

September/October 2007

# THE HARMONIZER

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BARBERSHOP HARMONIZATION SOCIETY

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Max Q  
Photo by Miller Photography  
Back Cover: Westminster Chorus,  
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Miller Photography





## Here's to the winners—all of you!

When you stop and think about it, all of us have been in competitions for our entire lives in one form or another. Perhaps we competed with siblings for our parents' attention in our early years, but for most of us the real competitions of life began around the time we started school. Then we compete for the rest of our lives. Yes, even in old age (*you* define whatever that is) we compete for life maintenance on reduced income and against illness and failing health. Maybe it is within our nature to compete, or maybe it is what we feel we must do because of the environmental circumstances in which we find ourselves.

Most districts have by now completed their fall contests. New district quartet champions, senior quartet contest representatives, and chorus champions have been crowned. I congratulate them, as I know you do. We also should congratulate all who competed. Although only a few competitors were recognized as "winners" at the convention, I suggest that all who appeared on stage were winners. Even further, I would suggest that all the quartets and choruses throughout our Society are winners. We should celebrate their successes, and their efforts, just as we have celebrated our International winners in July and our fall district winners.



### Earn an "A" at what you choose

What do you do, as a chapter, a district, and what are we doing as a Society to celebrate our experiences as Barbershoppers? I recently was reminded about the concept from a video the Society has used as part of leadership training at the Leadership Forum for a couple of years. This is a motivational video by Ben and Roz Zander that reflects practices Ben developed while as a teacher and conductor of the Boston Philharmonic Orchestra. Zander decided he would remove much of the stress and anxiety of his music class by telling students at the beginning of the school year that everyone would receive an A. This wasn't as easy as it sounds. He required each student to write a

letter, to be opened the following May, describing how the student earned his or her A. The students chose their own winning standards and were then expected to live up to them.

The purpose of Zander's concept was to empower his students to do and be their best. He took away constraints and limits that could have prevented students from achieving their best. Can we do the same thing for our members? One possibility is that each time a member has an idea, someone listens and allows the member to try to make the idea into a reality. If someone says, "I bet we could sell more ads for our show if we went door to door," let that member head up a committee to try exactly that. If a member wants to sing more tags, or sing a new type of song, or go sing for a nursing home, let's help him make that idea a reality.

There is one other way in which we can acknowledge the winners among us. Let's be positive about each other and what each person does to contribute. Make sure every member has the opportunity to do something to promote the work of your chapter and then be generous with the praise.

### Be the kind customer—not the grumpy one

If you ever have worked a cash register in any type of retail establishment, you know what I mean when I say there are mean customers and kind customers. The mean customers fuss, cuss, and grump throughout their checkout. The kind customers smile even when you make mistakes. My adult son John reminded me of that lesson at Christmas a few years ago as we were checking out at a Wal-Mart. I was irritated that the person ahead of us had twice as many items as proper for the express line. By the time I got to the register, I was ready to be a mean customer because the clerk had not re-routed the customer. My son, instead, said to the clerk how hard it must be during holidays to handle the crowds. The clerk smiled a smile of thankful relief that someone understood her plight. I became a kind customer too.

So celebrate life, celebrate each other, and celebrate all the winners among us. We all are winners!

A stylized, handwritten signature of Noah Funderburg in dark ink.

[pronoah@comcast.net](mailto:pronoah@comcast.net)



# Harmony Brigades, copyright and N'awlins

## Harmony Brigade clarifications

**M**any, many thanks for an excellent article and I am sure many Barbershoppers will be inquiring about who to contact and for more info about the brigades in general. I wanted to pass along our website in the event Barbershoppers wanted to contact any or all the brigades: [www.harmonybrigade.org](http://www.harmonybrigade.org).

CHARLIE ROSE,  
Rocky Mount, N.C.

Your article illustrated that for the few hundred lucky, passionate quartet men who have had the fortune to discover the Harmony Brigade and participate in it, "Extreme Quartetting" has opened new opportunities and horizons in our barbershop experience. We want to thank you for the outstanding article. Having partici-

pated, you certainly were skillful in capturing the fun, spirit, and commitment of Brigade participants.

Providing a challenging "off-line" venue for quartetting and inter-chapter networking appeals to those of us who want to expand and raise the bar on our quartetting skills, and want lots of fun without detracting from our chorus or chapter life.

Perhaps the essential reason for the success and growth and rewards of the Brigade is in the

"Extreme" personal responsibility the participants assume when they attend. Then, the quality of the quartetting that results is no surprise. This binding philosophy of "being prepared" is a unique one across such a diverse swath of Barbershoppers, especially (and perhaps because) they only meet once a year!

One missing element of the article, however, was the credit that should go to Charles Rose, who had the vision and resolve to launch the North Carolina Harmony Brigade in 1991. The NCHB was the eventual inspiration for the Atlantic, Indiana, and soon-to-be Michigan Harmony Brigades.

With the advent of additional Brigades, word has begun to spread. Men from 23 states and one province have attended one or more of the existing Brigades. This participation has led to a groundswell of interest in Brigade as well as in starting other Harmony Brigades. Existing and future Brigades owe a great deal to Charles Rose.

NEAL SIEGAL  
President, Atlantic Harmony Brigade  
DUANE HENRY  
President, Indiana Harmony Brigade

Thanks for a beautifully done piece! But I've got to tell you, I got quite a laugh out of your telling about being unprepared on "This Little Light Of Mine/Do Lord." That song wasn't in our package. Val Hicks wrote two arrangements: one titled as you show and published by the Society, and another simply titled "This Little Light of Mine," unpublished and recorded by the **Northern Lights**. Many have heard the former, but not so the latter, which contains all those variations that caused the confusion you described. Not that it really matters. The essence of the weekend certainly comes across in a most compelling manner. Thanks again.

LARRY TRIPLETT  
Durham, N.C.

Terrific article on the North Carolina Harmony Brigade, and from a personal perspective. However, I did notice a few technicalities for the songs and credits. "One For My Baby" was not as sung by **Reveille** but as by **State Line Grocery**. "The One I Love Belongs To Somebody Else" was actually a **Four Voices'** original rendition.

I really appreciate the fine article that captures the "Extreme Quartetting" experience just about as well as you can put it into words. Still, nothing like "the real thing!"

RANDY C. DILLS  
Belmont, N.C.

## Any hope for arrangers?

I was quite confused and disappointed with the information in "Making the music come alive ... legally,"



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Complete contact info: page 62.

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## LETTERS

in the July/August issue. I had been out of barbershop for many years, but I recently joined a barbershop chorus and quartet. I have two songs that I believe would be excellent for us, and it would be necessary to do my own arrangement. The songs are not public domain. After reading Ms. Galloway's article, I detect a labyrinthine maze awaits me if I ever want to perform the songs I'm arranging. Frankly, I wonder if it is worth all the trouble to try to find the cost and the address and then go through all the paperwork, which I'm sure is considerable. What is even more distressing is knowing that the composers (who have died) will not collect those proceeds, but some lawyer probably will.

The article gave plenty of warning about the consequences of using or arranging and using music without paying royalties and fees, but I didn't see any information on how to go about getting those rights. I like "Wild Irish Rose" and "Wait Till The Sun Shines, Nellie," but would like to bring a few different songs that might not have ever been done as barbershop arrangements.

HARRY KLINE  
Augusta, Ga.

*Judy Galloway's reply: There are ways to search out who owns the copyright, which might not be the composer. Contact the Society Music department for help or advice on getting permission to do the arrangements. The purpose of the article was to get the information out to typical Barbershoppers. I hope others write articles on how to make legal arrangements including getting permission from the owners of the copyrights. It's not a maze. We just need to make sure that we own what we're working on. \$2 for a sheet of music isn't a maze.*

### The return of New Orleans

Regarding the New Orleans story, the **Greater New Orleans Chapter** held its first annual show since Katrina on September 8. Our guest quartet, **Last Call**, was, in a word, *stupendous* in every respect. They performed for no fee, they rented a car at their expense in New Orleans, and they paid for their hotel rooms. They wouldn't let us

pick up the bill for their meal between shows. And, even though it was agreed that the Chapter would pay for their airfares, they returned the check to us



when they met the chorus and sang a tag for us just before the matinee show. I do not have the words to adequately express our appreciation of their generosity.

CHARLIE HILL  
New Orleans, La.

### Where are the sounds and visuals going?

Jack Dichter's recent letter to *The Harmonizer* says it all. Jack and I are not alone in being concerned for the future of the barbershop style and for the Society. All anyone has to do is give an impartial audition to some of our top ranked quartets and choruses to hear how far our barbershop style has evolved away from, or strayed from, the

real thing; or, as many members think, has been pushed away from the real thing. "Surfer Girl," "Cruella Devil," "Do Re Mi" and "Hit That Jive." Give me a break!

And choruses today seem more interested in titillating audiences with tumbling and juggling acts, a stage full of scenery, and oddball costuming, while singing is relegated to secondary importance. Yes, they do sing well, but how can listeners appreciate their vocal performance without closing their eyes to the visual silliness?

Over the past couple of years, many long-time Barbershoppers have told me that they are questioning the need for continuing their membership in an organization that yearly moves further and further away from the barbershop style of harmony. Some acknowledge that they can, and do, attend conventions, but only to sing with, visit with and enjoy their friendships with other Barbershoppers, without Society membership or convention registrations. Omens of things to come? ■

BURT SZABO  
Azalea Park, Fla.

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## Greetings from our new Nashville headquarters!

**H**owdy, Y'all...

We're here! The Society moved its headquarters from Kenosha, Wis., where it had been since 1957, to Nashville Tenn., where it will be until *at least* 2057. So, of course, now the Packers are winning again! During the move, we found things that we didn't know we had, found out that 16-foot racks don't fit in 13-foot high basements, and watched in amazement as 16,000 square feet of office equipment seemingly filled a 36,000 square foot office building to overflowing.

Our electrical power is unstable until Nashville Electrical Service finishes our new transformers, and that instability has wreaked havoc on sensitive electronic equipment, causing intermittent phones, intermittent e-mail, intermittent computers, intermittent Internet, and unceasing heartburn for the staff and our members. I appreciate very much Ed Hinkley and others on the Harmonet who are pleading for patience,



*Many things have gone very well in the transition, others have not, but we're getting there. I apologize and we'll try harder.*

and I join him in asking for your understanding. Many things have gone very well in the transition, others have not, but we're getting there. I apologize and we'll try harder. And we'll be sure you no longer have to listen to so much hold music when you call in.

### A Taj Mahal ...

... it is not, as we were constrained by budget. But with the help of your Board of Directors, a world class architect, and construction firm, we have transformed a sturdy but old abandoned printing factory into an International Headquarters for Barbershop that we can all be proud to have. Tuck-Hinton Architects, who designed the Country Music Hall of

Fame and many other landmarks in Nashville, and RC Mathews Construction, a fixture in downtown redevelopment, have outdone themselves with the new Harmony Hall. We have picture opportunities for members that will make a great addition to your scrapbooks and may even become historical documents themselves. I am sure that when O. C. Cash and Carroll Adams posed for pictures in the 1940s, they had no idea we would still be looking

at them today. You will get a real sense of history when you come, and even more so when we add the museum/interactive experience that is planned for the first floor.

Next issue we will have an article detailing the notes, quirks, throwbacks, tributes, and features of this great new home, but no article will do it justice. You should come home and see it for yourself. Since the 2008 convention just happens to be here in Nashville, we are planning for a great influx of members and their guests to come and see what the fuss is all about. Y'all come too, y'hear? Speaking of an influx of members, have you or your chapter spoken with Charlie or Drew about how to grow your chapter? The Society only grows when our chapters grows.

### Doors open, doors close

Of course, we all knew that not all the staff would make the journey to Nashville. For family, for career, for personal reasons that are, well, personal, many staff members remained in Kenosha. It was a sad and very emotional farewell. In most cases these dedicated staff members had given much of their lives and all of their work energies to fulfilling the needs and wants of our membership. The Society, recognizing that it was us leaving them rather than them leaving us, has rewarded their years of service with appropriate severance pay and transition benefits. Thanks to them for all their loyalty and best wishes for a successful future. Diane, Brett Favre's looking pretty good, eh?

Of course, one man's ceiling is another man's floor. We've had great success here in Nashville finding new staff to take care of your wants and needs. There are new, fresh faces and an influx of folks with the desire to succeed and to learn more about Barbershop, its history, and its future. You may see staff names in the magazine change a few more times as we adjust to new demands, keeping some folks, losing others, until we have the optimum staff to do the job as efficiently and as effectively as we can. Thank you for your patience during this turnover, and thank you for continuing to make this the world's greatest endeavor. (People get upset if I say "hobby"!)

### Coming events

We've got a Board meeting in Nashville in November, the new DVDs and CDs from the Denver



***There are new, fresh faces and an influx of folks with the desire to succeed and to learn more about Barbershop, its history, and its future.***

convention, lapel pins for those who tour the building, a new gift shop opening before Christmas, a Midwinter in San Antonio that promises to be the best ever, new opportunities for Youth in Harmony, a blood drive next May that will allow your chapter to get publicity while doing good for your fellow man, and the crème de la crème, an International convention in the home city of the Society—a first for Barbershop. Nashville has been very gracious and welcoming to us, and we intend to return the favor by showing Nashville that 10,000 visiting members of our Society are the finest, most honest, most mature, most fun-loving guests they will ever have. The headquarters hotel, by the way, is about 100 yards from Harmony Hall, and is connected to the Convention Center and Sommet Center (where the competition takes place) so you won't even have to go out in the summer heat to enjoy the best harmony on the planet.

The Harmony Foundation is slated to move in with us sometime next spring, to consolidate our operating expenses and better work together to foster a spirit of philanthropy. We look forward to a stronger partnership with the Foundation and anticipate a stronger bond with them and the Nashville community through their efforts.

#### **And finally...**

Please keep those cards, letters, e-mails, voicemails and post-it notes coming. I try to answer all and I try to incorporate your thoughts into mine as best I can. You may not see your suggestion put into place as quickly or as surely as you might hope, but I assure you I consider all points of view and use your suggestions to guide me in my decisions. It's your hobby—you decide!

Thanks for your patience during our temporary inconvenience for a permanent improvement. How am I doing?

ewatson@barbershop.org

## THE HAPPINESS EMPORIUM



## THE GOOD NEWS!

### **What's New?** The King and I Volume X Folio and Related CDs

*This volume is the first in the Good News! series to be offered with instrumental background and tracks for rehearsing and performing the songs. The arrangements are barbershop, but they are presented more in the style of southern gospel. Audiences love these songs and so will you! Seven of the Volume X songs were written by Mosie Lister, a Gospel Music Hall of Fame songwriter.*

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*After the 2008 Midwinter Convention in San Antonio*

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JAN. 27 – FEB. 3, 2008

### ***Sing in a Chorus Under the Warm Caribbean Sun***

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Ron is the director of the Heart of Texas Chorus in San Marcos, TX.

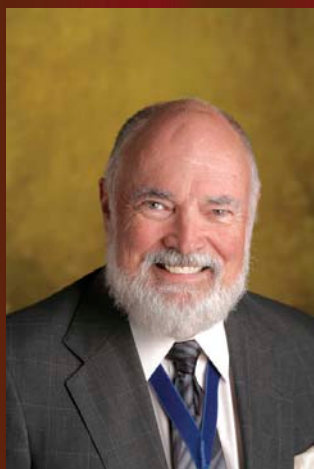
*After the 2008 Nashville Convention*

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### ***Sing Your Way Along the Mississippi on the Delta Queen as you Travel from Memphis to St. Louis***

Sail from Memphis, a short distance from Nashville, on a 8-Day/7-Night cruise from Memphis to St. Louis. Sing in the mixed Barbershop chorus directed by Ed Watson, Executive Director and CEO of the Barbershop Harmony Society.



*After the Pan Pacific Convention in Honolulu*

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NOV. 2 – 9, 2008

### ***Harmonize Away The Winter Chill***

Sail from Honolulu for an exciting 7-night cruise. The Pride of Aloha sails into four Hawaiian Island ports. Sing in the mixed Barbershop chorus directed by Drayton Justus, past president of the Barbershop Harmony Society.

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# Headquarters opens for business in Nashville

“I keep driving past your new building in the morning and it makes me smile!” This is just one of the many positive responses the staff at Barbershop Harmony Society has received since our recent relocation to Music City.

Numerous visitors, both members and non-members, have taken the time to drop by the new headquarters, located in a prime area of downtown Nashville, Tenn. Surrounded by the famous War Memorial Building, Tennessee Capitol, Convention Center, Gaylord Entertainment Center, and much more, the central location will enable the Society to effectively grow and promote barbershop quartet and choral singing for generations to come.

“Having the new headquarters for the Barbershop Harmony Society in Nashville is like a musical breath of fresh air for our creative community,” enthuses Bruce Cokeroff, son of **Suntones** tenor Gene Cokeroff. “It is only appropriate that the organization founded on the rudimentary principles of four-part vocal harmony should design and house a state-of-the-art facility in Music City!”

Living in the heart of the city has proven to be an exciting experience thus far. From historical buildings to the enjoyable night life, Nashville has so much to offer every demographic. We hope to draw new members to the four-part harmony community with our intriguing, crescent-white, three-story building. Visitors gaze in awe when studying the subtle yet elegant decorative details, such as voice parts listed below the barbershop poles and a music staff that separates the second and third



The first staff meeting in the new facility

floors. Immediately inside the building is the “tag-a-torium,” where voices reverberate off the arched ceiling to produce tags like you’ve never heard before!

“The new headquarters will certainly be included in the local ‘must-see attractions’ tourist flyers, if for no reason other than the center of the spiral staircase that suspiciously resembles a barber pole,” says visiting Bob Young, tenor of the Denver-based **Kowalski Twins** quartet. “What a great idea!”

Throughout the past few weeks, the Nashville Chapter has embraced members, hosting parties, offering to volunteer in the building, bringing goodies, and the list goes on! The staff at Barbershop Harmony Society truly cannot thank everyone enough for their undying support and encouragement during the move. We look forward to creating and developing many more life-long relationships here in Music City! Y’all better come visit!

— Danielle Cole, Marketing administrative assistant

## The bad news (if you didn’t already know): electrical demons disrupt transition

Sporadic email, late Harmony Marketplace orders, long telephone holds if connected at all—the staff was ready to serve but critical technology was not. A frustrating nightmare for members and staff alike dampened the Society’s first month in Nashville, as the high standard of service that members expect and deserve was hampered by major hardware and software glitches.

