Many members have seen the film crew during

the international conventions in Salt Lake City and Indianapolis. Several have been interviewed for the film. Several folks that will be familiar to Barbershoppers have taken a production role in the film: Gary DePew, Russ Squires and John Miller.

> In the vein of "Hoop Dreams" and "Spellbound," "American Harmony" is a mixture of music, comedy, lifestyle, and nail-biting competition.

The project was conceived during a

chance encounter with the Wizards of Harmony chorus in Liberal, Kansas, where lames was filming another documentary, Living Liberal. "I thought we'd

film them for a couple of minutes," he said. "They told me 'we're terrible, if you want to hear good barbershop you need to go to the convention in

Salt Lake City.' And that's how it started."

As with most documentaries, funding is tight. "We raised a good amount of money, but we have upcoming expenses of more than \$100,000

for post-production work," James said. "We've squeezed quarters so tightly the eagles are screaming." (The documentary's final production cost is estimated at more than \$500,000.)

For more information, visit www.AmericanHarmonyTheMovie.com.

> - Julie Siepler, Society Media Relations Manager





# **Get contest recordings** in time for Christmas

The 2006 international chorus and guartet DVDs and CDs are in production and expected to ship by Christmas! Use the order form on the back cover or pre-order at www.harmonymarketplace.com.



# Make up chords as you go ... on purpose!

all it barbersport; it comes in three styles. First, quartetting. This is done with four participants and can be done at the professional, amateur, and makesure-that-the-door-is-closed-tightly levels. Secondly, tag singing. Again, four participants (noticing a pattern), once again done at the professional, amateur and Hotshot, screaming high and loud, and willthey-ever-get-that-chord levels. Lastly, and most honorably, woodshedding.

Woodshedding is to our Society what jazz is to a professional musician. It is the hardest to do but could be the most satisfying to master.

Most barbersport singing is a participation sport. This means that you do not sell tickets. It is for the enjoyment and mostly amazement of the participants. How would the general public ever understand why four guys would want to stand in a circle, sing wrong note after wrong note and then slap each other on the back when they get one nice-sounding chord?

# The melody

Woodshedding has four participants. One brave soul will begin by singing a melody. His selection of the melody is crucial. The melody must call for harmony, beckon rich chords, and plead for swipes, echoes, and tiddlies. This melody singer, or lead, in the truest sense of the word, must endure all types of pushes and pulls. He must stay the course as the harmony singers lay explosions of missed chords, notes, and words in his path. It is important to be able to sustain long phrases, waiting, hoping, and praying that the others will find that "right" chord. The lead must be able to out-sing any attempts to change his melody. Correct lyrics are acceptable but optional. Keeping the song going, that is what is important. The other three singers must scurry to find an

acceptable note in the chord as soon as the lead begins to sing. It is important to get to a note quickly so that you can avoid the most hated phrase in woodshedding: "You're on my note!" This is always decided by whoever says it first!

#### **Tenor**

Obviously the tenor will take the highest notes. This does not imply that he will go high. Our style of music was originally

It is important to get to a note quickly so that you can avoid the most hated phrase in woodshedding: "You're on my note!" This is always decided by whoever says it first!

called "close harmony." It is the job of the tenor to stay close to the melody. The tenor will usually find the most "thirds" which will help everyone in finding the right chords sooner. If the tenor starts to drift to the upper notes, it will force the baritone to sing higher notes and soon glass will start shattering!

#### **Basses**

Basses need to find the foundation notes. Playing tuba in a high school marching band will help. Carrying a tuba wherever they go will also help. Keep it very simple, basses. You do not move with every lead note. Try to find the "pillars of harmony" and then build the Parthenon of Harmony!

#### **Baritone**

These guys are the smartest, most talented, and creative singers. Notice I did not say good looking. It is their job to find the "leftover" note in every chord. Sometimes it can be a bass-like note, sometimes it can be a tenor-like note and sometimes it can be a lead-like note, almost an anti-melody. Whatever it is, find it fast so that you can say, "You're on my note." The other guys are not smart enough to know this, including the lead!

#### **Getting started**

Again, woodshedding is not easy. It is even harder if no one knows how to woodshed. Watch Dave Stevens in his presentation, "What Are We Trying to Preserve?" (www.barbershop.org/jukebox). Dave explains the basics of woodshedding like no other. Try to find experienced woodshedders and then add one novice. If this cannot be done, pick very simple, slow songs like the songs in the Society's Woodshedding Folio (www.harmonymarketplace.com, item #4040). Get additional informa-

> tion from AHSOW, the Society's official woodshedding organization. (www.ahsow.org)

Start slowly. You did not learn to ride a bike in one try. You will not be good at this on your first try. Repeat phrases and sections over and over. Try duets with the lead, especially tenor and lead. Many chords will be exposed this way. Do not sing through the song and say, "We woodshedded that." It isn't really woodshedded until you have weaseled out every chord,

added juicy, delicious swipes, and added a tasty tag or two to the end of the song.

# Chapter woodshedding

Woodshedding can be done with more than four singers but it is then called "bullshedding." You will not really get the joy of finding "your" note. It is a safe way for a new guy to find a note in the chord but four is much better.

A fun activity is to select enough "lead" singers that would break the chapter into groups of four to six. Each lead has been given a song which they have learned well enough to fight the onslaught of chord fishing that will ensue. Station the leads around the room. Divide the rest of the singers, you do not have to worry about parts, let the guys experiment with different parts. It is best for all songs to be in the same key the first time you try this barbersport. Let each group woodshed through the songs two times and then have the groups rotate to the next lead. Each group can decide

if they will only have four singers each time by taking turns. It is really fun when you try this with the songs that are written in different keys. The room will sound like the old convention hotel lobbies.

There is time and there is woodshedding time. When you are woodshedding, your life is put on hold for a while. Enjoy, crack some chords and celebrate the true birth of the barbershop style.







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# Charlie talks Membership

The new Society membership director wants you to go "break a mirror"—it's the key to your chapter's fun and growth

# Who is Charlie Davenport?

As many have said before, "he's no big deal" and I've always treated that as a compliment. I would say I am energetic, willing, gregarious, confident, open, said to have an "infectious good nature" and employ a touch of sarcasm on occasion. I have been known to be a tad verbose, but only when it is something I am passionate about, which includes just about everything. In 2004, I married my high school sweetheart (whom I had not seen for more than 37 years prior to reconnecting in 2002) and have a phenomenal partnership with her in everything we do.

# How did your professional recruiting prepare you for your current role?

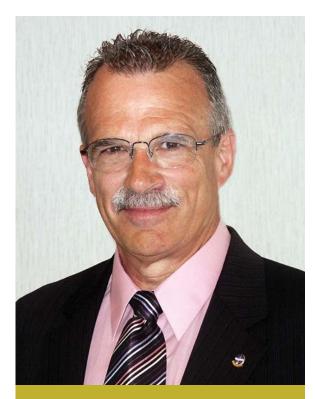
I spent more than 26 years as a professional recruiter, where I would try to match the right candidate with the right company based on the needs of both. To do this well, I had to analyze information supplied by both sides and act on valid input—or quickly root out the invalid information I'd been supplied. So I do see through "the bull" pretty quickly, and I've developed the skills to rapidly move to the heart of a matter and match people up with real-world solutions.

#### How about we return to today. Where are we?

That really depends on the "we" being addressed. We, "the Society" in general are at a great moment

in time. A cappella singing is on fire. Community groups, college and high school clubs and just flatout interest in a cappella singing is growing every day. With more people singing a cappella in our communities and schools, more

people will be willing to try out our form of harmony. Deke Sharon, president of CASA, the Contemporary A Cappella Society, recently stated that in the world



# **Charlie Davenport, Director of Membership**

- 26 years as a professional recruiter
- · Joined Wilkes-Barre, Pa. Chapter in 1979, sang in numerous chapter quartets, held most chapter offices, chaired most chapter committees and some annual
- Former district area counselor and into various district leadership roles, primarily in membership
- Mid-Atlantic District President, 2001 and 2002
- Participant in the Membership Brainstorming session that yielded "Operation Harold Hill," which led to 17 consecutive months of Society growth
- Long-time service on Society Membership Committee, including as chairman
- Member of Executive Director Search Committee

of a cappella, Barbershop is "the black belt of harmony singing" That speaks volumes to where the Society stands in the broader a cappella world. We need to start recognizing that.

We, being "the chapter member," is possibly not as positive. We have some extremely exciting happenings across the country on the chapter level in growing

Chapters must ask: "Is what we

are doing going to help keep

current members happy and

help potential members want

chapters, new directions taken by chapters, new chapters in development and Barbershoppers at all ages having fun. Unfortunately, this is not necessarily the norm, although it could be!

to join?" If not, don't do it. We, "Harmony Hall," see an extremely bright picture. It is sad that we will be leaving Kenosha after so many years, with so many great employees choosing to stay behind in a community

Charlie was made for this job—an absolute professional, smart, and with a lot of street sense. He was a great Membership VP for the Mid-Atlantic District and later, as president, continued to improve the district's membership programs and successes. If we were "picking sides," I'd want Charlie on my team, anywhere, any time.

- Joe Berger, Society board member, past MAD president

He is a Barbershopper's Barbershopper, and his success as Mid-Atlantic District president and Membership VP comes down to being able to communicate on Joe Barbershopper's level. Charlie is always the same guy, as President or as a tag singer at an afterglow.

> - Mike Stoll. long-time barbershop friend

Charlie can be trusted with any sensitive information and he brings the same commitment level to tasks as he does to his tag singing. Charlie's a fun guy, but also a high integrity, consummate professional. He is no pushover; Charlie will explore duediligence about the merits of a task or approach, and then mount a frontal attack to make it happen.

> - Dennis Cook. former Society board member. co-member, XD search committee

Charlie has a way of sorting through the fluff and getting to the bottom line. He listens well and is quick to understand others and able to see the difference between "talkers" and "performers." Charlie has great confidence in himself and others, and he builds confidence easily. He quickly makes friends, and then he keeps them.

> - Roger Lewis. 2002-2003 Society president

Charlie is one of those guys everyone remembers, for his quick wit, booming voice and passion for barbershop. He always finds a way to make any event fun, even a Board Meeting. His enthusiasm is contagious. He taught me that the final four had nothing to do with basketball.

> - Tom Roberts, close friend, longtime member of Charlie's chapter

that has treated us so well. However, we will be going to one of the central cities of the music world. For the first time, we'll be headquartered in an area known for music and tourism, where visitors can experience a first-hand Harmony Experience. We will have access to the tens of thousands of music lovers who annually visit the top attractions that are within walking distance of our new building.

### So where do you see us going?

If I were able to fast forward five years or so from now and look back, here's what I will see:

- 35,000 members and the Society on a positive growth pattern.
- Most chapters are using well-defined planning strategies focused on providing an attractive atmosphere for current and new members. This is measured by a high percentage of members at chapter meetings, participating in chapter activities and overall growth of the chapters.
- The Society has youth chorus contests similar to the current quartet contest in all districts and an international contest with 10 or more choruses.
- The general membership has a greater understanding of the values of membership in the Barbershop Harmony Society, as measured by greater numbers of men earning a Man of Note and a significantly greater number of Ambassadors of Song.
- Fun has returned to the chapter meeting night as measured by Ask a man, "Who do you know

the smile on the faces of the guys on the risers.