Some problems were the cascading results of electrical problems outside the Society’s direct control. No matter, staff have been frustrated and embarrassed at being unable to serve members properly and are working hard to ensure these problems receive permanent fixes. Here’s a rundown of what has happened.

**Power problems fry critical systems.** Prior to the move, heat

problems due to an air conditioning failure in the Kenosha server room left Society servers in a weakened state. After the move to Nashville, odd after-hours power fluctuations and outages wreaked havoc on this sensitive equipment, taking out the printer server, email server, and the firewall, which caused serious phone issues. Nashville Electrical Service is installing new transformers,



which should remove the primary source of these problems.

**Late Harmony Marketplace orders.** The orders are filled now, but for weeks it was impossible for Harmony Marketplace to access hundreds of web orders hosted on Yahoo servers. Transactions that had been automatic in Kenosha suddenly did not work from Nashville; this was due to electronic security measures implemented years ago by Kenosha employees who had long ago left Society employment. While wrestling with Yahoo to get order data, temporary employees had to be hired to handle a massive influx of phone calls from Harmony Marketplace customers calling about the status of their orders. (This, too, greatly increased wait times for all other calls.) Fortunately, this problem will not return!

**Phone.** Miscommunication between the Society's old and new phone service providers prevented existing phone numbers from being ported in the normal 7-10 day range. IT staff resorted to setting up new Nashville telephone numbers themselves. The process took longer than it should have, leading to system malfunction.

**Email failure.** Due to previous virus and Trojan infections suffered in Kenosha, most of the email software was not working properly. The removable storage service required for backup stopped working. Attempts at installing other backup software failed mysteriously. At least once a month one of the drives would fail, needing to be reconstructed. This could never be

traced back to hardware problems. Manual backups were made, but a recent power failure knocked out the server entirely. Skilled

consultants were only able to get a partial recovery of e-mail. A period from late August through much of September appears to have been lost.

**Members Only Web site.** This site is currently populated with data from the old system, which is effectively frozen in its April state. (Do not make changes on Members Only—they won't be updated in the new system!) The move to the new system was necessary in part because the old database is no longer supported by the company that created it. The temporary 30-day licenses that are needed to access the data have stopped functioning far before the paid extension dates. Each time this happens, the data becomes inaccessible to the members until the IT staff installs the database server software and reconfigures all of the tables.



## Register for the International Youth Barbershop Chorus Festival

Go to at [www.barbershop.org/youthchorus](http://www.barbershop.org/youthchorus) to get the two required registration forms. The first is due at headquarters by Nov. 1. The second form, listing the final roster of the chorus is due to the Society Headquarters by Dec. 3. Submit to [youthchorus@barbershop.org](mailto:youthchorus@barbershop.org) or via postal mail to the Society headquarters (attn: James Estes) at 110 7th Ave N, Nashville, TN 37203.



The official rules are also online and contain everything you ever wanted to know about the Festival and its procedures. Visit [www.barbershop.org/youthchorus](http://www.barbershop.org/youthchorus) and click on "Official Rules."

Are you a Facebook user? Join the Facebook group "International Youth Barbershop Festival" to help spread the word as well as show your support of this amazing event!

**Sign up for Midwinter!** "Everything's bigger in Texas," and the 2008 Midwinter Convention will live up to that billing. Held in beautiful San Antonio deep in the heart of Texas, there will be something for everybody—shows, shopping & sightseeing. Learn more at [www.barbershop.org/midwinter](http://www.barbershop.org/midwinter).



## Canadian chapters: Barbershoppers now welcome to compete in the CBC national contest

CBC Radio has hosted a National Choral Competition all across Canada every two years since 1975. Barbershoppers could not enter for the last few years, but a barbershop category has now been reinstated, with male and female choruses welcome. The competition includes cash prizes and national radio exposure. If few chapters participate, the category may close again, so all chapters are encouraged to participate. Details are available at [www.cbc.ca/choralcompetition](http://www.cbc.ca/choralcompetition).



### CONVENTIONS

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  
2015

PITTSBURGH  
June 29–July 6  
2016

NASHVILLE  
July 3–10

MIDWINTER  
[www.barbershop.org/midwinter](http://www.barbershop.org/midwinter)  
2008

SAN ANTONIO  
Jan. 20–27  
2009

PASADENA  
Jan. 25–Feb. 1

HARMONY  
UNIVERSITY 2008  
St. Joseph, Mo.  
July 27–Aug. 3



## Society welcomes new Finnish affiliate

On July 6, the Finish Association of Barbershop Singers (FABS) became an official Society affiliate, the culmination of many years work to establish the style in this nation filled with singers. The style is growing in popularity among established singing groups, with a growing number of groups forming to primarily sing barbershop.

In February and March of this year, Charlie Metzger (bari of 2006 Seniors quartet champion **Antique Gold**), traveled to Finland to coach 18 groups individually for a total of 48 hours of coaching.



The PartABOys chorus of the new Finnish Association of Barbershop Singers

“There is great interest in Finland in singing barbershop. They like to sing and look for variety,” Charlie observed. “Most are in the early stages of barbershop skill development and

understanding the elements of the style. There are a number of groups singing barbershop, but only a few who sing barbershop primarily. With knowledgeable help and exposure to modern barbershop arrangements, there is, I believe, a good potential for growth.”

Next May, Friendly Advice and Realtime (2005 international quartet champion) will perform once again at the Vaasa Choral Festival and beyond. Other quartets that have visited Finland include **Studio One**, **Sterling**, **Vocal Works**, and the **Mount Baker Toppers Chorus**.

Some of the biggest movers and shakers for the new affiliate include FABS President Tuomo Ketomaki and FABS Vice President and Vaasa Choir Festival Producer Erkki Mendelin. Also instrumental have been Finnish barbershop pioneer Dan Lindross and Markku Kanervikkoaho of Bellingham, Wash., who has helped send many North American Barbershoppers to Finland over the years.

## Members Only site winds down, beta testing begins on *Ebiz.barbershop.org*

The next-generation membership processing system for the Barbershop Harmony Society has opened on the web at *ebiz.barbershop.org*.

Member-ship renewals and chapter records are the first additions to the new site. While some functions are still available only at Members Only, go to *ebiz.barbershop.org* first. There will be links to Members Only functions that have not yet been migrated to *ebiz.barbershop.org*.

The new site will begin assuming most of the functions of the existing Members Only site. Powered by the Aptify® membership platform, *ebiz.barbershop.org* connects directly to the core systems for membership records, merchandising and payments processing. This means

- dues renewals conducted online can be paid immediately and processed more quickly.
- membership records look-ups will take place in real-time and reflect current dues status more accurately.
- merchandise orders and payments will be entered directly into the processing flow, speeding ship times.
- Music orders for both published (stock) arrangements and unpublished Music Library arrangements can be made in the same place at the same time, paid together and shipped in a single shipment.

Initial roll-out is scheduled for mid-October and will include membership renewals, personal record updates, and chapter /district roster downloads.

Complete how-to materials and a video guided tour are online at *ebiz.barbershop.org/getstarted*.

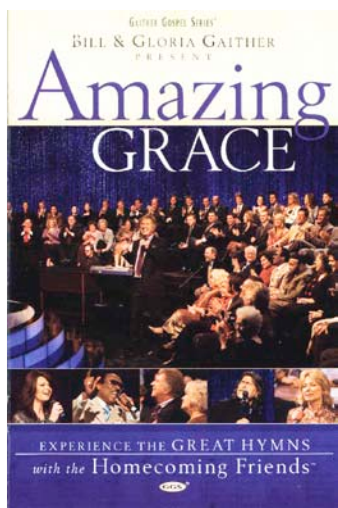
**LOOK FOR THE FALL 2007 HARMONY MARKETPLACE CATALOG IN YOUR MAILBOX SOON!** The catalog has a new look, with a format that makes it more convenient for you to shop for many new products as well as your old favorites. You'll find great looking easy-care dress shirts with the Society logo, elegant accessories for women, and fun kids apparel for our youngest fans. Bring Harmony home with our beautiful selection of home décor accents. Stock up on CD's and DVD's. Holiday shopping for all the music lovers in your life has never been easier!

And when you visit Nashville, whether on a family vacation or to attend the Society's 2008 International Convention next summer, plan to visit our NEW Harmony Marketplace retail shop, opening soon, at the Barbershop Harmony Society headquarters building downtown.

We hope you will enjoy shopping our new catalog and we look forward to serving our members and all music lovers everywhere!







## Acoustix appears on Bill Gaither's Homecoming

In February, **Acoustix** went to Nashville to record its "Hymns Of The Cross Medley" for Bill Gaither's Homecoming video at the Grand Ole Opry—and got a spontaneous standing O from the dozens of gospel music luminaries in the audience. This track is now available on a DVD and CD entitled *Amazing Grace*. Some of the other artists involved included Randy Owen, the Oak Ridge Boys, Ernie Haase & Signature Sound, the Gaither Vocal Band, the Isaacs and Brenda Lee, to name a few. There were no rehearsals or sound checks—every artist got one take. The CD and DVD are available from the Harmony Marketplace at [www.harmonymarketplace.com](http://www.harmonymarketplace.com).

Check out what Bill Gaither said about the Society's relocation to Nashville: *"By their very nature, good vocal harmonies have a uniting quality; bringing entirely different elements together in a beautiful way. For that reason, I think it is a wonderful idea for the Barbershop Harmony Society to be headquartered in Music City, where this unique organization shares so much in common with the country and gospel music communities and yet brings its own distinct contribution into the mix. Harmony is what great music is all about... but it's also what great communities are made of."*

## Coup for American Harmony movie

The *American Harmony* barbershop documentary crew recently made an enormous coup when they attracted Kate Amend, editor for two Oscar-winning documentaries, to complete the final edit. After running out of time before last winter's film festival circuit to assemble the quality that they desired, crews taped additional footage in Denver and their all-new cut is almost ready to go. (It's completely different from a rough cut shown to Society and District leaders last fall.)

Producer Aengus Young first contacted Kate as a mentor to another editor; however, she was so enthused by the eight hours of selects she saw that she offered herself as editor. As a major bonus, it turns out that Kate is a big fan of barbershop harmony, so she "gets" the music and movie on several levels. Kate believes the documentary has the potential to do very well. The producers are working with marketers to ensure the movie gets the highest possible exposure.

## Society briefs

### Make radio spots quickly with the Radio Toolkit 2.0.

Nick Alexander, the voice of The Vocal Majority, has produced a new collection of 29 professional, radio-ready commercials and public service announcements, now available at [www.barbershop.org/ID\\_047132](http://www.barbershop.org/ID_047132). General spots can easily be adapted for local information, and all can be used freely by Society chapters. Music beds and spots include show promotions, recruitment, Singing Valentines, holidays, and other occasions.

**Convention tracks coming soon.** Barbershoppers who have gotten used to purchasing international convention tracks online will find them later than usual this year. The Society's relocation to Nashville delayed the transfer of the recordings to the Society's partner for sales of online recordings, Naked Voice Records. NVR will post the new tracks as soon as possible. Your patience is appreciated. [www.nakedvoicerecords.com](http://www.nakedvoicerecords.com).

## Now get published *and* unpublished arrangements through Harmony Marketplace

It's now one-stop shopping for all arrangements, whether published or unpublished. Email [marketplace@barbershop.org](mailto:marketplace@barbershop.org) or call 800-876-7464 for all your arrangement needs. Top arrangers sell their music via the Society, and now one phone call gets everything in the Society's 5,000+ arrangement catalog. (Only published arrangements are currently available at [www.harmonymarketplace.com](http://www.harmonymarketplace.com).)

**Published arrangements** are fully licensed by the Society and are professionally printed and typeset. The copy-per-singer price covers all copyright and arranger fees. (As always, copyright holders require additional fees for recordings and chapter shows.) Single preview copies are available, all purchased copies are shipped on order, and pre-recorded learning tracks are often available.

**Unpublished arrangements** are legal arrangements managed

via the Music Library on behalf of hundreds of Society arrangers, living and deceased. Purchases, however, are now made through Harmony Marketplace. Individual copies are made on order and the purchaser receives an authorization form to duplicate additional copies up to the purchased quantity.

The per-singer fees charged by arrangers and copyright owners vary, and learning media are not available through the Society. Preview copies require an additional \$6 processing fee for up to 10 selections.

To order arrangements, first search the online catalog at [www.barbershop.org/id\\_088721](http://www.barbershop.org/id_088721). All but published arrangements can be ordered at [www.harmonymarketplace.com](http://www.harmonymarketplace.com). Both published and unpublished arrangements are available at 800-876-7464 or [marketplace@barbershop.org](mailto:marketplace@barbershop.org). Remember, you must order one copy per singer (including guest books) to be legal! Orders 40 copies and up receive discounts. ■



# 2008 MIDWINTER CONVENTION

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International 4th Bronze Medalist



**Flipside**  
International 5th Bronze Medalist

### HISTORIC SAN ANTONIO TO WELCOME BARBERSHOPPERS

As the saying goes, "everything is bigger in Texas," and the 2008 Midwinter Convention will prove this brag to be true. Held in beautiful San Antonio deep in the heart of Texas, there will be something for everybody—singing, shopping & sightseeing.

The weekend will be chock full of performances by some of the best talent in the Society. There will also be LOTS of singing opportunities for ALL close harmony fanatics.

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR JANUARY 22-27, 2008

The headquarters hotel is the plush Crowne Plaza River Walk with the show and contest venue at the San Antonio Municipal Auditorium (where the 1964 International Convention was held).

### SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

The Friday and Saturday Night shows will be hard to beat. These two concerts are being presented by the Barbershop Harmony Society and the Association of International Senior Quartet Champion and will include a mix of medalists quartets from this past summer as well as a few of our top senior and college quartets, plus a few other surprises.

The outgoing Senior Quartet Champion, Friendly Advice, will perform their swan song and present the trophies to the best foursome competing to become the 2008 Senior Quartet Champion.

If you would rather sing than listen, this is the place to be. There's been plenty of time set aside to woodshed, sing tags and meet Barbershoppers from around the world.



### INTERNATIONAL YOUTH BARBERSHOP CHORUS FESTIVAL



The official registration forms for the International Youth Barbershop

Chorus Festival are now online at [www.barbershop.org/youthchorus](http://www.barbershop.org/youthchorus). Two forms are required to enter your chorus in this festival.

The first registration form is due to the Society Headquarters by November 1, 2007. The second form, listing the final roster of the chorus, is due to the Society Headquarters by December 3, 2007.

You may submit either form via e-mail to [youthchorus@barbershop.org](mailto:youthchorus@barbershop.org) or via postal mail to:

**Society Headquarters**  
**Attn: James Estes**  
**110 7th Avenue N.**  
**Nashville, TN 37203**

The official rules are also online and contain everything you ever wanted to know about the Festival and its procedures. Visit [www.barbershop.org/youthchorus](http://www.barbershop.org/youthchorus) and click on "Official Rules."

### ARE YOU A FACEBOOK USER?

Join the Facebook group "International Youth Barbershop Festival" to help "spread the word," as well as show your support of this amazing event!







## THE SIGHTS AND SOUNDS OF SAN ANTONIO

The eighth largest city in the United States, San Antonio offers an abundant variety of shops, galleries and malls containing collectibles and clothing as unique and diverse as the Texas landscape.

## BE A PART OF SOMETHING SPECIAL...



The Texas All-Star Chorus under the direction Jim Clancy, legendary director of the Vocal Majority and member of the Barbershop Harmony Society's Hall of Fame.

## MAKE YOUR PLANS NOW!

On the Friday Night Show, a chorus will present a special performance comprised of barbershoppers from all across the Lone Star State. This "big as Texas" ensemble will perform a few songs appropriate to the occasion.

The chorus will be limited to 250 singers, so **if you're a member of a chapter in Texas** and want to participate you'll need to act soon!

Music and part-predominant learning tracks will be produced and distributed to all singers, well in advance of the performance. Participants must be registered for the convention.

The chorus will rehearse for a few hours on Friday morning. Attendance at this rehearsal is mandatory for singers wishing to perform on Friday night.

If you meet the qualifications shown above and are interested in participating, please send your full name, voice part, mailing address, phone number, e-mail address, and chapter name to **TexasChorus@barbershop.org** or mail it to:

**Barbershop Harmony Society**  
Attn: Texas Chorus  
110 7th Avenue N.  
Nashville, Tennessee 37203

To make sure we have a good blend of voice parts, we need to receive your information by November 15, 2007.

Whether you're on the risers or in the audience, this performance is bound to

create some "gold medal moments" for all involved.

## THREE SPECIAL TOURS

(more info can be found on the Society Web site)

- January 23, 2008 **Outlet Shopping in San Marcos, Texas** Full Day Tour — \$32.00 per person
- January 24, 2008 **Texas Hill Country Adventure (Fredericksburg, TX)** Full Day Tour — \$53.00 per person
- January 25, 2008 **Viva San Antonio** Half Day Tour — \$37.00 per person

It's not too early to make your plans to participate in what promises to be one of the most enjoyable barbershop conventions in recent memory.



# 2008 MIDWINTER CONVENTION — SAN ANTONIO JANUARY 22–27, 2008

Order online: [www.barbershop.org/midwinter](http://www.barbershop.org/midwinter)

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Guest Name _____		Nickname _____			
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Check payment method

Card Account #

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110 7th Avenue N. Nashville, TN 37203

Order online to choose your seat! [www.barbershop.org/midwinter](http://www.barbershop.org/midwinter)

For more information, e-mail: [events@barbershop.org](mailto:events@barbershop.org)

Ph: 615-823-3993 Fax: 615-313-7619

## Check all that apply:

- ☐ Society VIP
- ☐ AIC
- ☐ President's Council
- ☐ AISQC

## Ticket Price:

**\$79.75**

(includes handling \$4.75 each)  
(includes all contests and shows)

Number of Tickets: \_\_\_\_\_

Total (US Funds): \_\_\_\_\_

**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.



## Better singing through better alignment

### Devote more energy to music and less to singing and vocal production

**A**t the start of each training camp after another Green Bay Packer championship season, legendary coach Vince Lombardi reportedly said, “Boys, we’re going to focus on blocking and tackling. And when we get really good at blocking and tackling, we’re then going to ... spend more time blocking and tackling.” He knew that no matter how complex the schemes he installed to dazzle their opponents, the team would fail without a solid foundation of the basics.

This “back to basics” approach applies to music and especially singing. Regardless of how well you match vowels, synchronize word sounds, add inflection within a phrase or facially “sell” a song, the performance will seem forced without a solid foundation of freely-produced, resonant singing. For singers, blocking and tackling equals body alignment and breathing. Just as a new military recruit learns fundamental skills during boot camp, a “vocal boot camp” every now and then focuses on re-building these core skills.

#### Why to focus on alignment

When a pianist strikes a key a certain way, the piano produces the same sound no matter what the pianist’s mood or posture. But your instrument is fundamentally influenced by your thoughts, emotion and intents. You must reset and realign your posture to create the optimal tone.

Every instrument has three components:

- **An actuator.** This is the source of power and from where all of the tone production emanates. For your instrument, this is the breath, or, more specifically, abdominal (stomach) costal (rib) breathing.
- **A vibrator.** This creates tone with different frequencies (pitch) and amplitudes (volume). In your case, these are the vocal folds, contained in the larynx.
- **Resonators.** These are of different shapes, sizing, textures and constitution, which add unique character, volume, texture, depth, brilliance, etc, to the tone. Our resonators are largely the fleshy and bony structures in the throat and head.

The goal of proper alignment is to allow your “instrument” to function as effortlessly as possible, so that you can devote your mental energy to making music—not breathing and vocal production—during a performance. Here are some key benefits of an aligned body:

- **Skeletal support for your weight.** When

the muscles of the legs, lower back and abdomen are involved in supporting your weight, this leads to tension elsewhere in the body, which is counterproductive to freely-produced, resonant tone. When your weight is instead supported by your skeletal system, your instrument operates more easily and freely.

- The “actuator” for our instrument, the breathing mechanism, requires balanced cooperation between abdominal and intercostal (rib) muscles. This “supported breath” works best when the body is aligned for maximum flexibility and minimum tension
- Building on the above foundation, the “actuator,” “vibrator” and “resonators” can function freely. Because the musculature of the body is attached to the nervous system, tension anywhere means tension everywhere, and that includes the “four musketeers of vocal tension”: the shoulders, the neck, the jaw and the tongue. By properly aligning the body (torso and lower body), the voice is more easily set free.

#### How do you build a better singer?

**Plant your feet correctly.** Your feet should be shoulder-width apart—but not as your tailor measures your shoulders. Hold your right arm straight up in the air, extend your left hand to the armpit, and trace an imaginary line straight up to the top of your shoulder. Now drop your right arm. Align your feet with this measurement, which may be up to three inches closer to your center than your tailor’s measurement. Standing with the feet too far apart pushes the abdomen forward, negatively affecting breathing and requiring extra effort just to remain standing. The result is a thin, forced sound. It is akin to a building being supported by columns placed too far apart without a center beam. The “pelvic floor” senses a buckle downward, and the rest of your instrument (spine, ribs, breathing mechanism, etc.) is also impacted.

**Align the pelvic girdle.** The base of the spine, upon which the ribs hang, and serves as the “epicenter for vocal en-

**Align your skeleton to support your entire weight. Any tense muscle affects singing.**



**Steve Tramack**  
Director,  
The Granite  
Statesmen



ergy.” Freely produced tone is dependent upon freedom of the ribs to expand and contract (costal breathing). Therefore, if the pelvis is misaligned, this misalignment ripples throughout the rest of your instrument. The pelvis should be aligned over our “skeletal support structure,” which typically means slightly tucked forward. This also releases the knees to move freely. If you feel any tightening or “squeezing” of any aspect of the pelvic region, you’ve probably tucked too far, and this tension will be felt throughout the rest of the body as well.

**Align your back.** A properly-aligned instrument feels lengthened, flexible and “proud.” While the lower body will have a sense of foundation and support with almost a downward flexible energy, the upper body should have a sense of buoyancy and upward attitude. The key area of focus for this lengthening and buoyancy is in the back, which should feel long and broad with absolutely no rigidity. As you lengthen your back, what happens to the chest and ribs? They lift and, as the sternum also lifts, they expand. With proper lower body alignment and a lengthened back, you should have the sensation that the breath just falls into the body, and the ribs expand outward. Note that lengthened doesn’t mean rigid; any rigidity in the torso will impede both the ribs and the muscles of the abdomen from moving freely, which prevents you from creating the kind of breath necessary for good tone. There should be a feeling of “flexible, expansive openness.”

**Align your shoulders.** With this lengthened back, the shoulders will often naturally raise. High shoulders are tense shoulders, and tense shoulders inhibit free movement of the ribs, which negatively affects breathing, which causes tension and requires effort to create tone ... and the dominos continue to fall. The shoulders and shoulder



blades should be free and flexible while singing. To prove this, sing an “AH” in a comfortable range. Then, hold your right arm with your left hand, right above the elbow. Gently raise the right arm and shoulder with your left hand until it feels tense. Repeat this slowly and smoothly three or four times, and then switch hands. Now, roll your shoulders forward in a circle three or four times, as smoothly as though they were gliding on ice. Repeat, reversing directions. Now, sing the same “AH” again. Was it easier to sing the tone? Did the tone sound different? Were you able to sustain the tone longer, or sing it at different volumes?

**Align the head and neck.** Sing that comfortably-pitched “AH” again, and begin to move your head to the left and right, look up and down, move the head back and forward. What happens to the pitch, quality and level of effort? A misaligned head and neck will directly impact the resonators in the throat and also create tension in the larynx. The head should be centered, sitting on the spine, and should feel as though it were “released” upwards. To gain this sense, draw tiny circles with the tip of your nose until you feel a “centered” location for your head. You should be able to swivel your head to the left and right freely without feeling as though any unbalanced muscular ten-

## Eliminate tension

- **Start with a clean slate.** In your warm-up, be aware of tension. On every breath during every exercise, isolate that tension and release it by moving and relaxing those muscles.
- **“Release” the tension.** Tension often builds through a muscle or body part which is “held” in one place for too long. Try simply moving that body part slowly and smoothly to see whether it helps eliminate the tension.
- **Add more, then release.** If you feel tension in your hands, for example, try adding more tension (balled into a fist) and hold that for 10 seconds. Then release, and see if the tension has simply melted away! This is easier to do when you’re not singing, so ...
- **Stop singing and breathe.** If you’re in a chorus and you’re aware of tension, stop singing. Mouth the words and perform at a “zero” volume. You’ll help the chorus by removing a potential source of detriment at that moment caused by singing “through” tension. Deal with the tension through some manner listed above or whatever else works for you. And, above all, breathe. Deep breathing helps to relax and calm the body and will aid in releasing tension. Once the tension has subsided, begin singing again, knowing that you’ve helped the ensemble and can now have a more enjoyable singing experience.

sion is required to do so.

Once you have done this, and if necessary have followed the rules in the “Eliminate tension” sidebar, you should have an aligned instrument. The key is identifying how the various zones of your instrument feel and being able to present that same instrument every time you begin to sing. The opponent to freely-produced vocal production is tension. Tension is a singer’s mortal enemy. Any tension in the “four musketeers” (neck, shoulders, jaw, tongue) will negatively impact the voice. Tension anywhere equals tension everywhere. Don’t believe me? Ball up your fist, and keep applying tension for 10 seconds. Where else do you feel tension? Arms? Shoulders? Neck? Throat? Do the same with your abdomen or foot. That tension quickly finds its way into your singing.

Even though something as fundamental as body alignment seems too simplistic to devote precious rehearsal time and energy, a back-to-basics “vocal boot camp” every now and then will help you achieve that desired impact on your audience, in a more effortless manner. ■

## References and resources

- Samuel H. Nelson and Elizabeth Blades-Zeller. *Singing with Your Whole Self: The Feldenkrais Method and Voice*. Scarecrow Press.
- Richard Miller. *The Structure of Singing: System and Art of Vocal Technique*. Schirmer Books
- James McKinney. *Diagnosis and Correction of Vocal Faults*. Geneviox Music

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910 Kehrs Mill Road., #112, Ballwin, Missouri USA 63011-2404



# Singing for Life: start planning!



On Saturday, **May 10, 2008** your chapter can participate in the largest blood and donor recruitment drive in North American history. With our partners, your chapter can both save lives and raise your prominence within your community. The project is called Singing for Life, where hundreds of individual chapters will host a well-publicized blood drive while singing barbershop music for audiences.

You are strongly encouraged to have your chapter invite others groups to participate as both donors and entertainers: community or church music ensembles, school bands, choirs and orchestras. Ask your chapter president whether your chapter has registered. (Each has been sent a user name and password.)



**American  
Red Cross**



HEMA-QUEBEC



**America's Blood  
Centers**  
It's About *Life*.



**Canadian Blood Services**  
*it's in you to give*

## Q: Why May 10?

**A:** May 10 is the day before Mothers Day, the week before Memorial Day (USA), the week after Victoria Day (Canada), a two-week period with traditionally high accident rates.

## Q: How will it be promoted?

**A:** Locally through your chapter, through local media contacted by your chapter and via local blood centers and their promotional efforts.

## Q: What will make this "giving" experience different?

**A:** Chapters will strive to find central, easily accessible areas where donors can hear our chapters and quartets and many other community groups singing throughout the day while they donate. It's our gift for the donors' gift.

## Q: Will this also help build awareness for barbershop harmony?

**A:** The main purpose is to attract high numbers of blood donors, but no doubt your community will better learn who you are and what you do. If you attract a few more members in the process, all the better. You can also build alliances with other community groups that you invite to sing, including choirs, bands, schools and churches.

## Q: What kind of external promotion tools will be provided?

**A:** Posters and other collateral materials will be provided through a cooperative effort between the Barbershop Harmony Society and members of the North American blood community. Public service radio spots will be produced and

distributed by the Society. Tools like this can be delivered by local blood centers to local media.

## Q: How can we inform the media?

**A:** Boiler-plate press release information will be provided by members of the North American Blood Community. Other than local contact info, date and time, etc., any deviation from boiler plate info requires prior approval.

## Q: What kind of internal promotional support will be provided?

**A:** The Society kicked off promotion of this program at the International Convention in Denver through big screen ads, an ad in the convention program, webcast appearances and an exhibit booth in near the Harmony Marketplace. The Society will continue to promote this program through *www.barbershop.org*, *Livewire* and *The Harmonizer*. Stories from members that have benefited by blood donations will be solicited.

## Q: What are some other benefits?

**A:** Many, including:

- **Pride.** Barbershoppers across North America can feel proud of their efforts and this Society. Thousands of people will benefit from this effort and lives may be saved.
- **Media exposure.** This type of event, because of its nature and size, will draw media exposure that our Society could never

afford to purchase. Our chapters and the Barbershop Harmony Society name will be front and center in homes all across North America.

- **New members.** Our ability to attract new members can be improved through increased public awareness.

## Q: How are singing and giving blood related?

**A:** The purpose of this drive is not necessarily to get members to donate blood, although we encourage willing donors. This will be a day where our gift of music (from our chapters, quartets and other local groups) will support the gift of life. The extra publicity and participation of other groups will increase blood supplies.

## Q: How can I help get things started in my chapter?

**A:** Encourage your chapter president to appoint a Blood Drive & Donor Recruitment Chairman in your chapter. Chapters not reporting a BD&DR Chairman will have the chapter president appointed as the default chairman.

## Q: What else will be expected of my chapter?

**A:** Reporting. Having chapters report results achieved is crucial. This would include tracking units of blood collected, performances, number of groups participating, location of the event and media coverage achieved. ■



# COME TO YOUR NEW HOME FOR A GRAND HOMECOMING EVENT



NASHVILLE, TN JUNE 29 - JULY 6, 2008

## HOMECOMING 2008, JUNE 29-JULY 6, 2008

We'll celebrate "homecoming" at our 70th international convention in Nashville, our new home for the world headquarters of the Barbershop Harmony Society. Don't miss this opportunity to be among the first to experience the beautiful facility and all the special concerts, exciting contests, educational classes, inspiring sights and many more chances to sing.

Homecoming '08 will be a unique opportunity to recharge your barbershop batteries and reinvigorate your hobby.

Special open houses at the new headquarters will be held throughout the week. It is located near the heart of downtown Nashville at 110 7th Avenue N.

You'll find our new home is conveniently located near the contest venue, the Sommet Center at Broadway and Fifth, and the convention headquarters hotel, the renowned Renaissance Nashville Hotel at 611 Commerce Street.

## REGISTRATION

General membership can register now online through Ticketmaster. Early registration priced at \$135 (adult) plus Ticketmaster fees and Sommet Center fees. Early registration will end on December 31, 2007. Registration price after December 31 will be \$150, plus fees. Members of the President's Council, AIC and other VIP's should contact [events@barbershop.org](mailto:events@barbershop.org)



## PLACES TO GO THINGS TO SEE

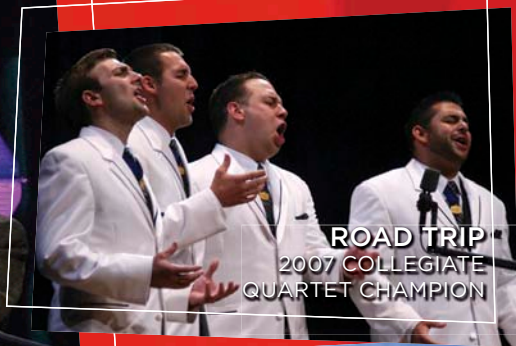
Nashville is special for many reasons. Shop 'til you drop or just be amazed at the cultural and historic offerings. Plan your trip to include the following sights available through convention tours. (Details on tours will be posted as soon as they are confirmed.)

- **Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum**—This isn't just a museum, it's an experience.
- **General Jackson Showboat**—An excellent view of the Nashville skyline from the river.
- **Grand Ole Opry**—A phenomenon that has lasted through generations.
- **Jack Daniel Distillery**—Learn the complete history of Jack Daniel's whiskey.
- **Opry Mills**—Best names in manufacturers' and retail outlets.
- **The Hermitage**—Home of our nation's 7th President, Andrew Jackson.
- **Belle Meade Plantation**—A world renowned thoroughbred horse breeding farm.
- **Nashville Zoo at Grassmere**—Many animal species found around the world.
- **Rutherford County**—Step back in time to several historic sites filled with Civil War history.





**MAX Q**  
2007 INTERNATIONAL  
QUARTET CHAMPION



**ROAD TRIP**  
2007 COLLEGIATE  
QUARTET CHAMPION



**WESTMINSTER CHORUS**  
2007 INTERNATIONAL  
CHORUS CHAMPION

## HEAR THE BEST IN THE WORLD!

The International Convention and Contest is the one week where you can experience over 35 hours of live performances by some of your favorite groups.

## EVENTS INCLUDED WITH YOUR REGISTRATION

**Quartet Quarterfinals** — Session #1 (Wednesday)

**Quartet Semifinals** — Session #2 (Thursday)

**Chorus Finals** — Session #1 (Friday)

**Chorus Finals** — Session #2 (Friday)

**Quartet Finals** (Saturday)

## SEPARATELY TICKETED EVENTS

**Harmony Foundation Presents...** (Tuesday)

**The Larry Ajer Concert** (Tuesday)

**The Association of International Champions Show**  
(Thursday)

**Bank of America Collegiate Quartet Contest**  
(Saturday)

**World Harmony Jamboree** (Saturday)

All contest sessions, the AIC Show and Harmony Foundation Presents... will be held in the Sommet Center.

## MORE INFORMATION TO COME!

As details are finalized, we'll keep you up to date! Don't miss this singular opportunity to come "home" for a terrific week of events and our headquarters debut.

Register online at [www.barbershop.org/nashville](http://www.barbershop.org/nashville) or look for a registration form in a future issue of *The Harmonizer*.

Ph: 800-876-SING (7464)

615-823-3993

Fax: 615-313-7619

[www.barbershop.org/nashville](http://www.barbershop.org/nashville)  
[events@barbershop.org](mailto:events@barbershop.org)





# Rocky Mountain HIGH!





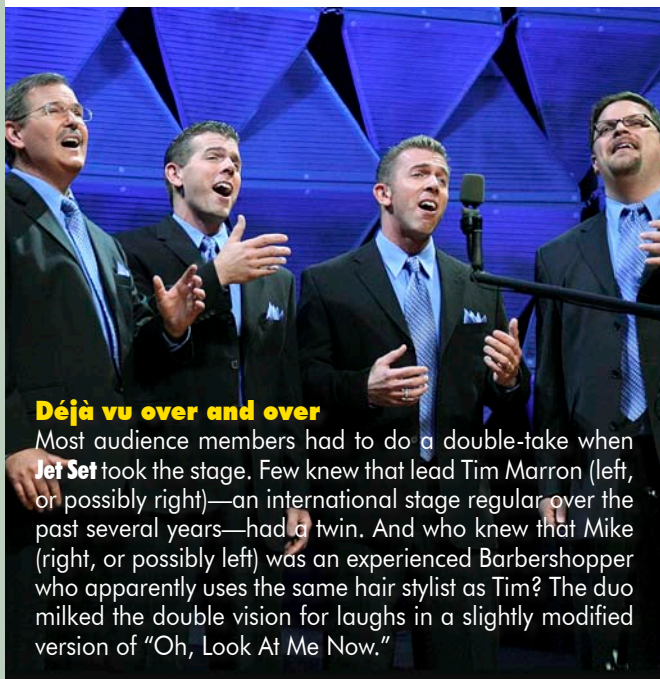


With temperatures and scores in the upper '90s,  
Denver was smoking hot in 2007!



Text by Lorin May,  
Editor, The Harmonizer  
Photos by Lorin May  
unless otherwise noted





## Déjà vu over and over

Most audience members had to do a double-take when **Jet Set** took the stage. Few knew that lead Tim Marron (left, or possibly right)—an international stage regular over the past several years—had a twin. And who knew that Mike (right, or possibly left) was an experienced Barbershopper who apparently uses the same hair stylist as Tim? The duo milked the double vision for laughs in a slightly modified version of “Oh, Look At Me Now.”



## Best act you may never see again

Remember Chanticleer in Salt Lake City? It was hard not to think of them when three competing Swedish quartets opened the quarterfinals with an incredibly robust version of the Swedish National Anthem. Seriously, give these guys a full repertoire and they could go on tour.