## How are we going to get there?

First and foremost, we must recognize that men don't join the Society per

se, they join chapters. The basic enjoyment of singing and the sum of Society growth happen at the chapter level and, more specifically, at the individual level. If it is not happening there, it's not happening. In order to assure that "it" is happening at the chapter level, everyone, including members, at the chapter, district

and Society level must focuse on one guiding principle: "Is what I am doing going to have a positive impact on keeping current members happy and helping potential members want to join?" If not, don't do it. Sounds simple, but unless we start practicing this, we cannot grow.

### What is the biggest barrier to getting there?

We must break our mirrors. A mirror only reflects light to the source and does not allow light to shine through in either direction. We must start looking at what is outside our present world and at the same time allow the outside world to look into us. We all know the phrase "Keep doing what you do and you are going to get what you got." Every chapter is perfectly set up to get the results it is currently getting. To get different results, chapters must do something different, but for some reason, we allow that mirrored lifestyle to continue. Each chapter needs an external focus. The time is now to break our mirrors.

# What is one thing that you wish individual members knew about recruiting?

I wish they knew the power that an indirect invitation has to open a discussion about barbershop harmony. This comes from my years as a professional recruiter, when I wanted to discuss job openings with desirable potential candidates who were working for other companies. If I were to directly ask them if they wanted to apply,

who might enjoy singing bar-

bershop harmony?" It's a non-

threatening question that won't

put him on the spot. Many men

will reply, "Am I qualified?"

they would usually keep their guard up and the conversation wouldn't go far. So instead, I would describe the opening and ask only whether they knew anyone who would be inter-

ested in applying for the position. Thus disarmed, they felt free to ask questions until they were comfortable revealing their own interest.

This approach also works in barbershop harmony. Always start with the question: "Who do you know who might enjoy singing barbershop harmony?" and wait for an

answer. It's a non-threatening question that leaves a man free to ask questions of his own without feeling put on the spot. Answer him and then wait for the answer to your original question. At worst, you'll come away with names of other men who might be interested, and you can then ask them the same question. Often, the man may ask, "Am I qualified?" All you have to do is set the hook.

# What can an individual member do to make his chapter a better place for his fellow members and a more attractive place for potential members?

I am asking just one thing from every single member: Please do just one "more" thing in your barbershop world than you are accustomed to doing now. This

doesn't have to be a huge step in order to be significant. Find one thing that is positive for the overall membership, something you don't typically do. For instance, actually look over some music at home, call a fellow Barbershopper who has not been at rehearsal lately, don't talk during chorus rehearsal for one hour. Sure, volunteering to chair something or run for office counts also, but do at least one more thing. That will give our Society 30,000 extra things done the first year. How can that be anything but good?

Remember, when you are pointing your fingers at those who have the greatest impact on your barbershop experience, take note of where the majority of your fingers are pointing and have that person make the first move.

#### So, what can we expect from you in your new position?

First and foremost, I will be available, as will our entire membership team. We will be available to talk issues through and to help in every way possible to find solutions to whatever issue may be faced.

Second, as much as I would like, I cannot be "the" recruiter for the Society. I am neither able to nor charged to personally bring in new members to your chapter; however, I will teach the simple steps that improve the attractiveness of our chapters, how to contact and attract new members to our hobby, and how to keep them as members.

Third, I have always considered the membership function as the watchdog for our Society and I will continue to focus my efforts in that direction. If something is not going to have a positive impact on membership retention and growth, then I will fight to stop it from happening.

Finally, I will attempt to sing bass to your favorite tag. Or some other part if you are really patient.

# **Closing thoughts?**

I encourage every reader to look at the gifts that we have been given:

- the ability to sing
- the chance to enrich lives through singing
- Good friends and families who share our passion Appreciate what you have. Savor it. Wallow in it. Then seek out new ways to share these gifts with others. And let's all have fun doing it!

100% Club members as of Sept. 30, 2006

- Derek Street is a member of the Rock Hill, S.C. chapter and has recruited *nine* new members since the beginning of the year.
- Stew Grosser is a proud member of the Heart of America chapter (Kansas City, Mo.) and has signed up *five* new members this year.
- Kevin Dunckel is a member of the Lansing (Capitol City Chordsmen) Mich. and the Mt. Pleasant Mountaintown Singers chapters. He recruited *five* new members this year,
- Robb Heady has five new members this year. He's a member of the Greater Louisville (The New Horizon), Ky. chapter.



# Gordon Lightfoot

Even though Orillia, Ontario in the early '50s was a small town of 12,000, teenagers had lots to do outside of school.

"Orillia, as I recall it, was a musically inclined town in the 1940s and 1950s. The Orillia Kiltie Band was popular and the Salvation Army quintets; many youngsters took music lessons," said Ted Rushton.

Rushton, a retired editor and columnist now living in Phoenix, Arizona, went to school with Gordon Lightfoot. Everybody did. There was only one high school.

Lightfoot entered high school with a reputation. He sang in the St. Paul's United Church choir and had some success in the Kiwanis Music Festival. He walked through the doors of Orillia District Collegiate and Vocational Institute and straight into a barbershop quartet.

"They were forming a barbershop quartet," said Lightfoot. "The science teacher—his name was Charles Wallace, hell of a nice guy, everybody called him Charlie—said I want four of you to come in and do this quartet."

"They would hold two contests a year and Mr. Wallace wanted us to form the quartet and make a project out of competing and being the youngest quartet in the Society and all these things, and of course we all chirped in and said, 'Let's go.'"

So began the next phase of Lightfoot's education in music.

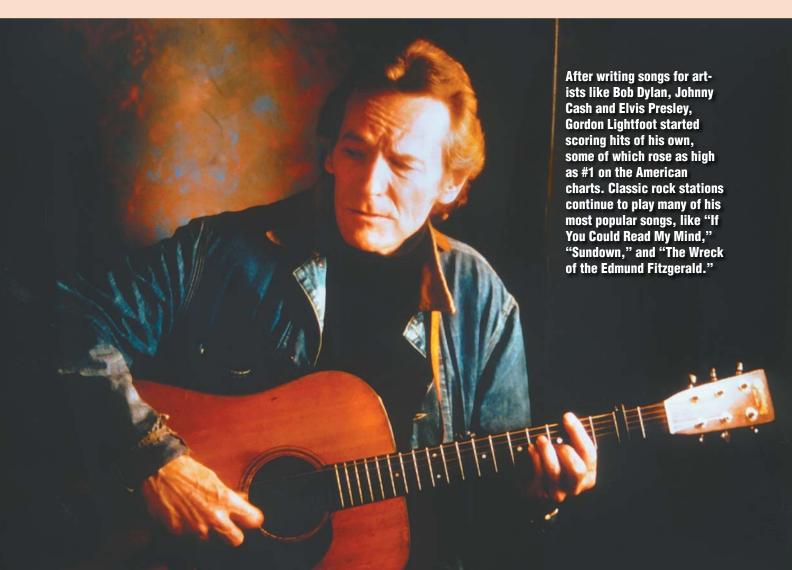
"For most everyone except Gordie music was a hobby and a pastime," said

Rushton. "He was considered impractical by many because he wanted to make it a career."

"Going into barbershop quartets was part of that personal discipline. Barbershop singing demanded a great deal more than any solo effort. It just seemed that Gordie was willing to work at anything, with anyone, to improve his singing and his knowledge of music."

Lightfoot had two quartets over four years. The first, **The Collegiate Four**, included Paul Leger, Wayne Rankin and Bob Croxall.

"That was my first quartet and we competed," Lightfoot said. "I would find that the baritone would be doubling the lead in a lot of cases in the first quartet and it was bothering me



# Before they were stars ...

# hard core quartet competitor

because I knew that we could never, ever win that way. The whole object of the thing was to compete and do as well as we could."

"I understood these things. I don't know why, but I did and I knew it was happening. Then it turned into a kind of a disagreement. At the same time during those two years my voice had descended."

The Collegiate Four may have ended, but not before they got exposure that many quartets would kill to have. Pete McGarvey, a long-time radio broadcaster and newsman at CKEY in Toronto remembers having Lightfoot on a show when both were still in Orillia.

"His first appearance on national radio was on a program called *The Dominion Barn Dance* and that was on CBC back in 1954," said McGarvey, then with CFOR.

"We took the show to a different location every week. The show went on from 9 to 9:30 p.m. and there were about 48 stations across the country that picked it up."

"We were down in Cannington one night and we had this barbershop quartet from OD. It was a time when we had a great fever for barbershopping in town here."

If that wasn't enough, Lightfoot also had his first television appearance on a CBC program called *Pick the Stars*, a talent contest that pitted The Collegiate Four against anything from tap dancers to country bands.

"I think we won the first time and we lost out the second time at the semifinals," Lightfoot said. "What fun we had."

Lightfoot, Bob Branch, Bill Hughes, and Terry Whelan made up the next quartet, **The Teen Timers**.

"We did the same thing," recalled Lightfoot. "We went through the contests, we practiced, we were coached, we went to the meetings, we sang with the chorus; we did everything we were supposed to do. It became a whole project that lasted all through high school up until the end of grade 12."

"We still did not win any great prizes. I think the best we ever did was we came sixth or something like that."

Until recently, high school in Ontario was a five-year affair. As Lightfoot began the last, he decided to move in another direction.

"We had this kid who was a beautiful bass (Hughes), but he was also very smart. He had to leave and go to the University of Toronto. He was a year ahead of us. I was lucky to get him."

"I didn't continue it on in grade 13. When the bass player left I had to let it go. I did not try to find another bass singer."

The lessons of barbershopping would serve him well in life. It started with his first attempts to arrange. He used the "Armstrong Method."

"That's when you don't know about time signatures, you don't know how to write in any other key but the key of C because you can't get the flats and sharps right. There was all kinds of stuff like that."

"I could do it, but it was a laborious task. I wrote three or four pretty good

arrangements for our quartet, but I didn't know enough and it was one of the things that inspired me, for instance, to go to school."

The harmony structure of barbershopping left an impression, too.

"You can voice the chord any way you want to. You can't leave any spaces. You have to fill all the spaces. I guess barbershopping taught me that because barbershop chords fill all the spaces."

To this day, the work ethic remains constant.

"We used to practice every







Gordon sang with the Orillia chapter and for four years competed with The Teen Timers and The Collegiate Four. His desire to create better barbershop arrangements was part of his inspiration to go to college.





After illness prevented Gordon from formally accepting his Honorary Lifetime Membership at our international convention, he made it official in Toronto on April 22. Shown are Society president Drayton Justus and Society board member Barry Towner.

week. When we would be going into a competition we would have a coach. We had a coach named Jimmy Woods. He was a damned good coach."

"I still have to do that. I still rehearse once a week with my orchestra," whether he has a concert to perform or not, he said.

"I work hard. I think I got a lot of that from the Barbershoppers. They put forth a great deal of energy. It was a very energetic thing."