## Dominant silver(s)

When you’ve outscored every previous gold medalist except the 1997 **Vocal Majority**, your silver medal is a little shinier than most. The **Ambassadors of Harmony**’s silver follows last year’s **Westminster** silver as a mind-blowing performance that didn’t earn gold. Gone for the foreseeable future are the days when the same two or three choruses have a virtual lock on first place each time they compete. In Nashville, returning six-time champion **Masters of Harmony** will face an Ambassadors chorus

that just posted a 95% score, something the Masters have never achieved. However the Masters will likely be fortified by multiple Westminster members who hold dual memberships. In 2009, one or both of these choruses will go head-to-head against **The Vocal Majority**. Any or all could compete against Westminster in 2010, and **Denver, Toronto** and **Northbrook** will work hard for their own turn in the gold medal rotation. Never before in Society history has the chorus contest held such exciting and unpredictable prospects.



# 2007 international quartet competitors

## 1. Max Q (SWD)

Greg Clancy (T), Tony De Rosa (I), Jeff Oxley (Bs), Gary Lewis (Ba)

Contact Greg: [clancygreg@aol.com](mailto:clancygreg@aol.com)

h: (972) 874-8282; w: (972) 241-9993



ALL PORTRAITS BY MILLER PHOTOGRAPHY



## 2. OC Times (FWD)

Shawn York (T), Sean Devine (L), Cory Hunt (Bs), Patrick Claypool (Ba)

Contact Sean: [seandevine@aol.com](mailto:seandevine@aol.com); (714) 271-4506



## 3. Storm Front (RMD)

Darin Drown (Ba), Sydney Libsack (Bs), Jim Clark (L), David Ellis (T)

Contact Sydney: [syd@stormfrontquartet.com](mailto:syd@stormfrontquartet.com)

h: (720) 685-7874 w: (720) 201-5193



## 4. State Line Grocery (DIX)

Mark Lamback (Ba), Drew McMillan (Bs), Tim Brooks (L), Dylan Oxford (T)

Contact Tim: [TBrooks@TJBSales.com](mailto:TBrooks@TJBSales.com)

h: (770) 982-5392; w: (770) 449-0999



## 5. Flipside (EVG)

Rick Spencer (T), Kevin Stinson (Bs), Mike McCormic (L), Tim McCormic (Ba)

Contact Mike: [mikem7@centurytel.net](mailto:mikem7@centurytel.net)

h: (360) 686-8996; w: (360) 513-6707

## 2007 international quartet competitors



### 6. Glory Days (SWD)

Steve DeCrow (T), Tim Reynolds (L), Joel Rutherford (Bs), Rick Middaugh (Ba)  
Contact Tim: [timreynolds@theirhouse.com](mailto:timreynolds@theirhouse.com)  
h: (770) 888-1263; w: (404) 724-3814



### 7. The Allies (JAD)

Casey Parsons (Ba), Jared Wolf (Bs), David Calland (L), Puck Ross (T)  
Contact David: [dcalland@fcsg.com](mailto:dcalland@fcsg.com)  
h: (614) 543-0379; w: (614) 314-9101



### 8. Rounders (SUN)

Alex Rubin (T), Myron Whittlesey (Bs), Dan Rubin (Ba), Sean Milligan (L)  
Contact Alex: [alex@roundersquartet.com](mailto:alex@roundersquartet.com); h: (954) 462-2411; w: (954) 462-1911



### 9. Wheelhouse (MAD)

Brandon Brooks (T), Rich Gray, Jr. (L), Dan Van Wetering (Bs), Jeff Gray (Ba)  
Contact Jeff: [jeffgray@comcast.net](mailto:jeffgray@comcast.net); (302) 661-0562



### 10. SEP (SWD)

Allen Gasper (L), Scott McCarthy (T), Thomas Wilkie (Bs), Bobby Gray Jr. (Ba)  
Contact Bobby: [bobbyg@sepquartet.com](mailto:bobbyg@sepquartet.com); (719) 896-0084



### 11. Four Aces (MAD)

Ed Cazenias (T), Scott Risley (Bs), Nick Aiuto (L), Richard Lewellen (Ba)  
Contact Nick: [nick@aiu.to](mailto:nick@aiu.to); (703) 421-1962





## Wanna be a champ?

Only four men per year join the AIC fraternity, but scores of singers at every convention get the surrogate thrills and audience adulation at Sing with the Champs.



## Worst luck of the draw

No one wants the first slot in the quartet quarterfinals—it's the smallest audience of the week and you always have to follow an international champion mic tester. **After Midnight** had the bad luck to draw this slot for their second trip in a row, and that wasn't even the worst of it. Their opening set featured the great **Power Play** chart "Taking A Chance On Love." Guess who the mic tester happened to be? Power Play. Care to guess which uptune the 2003 champion performed?



Gary Parker (third from left with Makin' Waves) has entered his fifth decade of singing on the international stage.



Maybe you had nothing but fun all week, but conventions are a work week for the Society board and committees, judges, district leaders, many other internal organizations, and of course, scores of staff and volunteers.

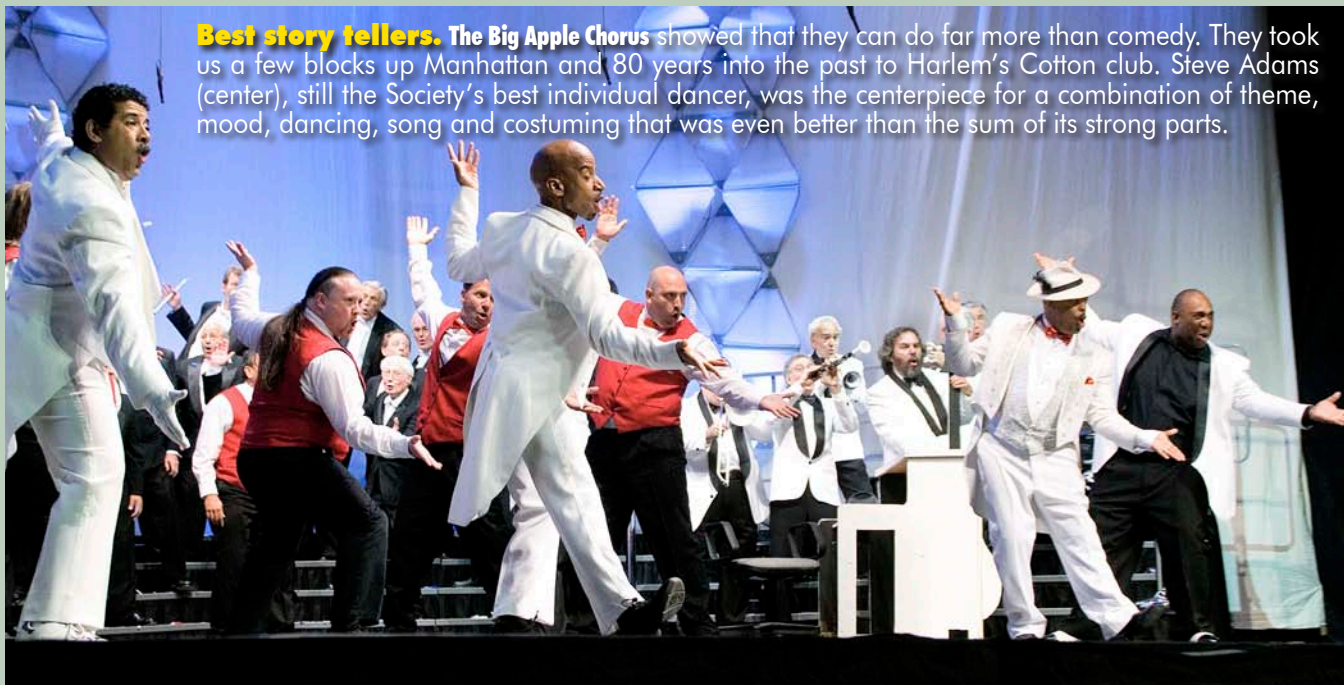


## Broadway barbershop? Youse a got a problem?

Gepetto of **Midwest Vocal Express** to a tiny minority of "stand up and sing" detractors: "We's a proud a this chapter. We do-a the fish, we make-a the plastic soldier. This-a be good for the barbershop harmony. What, you think we no sing the seven chord? Hear we singing? Youse a no sing so good! Youse a no has so fun! Youse a no has all the Milwaukee give-a the big clap! Show-sa me you got a chapter so good. No? Me's a no think so."



**Best story tellers.** The Big Apple Chorus showed that they can do far more than comedy. They took us a few blocks up Manhattan and 80 years into the past to Harlem's Cotton club. Steve Adams (center), still the Society's best individual dancer, was the centerpiece for a combination of theme, mood, dancing, song and costuming that was even better than the sum of its strong parts.



**Worst time to cut out early.** Some friendly advice: when a group from Cambridge, England is due to perform, don't leave the arena floor for any reason, including late-stage childbirth. Two words: *British humor*, in the finest tradition. Maybe **Pitch Invasion** should have named their quartet **Some of the same guys who did the 'Judges' set in 2004**. The last quartet of quarterfinals round one performed before a much diminished arena because many attendees skipped out early for dinner. So let's give a belated tip of our hats to Pitch Invasion's primly hysterical hat-tipping comedy. Next time, chaps, we'll get you a real audience!



JENNIFER ANDERSON



## Double-hanky moment

Few men are as beloved in the Society as Freddie King (center), and thousands of folks in Denver knew about his life-threatening health episodes in the months before the convention. So as the curtain rose, extra loud cheers greeted the icon in a front-row wheelchair. He had directed **Chorus of the Chesapeake** to their 1971 championship, and it was exhilarating to see the chapter's heart and soul in action. Then the action really started. In the middle of the second song, "Auld Lang Syne," Freddie unexpectedly stood up from his wheelchair and walked to the middle of the stage, where he vigorously took over directing duties. A tearful audience looked on as director Rick Taylor and Freddie's son Kevin joined 13 father/son pairs front and center while the 140-strong chorus made its triumphant return to the international stage.



## 2007 international quartet competitors



### 12. Ignition! (RMD)

Matt Swann (Ba), Dennis Malone (Bs), Curtis Terry (L), Dan Testa (T)  
Contact Curtis: [curlymt@comcast.net](mailto:curlymt@comcast.net); (720) 36405800



### 13. Late Show (FWD)

Raymond Davis (T), Jordan Litz (L), Mike Stewart (Bs), Gabe Caretto (Ba)  
Contact Gabe: [gcaretto@singbarbershop.org](mailto:gcaretto@singbarbershop.org)  
h: (209) 740-8525; w: (916) 927-8229



### 14. 3 Men & A Melody (CSD)

Chris Droegemueller (T), Eric Derks (L), Brian Bellof (Bs), Brad Stephens (Ba)  
Contact Brian: [brian@3menandamelody.com](mailto:brian@3menandamelody.com)  
h: (816) 734-1884; w: (816) 741-8665



### 15. 12<sup>th</sup> Street Rag (CSD)

Clockwise from bottom: Mark Fortino (L), John Fortino (Ba),  
Barry Moore (Bs), Micah Jeppesen (T)  
Contact Mark: [markfortino@aol.com](mailto:markfortino@aol.com)  
h: (913) 780-3872; w: (913) 234-2345



### 16. Ringers (MAD)

Rob Seay V (T), Scott Disney (L), Alan Mazzoni (Bs), Mike Pinto (Ba)  
Contact Scott: [sdisney@westlandprinters.com](mailto:sdisney@westlandprinters.com)  
h: (410) 674-3343; w: (301) 384-770



### 17. Reveille (MAD)

Joe Hunter (Ba), John Ward (L), Mark Paaul (Ba), Fernando Sicilia (T)  
Contact Joe: [jhunna1@aol.com](mailto:jhunna1@aol.com); (516) 939-2798



## 2007 international quartet competitors



### 18. Voices Only (LOL)

Josh Umhoefer (Ba), Jake Umhoefer (Ba), James Estes (L), Sean Sherrodd (T)  
Contact Josh: [josh@voicesonlyquartet.com](mailto:josh@voicesonlyquartet.com)  
h: (414) 881-7456; w: (262) 796-9815



### 19. NeXus (RMD)

George Davidson (T), Ryan Wilson (L), Mark Senk (Bs), Mike Davidson (Ba)  
Contact Mike: [mike@nexusqt.com](mailto:mike@nexusqt.com); (303) 912-0461



### 20. Men in Black (NED)

Ray Johnson (Ba), Karl Hudson (Bs), Oliver Merrill (L), Tony Nasto (T)  
Contact Tony: [meninblacktenor@yahoo.com](mailto:meninblacktenor@yahoo.com); (860) 869-6786



### 21. The Crush (FWD)

Matthew Gray (T), Patrick Haedtler (L), Paul Tabone (Bs), John Brockman (Ba)  
Contact Paul: [thecrushquartet@gmail.com](mailto:thecrushquartet@gmail.com); (760) 522-6376



### 22. TKO (JAD)

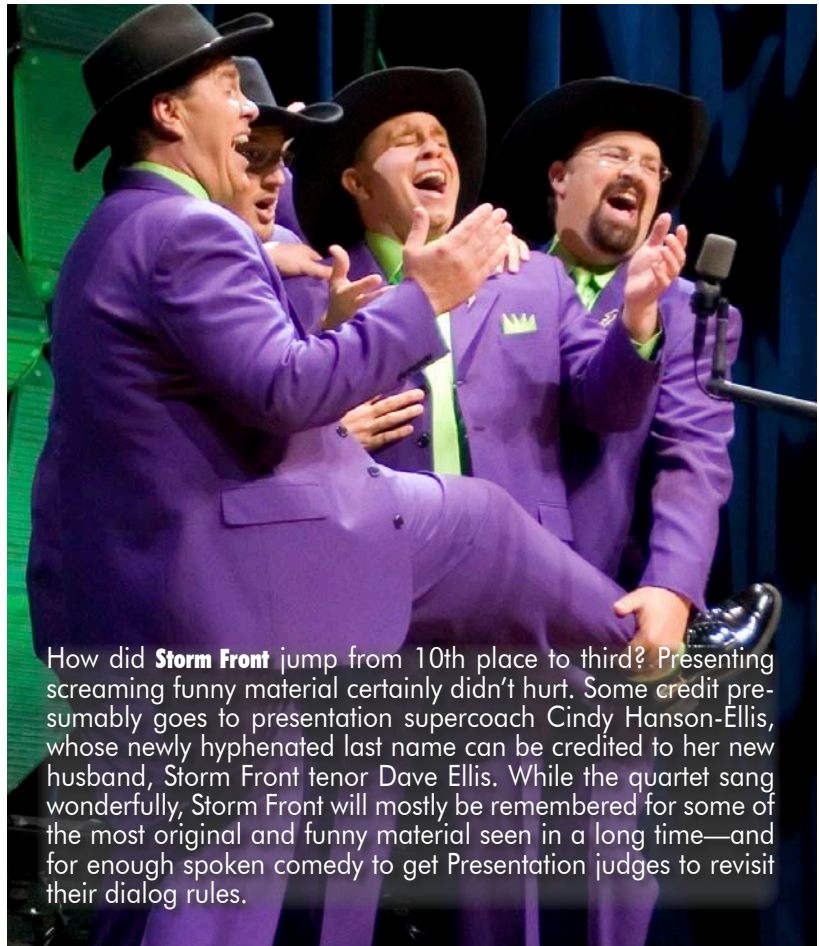
Aaron Hughes (Ba), Jonathan Zimmerman (L), David Jarrell (Bs), Garry Teixeira (T)  
Contact Aaron: [beeritone@aol.com](mailto:beeritone@aol.com);  
h: (812) 553-0505; w: (812) 462-4330



### 23. Noise Boys (CSD)

Byron Myers II (T), Curt Angel (L), Jeff Veteto (Bs), Don Conner (Ba)  
Contact Jeff: [jeff@noiseboys.org](mailto:jeff@noiseboys.org)  
h: (417) 881-6106; w: (417) 831-8538

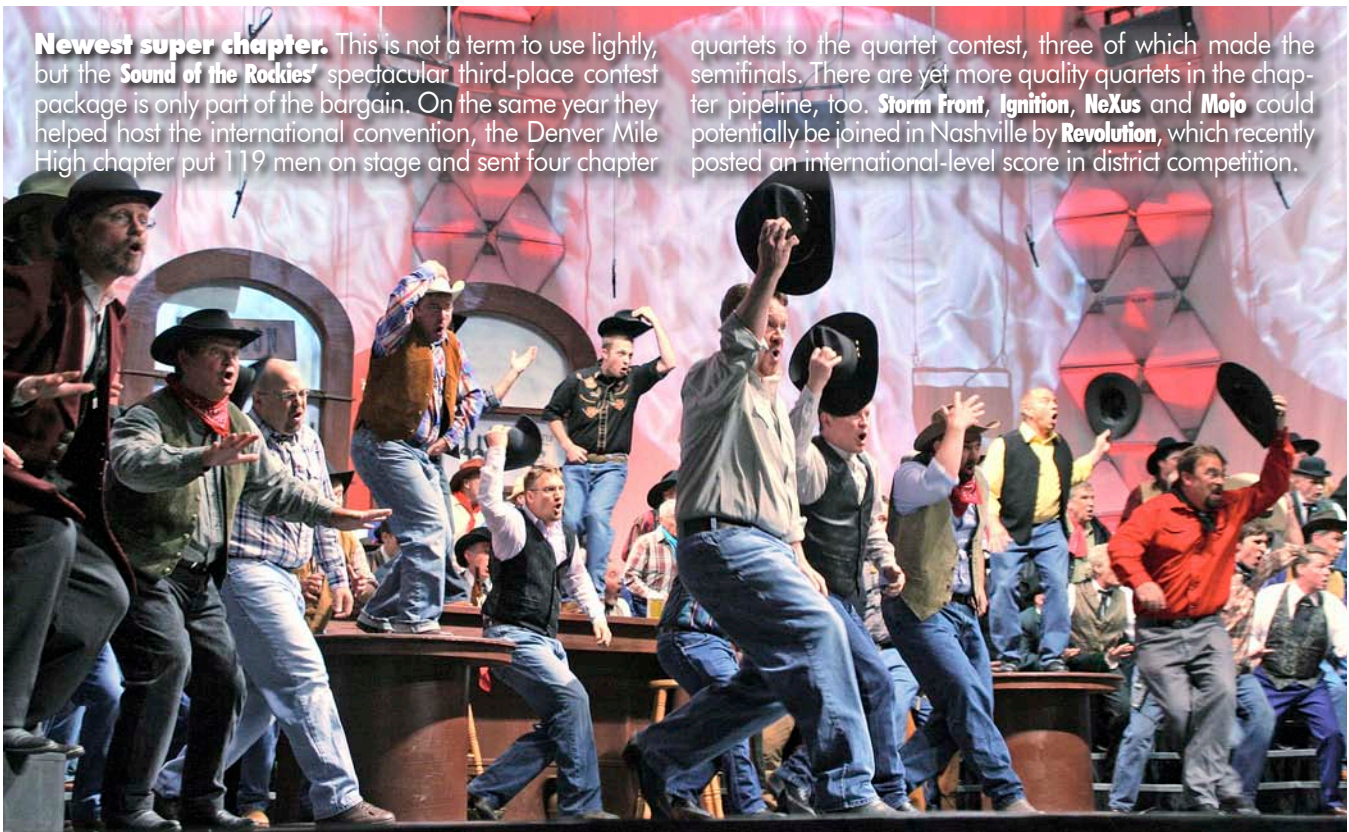




How did **Storm Front** jump from 10th place to third? Presenting screaming funny material certainly didn't hurt. Some credit presumably goes to presentation supercoach Cindy Hanson-Ellis, whose newly hyphenated last name can be credited to her new husband, Storm Front tenor Dave Ellis. While the quartet sang wonderfully, Storm Front will mostly be remembered for some of the most original and funny material seen in a long time—and for enough spoken comedy to get Presentation judges to revisit their dialog rules.

**Newest super chapter.** This is not a term to use lightly, but the **Sound of the Rockies'** spectacular third-place contest package is only part of the bargain. On the same year they helped host the international convention, the Denver Mile High chapter put 119 men on stage and sent four chapter

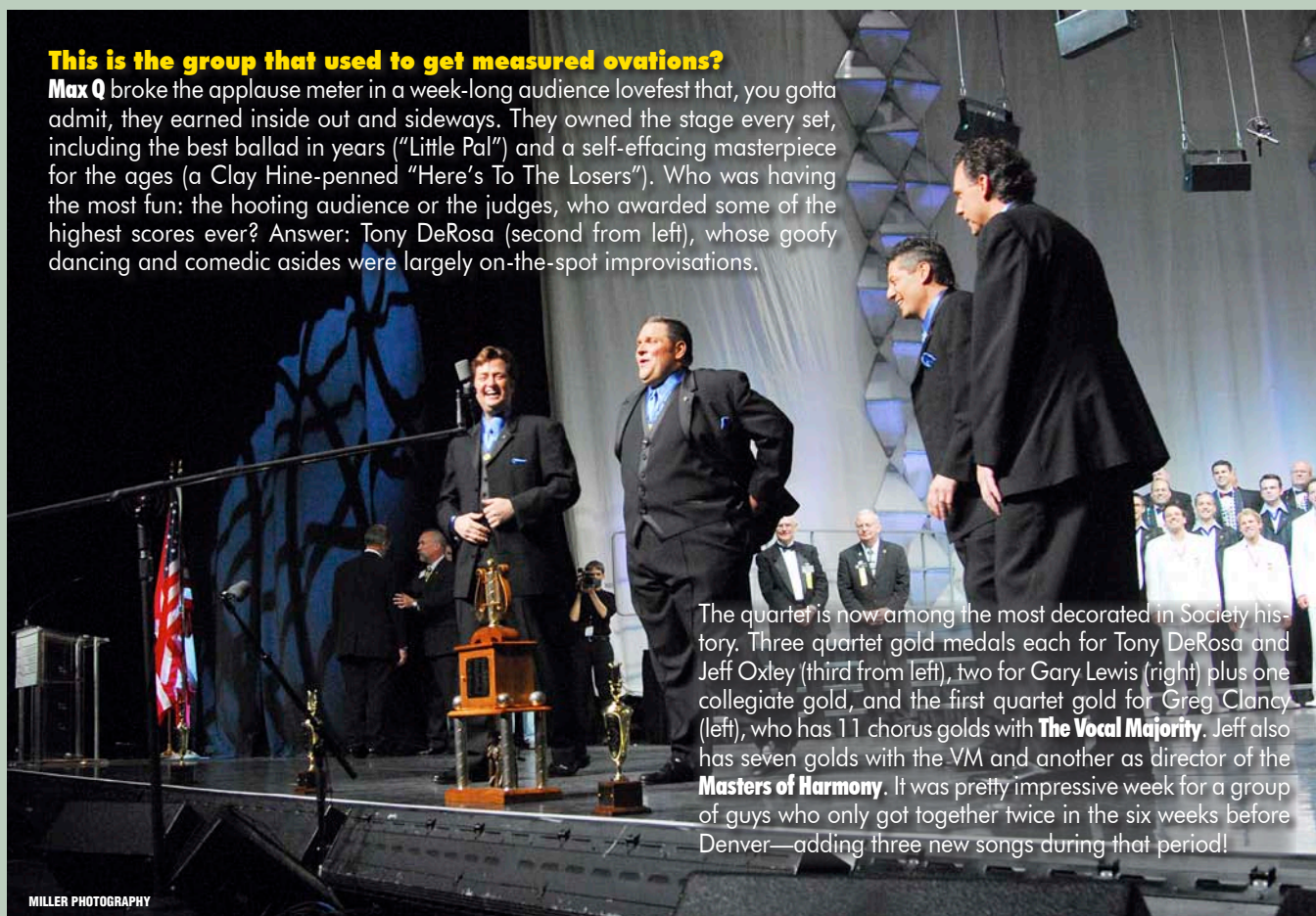
quartets to the quartet contest, three of which made the semifinals. There are yet more quality quartets in the chapter pipeline, too. **Storm Front**, **Ignition**, **NeXus** and **Mojo** could potentially be joined in Nashville by **Revolution**, which recently posted an international-level score in district competition.





## This is the group that used to get measured ovations?

**Max Q** broke the applause meter in a week-long audience lovefest that, you gotta admit, they earned inside out and sideways. They owned the stage every set, including the best ballad in years ("Little Pal") and a self-effacing masterpiece for the ages (a Clay Hine-penned "Here's To The Losers"). Who was having the most fun: the hooting audience or the judges, who awarded some of the highest scores ever? Answer: Tony DeRosa (second from left), whose goofy dancing and comedic asides were largely on-the-spot improvisations.



MILLER PHOTOGRAPHY

The quartet is now among the most decorated in Society history. Three quartet gold medals each for Tony DeRosa and Jeff Oxley (third from left), two for Gary Lewis (right) plus one collegiate gold, and the first quartet gold for Greg Clancy (left), who has 11 chorus golds with **The Vocal Majority**. Jeff also has seven golds with the VM and another as director of the **Masters of Harmony**. It was pretty impressive week for a group of guys who only got together twice in the six weeks before Denver—adding three new songs during that period!

## Best costuming

Sure, their Wizard of Oz set was a great performance, but the Women of West Towns may have even topped their men. You'd have had to been up close to really appreciate the detail of the 74 outfits, each Munchkin significantly different from all the others, yet visually tied together as if desired by Broadway costumers. The **West Towns**

**Chorus** actually has a direct link to Broadway—the broad played by George Zima, who danced professionally for 14 years on the Great White Way. The octogenarian showman showed he's still got it during his dance interval. He reportedly does cartwheels during his solo acts for the ladies.



MILLER PHOTOGRAPHY

## Best AIC Show ever?

From the professional-grade opening sequences ala *The Music Man* to the finale with Jay Giallombardo's eight-part masterpiece, "All Nations Rise," you could have skipped the quartets and still gone home happy. Not that you would. Quick report: **The Classic Collection's** still got it after 25 years, **Most Happy Fellows** showed off their versatility with spot-on impressions of non-Society quartet luminaries, **FRED** was as weirdly hilarious as always, and **Power Play** and **Gotcha!** were as good as they've ever been. But standouts among standouts were **Realtime** and **Vocal Spectrum**—both scary good and already noticeably better than when they won. Pray that all these groups hang around for a long time.



## 2007 international quartet competitors



### 24. VocalEase (FWD)

Scott Kidder (Ba), Joe D'Amore (Bs), Rich Brunner (L), Todd Kidder (T)  
Contact Joe: [jpdamore@gmail.com](mailto:jpdamore@gmail.com)  
h: (626) 963-8604; w: (626) 513-6394



### 25. New Release (MAD)

Ryan Griffith (T), Shawn Thomas (L), Joe Eckert (Bs), Noah Morrison (Ba)  
Contact Noah: [lovetoharmonize@earthlink.net](mailto:lovetoharmonize@earthlink.net); (717) 380-1990



### 26. Mojo (RMD)

Adam Reimnitz (T), Scott Delude (L), Chris Richards (Bs), Doug Kastman (Ba)  
Contact Chris: [crrbassman@comcast.net](mailto:crrbassman@comcast.net); h: (303) 617-0015; w: (303) 617-3409



### 27. Hi-Fidelity (FWD)

Gregg Bernhard (Ba), Martin Fredstrom (Bs), Tom Moore (L), Craig Ewing (T)  
Contact Gregg: [hifibari@aol.com](mailto:hifibari@aol.com); h: (951) 808-1988; w: (714) 904-7184



### 28. Jet Set (EVG)

Mike Menefee (T), Tim Marron (L), Mike Marron (Bs), Jeremiah Pope (Ba)  
Contact Mike Menefee: [menefees@wavecable.com](mailto:menefees@wavecable.com)  
h: (360) 698-3416; w: (360) 337-7464



### 29. Stardust (FWD)

John Mininger (T), Larry Halvorson (L), Buzz Bossard (Bs), Jim Halvorson (Ba)  
Contact John: [jondonsing@aol.com](mailto:jondonsing@aol.com); (702) 798-2041



## 2007 international quartet competitors



### 30. The Great Nashville Singout (DIX)

Eddie Holt (Ba), Jimmy Barr (Bs), Ryan Killeen (L), Daniel Rushing (T)  
Contact Eddie: [ydlead@yahoo.com](mailto:ydlead@yahoo.com); (254) 722-1499



### 31. Rush Street (ILL)

Steven Davis (T), Mike Woods (L), Duane Fenn (Bs), Patrick Henders (Ba)  
Contact Mike: [laura\\_mike@comcast.net](mailto:laura_mike@comcast.net)  
h: (847) 415-2821; w: (847) 286-1826



### 32. Alchemy (ILL)

Rick Anthony (T), Ken Gillie (L), George Sotos (Bs), Mark Keever (Ba)  
Contact Ken: [AlchemyQuartet@comcast.net](mailto:AlchemyQuartet@comcast.net)  
h: (630) 782-5153; w: (847) 5385160



### 33. Vocality (LOL)

Jay Althof (T), Tony Blackwood (L), David Boyd (Bs), Robert Albachten (Ba)  
Contact Tony: [tonyblackwood@usfamily.net](mailto:tonyblackwood@usfamily.net); (651) 735-7849



### 34. Makin' Waves (SWD)

John Rentz (T), Bret Morris (L), Gary Parker (Bs), Jason Warschauer (Ba)  
Contact John: [jgrentz@tx.rr.com](mailto:jgrentz@tx.rr.com); (817) 296-8771



### 35. Last Call (SUN)

Byron Poore (T), Mark Schlinkert (L), Jerry Johnson (Bs), Bill Billings (Ba)  
Contact Mark: [mschlinkert@cfl.rr.com](mailto:mschlinkert@cfl.rr.com)  
h: (407) 855-7733; w: (407) 370-5562





## Rising star

Bet you haven't heard the last of Anthony Colisimo (second from left), who lifted **Road Trip** to gold with one of the most beautiful lead voices you've ever heard. Having first casually sung together two years ago at the Salt Lake City international convention, this far-flung group took nearly two years to convince Anthony to break away from quartetting exclusively with his dad. The group's first rehearsal was the same weekend they qualified at the MAD international prelims; they had only two more rehearsals in Denver before their win. The two ballads they performed in Denver—chosen to show off Anthony's voice and to reduce synch issues—made up their entire repertoire.

Bass Joseph Eckert (third from left) is a double collegiate silver medalist with **New Release**; bari Sam Papageorge (right), gold medalist with the **Masters of Harmony**, flew from Southern California to sing with this East Coast quartet. And first place was a big move up for Larry Bomback (left), who finished last place in Indy singing lead banana for **The Penn Fifteen Club**.



## Why we do what we do, reason #3,417

Fred and Lorrain Teller of Nebraska noted that the couple at the next table was definitely not in town for the convention. After discussing barbershop harmony with these curious French tourists, they knew a demonstration was in order. Fred assembled an impromptu quartet with members from Arizona, Canada and the East Coast and they sang a couple of Barberpole Cat numbers. The lady burst into tears, and no, not because she was a music teacher!



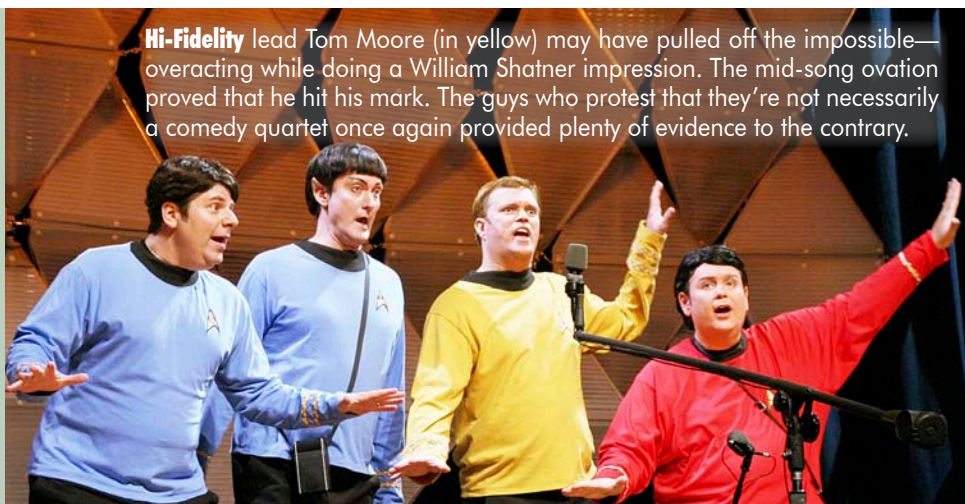
## Best revived/deceased trends

Downtown Denver parties late into the night on weekends, but Barbershoppers also provided a late-night sound-track for some weeknight evenings. Over the past two years, several large-scale late-night tagging sessions (before Saturday!) gave hope that the casual singing drought seen the first half of this decade may have been short-lived.





**Welcome to the upper tier.** **Heart of Texas** was spectacular with “Bury Me Not On The Lone Prairie,” easily one of the contest’s best ballads. They contrasted that with a high-energy uptune that featured the week’s best/worst pun. (They were singing the words “home on the range” when this rolled out. ‘Nuff said.) It was good enough to break into a crowded top 10.



**Hi-Fidelity** lead Tom Moore (in yellow) may have pulled off the impossible—overacting while doing a William Shatner impression. The mid-song ovation proved that he hit his mark. The guys who protest that they’re not necessarily a comedy quartet once again provided plenty of evidence to the contrary.



**The Cambridge Chord Company** can’t say enough about their mothers in law



Close your eyes and you’ll still mistake **Vocal FX** for Westminster—and there are other New Zealand groups just like them

**10 is the new bronze.** What’s an affiliate got to do to break into the top 10 these days? Few Society groups can match **The Cambridge Chord Company** in any category, and **Vocal FX** of New Zealand took Denver by storm—already better than Westminster was in 2004. But there’s no conspiracy: there really were 10 great groups ahead of them. Ponder the following assertions: (1) Making the top 10 today is tougher than it was to get a medal 10 years ago. (2) An 85-point performance today is superior to the same score 10 years ago. Reverse grade inflation: get used to it.