Of course all that practice and rehearsal isn't done in a vacuum. There are other people involved, like the other three guys.

"I had to work in close quarters with these people. It taught me a lot about working with the other people; working as a team."

"I was much better with the second one though because I was in charge," he said with a laugh.

Lightfoot doesn't ignore his roots. He's lent his talent to community endeavours and he hasn't forgotten what he received as a Barbershopper.

"I participated in a couple of events through the years. I haven't lost touch with them."

"One year they did one of my songs ("If You Could Read My Mind") with the **Northern Lights Chorus** doing the choral background and me singing. It was wonderful. The arrangement was just absolutely—I don't know who wrote the arrangement, but it was great."

Post high school, Lightfoot's story is well-known, but now you know how it began.

"I started writing songs at 18 and the barbershopping was behind me, but what I learned from it was a very important part of my life during those formative years."

"It's the most remarkable sound I think that I've ever experienced. I had a wonderful time while I was with the Barbershoppers."



John Swartz is the entertainment columnist and feature writer for the Packet & Times in Orillia, Ontario. He is also a television producer with Rogers Television in Barrie, Ontario. He has lost count of how many times he's interviewed Gordon Lightfoot and published several stories about the

Golden Voices in Harmony concert coincident with the Ontario District Association of the Barbershop Harmony Society.





# Mauer

# "barberbrat," international chorus gold medalist

Leading Broadway actor Gary Mauer (his stage name) was just three years old when his dad, Al Mau, along with Ted Bradshaw, Paul Graham, and Phil Foote, won the quartet gold medal in 1968 with the **Western Continentals**. Growing up a proud "barbershop brat," with "the purity of male voices" singing barbershop harmony earned Gary his own chorus gold medal along his path to obtaining some of the most prominent leading roles in American musical theater.

"Hearing barbershop harmony somehow makes me feel whole, complete," says Gary, who until late this spring played the Phantom in the Broadway touring cast of Andrew Lloyd Webber's *The Phantom of the Opera*. If you saw this musical anywhere in the country the past couple of years before this May, you saw Gary in his masterful portrayal of arguably the most coveted leading role of all Broadway musicals. If you caught the show on Broadway about three years ago, you may have seen Gary in the role of Raoul, the other major male role in what has become the longest running and most successful musical of all time.

To sit down and talk music, performing and life with Gary is to enjoy the presence of a man whose love for his family, his faith, and his musical heritage shapes the approach of everything he does on stage and in his career. On stage, he brings purity of tone, clearness of lyric, an amazing voice and vocal range, and complete involvement in the message and character of his performance. To hear and watch Gary perform "The Music of the Night" is an experience I'll remember for the rest of my life. An absolute "100" in Presentation!

Born in 1965, Gary's earliest recollections of music are of his dad's quartet practices at the house. Due to barbershop harmony, he says there were "so many mentors, I didn't even realize that's what they were to me in those days." He credits his current vocal stylings as a pursuit of what he heard early in his life.

"Even now, no matter what role I'm playing," Gary says, "I think deep down inside me I'm subconsciously still trying to sing like Ted Bradshaw!"

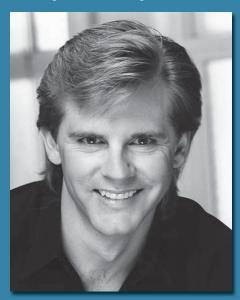
Barbershop was at the center of Mau family events as Gary grew up. Social circles and vacations all centered around barbershop, his dad's quartets and chorus, going to International, etc. After winning gold in 1968, Al joined the **Pacificaires** and won three consecutive silvers in 1972, '73, and '74. Gary got deep into the hobby as well,

Al Mau's kid has long done his daddy proud





Gary literally grew up at the feet of the Western Continentals. He later won a chorus gold medal along with his dad.



"Even now, no matter what role I'm playing, I think deep down inside me I'm subconsciously still trying to sing like Ted Bradshaw!"



Gary's family had as normal of a family life as you could expect on the road. Beth home schooled the kids during the week while Gary performed nearly every day, then she joined him on stage as Christine for the weekend shows. After two and a half years of packing up and moving every few weeks, the Mauers have returned to their New Jersey home to seek a normal life where the kids can join a soccer team and a gold medal chorus singer/Broadway star can perhaps drop in on a chapter meeting to get his "barbershop fix."

joining **The Phoenicians** while in high school and earning an international chorus gold in 1983, at age 18, singing with his father.

After getting a degree in musical theater, Gary was "paying his dues" as a cruise ship performer when he met his wife, Elizabeth Southard, in the cast on board. ("Beth" starred as "Christine" in The Phantom on Broadway opposite Gary's "Raoul" and retained the role in the touring cast opposite Gary's "Phantom.") The "big break" came when Gary joined a touring group performing "The Music of Andrew Lloyd Webber" with the original Phantom, Michael Crawford. Gary and Beth soon found their way into major Broadway and touring productions of Les Miserables and Showboat!, until Gary won his Raoul role in The Phantom of the Opera. Gary later prepared to be the understudy for the Phantom role on Broadway; upon seeing him play that lead role in his final, full-makeup and cosume dress rehearsal, the producers offered him the touring company lead immediately!

After more than two years and a half years of packing up the family every few weeks, Gary and Beth left the tour late last spring to return to their New Jersey home and give their two children a more normal childhood. I interviewed them just before their journey home, where they plan to create a CD of Broadway tunes and contemporary Christian music. After that, probably a return to the stage, either in the Broadway community or somewhere else in the U.S. that would offer a resident cast opportunity for both Gary and Elizabeth. (He might even show up at a Big Apple rehearsal some Monday night just to get a "Barbershop Fix.")

Gary, his iPod already boasting plenty of barbershop favorites, was

thrilled when I presented him with some Vocal Majority CDs after a performance.

"I know what we'll be listening to all the way home next week!" Beth said.





**Bob Hodges**Presentation
judge, multiple
gold medalist
with The Vocal
Majority

# **Buffalo Bills wannabe**

Adapted from an interview of Honorary Lifetime member Bill Gaither, July 25, 2006, with Director of Marketing Todd Wilson. The full text of the interview can be found at http://gaither.com/exclusives/interview.php?uid=1190. Listen to the audio of the full interview at 4-cast.tv.

**Todd:** So have you recovered from the last week or so?

**Bill:** Oh yeah. I don't know how many people I've told about that. That night at Conseco ... I've been using this phrase, I've never been in front of such a literate harmonic audience. I mean they knew every subtlety that was going on in harmonies.

**Todd:** Well, that's why you're such a good fit with this whole organization and we're just thrilled to have you as an honorary member.

**Bill:** Well it's an honor to us and I've shared it with the guys, too, so thank you. I have just been a fan for years. I was serious about **The Buffalo Bills** recording of Lida Rose was my first encounter back in the mid-'50s, and I said "Hey, there's something different about this four-part harmony, let me figure this out." I don't think I ever got it figured out, but it's good. (laughter)

**Todd:** Can you tell me about some of your earliest memories of singing?

**Bill:** Trying to match what I was hearing on the radio, with a male quartet and gospel music. I was in probably the sixth or seventh grade, but I was doing the best I could do to at least fill in the triad of the chord. There was something about a male singing that alto line up there.

**Todd:** Describe the transition from being a teacher to a gospel music performer and recording artist.

**Bill:** When I was 19, I tried to do this professionally in a gospel group. We worked for about a year and starved to death, which forced me back to college and a day job, which was about the best thing that could have happened to me. I tell young people with aspirations to get their education first. I got a teaching degree

# Bill Gaither

and all through college sang in quartets. In fact, I was in a barbershop quartet that tried to do the Buffalo Bills arrangement of Lida Rose. We did *The Music Man* on campus. Four-part harmony was my love, but I was realistic enough to know that I was probably not going to be able to make a living doing that, so I got my degree and started teaching.

After I started teaching, I started writing some original gospel songs. Now unlike my singing and my playing, the songs we were writing were better than some of the stuff out there. There were professionals who were picking those songs up and they were using them, and we were making some income from that, and we taught for about eight or nine years, singing part time with my wife and my brother. We got a recording contract, and by the end of 10 years my night job was overtaking my day job.

**Todd:** Most Gaither songs have instrumental accompaniment. What prompted you to explore the a cappella project you recently released?

**Bill:** Well, that simply goes back to my love for that harmony, and to see if we could reproduce that in the studio, and I'll be honest with you, I was in awe the whole night in listening to those guys doing that around one mic. I told Gloria "these guys are real good."

**Todd:** Who has had a big impact on your life or your career?

**Bill:** Most of those would be gospel people. Jake Hess, the original lead singer of the Statesmen.

They did a lot of barbershop harmonies and were more in line of what I would call the classic harmony groups. Back in the 50s, I was influenced a lot by the Mills Brothers and the Four Preps and Four Freshmen. Anybody who was doing harmony would get my ear.

**Todd:** What do you think made them stand out against those other groups you mentioned?

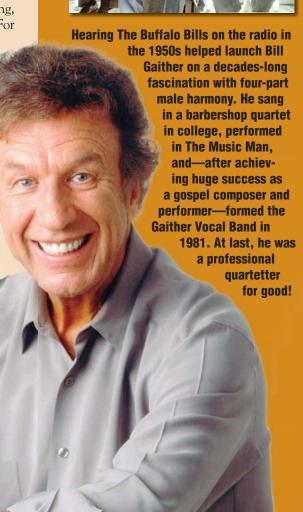
**Bill:** It's interesting I think the same thing it was ... I was noticing the showmanship of some of the groups [in Indianapolis]—they could sing, but they could also entertain. For the Statesmen, I suppose it was a combination of both the entertainment and the hard work that they did as a quartet.

**Todd:** Before visiting International Convention at Conseco, what did you know about the Barbershop Harmony Society?

**Bill:** Terry Franklin [son of Bob Franklin of the **Suntones**] used to sing tenor with us and he would talk about his dad and the Society, and Gloria and I kept

say-





ing "We need to go to one of those," and then this spring we just happened to get this letter. We said "Yes! We'll be there." We were in Miami where Terry's dad came out to one of our concerts and brought his buddies. We did the sound check in the afternoon and I heard this singing out in the hallway and it was just the four of them singing. I went out there for about 45 minutes to hear them do all this stuff, and I was overwhelmed.

**Todd:** Did you have any surprises or did you have any misconceptions about barbershop that were changed after having a chance to witness the

If God had put all the gifts in one person we'd have no need for other people. I know a way I can force at least four people to work together.

**Bill:** Not really, it was as good as I thought it was really gonna be; maybe it was better in some ways. But I knew that it would have to be very, very good. The extra dimension would have been the choral dimension, what 50 men, 60 men? That should be part of any serious collegiate musical program—public schools are dumbing down so much musically. I did not know that you would do choral things.

performers [in Indianapolis]?

I'll tell you the thing that blew my hat in a creek was to listen

to the 10,000 people sing the Canadian anthem and the American anthem, and then the song at the end ["Keep The Whole World Singing"]. And I looked at Gloria and I said, "Where else would you ever hear this?"

**Todd:** Yeah when you hear 10,000 voices out there, it's hard to not get goose bumps.

**Bill:** In a country that's really badly divided, to hear harmony, there is a spiritual overtone in people being forced to sing together. The little subtlety of [Harold Hill in *The Music Man*] saying to these disgruntled board members "I've got an answer for your problems" was not a simple little subtlety, I mean they learned to harmonize together and work together and blend together. I have a theory; if God had put all the gifts in



one person we'd have no need for other people. I know a way I can force at least four people to work together. (laughs)

**Todd:** What was your reaction when you found out you were selected to be an honorary member of our Harmony Society?

**Bill:** I'm probably as proud of that as anything that I've received for a long, long time mainly because of my total respect for what you do.

**Todd:** What important lessons do you think you've learned as a performer, writer, or studio vocalist that you care to pass on to others?

**Bill:** Do not talk very much during the day if you're going to sing that night. I can sing all day and not affect my voice, but if I am talking all day on the phone, or anything, by the end of the night, I might as well forget about singing any low notes because we, even though you sing properly, most of us do not talk properly.

**Todd:** So it's a very disciplined approach to maintaining your vocal health.

**Bill:** Yeah, and hearing what those young kids were doing Saturday night, they have got to be thinking about that, because if they want to do that until they're 70 years old, they have got to be protecting their throats.

**Todd:** What advice do you have for anyone who wants to start a quartet?

**Bill:** They have to know how to blend with a group, but they also have to know how to step out and take a lead and sell a lead. It's tough to get a voice that blends but also that has enough individualized characteristics that they can step out of that and sell a lead by themselves. Be able to power when it's time to power.



**Todd Wilson**Director of
Marketing,
Barbershop
Harmony
Society

# 2007: The Year of *The Music Man!*

#### The Music Man

- Play and score by Meredith Willson, until then a little-known Broadway instrumentalist
- Premiered Dec. 19, 1957 on Broadway—an immediate smash hit
- Featured 1950 champion The Buffalo Bills for 1,375 shows, the 1962 movie, and the #1 hit
- Virtually every song from the score is a classic, including: "Ya Got Trouble," "It's You," "Lida Rose," "Till There Was You," "76 Trombones"

# "Year of The Music Man" highlights

- Society-wide meeting nights on Tuesday, December 19, 2007
- Midwinter Convention in Albuquerque will have a Music Man Theme and feature a "Buffalo Bills-Era" quartet contest
- International contest in Denver will have a Music Man theme and everyone who has ever been in the musical is welcome to create a massive Music Man Chorus
- Harmony University 2007 will also feature a Music Man theme

# Here's the chance to get your whole town singing "Lida Rose" Start planning now for this great publicity and recruitment opportunity!

When much of the public thinks Barbershop, they think of The Buffalo Bills singing "Lida Rose" in The Music Man. The play is widely beloved, and people can't help but sing along when they hear one of the songs from the perfect score. That's why as a Society we're taking advantage of the 50th anniversary of the Music Man to bring the music to the public and your future show patrons, with the goal to help you get more bookings and new members.

# Your chapter

The climax of the year will be a the 50th anniversary of opening night. Every chapter is invited to hold a guest night/interchapter celebration and to invite Sweet Adelines and/or Harmony

Incorporated chapters to participate. Finale for the evening will be "Lida Rose/Will I Ever Tell You" eight-part arrangement. Start planning now!

Here are some brainstorming starters:

- Early in the year, a well-planned guest night with a Music Man theme? (Be creative! Invite past Music Man performers and patrons, music educators, have "tryouts" for the School Board, perform/teach a few Music Man numbers/
- Have a "special show" during the year for the Music Man (Music Man related scripts are available at www.harmonymarketplace.com.)
- Chapter show theme already set? Include some Music Man songs.
- Support other local celebrations, productions, through attendance, volunteer work at the show, buy an ad in their program. Promote their show. Trade tickets for your show with them. Help build the staging. Be a fill in/extra. Offer coaching to the quartet or offer the quartet. Invite current/past Music Man performers to a rehearsal.
  - Do a mini Music Man show for your singouts in 2007. Look for opportunities to sing for more groups, sometimes with mini choruses, like service clubs, etc.
    - Involve the

- audience. Find guys who can sing and bring them up to sing with you. Perform the "Music Man Medley" with your local community/ school band or orchestra (the score is available from the Harmony Marketplace.)
- Hold Harold Hill member recruitment activities in Malls, at festivals, county fairs, etc.
- Become "A Harold Hill" by "committing" to recruit at least one new member in 2007-

More info to follow from the Membership Department.

# December 19 is the big day

We are encouraging all chapters to hold a special meeting on the Music Man's 50th anniversary Tuesday, December 19, 2007. Make this a guest

night, or an interchapter night, a social night, combining seasonal activities with the celebration of the Music Man anniversary.

The possibilities are almost endless. Certainly the creative folks in your chapter can come up with additional and customized ideas. These are just suggestions. Think boys, think!

Don't be left behind. Get involved and take



Many of us have sung in it—join with local theater groups and other Music Man lovers in a year of celebrations. (Above, Jackpot quartet, circa 2000) The Society has great music and resources. Check reqularly for updates at www.barbershop.org/musicman.

part in this celebration. But you need to start planning for it NOW!

As Harold Hill said:

"You pile up enough tomorrows, and you'll find you are left with nothing but a lot of empty yesterdays. I don't know about you, but I'd like to make today worth remembering."

Make 2007 worth remembering with the Music Man as your theme and inspiration.

It's gonna be exciting! ■

# YA GOTTA KNOW THE TERRITORY

# BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY CONVENTION

FIRST TIME EVER IN DENVER!

JULY 1 - 8, 2007

HEADQUARTERS HOTEL: ADAM'S MARK VENUE: PEPSI CENTER

With contests, classes, concerts and chances to sing, this annual event provides dozens of ways to enjoy and enliven your barbershop life.

# COME TO COMPETE

Every year, top choruses and quartets from around the world vie for gold, silver and bronze medals at the convention. We hope you are in one of the exceptional groups who have earned a place on the international competitive stage. But if you are not, the next best thing is to hear these men whose talent and training have brought them to the pinnacle of the barbershop world.



Join your friends and barbershop colleagues for these contests:

- International Quartet Championship showcasing 50 of the best barbershop quartets
- International Chorus Championship with 30 of the world's top choruses
- MBNA America Collegiate Barbershop Quartet Contest featuring the top young men's quartets.

# WE'LL SHOW YOU

It's always showtime at the annual convention. This year, four entertaining shows have been assembled for convention participants. Three favorites are back, along with a new benefit concert that will wow you.

- The Harmony Foundation Presents, a benefit for the charitable arm of the Barbershop Harmony Society which raises funds to further music education.
- The Association of International Champions Show featuring outstanding quartets from across North America, plus the AIC chorus under the direction of Jay Giallombardo.



- The World Harmony Jamboree showcasing the best men's and women's medalists from throughout the world. This event will be held at the beautiful Buell Theatre.
- The Larry Ajer Tuesday Night Concert benefiting the Harmony Foundation.

Throughout 2007, we'll be celebrating the longevity of barbershop music as evidenced by the 50th Anniversary of *The Music Man*.

# KEEP THE WHOLE WORLD SINGING

The Society's motto is nowhere better practiced than at the annual convention. We've created several venues for you to join in the singing. Here are just a few samples of where your voice is needed:

- NEW! The Red, White and Blue "Tag-In Quartet"

  A program designed to encourage more casual singing at the convention. Choose from a list of nine official convention songs that all attendees will be encouraged to learn. Here's a chance to do more singing with people that have never met before...one of the most fun aspects of being a barbershopper. Eligible participants can receive discounts from the Harmony Marketplace and can also have their names entered into a drawing to win one of three great prizes, like a video iPod Nano; Flat Panel HDTV; or a Blue Ray DVD Player. Stay tuned to upcoming issues of *The Harmonizer, Livewire* or www.barbershop.org/denver for details.
- The Good News! Gospel Sing, an open invitation for everyone to sing.
- Sing with The Champs, offering the chance to listen to and sing with champion quartets.
- Mixed Harmony Showcase with men and women blending their voices in concert.
- Tag singing until the wee small hours of the morning.
- The Ancient Harmonious Society of Woodshedders
  AHSOW maintains a room where you can try your hand
  at woodshedding.

# LIVE AND LEARN

Members have the chance to attend Masters Classes and educational seminars throughout the week. Some of the Society's best coaches, top chorus and quartet members and leading instructors will share their insights, tips, experiences and guidance in a variety of subjects.

# IT'S A WOMAN'S WORLD

Barbershop spouses have a host of activities specially designed to make their time in Denver entertaining and rewarding. They can choose from a variety of custom-designed tours and/or join other women in the Ladies Hospitality Room or at the Ladies Breakfast. The Harmony Marketplace will be open throughout the convention week with an array of barbershop-themed merchandise.

# RESURRECTION OF THE MASSED SING!

Thursday, July 5th—10:45 am to 11:30 am, before the quartet semi-finals



# SIDE TRIPS MERIT AN EXTENDED STAY

Located at the base of the Rockies, Denver has always made an excellent base from which to tour the beautiful and historic Front Range of the mountains.

Central City and Black Hawk located 34 miles from Denver are two historic old mining towns from the 1870s that have come alive with limited stakes casino gambling. Once called the "Richest Square Mile on Earth," Central City and Black Hawk are known as having some of the best preserved Victorian architecture in the West. There are mine tours, mining museums and several places that still offer instruction in the fine art of gold panning in a stream where a half billion dollars of it was found.

**Pikes Peak Country** is located 60 miles south of Denver and features more than 40 attractions centered around 14,000-foot high Pikes Peak. Things to see include the Air Force Academy, one of three United States military colleges; the famous Broadmoor Resort with its lake and three golf courses; the Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame with its exhibits on this exciting professional sport; and Garden of the Gods which has gigantic 500-foot high red sandstone rock monuments at the base of Pikes Peak.

**Georgetown** located 42 miles west of Denver, is a delightful Victorian village with 200 restored buildings from the 1870s, set in a spectacular mountain valley. The main street has shops and restaurants and many of the old homes have been turned into antique stores. The Georgetown Loop Railroad operates narrow gauge steam locomotives curling down a mountain ledge at one point crossing over a 90-foot high trestle.

**Mount Evans** has the highest paved auto road in North America snaking its way to the 14,260 foot (4,346 m) summit. The free road is open only from June through Labor Day and frequently has snow on it, even in August. The view from the top takes in the entire Front Range. The summit is 60 miles from downtown Denver.

**Rocky Mountain National Park** is located 71 miles northwest of Denver and features 400 square miles of scenic beauty, including Trail Ridge Road, the highest continuous highway in the world crossing the Continental Divide at over two miles above sea level. The park has two information centers, hundreds of miles of hiking trails, tranquil lakes, waterfalls, wildlife and horseback riding. Estes Park is a resort town on the edge of the park with restaurants and shops.

# DOWNTOWN DENVER WILL DELIGHT YOU

Denver has more than doubled in population since 1960, and the very things that have drawn so many people to the Mile High City are the things that will make your stay a delight. Denver is a clean, young and green city with over 200 parks and dozens of tree-lined boulevards.