## 2007 international quartet competitors



### 36. After Midnight (LOL)

Tom Matchinsky (T), David Bailey-Aldrich (L), Steve McDonald (Bs), Jim Emery (Ba)

Contact Jim: [james.e.emery@gmail.com](mailto:james.e.emery@gmail.com)  
h: (612) 824-7464; w: (952) 912-3074



### 37. 3 Outa Four (EVG)

Duane Christensen (T), Eric Christensen (L), Lowell Smith (Bs), Ian Christensen (Ba)

Contact Ian: [ianmchristensen@hotmail.com](mailto:ianmchristensen@hotmail.com); (503) 257-2349



### 38. Vanguard (SWD)

John Wydra (T), Tommie Young (L), John White (Bs), Joel Bourgeois (Ba)

Contact Tommie: [tyoung8@satx.rr.com](mailto:tyoung8@satx.rr.com)  
h: (210) 789-5374; w: (210) 565-0871



### 39. Absolut (SNOBS)

Bengt Thaysen (T), Richard Ohman (L), Joakim Flink (Bs), Joacim Stappe (Ba)

Contact Joakim: [jocke.flink@typa.se](mailto:jocke.flink@typa.se)



### 40. The Dean's List (EVG)

Clockwise from bottom: Darwin Scheel (T), Paul Olguin (Ba), Dean Waters (L), Ty Weiss (Bs)

Contact Dean: [dxw@rentrak.com](mailto:dxw@rentrak.com); h: (360) 574-5235; w: (503) 284-7581



### 41. Hot Air Buffoons (JAD)

Harold Haffett (Ba), Mark Lang (L), Randy Baughman (Bs), Denny Price (T)

Contact Mark: [hotairbuffoons@aol.com](mailto:hotairbuffoons@aol.com); (330) 638-5183



## 2007 international quartet competitors



### 42. Pitch Invasion (BABS)

Rod Butcher (T), Dale Kynaston (L), Andy Funnell (Bs), Timm Barkworth (Ba)  
Contact Dale: [dale@pitchinvasion.biz](mailto:dale@pitchinvasion.biz); 4401952606957



### 43. Foreign Agreement (SLD)

Clockwise from bottom: Ron Mason (Ba), Mike Holmes (T), Ted Church (Bs), Bob Fuest (L)  
Contact Mike: [holmesmichael23@msn.com](mailto:holmesmichael23@msn.com)  
h: (716) 868-7866; w: (716) 868-1155



### 44. Harmonix (SLD)

Chaz Zelows (T), Don Drake (L), Jeffrey Mahan (Bs), Rob Hopkins (Ba)  
Contact Jeffrey: [bassmahan@hotmail.com](mailto:bassmahan@hotmail.com); (607) 431-1019



### 45. The Arrangment (CAR)

Steven Bogaerts (T), Warren Weitkamp (L), Jeremy Conover (Bs), Bob Kendall (Ba)  
Contact Steven: [stevenbogaerts@hotmail.com](mailto:stevenbogaerts@hotmail.com); (812) 335-8879



### 46. Bandwagon (LOL)

Keith Olson (T), Sam Sather (L), Jim Barloon (Bs), Jim Larson (Ba)  
Contact Jim Barloon: [jlbass@juno.com](mailto:jlbass@juno.com)  
h: (507) 288-3021, w: (507) 286-8970



### 47. Mirage (ONT)

Bobby Gibson (T), Brian Etmanski (L), Dale Locke (Bs), David Hampel (Ba)  
Contact Brian: [etmanski@efni.com](mailto:etmanski@efni.com)  
h: (705) 474-2086; w: (705) 474-1200



## 2007 international quartet competitors



### 48. Fermata Nowhere (PIO)

Steve Pauling (Ba), Tom Conner (L), Pete Burns (Bs), Jeff Gougeon (T)  
Contact Pete: [peteandsally@wowway.com](mailto:peteandsally@wowway.com); (248) 689-0026

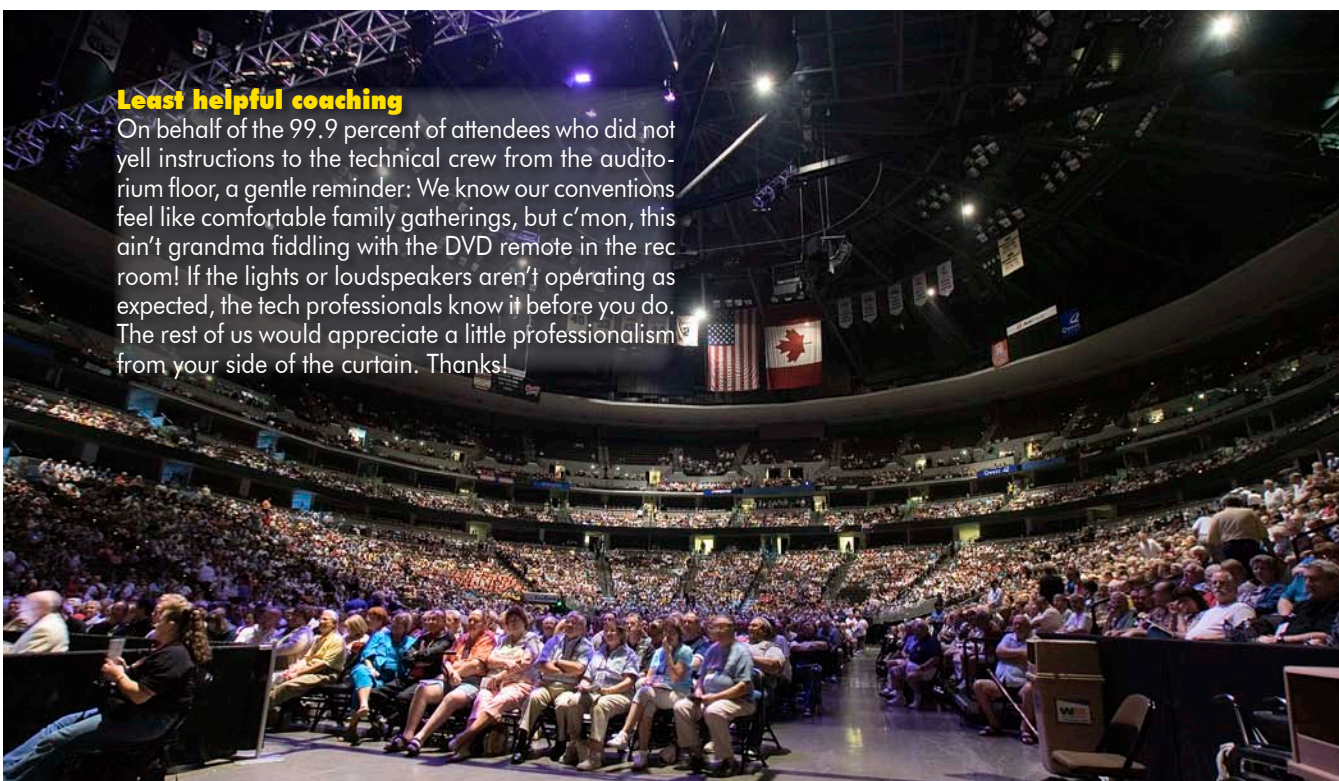


### 49. Balalaika Boyz (SNOBS)

From bottom: Staffan Lindberg (T), Erik Emilsson (Bs) Stefan Engstrom (Ba),  
Emil Johnnison (L)  
Contact Staffan: [sangarstaffan@gmail.com](mailto:sangarstaffan@gmail.com)

### Least helpful coaching

On behalf of the 99.9 percent of attendees who did not yell instructions to the technical crew from the auditorium floor, a gentle reminder: We know our conventions feel like comfortable family gatherings, but c'mon, this ain't grandma fiddling with the DVD remote in the rec room! If the lights or loudspeakers aren't operating as expected, the tech professionals know it before you do. The rest of us would appreciate a little professionalism from your side of the curtain. Thanks!



The "loudest outfits" category, retired in honor of the **Gotcha!** 2004 championship, may need to be revived. From **Last Call**'s third-degree felony combination of purple and electric blue to **Stardust**'s jackets lifted from the wardrobe of *Finding Nemo*, several quartets demonstrated that one can create a "wall of sound" without singing a note.

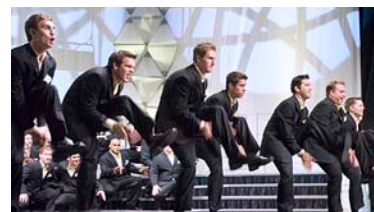






## Most far flung quartet

**SEP** (formerly **Saturday Evening Post**), features a new tenor from Ontario, a lead and bari from Colorado and a bass from Washington, singing New Orleans-inspired fare on behalf of the Southwestern District, in which none of them live. They just made the top 10 in their fourth configuration. On top of all that, bari Bobby Gray (far right) performed with the **Blenders** of Australia on the international chorus stage. Talk about a commute to rehearsal! Next time you watch SEP, check out the guys on the outside—visually, they're two of the best you can find.



MILLER PHOTOGRAPHY



**Thought Westminster couldn't top Indy?** You read here last year that it would take a 95% average to beat the **Westminster Chorus**. The **Ambassadors** scored that 95 and Westminster still won, albeit on a tie-breaker. The young whipper-snappers were simply jaw-dropping. In a performance that will be remembered as much for its dancing as its flawless singing, director Royce Ferguson became the seventh quartet gold medalist (**Revival**, 1998) to win directing gold.



## 2007 international chorus competitors



**1. The Westminster Chorus • Westminster, Calif. (FWD) • Royce Ferguson, director**

ALL PORTRAITS BY MILLER PHOTOGRAPHY



**2. Ambassadors of Harmony • St. Charles, Mo. (CSD) • Dr. James Henry, director**



**3. Sound of The Rockies • Denver Mile High, Colo. (RMD) • Darin Drown, director**



**4. The Northern Lights • Toronto, Ont. (ONT) • Steve Armstrong, director**



**5. New Tradition • Northbrook, Ill. (ILL) • Jay Giallombardo, director**



## 2007 international chorus competitors



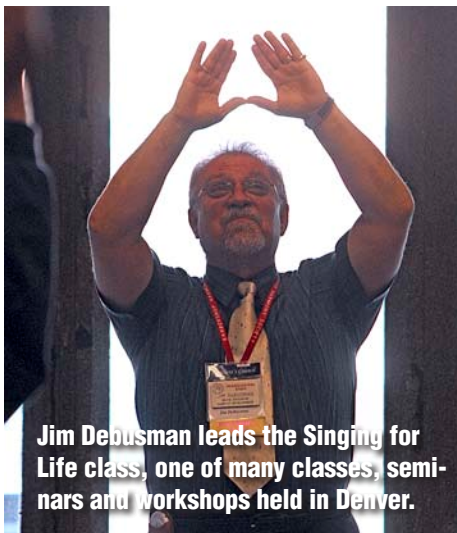




## Best buildup. (Twice.)

It took the **MegaCity Chorus** forever to start their first number, director Chris Arnold's flower-squirting hat tip to 2005's mime number, when he was with the **Northern Lights**. This time, the sad sacks remained in a pathetic stupor interminably as the pitch was blown again and again without response, not counting audience laughter. Their finest moment, however, came between songs, when the clowns loaded up with what appeared to be cream pies. As they began a leaden, big-shoed march toward the front of the stage, the tension built and the audience roared while wide-eyed judges looked for cover. When the bozos finally launched, it turned out that the pie pans were only filled with marshmallows—with smiley faces painted on them. Many were thrown back, constituting the first live judge/competitor food fight on the international stage.

In the minutes before the call-off, the 12 people in the webcast studios made their ranked picks for the quartet medalists. The webcast team averaged 25 years barbershop experience and included veteran hosts Rick Taylor, Mike Maino and Joe Connelly. Also making guesses were contractors who have worked our contest for five years and Pepsi Center studio technicians. Only one player correctly ranked them 1-5: college student Ryan Gonzales, the video graphics operator attending his first barbershop event ever. His list included "that F group—I liked them." (Bronze medalist **Flipside**.) Once again, the audience knew who won.



Jim Debusman leads the Singing for Life class, one of many classes, seminars and workshops held in Denver.

MILLER PHOTOGRAPHY



## Life ain't fair

The best ballad from one of the best ballad quartets had to compete with an arena walkie-talkie squawking throughout. Our ears know that **State Line Grocery** sang "Danny Boy" about as well as it could be sung, but we wish we could have enjoyed it a bit more. Contest administrators paused the contest, presumably to take a hammer to the offending equipment, but never located the radio. The quartet finished the week with a medal as a surprise to no one.





## Most unfortunate snap judgment

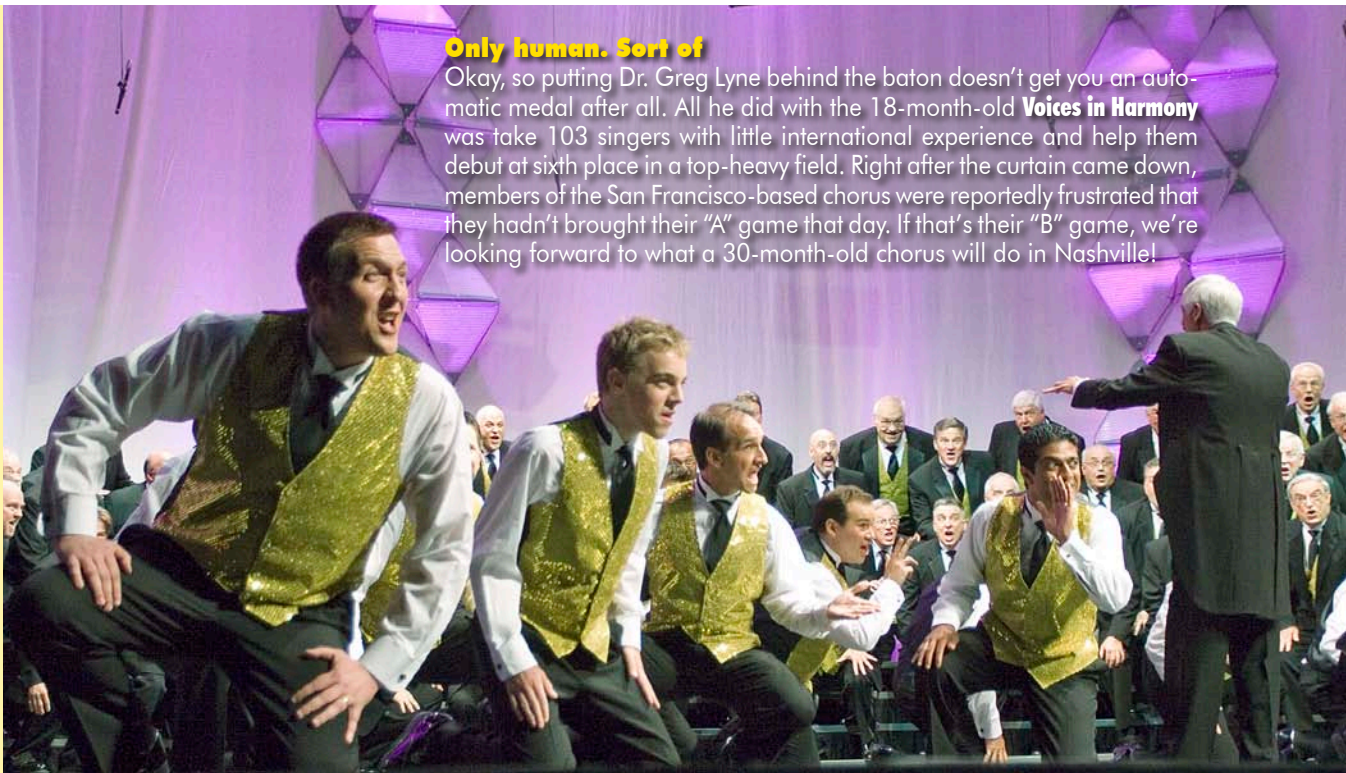
The headliners for *Harmony Foundation Presents ... Take 6* started with some uncharacteristically non-gospel, non-jazz numbers with the bass turned up REALLY high. A lot of ticket-holders, presumably thinking this was a hip-hop group, left early in the set. They were gone by the time **Take 6** shifted back to the amazingly sophisticated harmonies that have made them legends in the jazz and gospel genres. Their rendition of the National Anthem alone was worth the price of admission.



JENNIFER ANDERSON

## Best two words

"Tonight, Tonight," from a bass who understandably has a hard time keeping his two active quartets straight. Joel T. Rutherford's "who are you guys?" line to Steve DeCrow and Tim Reynolds slayed the audience. But Joel knows that these A-list quartetters—including fellow **Acoustix** man Rick Middaugh switching to the blendy part—could be the ticket to his own international championship. **Glory Days'** auspicious 6th-place debut left little doubt that they may have the horsepower to pull it off.



## Only human. Sort of

Okay, so putting Dr. Greg Lyne behind the baton doesn't get you an automatic medal after all. All he did with the 18-month-old **Voices in Harmony** was take 103 singers with little international experience and help them debut at sixth place in a top-heavy field. Right after the curtain came down, members of the San Francisco-based chorus were reportedly frustrated that they hadn't brought their "A" game that day. If that's their "B" game, we're looking forward to what a 30-month-old chorus will do in Nashville!



## 2007 international chorus competitors



**11. Vocal FX • Wellington, N.Z. (NZABS) • Charlotte Murray, director**



**12. Cambridge Chord Company • Cambridge, U.K. (BABS) • Paul Davies, director**



**13. Alexandria Harmonizers • Alexandria, Va. (MAD) • Joe Cerutti, director**



**14. Spirit of Phoenix • Greater Phoenix, Ariz. (FWD) • Russell Young, director**



**15. The Big Apple Chorus • Manhattan, N.Y. (MAD) • Joe Hunter, Jr., director**



## 2007 international chorus competitors



**16. Chorus of Chesapeake • Dundalk, Md. (MAD) • Rick Taylor, director**



**17. Heralds of Harmony • Tampa, Fla. (SUN) • Bill Billings, director**



**18. Commodores • Minneapolis, Minn. (LOL) • Paul Wigley, director**



**19. Senate Aires • Salem, Ore. (EVG) • Steve Morin, director**



**20. Heart of America • Kansas City, Mo. (CSD) • Jim Bagby, director**





**The Crush**

We've long recognized the link between the collegiate and international contests—for example, all of this year's international medalist quartets featured past collegiate competitors. Now we're seeing the same guys on both stages in the same week. Rule changes allowed **The Crush** to debut on both stages, earning both collegiate silver and mic testing honors for the semifinals. Two-time collegiate silver medalist **New Release** debuted at 25th place on the big stage, while three of them medaled at first and fourth place (below) on the collegiate stage.



**On Demand**

## Not your older brother's collegiate contest.

Just when you're wondering what else goes on during a convention Saturday afternoon, you hear a revelation like **Last Minute's** Greg Owens (second from left) at the

collegiate contest and remember why you never miss it. You could listen to the bronze medal lead all day, and his quartet has plenty of high-end company. Yeah, these days you'll still see some groups that get cheers simply for showing up, but much of this contest is a parade of quartets you'd be proud to headline your chapter show. The top collegiate quartets regularly out-sing half of the big stage's field. Makes you wonder what the youth chorus contest will look like 10 years down the road.



**Last Minute**



**Four Way Stop**



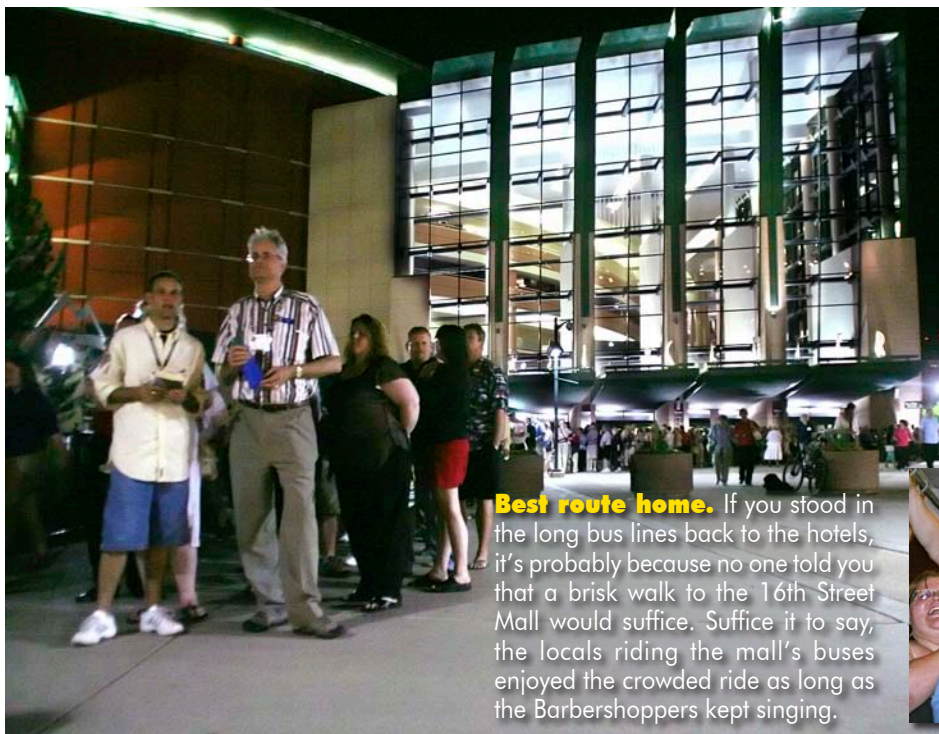
**The Goods**



**Blue Notes**



**J-Crew**



**Best route home.** If you stood in the long bus lines back to the hotels, it's probably because no one told you that a brisk walk to the 16th Street Mall would suffice. Suffice it to say, the locals riding the mall's buses enjoyed the crowded ride as long as the Barbershoppers kept singing.