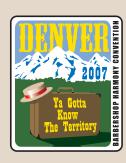


Anchoring the thriving LoDo entertainment district is the 4.6 acre Pepsi Center, our convention performance venue. This spectacular five-level facility is a premier sports and entertainment destination.

Denver has over 2,000 restaurants serving all varieties of cuisine. Area specialties include Rocky Mountain Trout, fresh Colorado beef, and lamb. Restaurants serving buffalo are the historic Buckhorn Exchange, the oldest saloon and restaurant in the city with a unique dining room covered with 500 stuffed animal heads and The Fort, which is housed in a reproduction of Bent's Old Fort, a fur trapper's post on the Santa Fe Trail.

# REGISTER NOW!

With the traditional opening ceremony spectacle and an elaborate Independence Day celebration, the convention packs an assortment of surprises. Register today according to the instructions in this story. Then keep reading *The Harmonizer* and visiting www.barbershop.org/denver for detailed updates.





# 2007 International Convention Registration & Events Form July 1-8, 2007 • Order online to choose your own seat! • www.barbershop.org/denver

date	membership number, if applicable	chapter name, if applicable	
name			
address		city: state/province: zip/postal code	
business phone	home phone	email	
circle payment method:	check : money order : Visa : Mastercard		
credit card #		expiration date	

### **Convention & Special Events Registration**

Convention package includes opening ceremonies, quartet quarter finals one & two, quartet semi-finals, chorus contest session one & two and the quartet finals.

Туре	Rate	Quantity	Total
Adult	\$134.75*		
Junior (under 12)	\$69.75*		
* Registration fee includes handlin * This includes the early bird spec	0 .	y 6, 2007.	SubTotal
Event	Rate	Quantity	Total
MBNA America Collegiate Barbershop Quartet Contest	\$17.00*		
Barbershop Quarter Contest			
* Event fee includes handling \$2.0	0 each		SubTotal
			SubTotal
* Event fee includes handling \$2.0	ds require ntion staff will		SubTotal  Grand Total

# Send Us Completed Form

Send completed form with payment of Grand Total in U.S. funds to:

Check all that apply:

□ Society VIP
□ President's Council Member
□ AIC Member

Barbershop Harmony Society 7930 Sheridan Rd, Kenosha, WI 53143

Order online to choose your seat! www.barbershop.org/denver

# You did it—and probably didn't know it!

# Eight months later, a look back at the many positive opportunities Barbershoppers have given to each other and the community

In February I was privileged to become the Society's Director of Music and Education. I knew it would be a challenging task, but also I knew that with the help of so many talented and dedicated members, we could accomplish whatever we set our minds to do. As Barbershoppers, we often do not realize the power we have when we all work together toward common goals. Many of us make a big difference in our chapters and our communities. It is time that we also recognize what we as an organization do for the world in which we live. Here is a little sample of how our music education programs have made the world a better place over the last eight months and why I am thankful to be part of the team that made it happen.

Your member dues primarily fund the basic programs and services. However, some of the most important things my department does are above and beyond these basic services, and are funded by your personal contributions to Harmony Foundation. Here are some of the things your contributions have helped us accomplish in just the past eight months.

# **Directors College**

This year, 97 directors attended Directors College on scholarships provided by Harmony Foundation, and with your contributions to the Foundation's efforts, we are now able to provide music training and expertise to roughly one out of eight directors each year.

Think of the power that this education has as we put better trained directors back in front of their chapters, making better music decisions and providing a better environment for the chapter to grow with even more singers. Credit goes to thousands of Harmony Foundation contributors.

### **Harmony University**

This year, several students attended Harmony University on scholarships as well. Under the leadership of Steve and Robben Morin, the Salem Senate-aires each year host the Larry Ajer Party at the international convention, using the proceeds to send a second

quartet to Harmony University. Last year, they donated the entire proceeds of that party to Harmony Foundation so that an additional quartet could attend Harmony University in Ajer's memory. We awarded the scholarship to Men In Black as the college quartet champions, and are looking to keep that in place for future college quartet champs. It was a true win-win-win situation as Barbershoppers, a



chapter, the Foundation and the music department worked together to provide more grass-roots training to more Barbershoppers.

#### **Harmony Explosion Camps**

This year, the number of camps grew to 13, including those run by districts and chapters. One such chapter camp was the Buckeye Invitational, a long-standing successful program that this year drew 305 students. With the financial support of Harmony Foundation,

PLANTING SEEDS. See all these kids singing barbershop at the Buckeye Invitational camp? You helped it happen with your donations to Harmony Foundation. Each of 13 camps across the Society received \$700 in start-up money and \$50 for each voung man.



the Society was able to fund all 13 camps with an additional \$700 start-up money plus \$50 per student and teacher in attendance. The 13 camps averaged more than 100 students each.

I personally witnessed the excitement of several camps. Beth Bowen, the choral director of Chestatee High School and 17-year educator, wrote to tell of the great experiences her students, including her own son, had at camp. She raved about the value and the lasting effects of these camps and the positive role the Society is assuming in running them. In part, she wrote: "None of these experiences would have been possible for my students without the scholarships. They have so many other expenses during the year and at least two of the four students were very financially challenged. I, myself, would not have been able to afford to bring my son were it not for the scholarship. For some of them, it was the only "trip" they were able to take during the summer and what a fine choice!"

A student told us, "Thank you sooo

much for helping me go to this camp. That was the single best experience of my life. Your camp has truly inspired me as a singer. This was amazing!" We, as a team, are making a significant difference in lives through our ability to share our music, our resources and our time.

#### **Collegiate quartet tours**

The Music Department continues to introduce new programs which are made possible by money received from Harmony Foundation and your continued support. The new collegiate quartet tour introduced this year is one exciting example of this partnership. We have already sent two fine quartets to various college campuses to introduce barbershop harmony to a growing number of eager college singers. Thanks go to New Release and Men In Black for their peer-to-peer presentations and ambassadorship in these efforts.

#### **American Harmony Movie**

I'll tell you about another important. project you've helped fund—the barbershop documentary film that has been under production for the past year or two. Aengus James' crews are creating a compelling story from an outsider's perspective. The finished version will likely be accepted at some top film festivals, where it will be shopped around for larger distribution deals. This may do for barbershop culture what other smash hit documentaries did for amateur basketball and spelling bees. Our thanks go to Harmony Foundation for providing \$100,000 of the seed money to help launch this project. We are serving a world of interested parties. You'll be hearing more on this in the

And this is just what we all did in the last eight months! Imagine where we can go with a continued emphasis on this kind of teamwork. The music staff will continue to develop programs. Harmony Foundation will continue to fund them, if not totally, at least substantially. And you, the member, will continue to support all of these efforts. Is this a great Society, or what?



# Statement of ownership, management and circulation

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Other classes mailed through USPS	0	0
Total paid circulation	30,755	30,461
Free distribution outside county	0	0
In county	0	0
Other classes mailed through USPS	0	0
Free distribution outside mail	1,246	955
Total free distribution	1,246	955
Total distribution	32,001	31,416
Copies not distributed	478	350
Total	32,479	31,766
Percent paid and/or requested	96.15%	96.96%



# Stories and tips from the most rewarding fundraiser of the year

Ah, Valentines Day, the time of year when Barbershoppers turn into Cupids, bringing messages of love to all those within hearing range. From a more practical side, it's also the time when chapters can reap the benefits of public awareness and revenue generation.

#### Plan for success

It's not too early to start planning—and rehearsing. Success and positive public awareness depends on how well you organize and the quality of performance.

Need help? Some tips are on page 31, and there's a lot of information available to you at www.barber*shop.org/valentines*, including music for radio spots. Don't forget to check the Successful Singing Valentines manual linked from the Valentines page.

## Why we do it

Every Valentines Day brings the opportunity to touch someone's life—and enrich your own. Ask any Singing Valentine quartet, and they'll tell you the tears and laughter aren't only those of the ones they sing to.

From Bob Cox of the Salem Senate-Aires: We were singing at one of the local rest homes. As we finished and were about to leave, I noticed a frail elderly lady, tears streaming down her face. Her husband was sitting beside her, his arm around her. As I walked by them, he reached out and stopped me. "That was the same song that was sung at our wedding 60 years ago," he said. "My wife had a stroke and can't talk, but we want to thank you."

That's why I sing barbershop ... That's exactly whv.

From John Deacon of the Gentlemen of Harmony in **Simcoe. Ontario:** Bren, a young student from Simcoe (Ontario) moved to Denver to be with his older brother who was dying of cancer. Bren's girlfriend, Karen, stayed behind, but they found a way to keep the romance going. He planned a luncheon for Valentines Day—Karen and he would have the identical meal and a video chat via Internet. When we arrived, Karen was enjoying her lunch and gazing at the laptop screen just in front of her ... and he was gazing at her through his laptop at the other end. We sang our songs as best we could, and gave Karen a rose



Slick Nickel with

Nebraska Gov. David Heineman

from Bren, but we were crying as we sang to them both. She was here, but Bren was in another country and 1,500 miles away. None of us have ever experienced a moment like this one in all the years we have been doing this. (Bren and

Karen are now married.)

From Bill Harbour of Banks of the Wabash chorus in Terre Haute: We had gone to one of the public elementary schools to deliver a Singing Valentine to a teacher. She knew we were coming, as it had to be cleared with the school, and she had prepared the class for what was to happen. When we

started to sing, the teacher started to cry. A little girl came up to her, put her arm around her and said "it's okay, Mrs. Jones, everything will be all right." Four adult men, ages 50 to 70, just about lost it on the spot.

From Bob Haggard of the Kentuckians in Lexington: Valentine's Day 2006 was a memorable day that I will cherish for the rest of my life. You see, my chapter quartet, Uncalled For Four, started the day very early and by noon, we were already exhausted, hungry and tired. The afternoon schedule took us to Mrs. Riley's home where we joined the Goldenaires (Cardinal District's first Senior Quartet) to form an octet.

We walked into the living room and there sat Mrs. Riley dressed in her new pink dress, her makeup perfectly applied, and her hair elegantly styled. She was surrounded by family and friends. This was as beautiful picture as you have ever seen. This day was also her 104th birthday. (Yes, 104, and she still prepared her own income taxes.)

As we sang "Happy Birthday" and the Valentine songs, a tear or two ran down her cheek. We can only guess what must have been going through her mind. Mrs. Riley suffered a stroke several years ago and could not speak, but the "thank you" in her eyes said enough. God's blessings are many, but we received the greatest blessing of all on that special day.

Mike Castrodale of The Alliance chorus in Columbus: My quartet went to Spaghetti Warehouse to do a Singing Valentine on Feb. 14. While we were in the middle of "Let Me Call You Sweetheart," the sender stood up, pulled the ring out of his pocket, got down on one knee and at the tag, asked her to marry him! Women at a nearby table started crying like babies, (Don't tell, but we were pretty choked up as well) He didn't inform us that he was going to propose, so it was a surprise for everyone. It was great! The manager came over and comped their entire meal and fed us as well!

It's not always easy From Dutch Frock of Philadelphia's Sounds of Liberty Chorus: Last year, we tried to deliver a Valentine to a woman at the school where she worked. When she came to the front desk, we told her we had a Singing Valentine for her and presented the flower, candy and the card. She promptly pushed everything back across the desk and said, "Take this away, I don't want it." We stood dumbfounded. She asked who the Valentine was from; the card read "anonymous." So, she again refused delivery. Eventually, the quartet did deliver the Valentine after the woman found out from our coordinator that it was ordered by her boyfriend, not her ex-husband as she originally thought.

# A strange place for a barbershop quartet

**From Steve Patrick of the Thundertones** in **Huntsville**, **W.Va.:** We were to deliver a singing valentine early on Saturday morning; 8:00 to be exact. The husband was waiting for us on the front porch in a T-shirt and boxers. He had clearly just gotten out of bed, and wanted us to sing to his still sleeping wife. As we walked up the steps to the bedroom, he put his finger to his lips and shushed us.

There in the bed fast asleep, with covers pulled up to her neck (thank goodness!), was the unsuspecting recipi-

ent. In a very quiet voice, the husband said, "Honey? There's someone here to see you." And with that, he gave us the OK sign, and we started singing "Let Me Call You Sweetheart." The young gal opened one eye then the other as a huge smile crept across her face. You could actually see her expression go from confused to amazed and delighted. What a sport!

# Let me call you ... um ... sweetheart?

Singing romantic songs to men can often be awkward. Check out Steve Delahanty's intro that makes the transition to the song a little easier. (www.barbershop.org/id 064487) Of course, it's always good for a few laughs—or tears—for the guy's buddies.

#### From Lynn Lowes of the Living Skies Chorus in Saskatch-

**ewan:** We had a request to sing for a woman's husband at his workplace. He was a welder in a manufacturing plant. When we asked for him, he came out in his welding smock, visors, gloves, etc. Several of his coworkers came along. The man was duly embarrassed after the first song, but when we began the second song, a few of his buddies started DANCING, which made him all the more embarrassed.

# Sometimes it's the quartet that gets the Valentine

Aside the emotional and financial rewards of delivering Singing Valentines, every now and then other "gifts" come a quartet's way.

#### From Lawrence Stern of California's Gold Standard

**Chorus:** Most exciting moment occurred when a car with members of a quartet (names intentionally withheld) were hustling to get to their next delivery point. Driver saw red lights in his rear view mirror and realized he was speeding. As he pulled over with the policeman following, other members of the quartet in a second car pulled up behind. One quartet member got out of the second car, approached the policeman showing his California Highway Patrolretired badge, and explained that they were on their way to deliver Valengrams. The policeman could see that both the speeding driver and the retired state patrolman were in the same costume.

Fortunately the officer exercised his discretion by allowing the singing speeder off with a warning. No ticket! What a Valentine! Next year we need to deliver a Valengram gratis to the local police department—but we won't tell them why.

**Messages of love from overseas** From Dave Whitehead of Georgia's Stone Mountain **Chorus:** There is a song entitled "This Little Rose Has a Story to Tell." On Valentines Day this year the Stone Mountain Chorus delivered a rose and two songs to a Valentine in Convers, Ga., and the story it told was one of love from of all places, Indonesia.

It all started when the chairman of the Singing Valentines received an e-mail asking for a price quote. The e-mail was answered and two days later the chairman received a telephone order. When he asked the caller, a young lady, for her phone number she said it would be better to communicate by e-

# Tips for successful singing valentines programs

Do you have a tip for success to share with other chapters? Send them to valentinesPR@barbershop.org, and we'll post them to the Valentines section of the Society's website!

Meanwhile, here are a couple of ideas from fellow Cupids. And don't forget to visit www.barbershop.org/valentines for more ways to organize and grow your Singing Valentine program.

Special note: Listing your chapter at www.SingingValentines.com makes you more visible to the public—and to local media looking for a good Valentine story.

- For the Gold Standard Chorus, 2006 saw the best Valengram program in many years. One of the chorus's new innovations was a creation of Duane King, resident button maker. The button said, "You Make My Heart Sing" over a red heart with a barberpole. Around the rim in small print was the chorus website, phone number, and the words "Your special someone sent a quartet to sing for you on Valentine's Day. Everyone should be loved that much.'
- George Williamson of the Orlando Chapter reports that "reactivating" members who have not been participating in chapter activities for a while was a great way to form a Valentine's quartet.
- Chuck Weeth of the Abilene Chapter says his chapter uses "drops" at local businesses, strategically located in the four quadrants of the city. These are businesses the chapter has an ongoing relationship with and the chapter turns to them each year to accept cash or checks and the names of the people ordering Valentines. This allows them to accept last-minute orders without worrying about billing. The chapter also has a post office box address that people can mail payments to until the weekend before Valentine's Day. The chapter does not bill nor does it accept credit cards.
- Miami Chapter had great success using recruited, paid, singers to compensate for the lack of tenors for Singing Valentine quartets. More tenors equals more quartets equals more deliveries.
- The Southern Gentlemen Chorus of New Bern, N.C., has offered a "starter kit" to help any chapter that wants to provide free Singing Valentines for the loved ones of members of the armed forces serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. The "kit" consists of ideas that helped the Gentlemen and the New River Chorus in Jacksonville, N.C., in their Valentine's Day 2006 deliveries. Contact Bob Nixon at rnixon@cconnect.net.
- Jim Scorgie of the Capitol Chordsmen chorus in Madison, Wis., suggests hitting the malls or shopping areas between gigs to make last-minute Valentine shoppers aware of an alternative to candy and cards. Scorgie's quartet sang, handed out chapter business cards and moved on to the next gig. "The guilt of a procrastinator is a terrible thing to see."



**Members of Pacific Coast Harmony shared in one of** their most touching Valentines courtesy of Operation Homefront (operationhomefront.net), which helped organize and pay for this special delivery. Michael and daughter Sade never saw this coming, as Mondea was on active duty on an aircraft carrrier during their first Valentines Day apart. Michael was "absolutely blown away," according to the quartet. Not a hint of machismo stood between the song and Michael, who with a tear in his eye affected the quartet almost as much as the songs affected him. Sade just smiled throughout as if this sort of thing happened every day.

mail since she was out of the country. It turned out she was calling from Indonesia.

The delivery was made by one of the six quartets singing on Valentine's Day, to the complete surprise of the recipient in Conyers. The young man's parents were present and it was reported the parents had tears in their eyes and the young man was much moved as the quartet sang "Let Me Call You Sweetheart" and "Heart of My Heart." But it was the little rose that had the story to tell from halfway around the world.

From Bob Nixon of the **Southern Gentlemen in New** Bern. N.C.: Bill Rust one of our chapter members came up with the idea last fall to create a "scholarship" fund with donations from local organizations to pay for the chorus to deliver Singing Valentines to wives. mothers and sweethearts of deployed Marines. The Marine Federal Credit Union became the title sponsor for the event, but the local newspaper, the Sun Journal, got on board as a media sponsor and

we got local support from other radio and TV stations. In all we raised over \$5,000 to support our efforts including in excess of \$1,000 from the Fairfield Harbour Yacht Club.

We then contacted the New River Harmony Chorus in Jacksonville and sought their support since many of the deployed Marines were with helicopter squadrons. Then came the tricky part, getting the word out to the deployed Marines. We asked the Senior Enlisted Marine of the units to let those units know what we were doing for those in Iraq and Afghanistan. We even made up special Valentine cards to give out along with the traditional roses to the Valentine recipient. The two chapters sang 85 Valentines for the military and had enough left in the "scholarship" fund to donate to the Navy and Marine Relief Fund. For those of us who sang. the reward was the tears in the eves of a loved one whose Marine or sailor was far away on that special day.

You never know who vou'll meet **Gordon Sargent of the Winnipeg Golden Chordsmen Chorus reports:** My wife's aunt, Seour Yvette Ricard, is a nun of 50 years with Residence de St. Joseph Order. I had called her and told her that my quartet, Tempo, would like to come and serenade her sometime the evening of February 14. Tempo arrived at the building and was escorted to her brand new condo. "This is the most men I have ever had in my room!" she exclaimed. We all chuckled, then we were taken down to the study where about 20-25 other nuns of the residence were waiting patiently to hear us serenade them as well. Just before we left, our baritone Ron Latourelle discovered that one of the lovely ladies in the audience was his fifth-grade teacher!

# Be my Valentine por favor: a great Spanish lesson for the Miami chapter

The Miami chapter found a Spanish-speaking solution to a fortunate challenge in 2006. The chapter was experiencing an exciting growth spurt and director Gene Cokecroft had worked overtime to prepare eight good guartets for February 14. A week before, however, pre-Valentine sales were slow and the media wasn't biting hooks set by Patrick Harris, the Miamians' new marketing VP. Then El Nuevo Herald, the area's primary Spanish-speaking news-

paper, came calling. February 13, a large front-page photo got phone ringing so much that a "war room" had to be set up. When all was said and done, a total of 121 orders for Singing Valentines had been taken.



With Gina Romero and the Channel 41 cameraman are Timmy Larrowe, Ernie de la Fe, Mark Ortiz and Gregg Norris

If that weren't enough, a local Spanish language television news crew showed up to tape a quartet at six different gigs, followed by a 2-minute evening news piece.

In all, the Miami chapter grossed a whopping \$8,170 on the day. "On an organizational and logistical level we learned about pre-planning and thinking big, but also something much more important for our chapter and its future growth," pondered chapter president Ken Wantuck, "We

learned that Hispanic people love our music just as much as anyone. and from now on I think we're gonna pay more attention to that part of our community."

# **Barbershop Harmony Society Hall of Fame Class of 2006**

Begun in 2004, the Barbershop Harmony Society Hall of Fame honors living and dead members who made exceptional contributions to the Society barbershop experience. Twenty-four men and quartets are now in the Hall of Fame.



**Don Amos** (deceased) was founder of the British Association of Barbershop Singers (BABS) and was elected Lifetime President, a position he held

for nearly 30 years. He was a highly visible ambassador of British barbershop throughout the world, and he once was invited to 10 Downing Street for tea with the Prime Minister's wife. Don also founded the World Harmony Council.



**S.K. Grundy** (deceased) was a gifted coach of international champion quartets and an accomplished bigband instrumentalist and composer. He was con-

sidered a barbershop genius far ahead of his time. Much of his work grew in impact as years passed, and it continues to be performed today by top-tier groups. He wrote "Each Time I Fall In Love" and created definitive arrangements of many pieces such as "Alexander's Ragtime Band," "Back in My Home Town," "Chloe" and "A Nightingale Sang In Barkley Square." Other legendary arrangers, such as Val Hicks, counted S.K. Grundy among their major influences.



**Lou Perry** (deceased) was an extraordinary musician, a prolific arranger, a coach of all-time greats like the Four Rascals and Boston Common, and a

fierce defender of the barbershop style. Known for his humility and generosity, he was a noted judge who helped define the barbershop style and create the arrangement category in 1968. He was a highly influential teacher of the style and considered a guru to other arrangers. His enduring legacy among arrangers and

performers was authenticity, teaching others to "be true to the song."