**Fast Forward**



**Ringmasters**





## Using his head

Second generation Barbershopper and para-athlete Corbin Beu got a few claps for his juggling, then pal Dave Baker topped his applause with a head stand. So without any help, Corbin did a head stand of his own. (With a bit more wobble, he can also go up on his hands!) But the most applause came at the end, when a young member hopped on and went for an extended spin!



JENNIFER ANDERSON



## Best retooling

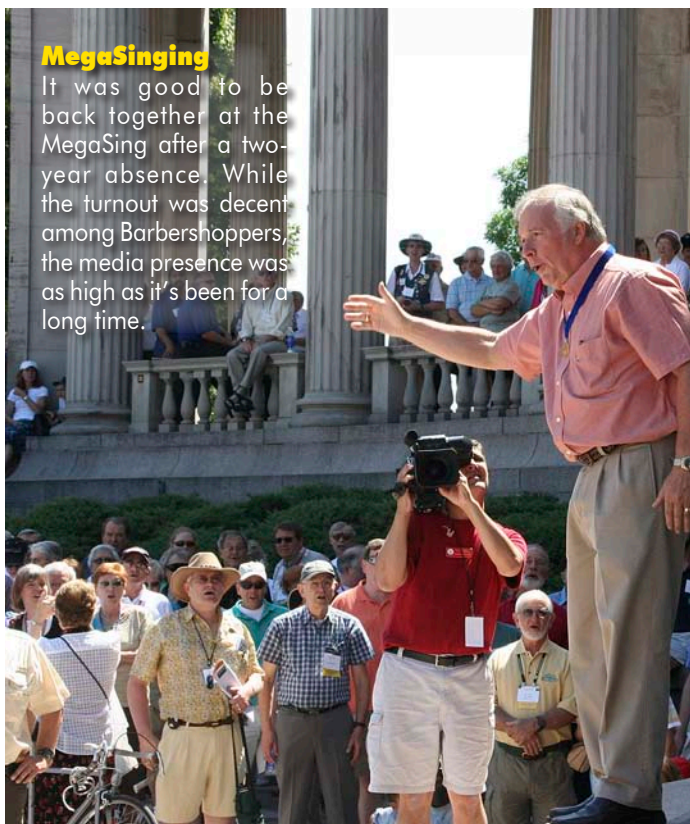
**Rounders** returned extra strong after skipping a year, this time with new bass Myron Whittlesey (second from right) and former bass Alex Rubin (right) moving up to bari. The former collegiate medalist's low notes anchor a bigger, fuller sound that's a big step up for a group that was already one of the smoothest and most musical quartets. This year's eighth place finish showed plenty of upside.



**Kings of Comedy.** With **Metropolis** away on tour, **Hot Air Buffoons** laying an egg in the quarterfinals and **Hi-Fidelity** just missing the semis, **Reveille** carried the pure-comedy torch this year. Their couch potato set provided more belly laughs than you'd have gotten from the boob-tube, and the gangster set was pitch-perfect. Props to new tenor Fernando Sicilia for providing a great comedic spin. (Roger Payne rest in peace!)

## MegaSinging

It was good to be back together at the MegaSing after a two-year absence. While the turnout was decent among Barbershoppers, the media presence was as high as it's been for a long time.





## 2007 international chorus competitors



21. Tidelanders • Houston, Texas (SWD) • Roy Prichard, director



22. Granite Statesman • Nashua, N.H. (NED) • Steve Tramack, director



23. West Towns Chorus • Chicagoland West Suburban, Ill. (ILL) • Joe Krones, director



24. Brothers in Harmony • Easton, Penn. (MAD) • Jack Pinto, director



24. Texas Millionaires • Fort Worth, Texas (SWD) • Tom Jackson, director



## 2007 international chorus competitors



**24. Singing Buckeyes • Buckeye-Columbus, Ohio (JAD) • Doug Smeltz and Garry Wulf, directors**



**27. MegaCity Chorus •  
Greater Toronto, Ont. (ONT)  
Chris Arnold, director**



**28. Guardians of Harmony • Macomb County, Mich. (PIO) • Jack Slamka and Michael Slamka, directors**



**29. The Vocal Agenda • Batavia, N.Y. (SLD) • Ronald Mason, director**



**30. The Blenders • Gold Coast, QLD (AAMBS) • Rose McGee, director**



## 2007 international chorus competitors



**31. Northern Union • Valparaiso, Ind. (CAR) • Scott Kitzmiller, director**



### Longevity

When **12th Street Rag** first took the international stage, Lindsay Lohan was a first grader, the Knicks were something to cheer about, and you had no e-mail on your 386. Thirteen years ago was the Mesozoic era in quartet years, and this tight, clean and classy quartet was always a consistent contender. (Last five finishes: 15th, 11th, 15th, 11th, 15th.) But 12th Street's biggest feat at retirement may have been their youth outreach—more than 10,000 so far. We're going to miss those gold jackets come Nashville.

**Jim Bagby hangs 'em up, too.** The 25-year director and heart of **Heart of America** equaled chapter quartet **12Street Rag** both in consistency and in retirement dates. He directed the chorus on the international stage 14 times.



**Coolest performance.** The **Guardians of Harmony** helped everyone mentally cool down with a Christmas themed set that was a welcome relief from the Denver heat. Of course, a winter theme was a natural for this group from Michigan, where they call summer "three months of bad sledding."



# 2007 Bank of America Collegiate Barbershop Quartet Contest

## 1. Road Trip (MAD)

Larry Bomback (T), Anthony Colosimo (L),  
Joseph Eckert (Bs), Sam Papageorge (Ba)  
Contact Larry: [lbomback@gmail.com](mailto:lbomback@gmail.com); (212) 580-0904



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## 2. The Crush (FWD)

Matt Gray (T), Patrick Haedtler (L), Paul Tabone (Bs), John Brockman (Ba)  
Contact Paul: [pauylt05@gmail.com](mailto:pauylt05@gmail.com); (760) 522-6376



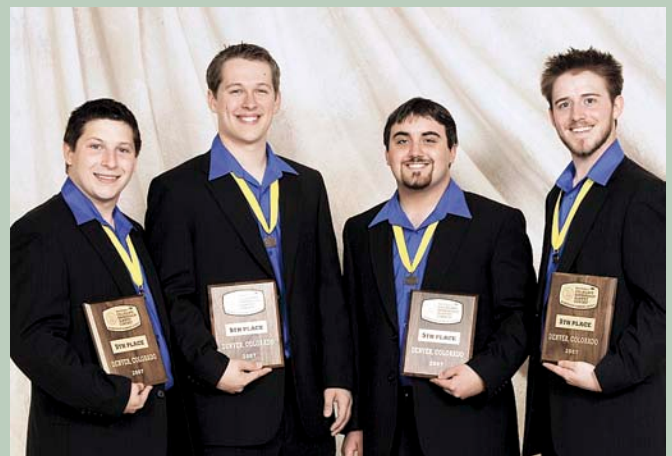
## 3. Last Minute (SWD)

Arjun Chandy (T), Greg Owens (L), Sam Lowrance (Bs), David Webb (Ba)  
Contact Sam: [sjlowrance@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sjlowrance@sbcglobal.net); (817) 451-7288



## 4. On Demand (SUN)

Paul Saca (T), Shawn Thomas (L), Amos Velez (Bs), Jamie Breedon (Ba)  
Contact Amos: [AmosVelez@gmail.com](mailto:AmosVelez@gmail.com); (305) 299-2061



## 5. The Goods (CAR)

T.J. Poliskie (Ba), Kyle Kitzmiller (Bs), Theo Hicks (L), Mark Lewis (T)  
Contact Scott: [kowabunga1@juno.com](mailto:kowabunga1@juno.com); (248) 478-0013





## Best (non)statement

Rather than pausing to offer a sentimental speech during their swan song set, **The Vocal Majority** presented an all-music display of what they do best: Put on a show like nobody else. Jeff Oxley as Elvis and the gangster story and fireworks couldn't have been more entertaining; but don't assume that because they didn't talk, the VM didn't make a statement. Their ballad, "What Kind Of Fool Am I," served as a towering message to audience and competitors alike. Fully aware that their 2006 ballad—weaker by VM standards—nearly cost them a championship, this astonishing performance was a warning shot to anybody who may think the VM is headed any direction but up.



**Biggest lightening rods.** You can't argue with their ability to electrify an audience, but there are Barbershoppers who argue with some song choices of this year's silver medalist. As some debate the barbershop merits of **OC Times'** "Surfer Girl," it's ironic to note that the 44-year-old Beach Boys vehicle in question is now older than were most of the songs referenced in "The Old Songs" when that anthem was penned. (Interesting, though arguably irrelevant.) While debates like this are nearly as old as the Society, many Barbershoppers tune it all out. (They're probably the ones with their headphones on, bathing in those smooth Aaron Dale chords one more time.)



## Just wait until Nashville!

**OC Times** finished far ahead of the rest of the pack in Denver, but don't anoint them 2008 champs just yet. Two brand-new groups, composed entirely of past international champions, could potentially walk away with some hardware. If you know these names, you understand all the advance buzz:

- **Crossroads:** Fred Farrell (tenor, **Second Edition**), Mike Slamka (lead, **Power Play**), Brandon Guyton (bari, **Four Voices**) and Jim Henry (bass, **The Gas House Gang**).
- **Masterpiece:** Rob Menaker (tenor, **Nightlife**), Mark Hale (lead, **Michigan Jake**), Alan Gordon (bari, **Gotcha!**) and Brett Littlefield (bass, **Nightlife**).

Factor in the surging Denver finalists and the return of **Metropolis** and you've got the makings for an amazing contest in Nashville.

Of course, while the contests are a highlight of any convention week, we know that many of you will be in Nashville just to catch up with old friends and have the tagging time of your life—and, naturally, to sing in the tag chamber at our brand new headquarters, located on the same city block as the headquarters hotel and convention center! Y'all come see us! ■





## 2007 Bank of America Collegiate Barbershop Quartet Contest



### 6. 4-Way Stop (JAD)

Ryan McDivitt (Bs), Joe Downey (Ba), Michael Wright (T),  
Robbie Churgovich (L)  
Contact Ryan: [Ryan.McDivitt@gmail.com](mailto:Ryan.McDivitt@gmail.com); (330) 725-0449



### 7. Blue Notes (CSD)

Clockwise from bottom: Anthony Eck (T), Brian Marston (L),  
Andrew Brunner (Bs), Matt Suellentrop (Ba)  
Contact Matt: [masdkc@umsl.edu](mailto:masdkc@umsl.edu); (314) 749-3849



### 8. J-Crew (LOL)

Clockwise from bottom: Jeremy Ganswindt (T), Joshua Umhoefer (Ba),  
Jake Umhoefer (Bs), JR Hustvet (L)  
Contact Joshua: [ummy43@yahoo.com](mailto:ummy43@yahoo.com); (414) 881-7456



### 9. Fast Forward (AAMBS)

Chrisco Hope (Ba), Jimmy Hoggett (Bs), Andrew Howson (L), Aaron Griffin (T)  
Contact Aaron: [swann@qldnet.com.au](mailto:swann@qldnet.com.au); +411736652



### 10. Ringmasters (SNOBS)

Emanuel Roll (Ba), Per Martin Wahlgren (Bs), Rasmus Krigstrom (L),  
Jakob Stenberg (T)  
Contact Rasmus: +46705791590



### 11. Resonance (NZABS)

Jaron Marsh (T), Michael Markham (L), Richard Harker (Bs),  
Guy Langford (Ba)  
Contact Richard: [legalkiwi@gmail.com](mailto:legalkiwi@gmail.com); +64211312977



## 2007 Bank of America Collegiate Barbershop Quartet Contest



### 12. Relative Pitch (DIX)

Matthew McNeely (T), Frankie Lancaster (L), Nathan Osborne (Bs), Harrison Bumgardner (Ba)  
Contact Frankie: [FL54946@appstate.edu](mailto:FL54946@appstate.edu); (336) 996-2376



### 13. Downpour (CSD)

Jason Sitzman (T), Allen Gilbert (L), Ben Rickert (Bs), Dave Purdham (Ba)  
Contact Allen: [allengilbert@doane.edu](mailto:allengilbert@doane.edu); (402) 440-2889



### 14. Night & Day (CSD)

Erik Sherard (T), Michael Wissink (Bs), Jamie Kelley (L), Lee Thomsen (Ba)  
Contact Erik: [BrothaCBL@msn.com](mailto:BrothaCBL@msn.com); (319) 390-1017



### 15. Untapped (EVG)

James Jones (T), Matthew W. Melton (L), Jared P. Blatterman (Bs), Matthew J. Schoonmaker-Gates (Ba)  
Contact Matthew J. Schoonmaker-Gates: [schoonmj@gmail.com](mailto:schoonmj@gmail.com); (509) 240-2335



### 16. The Smorgaschords (CSD)

Chance Gates (T), Caleb Fouse (L), Dennis Crowl (Bs), Aaron Pile (Ba)  
Contact Devin: [filmguy84@hotmail.com](mailto:filmguy84@hotmail.com); (620) 221-1149



### 17. The Gin and Tonics (ONT)

James Medeiros (Ba), Greg Wagland (Bs), Mark Gough (L), Mike Marino (T)  
Contact Mark: [mgough2@uwo.ca](mailto:mgough2@uwo.ca); (519) 264-1031



## 2007 Bank of America Collegiate Barbershop Quartet Contest



### 18. RamTonz (DIX)

Clockwise from bottom: Andrew Lowe (L), Luke Veazey (T), Jason O'Neal (Bs), Jordan Van Matre (Ba)  
Contact Alan: [AMiller@mail.umobile.edu](mailto:AMiller@mail.umobile.edu)  
C: (251) 533-0074, W: (251) 442-2420



### 19. That's What She Said (SLD)

Christopher Boveroux (T), Peter Mallozzi (L), Peter Kopp (Bs), Winston Cook-Wilson (Ba)  
Contact Christopher: [cboverou@hamilton.edu](mailto:cboverou@hamilton.edu); (920) 277-5185



### 20. Storrs Four (NED)

Patrick Reardon (Ba), Mark Bachiochi (Bs), Daniel Allison (L), Jordan England (T)  
Contact Daniel: [Daniel.allison@uconn.edu](mailto:Daniel.allison@uconn.edu); (508) 865-6311



### 21. The Aboriginals (ILL)

Jack Bentley (T), Eric Diaz (Ba), Donovan Davis (Bs), Benjamine Hjertmann (L)  
Contact Donovan: [ddavis@iwu.edu](mailto:ddavis@iwu.edu); (816) 966-0582



### 22. Maranatha (SUN)

Joshua Harrison (T), Jonathan Basford (L), David Holland (Bs), James Kite (Ba)  
Contact James: [jimlynkite@yahoo.com](mailto:jimlynkite@yahoo.com); (386) 303-1740



### 23. Harmonious Shenanigans (PIO)

Bob Alonzo (T), Dominic Calzetta (L), David Bechard (Bs), Kevin Dunckel (Ba)  
Contact Kevin: [dunck1kl@cmich.edu](mailto:dunck1kl@cmich.edu); (517) 339-3422



# 2007 Society Hall of Fame inductees

*The Barbershop Harmony Society Hall of Fame honors members and quartets—living or deceased—for exceptional contributions to the lifeblood of the Society. Beginning with the Class of 2004, there are now 34 members in the Hall of Fame.*

## Larry Ajer



Highly influential in promoting high artistic standards among Barbershoppers, Larry touched many as a coach, judge and performance visionary. He was in high demand as a coach within the Society and among affiliate organizations and female barbershoppers. He was the specialist for

both the Presentation and former Stage Presence categories and served as Vice-Chairman of the Society Music and Performance Committee that utilized and polished the Standing Ovation Program. He directed the development of a Society training program. He dramatically impacted chorus and quartet performances across the world by introducing such concepts as the "Inner Game Of Music" and the "Top Gun" program for up-and-coming quartets.

## The Confederates Quartet



Their unique, high-end singing and performance style and wide variety of material quickly made them one of the most popular and influential quartets in Society history.

The 1956 international champion featured the pure tenor of George Evans, the mellow baritone of "Buzz" Busby, the rich bass of Wally Singleton and the sweet lead of Dave LaBonte. The songs and arrangements they contributed to barbershop harmony remain popular today, including, "Chloe," "Red Head," "Down Where the South Begins" and "A Nightingale Sang In Barkley Square." They were also tireless spokesmen and promoters of the Society.

## Joe Liles

Prolific song writer and arranger, Joe Liles has assisted numerous barbershop singers and other religious and popular groups during his 40-year membership. His influence on the Society is as broad and deep as his ever-expanding song catalog, with too many accomplishments in too many areas to list. A member of the Society staff since 1975, he is currently semi-retired as music publications editor for the Society. He also served many years as Director of Music Education and Services and as Executive Director. He has taught a wide variety



of courses during his 34 years on the Harmony University faculty. He is also an accomplished director (international bronze medal for the **San Antonio Chordsmen**) who has taught and directed groups almost continually since 1950. Joe sang lead for the 2001 international seniors champion **Harmony**. He holds a Masters degree in theory and composition from Southern (Louisville) Seminary.