Hal Staab (deceased) was not a competitor on the stage, but was an early Society visionary whose leadership and administrative gifts, according to founder

O.C. Cash, helped keep the Society from dying early on. Hal was also a prolific composer who served on the Society's first judging panel in 1941. Under his two-year presidency starting in 1942, he implemented the first standardized arrangements, pushed for the Society magazine, and developed and implemented the Society's first formal long-range vision. He was also the Society's third historian.



Warren "Buzz" Haeger, tenor of international champion The Four Renegades, was the Chicago area's "Pied Piper" of barbershop for decades. He

is also a terrific woodshedder, an unparalleled tag teacher, talented director, creator of more than 250 arrangements, a 22-year arrangement judge and a senior's quartet champion bass with The New And Improved Industrial Strength Mini-Chorus. He also plays a mean saxophone, playing in two sax quartets, the Sax Maniacs and the Sax Offenders.



# **Walter Latzko**

is a world-class musician and arranger who perhaps more than anyone showed

that the barbershop repertoire could include far more than "the old songs." He cut his barbershop teeth arranging for and coaching the Chordettes on the Arthur Godfrey Show. He has produced more

than 700 arrangements, providing the signature songs and often the bulk of the repertoire for legends like the Buffalo Bills, the Suntones, and Bluegrass Student Union. A judge and dedicated teacher, it was his arrangements that brought luminaries like Jim Clancy and David Wright into the Society.



Marty Mendro, elder statesman and writer, was lead and co-arranger for the champion show quartet Mid States Four. Today, he is equally remembered

for his off-stage contributions, including judging chairman and a major developer of the judging program, and long-time editor and publisher of the AIC's Medallion. He was a gifted chorus director and has been an ardent supporter of all barbershop programs, a quartet and chorus coach, arranger, fantastic woodshedder and, in recent years, a photographer for many AIC and AISQC events.

... and members of our oldest hall of fame 1939 - The Bartlettsville Barflies 1973 - Dealer's Choice 1940 - The Flat Foot Four 1974 - The Regents 1941 - The Chordbusters 1975 - Happiness Emporium 1942 - The Elastic Four 1976 - The Innsiders 1943 - The Four Harmonizers 1977 - Most Happy Fellows 1944 - The Harmony Halls 1978 - Bluegrass Student Union 1945 - The Misfits 1979 - Grandma's Boys 1946 - The Garden State Quartet 1980 - The Boston Common 1947 - The Doctors of Harmony 1981 - Chicago News 1948 - The Pittsburgers 1982 - Classic Collection 1949 - The Mid-States Four 1983 - Side Street Ramblers 1950 - The Buffalo Bills 1984 - The Rapscallions 1951 - The Schmitt Brothers 1985 - The New Tradition 1952 - The Four Teens 1986 - Rural Route 4 1953 - The Vikings 1987 - Interstate Rivals 1954 - The Orphans 1988 - Chiefs of Staff 1955 - The Four Hearsmen 1989 - Second Edition 1956 - The Confederates 1990 - Acoustix 1957 - Lads of Enchantment 1991 - The Ritz 1958 - The Gaynotes 1992 - Keepsake 1959 - The Four Pitchikers 1993 - The Gas House Gang 1960 - The Evans Quartet 1994 - Joker's Wild 1995 - Marquis 1961 - Suntones 1962 - The Gala Lads 1996 - Nightlife 1963 - The Town and Country Four 1997 - Yesteryear 1964 - The Sidewinders 1998 - Revival 1965 - The Four Renegades 1999 - FRED 1966 - The Auto Towners 2000 - PLATINUM 2001 - Michigan Jake 1967 - The Four Statesmen 1968 - The Western Continentals 2002 - Four Voices 1969 - Mark IV 2003 - Power Play 1970 - Oriole Four 2004 - Gotcha! 1971 - The Gentlemen's Agreement 2005 - Realtime 1972 - Golden Staters 2006 - Vocal Spectrum



This year's Buckeye Invitational included fantastic competitions, entertainment and fun, with a couple of new wrinkles.

The four-day event kicked off with a Johnny Appleseed District Showcase, which included The Alliance chorus, international quartet competitors Rhythmix, You Bet!, The Allies and collegiate competitor 4-Way **Stop**, and the reunion of 1997 international champion **Yesteryear**. That was just the first show!

The two-day quartet and chorus contests followed a Barbershop Idol format. In the early rounds, quartets sang in head to head competition to advance to the finals, where the survivors performed a 12-minute a cappella package. Serenade, from the Seneca Land District, took top quartet honors. The chorus contest included the Cheshire Chord Company from Cheshire, England, as well as BHS and SAI competitors. The men's champion chorus was The Academy

from the Sunshine District, while the Sweet Adeline Tune Town Show Chorus from Nashville took overall honors. Heart to **Heart** from Milwaukee won the mixed quartet mens', young womens', and combined choruses of the 2006 Singing Buckeyes High School Harmony Camp, under the direction of Gary Lewis and Penny Mensik. This year's camp included 142 young men and 166 young women from 97 different high schools. The Odyssey Show included the Sweet Adelines Greater Cleveland Chorus, international silver medalist Max Q and 1999 champion **FRED**.

The **Singing Buckeyes** opened the Saturday night

Stars of the Night show with an entertaining '50s and '60s golden oldies set. The show continued with stellar performances by 2004 champion Gotcha! and 2005 champ Realtime, and Sweet Adelines Queens of Harmony **Spotlight**. With dazzling displays of versatility, power, precision and blend, all three groups demonstrated why they are true champions. This was something of a homecoming for Gotcha! and John Newell, lead of Realtime. Gotcha! was the 1997 Buckeye Invitational

> grand champion quartet. And while attending the 2002 Buckeye Invitational, John met Corinne, now his wife. The moral seems obvious—come to the Buckeve Invitational, meet the love of your life and



Park Avenue, Entertainment Champ

The Friday and Saturday evening shows gave the audience plenty of exercise, as they repeatedly jumped up for standing ovations. One of the big thrills of the Friday night Barbershop Odyssey Show was the young become an international champion.

Buckeye Invitational 2006 was a real barbershop high. If you missed it, don't despair though. Plans are already underway for Buckeye Invitational 2007. ■

**Alan Lapp** Singing Buckeyes Chorus

# A hero's reception from barbershop heroes

# Boy with cerebral palsy learns that there were many champions in Indy

Christian gets a bronze pin from

onfined to a wheelchair and unable to communicate verbally, 11-year-old Christian Anderson is nevertheless highly social and very intelligent—which is perhaps why he became passionate about the family barbershop harmony hobby from an early age. Christian's idea of a good time is to snuggle on the

couch with his dad and watch quartet contest DVDs—the bigger the tag, the bigger the smile. His parents, Rick and Beth, corresponded with one of his favorite quartets, Texas-based **Sterling**, who sent Christian a framed, autographed photo. Since then, the family has corresponded with several of Christian's favorite quartets, many of whom have sent pho-

tos and CDs. In Indv, he hoped to hear and see his heroes live. He got far more than he bargained for!

During each intermission, he would join his family to search for his favorite quartets. 3 Men & **A Melody** was his first big meeting, but the next special quartet found him first. "Christian!" shouted Sterling tenor Randy Fly, who flagged down the family after recognizing Christian from photos he'd seen two years earlier. The next day, he brought the rest of the quartet into the seats to take photos with

ith Sterling, his early heroes

Christian, sign his scrapbook, and give him a Sterling pin.

Realtime tenor Tim Broersma wrote Christian prior to the convention, asking him to look up

the quartet in Indy. They gave the family a special command performance after their Gold Medal Hour. Christian had also been a huge fan of Vo**cal Spectrum** since meeting them at the 2004 Slamkafest held annually at the home of **Power Play** bass Jack Slamka, not far from the family's

suburban Detroit home. The quartet made a point of talking to Christian several times during the convention week. When they spotted him after winning the championship, they asked if *they* could take a picture with *him*!

On the way out of the quartet finals, **Saturday** 

Evening Post and Wheelhouse both sang to Christian and took pictures with him at the Conseco Fieldhouse. At the Chorditorium, he also got autographs, pictures and conversations with Storm Front, 12th Street Rag, Max Q, Flipside, Keep 'Em Guessing, and Metropolis. Metropolis even found out Christian's favorite song and dedicated it to him! James Sabina, the tenor

from Metropolis, works with autistic children and is very comfortable with kids like Christian. He got right on Christian's level and had a long conversation with him, and left him with his newly won 2006 bronze medalist pin. Likewise, Jeff Oxley of Max Q zeroed in on Christian without any introduction and had an extended conversation. Christian shortly after received a "For the Children" CD in the mail.





# STAY TUNED

Success! Readers report what works

VOICES GET THE WEDDING BELL CALL! Four years ago one of Central Alabama's chapter quartets sang "Heart of My Heart" as a valentine to a young woman. When Shelley and Jeff Higginbotham married in August, "The only song I wanted to hear as I



came down the aisle was 'Heart of My Heart," Shelley said. Central **Alabama's Voices of the South Chorus** obliged with a paid gig—the only live music for the wedding—delivering a rendition of the old standard for the processional, following a three tune pre-ceremony warm-up for attendees. For the recessional, the bride and groom chose, "You Make Me Feel So Young" which featured a threechorus vamp as the wedding party reversed field.

# **CHAPTER ETERNAL**

Society members reported as deceased between July 1 and September 30, 2006

Doc Blackburn, MD Greater Indianapolis, IN

#### **Central States**

Bill Condon Iowa City, IA Robert Fennema Sioux City, IA Bob Kellogg St Joseph, MO Charles Krall Mitchell, SD Gary Odland Aberdeen, SD Pierre, SD Jack Wilcox Mason City, IA

#### Dixie

Doc Blackburn MD New Bern, NC Beaufort Marvin Blackwell Spartanburg, SC Charles Godwin Savannah, GA Ted Hammond Hilton Head Island, HI Augusta, SC **Bob Roberts** Tuscaloosa, AL

# **Evergreen**

James Guthe Seattle, WA Ron Krous Yakima, WA Dave Richardson Juan De Fuca, WA

### Far Western

Doug Anderson Los Angeles, CA Sam Barker Orange (Quartet), CA Leland Barker El Cajon, CA Dana Bennett San Luis Obispo, CA Bud Dillon Inland Empire, CA Tom Farrington Inland Empire, CA Harry Henley

Pasadena, CA Ernie Hills Frank Thorne Rick Kirn San Luis Obispo, CA

James Mellberg Palo Alto - Mountain View, CA Harley Olson

Tucson, AZ Bill Orem Crescenta Valley, CA

Wavne Rear Ventura, CA Dave Richardson

Rohnert Park, CA Dick Schneider Apple Valley, CA

Ottis Scott Santa Maria, CA Ronald Wheeler San Luis Obispo, CA

# **Frank Thorne**

Ed Jensen Frank Thorne

Illinois Leon Curley Danville, IL Ron Jones Chicago Metro, IL Dan Murphy Joliet, IL Thomas Taylor Peoria, IL