## Lloyd Steinkamp



Multi-talented Lloyd seemingly did everything there was to do in the Society, always to great effect and with personality and grace that were legendary. A tireless booster of bringing barbershop harmony to youth, he also brought it to many adults, forming 174 Society chapters

during 12 years as a Society staff Field Representative. He served as a chapter and district president and Society board member and spent 35 years as a certified judge, serving in the Arrangement, Music and Chairman of Judges categories and as Chairman of the Society's Contest and Judging Committee. He directed choruses, choirs and ensembles, winning medals at all levels. A popular coach, he demonstrated musical excellence in popular quartets such as **The Desert Knights**, **The Copperminors** and **Music Appreciation 101**. Lloyd also created more than 350 barbershop arrangements. ■

## Jim Massey: winner of the Joe Liles Lifetime Achievement Award



Jim Massey was this year's recipient of the Joe Liles Lifetime Achievement Award, given to one who has demonstrated: (1) Excellence in directing their own choruses consistently, at a high level, (2) Willingness to share skills with other choruses and directors, (3) encouragement of other directors through participation at education schools, (4) Giving

of time and resources for the advancement of the Society through encouragement of directors and demonstrating excellence in performance and singing.

Jim has excelled in all these areas and many more. A master director in both the Society and Sweet Adelines organizations, Jim is a past Presentation category specialist, past chairman of the Society Chorus Directors Development Committee, Harmony College and Director's College faculty member, and a four-time international quartet finalist.



# Do Singing Valentines right!

## They're in love with your quartet, but do they know they can sing with you?

Singing Valentines change lives.

You think I'm overstating this? I'll never forget the time we were sent to the office of the chief financial officer of the construction company that built the world headquarters for Pepsi Corporation. We walked in as a quartet and announced that we were delivering a Singing Valentine to him from his wife. He swiveled in his chair, reached for a Kleenex, and began to cry tears before we sang our first note. I will *never* forget that moment in time and either will he. Ask anyone who has delivered a Singing Valentine or received one and they will tell you their life changing memory.

It is definitively time to start planning for your Singing Valentines program—you should be in full swing in November. But why is the Director of Membership writing this article? Singing Valentines can be a very strong recruiting tool if used properly. Here are a few ideas to try:

- **Singing Volunteers.** I'm not sure who coined the name, but Gene Crockett (**Suntones**) sent a great writeup on this. Market the Singing Valentines program as something a non member can do with you. Begin marketing in late December, set rehearsals for the three weeks before Feb 14th, create learning media for the person to use, conduct training sessions and get the non-member singing. Have each individual sing with three experienced singers. Invite them to sing all day or sing part of a day. Caution should be used if you're considering paying the non member, since members do not get paid to do this, but that it at the discretion of the chapter.
- **Discounted Valentines for participating.** Offer a percentage discount from your Valentine—or depend-

**YOUR YEAR'S BIGGEST PR EVENT can incorporate appropriately subtle recruiting. Whether you're the For You Only quartet singing before the bar of the Honorable Penny Blackwell, or Endless Mountains helping pop the question to Bert Crego at the Burger King counter, people will remember you. But can they find you or know they can join you?**

ing on how you market it, a premium—if the buyer sings one of the songs with your quartet. Obviously this must be marketed well in advance in order to allow for rehearsal time. Remember, if the person has difficulty singing his part alone, the valentine



could be delivered by a quartet plus the singer. When the person calls to order the Valentine, ask them to consider the impact on the recipient if they sang it with you. Don't push it but get them thinking.

- **Fliers.** If done right, recipients and others who saw your performance will appreciate knowing something

about who just came in and changed a life. But a word of caution: Your group has been contracted by someone else to perform a task. Using the occasion for overt advertising or self-promotion may go over poorly with the buyer. That said, you should always have a well done flier about your group tucked in the box of chocolates, with some extras in your tuxedo pockets to hand to bystanders when they ask about you or about Barbershop Harmony.

Yes, Singing Valentines change lives and we are the vehicle making those changes. Get your plan in place now and have fun! ■



**Charlie Davenport**  
Director of Membership



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# Harmony U 2007: Unforgettable!

This year's Harmony University was like a great barbershop arrangement: fantastic introduction, solid barbershop harmony developing a great theme with a lot of variety to ad flair, and conclude it with one amazing tag.

The week of July 29-August 5 saw Barbershoppers from all over the world (U.S., Canada, Great Britain, Germany, Denmark, The Netherlands, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Finland, and Sweden) gathered at Missouri Western State University in St. Joseph, Mo. for an unforgettable week at Harmony University.

## The Introduction

Sunday night's opening session started with some great singing led by Joe Liles on his inspiring arrangement of "You Raise Me Up"—the "pre-show" to Jim Henry's "Gold Medal Moments." In 25 years, Barbershoppers will still be talking about that speech, much like we still discuss Dave Stevens' "What Are We Trying to Preserve" address at the 1983 Harmony College. (To watch Dr. Henry's video online go to <http://harmonyuniversity.blogspot.com>). A leaping standing ovation that felt like an eternity (but still wasn't long enough) closed the evening. And that was just the beginning!

## The Development

Between Monday and Saturday, attendees had their choice of more than 120 classes offered in the Harmony College, Directors College, and Quartet College tracks. Vocal Techniques with Farris Collins, History of Barbershop with David Wright, Theory and Arranging with Burt Szabo or Tom Gentry, Quartet Coaching with Brandon Guyton or Bill Myers, Directing Techniques with Kirk Young or Joe Cerutti, just to name a few. Whatever it was stu-

dents were looking for to enhance their barbershop experience they got it.

## The Flair

A Thursday night "Mid-Term Bash" not only was a chance to relax and blow off some steam, but it welcome the Weekend Session students. HU has offered a Weekend Session opportunity for two years now and it is a great solution for folks who want to make it to HU but cannot take an entire week off of work.

As usual, Friday night's Harmony College Chorus and Parade of Quartets show show was a highlight. The culmination of an entire week's work really pays off for each group and for the audience. There are more standing ovations that night than a typical barbershop event one might attend. You can truly feel the camaraderie and fraternity aspects of barbershop come through.

## The Tag

Each year the previous year's international quartet champion performs on the Saturday night show. We were honored to have the 2006 Champion, **Vocal Spectrum**, provide their usual outstanding performance. (Vocal Spectrum got their start singing together at a Harmony College several years ago!) This year was a special treat when **Ambassadors of Harmony** made the trip from St. Charles, Mo. to perform their traditional show set and 2007 silver medal material on the Saturday night show. Added to that amazing line up were **Q.E.D.**, the BABS National Champion Quartet, Next Generation Chorus, and the brand new HU Honors Chorus. It was definitely one of the

best shows in barbershop in the year 2007.

How are we going to top it next year? You'll just have to come see for yourself! ■



**Rick Spencer**  
Director of  
Music  
Education



## Common—yet remarkable—quartet service

A stranger in need is no stranger in the wide world of barbershop harmony

**Y**ou've probably heard the quip that barbershop harmony is a great hobby but a lousy religion. In practice, however, the two intersect so often that it's often unnecessary to make the distinction.

Case in point: On a cold December evening, Don Kriebel received a phone call from a woman in Alaska whom he had never met. She wanted to know whether his **Crosstown Harmony Four** quartet could sing for her father, Tom Gillian, who was having major surgery for the second time in two months. Being that Don's quartet was in the greater Cleveland, Ohio area, he suggested that might be too long a trip. She reassured him that he was in the Cleveland Clinic. (Phew!)

However, the surgery was taking place right around Christmas time, a busy season full of family obligations, so course the quartet had to think about it for nearly .0041 seconds before they said yes. (C'mon, how many Barbershoppers wouldn't at least try?)

So on the day after Christmas, they made the visit. They learned that Tom had sung with the **Midnight Sons Chorus** of Anchorage and had relocated to Beaver, W.V. We'll let Don tell the rest: *"What an evening. We got more out of it than he and his family did, although I did see a tear or two*



*along the way. To be able to help him take his mind off of his up-coming battle was a thing we'll never forget, if only for a little while. To help a brother Barbershopper was more satisfaction than we have received in a long time. Did we do a good job? The only gage I could see was the large group of people gathered in the hall outside his room. It was a quiet ride home with our feeling of accomplishment, our emotional drain, and a prayer being offered. We hope that we might be able to help someone else on down the road."*

Pictured with Tom are: Art Miller (T), Tom Schneid (L), Don Kriebel (Br), Chuck Janson (Bs)



**It seems like every chapter has at least one man like Stan Thomas, a man who without fanfare constitutes the backbone of his own corner of the Society. Stan was a founding member of the Frederick, Md. chapter 40 years ago and has performed in a quartet on all 40 annual chapter shows, singing each of the voice parts at some point. To celebrate, on last May's 40th anniversary annual show he sang with the appropriately named 40th Edition quartet, performing a number that the chapter's first quartet sang during its first annual show in 1967. He even wore the exact chorus uniform from that first show! (40th Edition: Jeff Avey, Garry vom Lehn, Brett Hunt, Stan Thomas)**





## The only Barbershopper killed in the 9/11 attacks remembered

It was an unusually bright and crisp fall morning in Northern Virginia. My wife was home humming distractedly in the kitchen when the peace and tranquility of the morning was shattered by the violent vibration and deafening roar of an aircraft passing extremely low and fast over our rooftop. The roar of the engine and the vibration of the house drove her into

the yard just in time to see a jet liner skimming frighteningly close to the rooftops and moving eastward, ever eastward along the route 66 corridor. Moments

later it would plunge into the side of the Pentagon at the precise location where my Barbershop friend, Lieutenant Colonel Canfield D. Boone, was at work in the service of his country.

"Bud", as we all knew him, had recently been assigned to the Pentagon and he rose energetically and proudly to meet this great challenge and opportunity to serve his country at such a high level. He brought this same high energy to all things important in his life. His wife, Linda, and three sons, Chris, Andy and Jason, all too often had to share him with work, church, church choir, and his newly found passion for barbershop harmony singing in the **Sounds of America**, Centreville, Va. chapter. While many of

us in the Society experienced the loss of dear friends, family, and coworkers in the events encompassing New York, Washington, D.C. and Pennsylvania, to my knowledge, Bud was the only actual member of the Society to lose his life directly related to the events on that tragic morning. A somber, stunned Centreville chapter was requested to perform one of Bud's favorite hymns, "Amazing Grace," at the well attended memorial service held at his church and many of us followed the caravan of cars to Arlington National Cemetery where he was laid to rest with full military honors. Mid-Atlantic District officials visited the Chapter to pay their respects. Letters from the Society extended community flowed in with condolences.

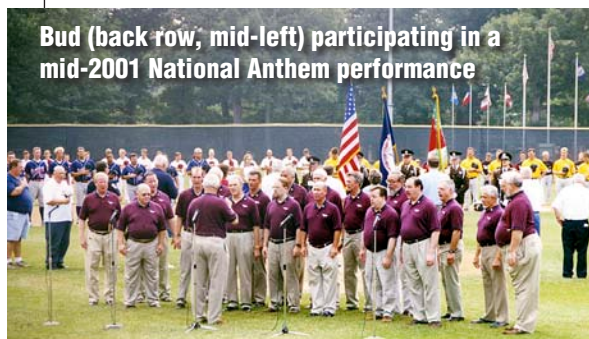
Bud's last Barbershop event shared with us was the singing of the National Anthem at the Babe Ruth Little League World Series held in Purcellville, Virginia that year. An enlarged, tastefully framed photograph of Bud at that event with a personal dedication was presented to his family as a token reminder of his love for his new found hobby and our love for him.

It was a tragic day for the hobby that lost an enthusiastic, vibrant member, for a family that lost a loving husband and father, and for a nation that lost a true patriot who embodied all that was right with America. On each 9/11 all America pauses to ponder, to remember them all, and to draw inspiration from their lives, their dreams, and the immensity of their supreme sacrifice.

— Ivan Halfond, September 2007



Bud (back row, mid-left) participating in a mid-2001 National Anthem performance



**SHIVER ME TIMBERS!** Join the Emerald Coast Chorus of Fort Walton Beach, Fla., and you, too, can sing in constant sunshine surrounded by adoring belly dancers. Actually, the chorus does enjoy this privilege on occasion. They appear annually at the cheeky Billy Bowlegs Pirates Festival, which brings thousands to the city to celebrate the notorious invader. Unfortunately, chorus members didn't manage to recruit the guests included in this photo. More than half lacked the requisite Y-chromosomes, and the others had insurmountable enunciation issues. (Arrrrr!)



**New member retention issues in your chapter? The Fairfax, Va. chapter helps new members get past the learning curve and accelerate their enthusiasm**

## They help their FARBs and you should, too

Many new or potential members never overcome the steep learning curve of barbershop harmony and drop out. That doesn't happen with Virginia's **Fairfax Jubil-Aires**. They promise new members, "If you don't know how to sing, and would like to learn, we will teach you." So twice a month, on a non-rehearsal evening, the chapter helps all the FARBs (Fairfax Association of Rookie Barbershoppers) get up to speed on barbershop.

"Take it from the top?" "A Barbershop 7th?" "A Chinese what?" "Ring a chord?" "Polecats?" "Overtones?" "Contest?" "Afterglow?" The voluntary FARBs program smooths the passage of a new member into both chapter membership and the barbershop culture in a non-threatening and supportive small group environment. It's both a social and musical environment where new members can get individual attention. It's also usually the first place many of them have their first quartetting experience. Many strong friendships form between new members who are in the same boat.

How well does it work for the chapter? Consider this: it's been going for 10 years, and all 10 members of the current chapter board are alumni of the program (old FARBs, as they call them). Many alumni have gone on to sing in impressive quartets as well. Consider starting a similar program in your own chapter. For the Fairfax, Va. chapter, it's meant growing ranks of long-term, active, enthusiastic and informed Barbershoppers. ■

## Swipes 'n' Swaps

Classified ad bargains for Barbershoppers, published as a service to members of the Barbershop Harmony Society for non-commercial purposes. All copy subject to editorial approval.

### Uniforms for Sale

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Our fellow harmonizers worldwide

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[www.aambs.org.au](http://www.aambs.org.au)

Contact Michael Donnelly: [mvdonnel@bigpond.net.au](mailto:mvdonnel@bigpond.net.au)

**BABS (British Association of Barbershop Singers)**

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

Contact Stuart Lines: [stuart@stuart-lines.co.uk](mailto:stuart@stuart-lines.co.uk)

**BinG! (Barbershop in Germany)**

[www.barbershop-in-germany.de](http://www.barbershop-in-germany.de)

Contact Roberta Damm: [bing@rdamm.de](mailto:bing@rdamm.de)

**DABS (Dutch Association of Barbershop Singers)**

[www.dabs.nl](http://www.dabs.nl)

Contact Lenhard van Ballegooijen: [voorzitter@dabs.nl](mailto:voorzitter@dabs.nl)

**FABS (Finnish Association of Barbershop Singers)**

Contact Tuomo Ketomäki: [tuomo.ketomaki@gmail.com](mailto:tuomo.ketomaki@gmail.com)

**IABS (Irish Association of Barbershop Singers)**

[www.irishbarbershop.org](http://www.irishbarbershop.org)

Contact Gunnar Karlsson: [gunnartenor@eircom.net](mailto:gunnartenor@eircom.net)

**NZABS (New Zealand Association of Barbershop Singers)**

[www.nzabs.org.nz](http://www.nzabs.org.nz)

Contact Andy Hutson: [president@nzabs.org.nz](mailto:president@nzabs.org.nz)

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

[www.snoobs.org](http://www.snoobs.org)

Contact Henrik Rosenberg: [henrik@rospart.se](mailto:henrik@rospart.se)

**SPATS (Southern Part of Africa Tonsorial Singers)**

Contact Tony Abbott: [adabbott@mweb.co.za](mailto:adabbott@mweb.co.za)

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(partial list)

**Association of International Champions**

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

**Association of International Seniors Quartet Champions**

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

**Ancient and Harmonious Society of Woodshedders**

[www.ahsow.org](http://www.ahsow.org)

**Barbershop Quartet Preservation Association**

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

**Public Relations Officers and Bulletin Editors (PROBE)**

[www.harmonize.com/probe](http://www.harmonize.com/probe)

**Allied organizations**

**Sweet Adelines International**

[www.sweetadelinesintl.org](http://www.sweetadelinesintl.org)

**Harmony, Incorporated**

[www.harmonyinc.org](http://www.harmonyinc.org)

**MENC: The National Association for Music Education**

[www.menc.org](http://www.menc.org)

**American Choral Directors Association**

[www.acdaonline.org](http://www.acdaonline.org)



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## THE TAG

Joe Liles, Tagmaster!!



# A new Szabo tag, plus a pre-holiday extra

**T**his summer, in one of the general sessions at Harmony University in St. Joseph, Mo., Burt Szabo taught us a tag. We all enjoyed it so much that I asked Burt if we could use it in The Harmonizer. The following words are from Burt:

People often wonder where tags come from. A while back, I found a 1941 song, "I Think of You," written by two Hollywood composers for a B movie. The melody is based on a theme from Sergei Rachmaninoff's Second Piano Concerto, which premiered in 1901. "I Think of You" doesn't fit the barbershop style very well, but I liked the first few notes of the melody. And the words "ev'ry time I see you" came to mind. Needing



only two more syllables, I decided on "I smile," completing the tag. It makes use of some rich harmony but has to return to the tonic chord rather abruptly, and therein lies the "hook" in the words and music of the tag.

Note that the lead starts with the same five notes as the song "Let Me Call You Sweetheart." Maybe the composer, Leo Friedman, borrowed from Sergei Rachmaninoff, too. When you sing this tag, think of someone in your life—your sweetheart, your spouse, your mom, a child—

someone who makes you feel all aglow with love and caring. Do pause before the words "I smile" and put your heart into the lyric. No shouting, please.

## EV'RY TIME I SEE YOU

*tenderly*

1 2 x x x 3 4

Tenor Lead

Ev - 'ry time I see you I smile.

Bari Bass

Burt Szabo 2007

Thanks Burt. Interesting story! Each year Burt also writes a special holiday season tag. One of my favorites is his 2005 version. Here it is to get you started off in the right frame of mind for this season. ■

## A HAPPY HOLIDAY GREETING

*joyously*

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Tenor Lead

Let the an - gels sing from Heav'n a - bove, and

Bari Bass

light our way to peace and love.

Burt Szabo 2005



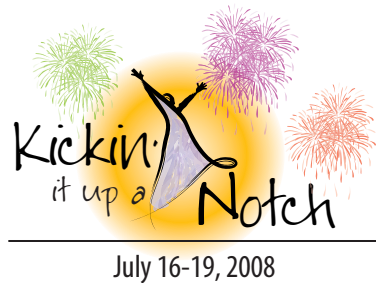
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