#### **Johnny Appleseed**

Harold Diederich Upper Ohio Valley, OH Bob Ebright Buckeye-Columbus, OH Joe Fisher Zanesville, OH Bill Hanlin Upper Ohio Valley, OH Prince William, VA John Hassett Greater Pittsburgh, PA Robert Marshall Jr Johnstown, PA Thomas Matsick Mon Valley, PA Frank Schmidt Western Hills (Cincinnati), OH Bob Sherwood Buckeye-Columbus, OH Dundalk, MD

Cleveland West Subur-

Don Sinzinger

ban, OH

Land O' Lakes Ron Jones Minocqua/Woodruff, WI Frank Krepelan Racine, WI Kenny Likness Detroit Lakes, MN Fergus Falls, MN Jack Wilcox Minneapolis, MN Tim Winch Appleton, WI Ron Wolfgram Windom, MN

## Mid-Atlantic

Austin Blakeslee Stroudsburg, PA

#### Roger Payne: influential arranger, comedy quartetter, **Music category**

specialist Dick Bonsal Montclair, NJ Max Brown Walter Close Jr Bucks County, PA Larry Connery Montgomery County, Ron Daugherty Easton, PA Ray Franz Freehold, NJ

Edward Hoiler, Sr Hunterdon County, NJ Robert Metzler Anne Arundel, MD

Norm Paulsen North Brookhaven, Roger Payne

Jere Heisler

Manhattan, NY Brooklyn, NY Mort Schwartzbach Jamaica, NY William White Prince William, VA

Loudoun County Bill Williams Frank Thorne

# Northeastern

Bernie Batchelder Concord, NH Laconia, NH



Pres Evans, lead of 1960 champion Evans **Ouartet** 



Jerry Delmore Lowell, MA Sidney Kramer Beverly, MA Paul Melanson Dartmouth NS Ralph Morehouse Dartmouth, NS Sammy Roberts Concord, NH **Bob Runnells** 

## **Ontario**

Concord, NH

Lloyd Baty London, ON Ken Moore Frank Thorne Bill Quinton Owen Sound, ON Andy Welsman Barrie, ON

**Pioneer** Bob Hefty Lansing, MI Pete Nelson Traverse City, MI Art Ripley Pontiac-Waterford, MI Mark Maniaci Delta County, MI

# **Rocky Mountain**

**Bob Cloward** Cedar City, UT Bill Iverson Pueblo, CO



Dan Waselchuk (late 2005), past **Society Histo**rian, Society president



**Herb Thomp**son, tenor of Rockies IV. 1993 Seniors champion

Lee Meyer Santa Fe, NM John Woods Loveland, CO

#### Seneca Land Lee Decker

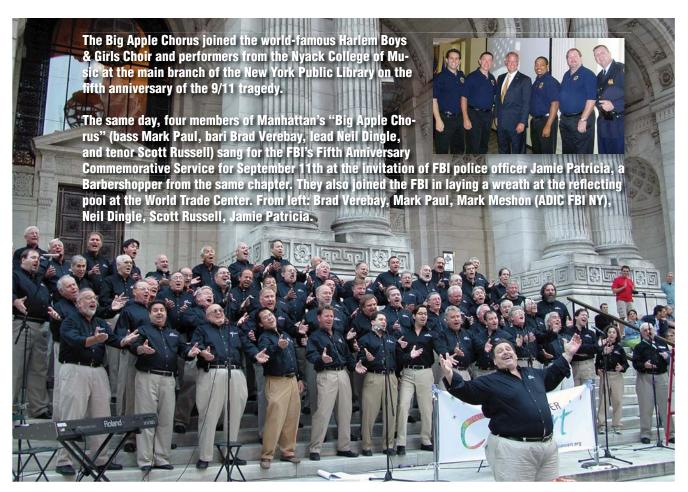
Binghamton, NY

#### Southwestern

John Bowden Chordsmen, TX Jim Davis Arlington, TX Meredith Phillips Fort Worth, TX

#### **Sunshine**

Gene Bass Miami, FL Don Clark Frank Thorne Roland Harkness Jacksonville Big O, FL Robert Holm Pasco County, FL Wil Little Manatee County, FL Mike Lotzkar Tampa, FL Bill Quinton Naples/Fort Myers, FL Don Sinzinger Naples/Fort Myers, FL



Now that's interchapter cooperation! The Big Chicken Chorus set up a table at a Sam's Club over the 9/11 weekend to raise awareness, recruit men for the chorus, sell BCC merchandise and raise funds to send local seniors to the BCC Holiday Show. (It worked—more than 100 seniors from seven assisted living facilities in the area will attend the BCC holiday show.) Sam's Club asked the chorus to also sing patriotic songs in the store on Monday 9/11, but because of the time, the chorus knew they would have no available tenors. Word went out to other local chapters, and soon they had a strong group representing the Roswell, Stone Mountain and Atlanta Metro chapters to sing "The Star-Spangled Banner" and "America The Beautiful" from a balcony while shoppers stopped in their tracks and reflected on the moment.



# **NOTEWORTHY**

**Bluegrass Student Union to retire.** The 1978 International Champion will give its final performance on December 9th at Louisville Memorial Auditorium at 4th and Kentucky Streets in downtown Louisville, location of the guartet's first appearance in 1973. To coincide with this show, they will release a CD of previously unreleased tunes and a DVD history of its 33-year career. Sponsored by four-time Harmony. Inc. Champion **Derby City Chorus** and the Society's **New Horizon Chorus** (both under the direction of BSU's tenor Allen Hatton). Guest performers will include 2002 champs Four Voices and the Voices of Lee. Get more details at switched-on-barbershop@att.net or at 502-802-5680.

**GAC** gets Bill Rashleigh. Choral director and educator Bill Rashleigh has taken over as director of the **General Assembly Chorus**, the Research Triangle Park chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society. Bill spent the past 20 years working within the Barbershop Harmony Society, developing the Directors College curriculum and has conducted more than 300 chorus director workshops across the country.

**Riptide to retire.** The perennial medalist guartet is filling the remainder of its 2006 bookings and then will retire. Once an Atlanta-area quartet, the current version of Riptide lives in four states and includes only lead Tim Reynolds as part of the original four. Being too spread out, family obligations and other issues all factored into the decision.

# MEMBER SERVICES DIRECTORY



How can we help you barbershop today? Get answers from your staff

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# **AAMBS** (Australian Association of Men's **Barbershop Singers**)

www.aambs.org.au/

Contact Michael Donnelly: mvdonnel@bigpond.net.au

# BABS (British Association of Barbershop Singers)

www.singbarbershop.com/

Contact Stuart Lines: stuart@stuart-lines.co.uk

### BinG! (Barbershop in Germany)

www.barbershop-in-germanv.de

Contact Liz Döhring: Kingslake@aol.com

# DABS (Dutch Association of Barbershop Singers) SPATS (Southern Part of Africa Tonsorial Singers)

www.dabs.nl

Contact Toon de Vos: president@dabs.nl

# IABS (Irish Association of Barbershop Singers)

www.irishbarbershop.org

Contact Catherine Gallagher: cathgall@eircom.net

# NZABS (New Zealand Association of Barbershop Singers)

www.nzabs.org.nz

Contact David Birdling: dgbirdling@xtra.co.nz

# **SNOBS** (Society of Nordic Barbershop Singers)

www.snobs.org

Contact Henrick Rosenberg: henrik.rosenberg@comhem.se

Contact Tony Abbott: adabbott@mweb.co.za

# **Barbershop online**

Login to the Members Only site using your email address to manage your barbershop life online, updating your records conveniently and securely. Access these most often requested functions at www.barbershop.org/members

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- The Harmonizer www.barbershop. org/harmonizer Index of Authors — www.barbershop.org/ID\_060378 Subject Index — www.barbershop.org/ID\_064230

# HARMONY FOUNDATION

Send memorials to Harmony Foundation International, Inc. 225 W. Washington Street, Suite 2330 Chicago, IL 60606 800-876-7464 ext. 8447 or 312-701-1001 fax: 312-701-1005 hf@harmonyfoundation.org

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Curious about what gets printed and why? Check out *The Harmonizer* Editorial Policy at www.barbershop. org/ID\_040210



# "All God's children" should try Charlie's tag

he Society's recent tag contest reaped a lot of fine creations. In the last two editions of The Harmo*nizer*, you saw those judged to be in the top three. We will be putting more of the outstanding tags in this and subsequent issues.

"I Like to Sing" was written by Charlie Rose, the chorus director of the Kokomo, Indiana chapter, Cardinal District for the past 25 years. Charlie sings tenor in his chapter quartet, Sound Celebra-



tion, which has been together for 26 years.

Charlie is a retired music teacher, having been director of the choral program in Taylor High School in Kokomo for 32 years. He was, also, assistant band director at the school and has written music and arrange-

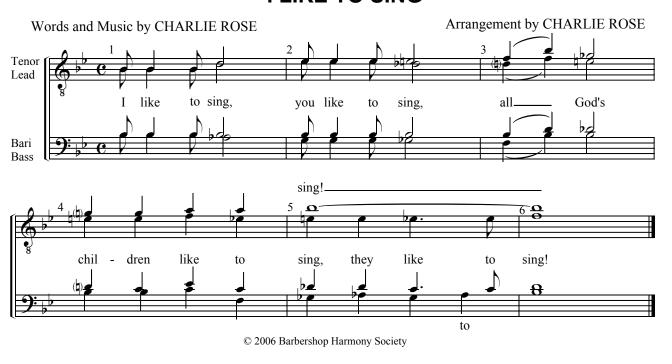


**Charlie Rose** 

ments for band and choir. Charlie did his undergraduate work at Butler University and received his masters degree from Ball State. He obviously loves barbershop and is dedicated to spreading the joy of music wherever he goes.

Charlie and his wife, Vicki, have two children; a daughter, Shanna, who is a chemistry professor at the University of Iowa in Cedar Falls, and Ben, who is a commercial producer for Comcast, living in Atlanta, Ga. Charlie Rose has been honored several times as Barbershopper of the Year by his chapter. We are all fortunate that he has chosen to share his talent with us. Charlie, thanks for this tag and all the other musical contributions you have given to celebrate harmony.

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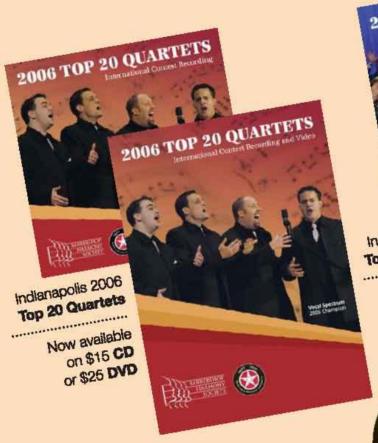
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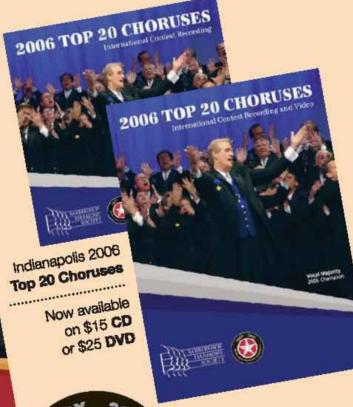
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